

International Day of Human Space Flight 2024

The **International Day for Human Space Flight**, observed annually on **April 12th**, commemorates the historic achievement of Yuri Gagarin, the first person to journey into space. **On April 12, 1961, Gagarin's (from the Soviet Union)** courageous mission aboard the **Vostok 1 spacecraft** marked a monumental milestone in human history, igniting widespread enthusiasm for space exploration worldwide

➤ **Theme - "Encourage scientific curiosity"**

Note – Gaganyaan mission is the 1st Human Space Flight by ISRO

- The four astronaut who would be onboard the first Gaganyaan spaceflight - Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan, Angad Pratap, Shubhanshu Shukla.

CDP-SURAKSHA, Govt's New Digital Platform To Disburse Subsidies To Horticulture Farmers

Indian government introduces a digital platform for subsidy disbursement to horticulture farmers under the **Cluster Development Programme (CDP)**.

About CDP-SURAKSHA :It Stands for System for Unified Resource Allocation, Knowledge, and Secure Horticulture Assistance.

- **Disbursal Method**: Utilizes **e-RUPI** vouchers from **NPCI** for instant subsidy disbursement to farmers' bank accounts.
- **Features**: Integrates with **PM-KISAN** database, utilizes cloud-based server space from NIC, includes UIDAI validation, e-RUPI integration, LGD, content management system, geotagging, and geo-fencing.

About Horticulture Cluster Development Program:

- **Launch year** - 2021
- **Central Sector Programme**
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW)
- **Objective** – To leveraging geographical specialization, promoting integrated development across pre-production to marketing, and emphasizing market-led strategies for horticulture clusters.



HDFC becomes first private bank to open branch in Lakshadweep

HDFC Bank opened a branch in **Kavaratti Island, Lakshadweep**, becoming the First private bank in the Union Territory.

- **Aim** - upgrading the banking infrastructure in the Union Territory by offering a wide range of services with a focus on personal banking, and digital banking which also includes customised digital solutions including QR-based transaction to retailers.

Global Unicorn Index 2024

The **Hurun Research Institute** released the **Global Unicorn Index 2024**

- The **United States** continued to lead with **703 unicorns**, followed by **China with 340**, while **India ranked third with 67 unicorns**
- However India for the first time recorded a decline in unicorn creation since 2017, due to lack of investment into start-ups despite the recent stock market record highs.

NTPC launches new edition of 'Girl Empowerment Mission'

India's largest integrated power PSU, **NTPC**, is preparing to launch the latest edition of its flagship Corporate Social Responsibility initiative, **Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM)**,

- **The program aligns with the Government of India's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao** initiative and aims to tackle gender inequality by nurturing girls imaginations and fostering their ability to explore opportunities.
- Starting from April 2024, the new edition of GEM will connect approximately 3,000 meritorious children from underprivileged sections of society across 42 identified locations of power sector PSUs. This will increase the total number of children benefiting from the mission to over 10,000.

About Mission:

- **Initiated in 2018** with 3 locations and 392 participants, the **GEM Mission** has grown into a nationwide movement, overcoming challenges posed by COVID-19. It has benefited 7,424 girls to date, with participation increasing annually. In 2023, 2,707 girls participated across 40 NTPC locations in 16 states.

RBL Bank appoints Murali Ramakrishnan as independent director for 4 years

Private sector lender **RBL Bank** appointed **Murali Ramakrishnan** as Non-Executive Independent Director with immediate effect **for four years**, subject to the approval of the bank's shareholders. This appointment aligns with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, and SEBI Listing Regulations, as per **Section 149(13) of the Companies Act, 2013**.