

April 28th news:

International:

North and South Korea agree to end 70-years war

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in agreed on 27th April to finally end a seven-decade war this year, and pursue the “complete denuclearisation” of the Korean Peninsula.

The two leaders embraced after signing the deal during a historic meeting on their shared border, the first time a North Korean leader has set foot on the southern side.

They announced plans to formally declare a resolution to the war and replace 1953 armistice that ended open hostilities into a peace treaty by year’s end.

The two sides “confirmed the common goal of realising, through complete denuclearisation, a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula.

The agreement follows a rapid thaw of tensions on the peninsula after a flurry of North Korean missile tests and a hydrogen bomb detonation last year.

Kim plans to meet Trump soon, which would be the first summit between a North Korean leader and a sitting American president.

The question now is whether the commitment will lead to lasting change. Previous agreements have collapsed over inspections, weapons tests and disputes over economic aid.

Much of the agreement mirrors previous deals between North Korea and Moon’s liberal predecessors. It appeared aimed at restoring cooperation that had deteriorated over the past decade.

National:

Sagar Kavach conducted

Exercise ‘Sagar Kavach’ is being conducted to strengthen and assess the loopholes in the coastal security mechanism along Kerala shores. Along with Coastal Police and Marine Enforcement wing, Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy is also participating in Exercise ‘Sagar Kavach’.

10 ships of Indian Coast Guard, three ships of the Indian navy, four fishing boats, and 20 coastal police stations from Vizhinjam to Kasaragod are among those taking part in this exercise. The Exercise ‘Sagar Kavach’ is held twice a year.

Economy:

DAC Approves Capital Acquisition Proposals Worth Rs 3,687 Crore

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by the Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, met on April 27th and accorded approval to Capital Acquisition Proposals of the Services valued at over Rs 3,687 crore.

In a boost to indigenisation and in realisation of India's growing technological prowess, the DAC approved procurement of Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO's) designed and developed NAG Missile System (NAMIS) at the cost of Rs 524 crore.

The system includes a third generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile, the NAG, along with the Missile Carrier Vehicle (NAMICA). The NAG missile is a third generation anti-tank guided missile, which has top attack capabilities that can effectively engage and destroy all known enemy tanks during day and night. This will give a quantum boost to the Army's capability against enemy armour.

The DAC also approved procurement of thirteen 127 mm calibre guns for the Navy. These guns will be fitted on-board new construction ships for undertaking surface engagements including Naval Gunfire Support Operations.

The guns will enable Naval ships to provide fire support and engagement of targets on the land. These guns have engagement range of 24 kilometres, which could be extended further by using Extended Range Gun Munitions (ERGM).

These guns, a long outstanding requirement of the Navy would be procured from BAE Systems of the United States of America under the categorisation of Buy (Global) at an approximate cost of over Rs 3,000 crore.

The DAC also reviewed the progress of the DRDO programme to develop indigenous Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS).

NITI Aayog Says 35.3 Lakh New Jobs Created In Six Months Till February

Government think tank NITI Aayog on 27th April said 35.3 lakh new jobs were generated between September 2017 and February 2018, according to data released by retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation and Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority.

The data for recent months is provisional and hence this could be seen as a conservative estimate, NITI Aayog said. The actual figures may well be more than this, it added. EPFO data shows 31.10 lakh new payroll additions were made across all age groups. New Pension Scheme (NPS) data indicates generation of 4.2 lakh new payroll, that too only from tier-1 account.

The NPS currently manages the corpus of around 50 lakh employees in state and central government. The NITI Aayog said that the payroll data would now be released every month. It would provide a more firm basis for various analysis and studies of the economy and job creation.

A more constructive phase of focusing on deriving the most out of this data for furthering development should now begin, the think tank said. India has, for the first time, introduced monthly payroll reporting for the formal sector to facilitate analysis of new and continuing employment, it added

Sports:

Siddhant Banthia wins Indian leg of junior French Open wild card tournament

Country's top singles Tennis player Siddhant Banthia on 27th April won the Indian leg of the junior French Open wild card tournament in New Delhi

Banthia from Pune beat reigning Under-16 national champion Mann Maulik Shah. The girls event was won by Rashmika S Bhamidipaty, who defeated Tanisha Kashyap

Banthia will now compete with winners from China and Brazil in the final Qualifier to get an entry into the main draw of the junior French Open

Persons in news:

Indu Malhotra: President Ram Nath Kovind appointed Indu Malhotra as a judge of the Supreme Court. She is the first woman lawyer from the Supreme Court bar to be directly elevated. In 2007, Malhotra, was only the second woman to be appointed a senior advocate by the apex court, three decades after Leila Seth first made history. Indu Malhotra, a renowned arbitration expert, took oath as apex court judge on 27th April