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1. Myanmar court sentences Suu Kyi to 5 years in jail for corruption (April 27, 2022)

A court in military-ruled Myanmar found deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi guilty of corruption and sentenced her to five years in jail.

- The case was the first of 11 corruption charges against the Nobel laureate, each carrying a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.
- A Myanmar junta court accused the 76-year-old leader of accepting a bribe of \$600,000 cash and gold bars.
- He has already been sentenced to six years in prison in other cases and is facing 10 more corruption charges.
- Suu Kyi has been under house arrest since February 2021, when a military coup toppled her elected government.
- **About Aung San Suu Kyi**
- Aung San Suu Kyi born on June 19, 1945, Rangoon, Burma is politician and opposition leader of Myanmar.
- She was the winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1991.
- She has held several government positions since 2016, including that of state counsellor, which essentially made her the de facto leader of the country.
- She was sidelined when the military seized power in February 2021.

2. IFSCA Issues Framework for FinTech Entity in International Financial Services Centres (April 27, 2022)

- The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), has issued a “Framework for FinTech Entity in the IFSCs”.
- The Framework aim is giving boost to the establishment of a world class FinTech Hub at GIFT IFSC comparable with other International Financial Centres (IFCs).
- The framework proposes to cover financial technology (FinTech) solutions resulting in new business models, applications, processes or products in areas/activities linked to financial services regulated by IFSCA.
- It covers advanced/innovative technological solutions which aid and assist activities in relation to financial products, financial services and financial institutions (TechFin).
- The framework provides for a dedicated Regulatory Sandbox for FinTech products or solutions namely IFSCA FinTech Regulatory Sandbox.

3. NTPC Signs MoU with Energy Vault for Gravity-based Energy Storage Technology (April 27, 2022)

NTPC Limited announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Energy Vault Holdings ("Energy Vault").

- NTPC Limited the largest power generating utility in India.
- The objective of the MoU is to collaborate and formalise a long-term strategic partnership for deployment of Energy Vault's EVx™ gravity-based energy storage technology and software solutions based on the outcome of a joint feasibility study.
- The technology also offers beneficial utilisation of coal ash for manufacturing of composite blocks for Energy Vault's gravity based energy storage system.

• **About NTPC**

- It is a Central Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Power.
- It aims to provide reliable electricity and related solutions in an economical, efficient and eco-friendly manner driven by innovation.
- It became a Maharatna company in May 2010.
- It is located in New Delhi.
- It is India's largest power utility company with an installed capacity of 63925 MW (including JVs) plans to become a 130 GW company by 2032.
- It was incorporated on November 7, 1975 under the Companies Act.

4. Government scraps MP quota for admissions in Kendriya Vidyalayas (April 27, 2022)

As per the admission guidelines for 2022-23, the central government has abolished the quota through which Members of Parliament could recommend names for admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs).

- Along with this special provision for admission of employees of the Ministry of Education, children and dependent grandchildren of MPs and children of serving or retired KV employees, the discretionary quota of Chairman of the School Management Committee has also been removed.
- **What was the MP quota and how much was the right of recommendation ?**
- Through the quota of MPs, 10 students could be recommended by each MP for admission to classes I to IX at the beginning of each academic year.
- As per the rule 10 names should be restricted to children whose parents belong to the constituency of the recommending MP.
- There are 543 MPs in the Lok Sabha and 245 in the Rajya Sabha who could have collectively recommended the admission of 7,880 students per year under the individual quota.
- But according to the official figures, 8,164 admissions were done under the quota of MPs in 2018-19 i.e. crossed the prescribed limit.
- **The following admission quota has been retained**

- The special provisions that have been retained in the admission quota include admission of children of recipients of Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Vir Chakra, Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra.
- Recipients of National Bravery Award, 15 children of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) employees, children orphaned due to Kovid-19, children of late Central Government employees, children showing special talent in fine arts etc will be able to take admission from the respective quota.

5. 86% of india's adult population fully vaccinated against covid-19 (April 27, 2022)

According to the ministry of Health and Family Welfare over 86 percent of the adult population is now fully vaccinated in the country against covid-19.

- The country's COVID vaccination coverage has crossed the 188 crore mark.
- more than 19 lakh vaccine doses were administered till 26 April.
- So far, more than three crore 18 lakh vaccine doses have been administered to the age group of 12 to 14 years.
- Over two crore 72 lakh precautionary doses have been given to identified categories of beneficiaries including health care workers, frontline workers and people above 18 years of age.
- All people over the age of 18 who have completed nine months of taking the second dose are eligible for a precautionary dose.
- **first phase covid-19 vaccination**
- The nationwide vaccination campaign was launched on January 16 last year, in which health workers were vaccinated in the first phase.
- The vaccination of frontline workers started from February 2 last year.
- **second phase of Covid-19 vaccination**
- The second phase of Covid-19 vaccination commenced on March 1 last year for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified comorbidity conditions.
- **vaccination for all people aged**
- India started vaccination for all people above 45 years of age from 1st April last year.
- The government decided to expand its vaccination campaign by allowing everyone over the age of 18.
- **third phase of covid-19 vaccination**
- The third phase of vaccination began on January 3 for adolescents in the age group of 15-18 years.

6. Countries will have to 'justify' Veto Votes at UN (April 27, 2022)

The 193 members of the United Nations General Assembly unanimously passed a resolution calling on the five permanent members of the Security Council to justify the use of the veto.

- The move was for reform in the United Nations security council in the light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- The United States, China, Russia, France and Britain have veto power
- **What is the Veto Power at the UN ?**
- The veto power of the United Nations Security Council is the power of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to veto any "substantive" resolution.
- Any member abstaining from voting cannot prevent the draft resolution from being passed.
- Procedural votes are not counted for the exercise of veto power.
- One of the major uses of veto power may be to block the selection of the Secretary General of the Council.
- **Issues with Veto Power**
- The veto power is controversial.
- Supporters see it as a promoter of international stability, a check against military interference, and an important safeguard against US domination.
- Critics say the veto is the most undemocratic element of the United Nations, as well as the main cause of inaction on war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- It effectively prevents UN action against permanent members and their allies.

7. India set a Guinness World Record by hoisting 78,220 tricolours simultaneously (April 26, 2022)

According to the Union Ministry of Culture, India has registered its name in the Guinness Book of World Records for the highest number of simultaneous hoisting of the national flag.

- On 23 April 2022, India achieved this feat by waving 78 thousand 220 tricolours together in the Veer Kunwar Singh Vijayotsava program at Dulour Maidan, Jagdishpur in Bhojpur district of Bihar.
- The Veer Kunwar Singh Vijayotsav program was organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Culture under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- For this record, bands were worn to physically identify the attendees, and the entire event was video-recorded.
- Earlier this world record was held by Pakistan when around 56,000 Pakistani flags were hoisted at a ceremony in Lahore in 2004.

8. Twitter confirms sale of company to Elon Musk for \$44 billion (April 26, 2022)

One of the world's biggest deals in the tech world, billionaire Elon Musk, has taken control of Twitter. He has signed an agreement to buy Twitter for about \$ 44 billion.

- The deal has given the Tesla CEO ownership of the company with 217 million users.
- Musk will have to pay \$ 54.20 (Rs 4148) for every share of Twitter.
- Twitter plays an influential role in shaping the political and media agenda on both sides of the Atlantic.

• About Elon Musk

- He was born on 28 June 1971 Pretoria, South Africa
- Mr. Musk is the world's wealthiest person, according to Forbes, with a nearly \$279 billion fortune.
- Mr. Musk began making his fortune in 1999, when he sold Zip2, an online mapping and business directory, to Compaq for \$307 million.
- He used its stock to become PayPal, an Internet service that went beyond banks and allowed consumers to pay businesses directly.
- That same year, Musk founded Space Exploration Technologies, or SpaceX.
- The company developed cost-effective reusable rockets.
- In 2004, Musk invested in Tesla, then in a startup trying to build electric cars.
- Eventually he was made CEO of Tesla and led the company to astronomical success as the world's most valuable automaker and largest seller of electric vehicles.

9. Japan has described the Kuril Islands as being under Russia's "illegal occupation" (April 26, 2022)

Japan recently described the Kuril Islands (which Japan calls the Northern Territory and Russia calls the South Kurils) as an "illegal occupation" of Russia.

- This is the first time in nearly two decades that Japan has used the phrase in relation to the dispute over the Kuril Islands.

• About Kuril Islands/ Northern Territories

- These are a group of four islands located between the Sea of Okhotsk and the Pacific Ocean, north of Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost prefecture.
- Both Moscow and Tokyo claim sovereignty over it, although the islands have been under Russian control since the end of World War II.

- The islands were occupied by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II.
- Tokyo claims that these disputed islands have been part of Japan since the early 19th century.
- **The reason behind the dispute**
- Japan's sovereignty over the islands is confirmed by a number of treaties since 1855.
- Russia, on the other hand, claims the Yalta Agreement (1945) and the Potsdam Declaration (1945) as proof of its sovereignty.
- It argues that the 1951 San Francisco Treaty is legal evidence that Japan acknowledged Russian sovereignty over the islands.
- Under Article 2 of the treaty, Japan had "renounced all rights, entitlements and claims to the Kuril Islands."
- However, Japan argues that the San Francisco Treaty cannot be used here because the Soviet Union never signed a peace treaty.
- In fact, Japan and Russia are technically still at war because they haven't signed a peace treaty since World War II.

10. India becomes third highest military spender (April 26, 2022)

According to the report released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), America is at the forefront of military spending among all the countries of the world, followed by China and India.

- According to the report, US military spending amounted to \$801 billion in the year 2021, a decline of 1.4 percent compared to the year 2020.
- The US, China, India, Britain and Russia are among the five largest military spenders this year, accounting for 62 per cent of the total expenditure.
- Total global military expenditure increased by 0.7 per cent in real terms in 2021, to reach \$2113 billion.
- India ranks third in the world with military spending of \$76.6 billion, an increase of 0.9 percent compared to 2020 and 33 percent higher than 2012.
- China, the world's second-largest spender, allocated an estimated \$293 billion to its military in 2021, up 4.7 percent from 2020.
- Russia's military expenditure in the year 2021 increased to 65.9 billion, which is 2.9 percent more than the year 2020.
- Nigeria increased its military spending by 56 percent to \$4.5 billion in 2021 in response to several security challenges such as violent extremism and separatist insurgency.
- **About 'SIPRI'**

- Full form - Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
- Formation- 6 May 1966
- Founders- Tage Erlander, Alva Myrdal
- Headquarters- Solna ,Stockholm (Sweden)
- Director- Dan Smith