

# Daily Current Affairs

## 09 April 2024

### GUJCOST Designated as Nodal Centre

- **GUJCOST has been appointed** as the Nodal Centre for **ISRO's START programme**, aimed at nurturing aspiring scientists and engineers in the field of space science and technology.



- The programme, **conceptualized by ISRO**, provides an introductory online platform covering various areas of space science research.
- Under the **START programme**, **GUJCOST** will conduct live classes, acting as the central hub for knowledge dissemination.
- **Four Regional Science Centres** in Rajkot, Patan, Bhavnagar, and Bhuj will also contribute to facilitating the programme, expanding its reach across the region. The inaugural online programme, titled "**Exploration of Solar System**," invites registrations until April 19.



## EU-India Collaboration

- The **European Union (EU)** and **India** have embarked on a collaborative effort to nurture startups in the field of **Electric Vehicle (EV) battery recycling**.
- This initiative is a direct outcome of the **India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC)** announced in April 2022, aimed at enhancing cooperation in clean and green technologies.



- Under the TTC framework, both regions have launched expressions of interest for startups specializing in **EV battery recycling**.
- This matchmaking event seeks to facilitate partnerships between European and Indian startups, **promoting knowledge exchange and advancing circularity** in rare materials.
- Twelve startups, six from each region, will be selected to pitch their innovations during the matchmaking event in June 2024.



- Following these presentations, six finalists (three from each region) will be chosen to explore market opportunities through visits to India and the EU, respectively.
- Marc Lemaitre, European Commission: Emphasizes the importance of unlocking innovative possibilities for a green and circular economy, encouraging EU innovators to collaborate with their Indian counterparts.

## Largest Importer of Russian Crude

- **China has surpassed India** as the primary importer of Russian crude oil via sea routes, with China importing **1.82 million barrels per day (bpd)** in March compared to **India's 1.36 million bpd**.
- This shift is attributed to **India's slowdown** in imports due to sanctions and rising prices. In March, **China imported 1.82 million bpd** of Russian crude by sea, exceeding India's 1.36 million bpd.

**CHINA IMPORTS  
MAXIMUM CRUDE OIL  
FROM RUSSIA  
LEAVING INDIA BEHIND**



- This trend marks a significant shift, as **China has become the largest buyer** of Russian seaborne crude.
- India's recent **slowdown in Russian crude imports** is linked to various sanctions and escalating prices.
- Despite a **7% month-on-month increase** in March, India's imports fell short of China's, indicating a strategic shift in its oil procurement.
- **Urals sour-grade oil remains** India's primary import from Russia.
- India's increased reliance on Russian crude stems from geopolitical tensions, particularly since **Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022**.
- Despite pressure from Western nations and OPEC+'s efforts to stabilize crude prices, India continues to purchase oil from Russia due to significant demand and Moscow's discounted offerings. Indian officials argue that this strategy contributes to stabilizing global crude prices.



## Sittwe Agreement Approved

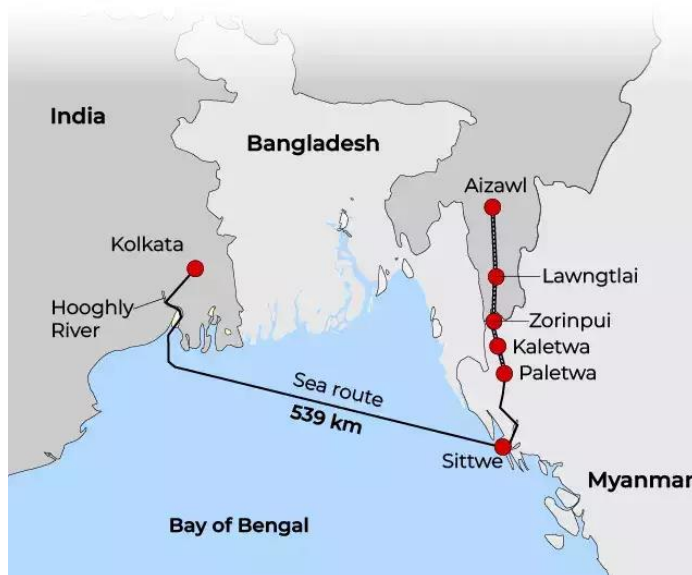
- In a strategic move to bolster its **maritime presence and enhance regional connectivity**, India has gained operational control over the **Sittwe Port in Myanmar**, following approval from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- The agreement allows **India Ports Global (IPGL)**, a company fully owned by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, to manage the entire port on the **Kaladan River**, marking India's second overseas port acquisition after Chabahar in Iran.





- Unlike the limited control over **terminals in Chabahar**, India now possesses complete operational authority over the Sittwe Port, positioning it strategically in the Indian Ocean rivalry with China.
- The deal includes a **long-term lease arrangement**, subject to renewal every three years, enabling India to undertake substantial development initiatives at the port.
- The port development is integral to the Kaladan project, aimed at enhancing connectivity between **Sittwe in Myanmar and Mizoram in India**, facilitated by waterways and road networks.
- The port's development aligns with India's strategy to uplift landlocked northeastern states by reducing transportation and logistic costs, thereby fostering economic growth and regional integration.

### Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project



- **The Kaladan project's waterways and road networks** will substantially improve connectivity to Mizoram and Tripura, furthering trade and commerce in the region.
- **Amidst Myanmar's civil unrest**, particularly in the Rakhine state where Sittwe is situated, security concerns loom large due to ongoing conflicts between the Myanmar army and insurgent groups like the Arakan Army.
- The escalating conflict poses a potential threat to the stability and continuity of the Sittwe project. If the **rebels gain control over the Rakhine province**, it could jeopardize the port's operations and future prospects, highlighting the precarious geopolitical landscape in the region.

## Indonesian Delegation Visits India

- An **Indonesian delegation** led by Mochammad Firman Hidayat, Coordinating Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Investment, to explore collaboration in various sectors and learn from **India's best practices in the mid-day meal scheme** and digital inclusion.
- The visit comes in the context of Indonesia's recently concluded elections and the incoming administration's plans to introduce new socio-economic initiatives.

- **Indonesia's President-elect Prabowo** has proposed implementing a **mid-day meal scheme in schools**, similar to India's program, as part of his election manifesto.



- The Indonesian delegation's visit to India aimed to gather insights and knowledge to make their domestic mid-day meal plan a success.
- The delegation also sought to learn from India's experiences in **digital inclusion and connectivity**, which are among the top domestic priorities of the Indonesian government.
- The delegation also explored potential areas of cooperation in reducing **marine debris, aquaculture, bio-material, bio-fuel**, and early warning systems for earthquakes during their visit to the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- At the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, the Indonesian delegation gained insights into India's Digital Public Infrastructure, particularly the **Jan Dhan Aadhar Mobile (JAM)** trinity initiative for financial inclusion and accessibility.



- The JAM trinity links bank accounts, Aadhaar (unique identity), and mobile numbers of Indian citizens, enabling direct benefit transfers during the Covid-19 pandemic without requiring in-person or material movements.
- One of the primary objectives of the Indonesian delegation was to learn about **India's "Mid-Day Meal Scheme."**



- The delegation interacted with officials from the Ministry of Education, gaining insights into the scheme's implementation, logistics, nutritional value, challenges, and the roles of central and state governments.
- The delegation also visited **Akshaya Patra's kitchen facilities** in Bangalore, a not-for-profit organization that is the Government of India's largest partner in operating the Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

## Indian Origin Expert Ashwini

- **Dr. Ashwini Keshavan, an Indian-origin neurologist**, has been selected to be a part of a **world-class research team in the UK**. This prestigious team has been entrusted with the crucial task of conducting research to **detect dementia through blood tests** and gathering more evidence to support this approach.
- The research team's findings are expected to have a wide-ranging impact in the coming five years, as the **potential to diagnose dementia** through a simple blood test could revolutionize the way the condition is detected and managed.





- Dr. Ashwini Keshavan is part of a team that is **focusing on p-tau217**, a promising biomarker for Alzheimer's disease. This means that her research is aimed at examining the potential of **this specific protein as an indicator of Alzheimer's**, one of the most common forms of dementia.



- The overarching goal of these collaborative efforts is to **make the detection and diagnosis of dementia more accessible and affordable**, with the research team actively working to recruit participants from across the UK.
- **Dementia is a syndrome** that leads to a decline in cognitive function, which includes memory, reasoning, comprehension, spatial awareness, mathematical abilities, learning capacity, language skills, and decision-making processes. It is a chronic and progressive condition, and the symptoms are distinct from the typical effects of biological aging.

- Dementia can have various causes, such as **brain cell damage**, head injury, stroke, brain tumor, or even HIV infection.
- Dementia disproportionately affects women, with **65% of total deaths** due to the condition occurring in women.
- This initiative aligns with the World Health Organization's (WHO) "Global Dementia Action Plan," which sets global targets for dementia to be achieved by 2025.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

### 1. ZiG Currency Introduced By

- A. Zimbabwe
- B. Egypt
- C. Sudan
- D. Somalia

**ANSWER: A**

### 2. Which Country Is Largest Importer Of Russian Crude Oil

- A. India
- B. China
- C. Pakistan
- D. Bangladesh

**ANSWER: B**

### 3. Sittwe Port Is Situated In

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Myanmar
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Sri Lanka

**ANSWER: B**

### 4. Phanigiri Buddhist Site Is Located In Which State

- A. Telangana
- B. Karnataka
- C. Kerala
- D. Odisha

**ANSWER: A**

**5. Recently, Indian Coast Guard Aquatic Centre Has Been Inaugurated At Which Place**

- A. Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu
- B. Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- C. Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu
- D. Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh

**ANSWER: C**

**6. Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX) Is A Joint Mission Between Which Two Space Agencies**

- A. ISRO & JAXA
- B. NASA & ISRO
- C. CNSA & ROCOSMOS
- D. ESA & NASA

**ANSWER: A**

**7. What Is 'INDRA App'**

- A. A Multi Purpose App That Will Helps Astronauts To Carry Activities
- B. It Provides Digital Financial Data To States
- C. It Disseminates Weather Related Information And Forecasts
- D. It Is Related To Anganwadi Workers

**ANSWER: C**

**8. Maravakandy Dam Is Located In Which State**

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Telangana

**ANSWER: A**

**9. A Decade Of Documenting Migrant Deaths” Report, Recently Released By Which Organization**

- A. International Labour Organization (ILO)
- B. World Trade Organization (WTO)
- C. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- D. International Organization for Migration (IOM)

**ANSWER: D**

**10. Kodaikanal Solar Observatory Is Situated In Which State**

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Karnataka
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Kerala

**ANSWER: A**

**11. Caracal Due To Verge Of Extinction, Belongs To Which Species**

- A. Wild cat
- B. Leopard
- C. Fish
- D. Kangaroo

**ANSWER: A**

**12. What Is The Theme Of ‘International Mining Awareness Day 2024**

- A. Protecting Lives, Building Peace
- B. Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home
- C. Together for Mine Action
- D. Perseverance, Partnership, and Progress

**ANSWER: A**

**13. Recently, A Large Scale Damage To Cardamom Plantations Has Been Reported In Which State Due To Drought**

- A. Kerala
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. West Bengal
- D. Sikkim

**ANSWER: A**



**14. LEADS Programme 2024, Launched By Which Organization**

- A. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) & Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- B. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- C. Indian National Science Academy (INSA) & National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)
- D. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

**ANSWER: C**

**15. Which Organization Introduced A Digital Health Promoter Prototype S.A.R.A.H Harnessing Generative AI For Public Health**

- A. WHO
- B. WTO
- C. ILO
- D. UNDP

**ANSWER: A**

**16. Which State Government Initiated The 'Rice Fallow Management Project'**

- A. Bihar
- B. Odisha
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Uttar Pradesh

**ANSWER: B**

**17. Archaeologists From Kerala University Unearthed A 5,200-year Old Harappan Settlement At Which Place**

- A. Padta Bet, Gujarat
- B. Bhirrana, Haryana
- C. Desalpur, Gujarat
- D. Hisar, Haryana

**ANSWER: A**

**18. Which Country Has Supported The BIMSTEC Charter**

- A. Nepal
- B. Bhutan
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Myanmar

**ANSWER: A**

**19. Special Website Named 'Booth Raabta' Has Been Launched In Which State To Provide Election-related Information To The People**

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Haryana
- C. Punjab
- D. Uttar Pradesh

**ANSWER: C**

**20. Who Among The Following Has Written Ghoolamgiri**

- A. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
- B. Acharya Vinoba Bhave
- C. Jyotiba Phule
- D. Dadu Dayal

**ANSWER: C**