

Daily Current Affairs – April 12, 2019**Maharashtra:****Supreme Court closes Enron-Dabhol case due to long delay**

- The Dabhol power project was set up in 1996 in Maharashtra by US-based Enron and its associate Dabhol Power Corporation. It had a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB).
- The Supreme Court ruled against continuing with the over 17-year judicial inquiry into allegations of corruption in setting up of the Enron-promoted Dabhol power plant in Maharashtra.

Uttar Pradesh:**Jewar Airport Project**

- First conceptualised in 2001, the proposed Jewar airport project stands at a crucial stage land acquisition. As the Uttar Pradesh government makes a final push to get consent from residents of six villages, it will have to negotiate demands for increased compensation, a divide between farmers, and wounds from seven years ago.

Science and Technology:**Israel's Moon Mission Fails As Spacecraft Crashes Right Before Landing**

- Israel's Beresheet, the first privately-funded mission to the moon, crashed in the last part of its journey, moments before it was supposed to land.
- The spacecraft aimed to perform a soft landing on the moon and would have made Israel the fourth country to do so and by far the smallest. Only the US, the former Soviet Union and China have done it before.

Awards:**Saraswati Samman 2018**

- Telugu poet K Siva Reddy has been selected for the prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2018 for his collection of poetry titled Pakkaki Ottigilite.

Economic Affairs:**IMF chief : global growth slowing and many countries struggling with high debts**

- With global growth slowing and many countries struggling with high debts, now is not the time for the “self-inflicted” economic wound of trade wars, the head of the International Monetary Fund warned
- “The key is to avoid the wrong policies, and this is especially the case for trade,” IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said at a news conference at the opening of spring meetings of the IMF and its sister lending organization, the World Bank. “We need to avoid self-inflicted wounds, including tariffs and other barriers.”

RBI rate cut will prevent mortgage rate rise

- Rating agency Moody’s said that the recent interest rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India will help offset rising funding costs and prevent further mortgage rate rises this year, and is a credit positive for residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS). RBI reduced the repo rate by 25 bps each in February and April.

SEBI fiat to stock brokers using AI applications

- Leading stock exchange BSE has asked stock brokers to make quarterly disclosures about compliance with SEBI’s cybersecurity framework by April 15. The BSE has asked stock brokers who are using applications based on artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to submit compliance report for January-March 2019 quarter in the format given by SEBI.

Bengaluru is largest office market in Asia-Pacific

- Bengaluru is the biggest workplace market in India and the biggest in the Asia-Pacific area. India's Silicon Valley absorbed 11.6 million sqft of workplace house remaining year on a web basis in comparison to Tokyo's 7 million, Shanghai's 6 million, Hong Kong's 3 million and Beijing's 2.5 million, in keeping with estimates via belongings consultancy CBRE.

Defence Affairs:**Indo-Singapore Joint Training Exercise Bold Kurukshetra**

- The 12th edition of joint military exercise between India and Singapore, BOLD KURUKSHETRA 2019, culminated on 11 April 2019 after an impressive closing ceremony held at Babina Military Station.

Summits & Conferences:**Photo Exhibition to commemorate Centenary of Jallianwala Bagh incident in Amritsar by Regional Outreach Bureau**

- As a part of the commemoration of the Centenary of Jallianwala Bagh massacre, Regional Outreach Bureau, Chandigarh, of the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, has put up a three-day Photo Exhibition at Jallianwala Bagh from April 11-13, 2019. It has been titled Photo Exhibition on Freedom Struggle

Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADIBF 2019,

- UAE has announced that India will be the Guest of Honour country at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADIBF 2019, to be held from 24th to 30th of this month. The fair aims to highlight the UAE's rich heritage, showcasing its authenticity and modernity, as well as its cultural and literary output.

MoU/ Agreements:**India, Netherlands vow to strengthen bilateral political & economic ties**

- India and the Netherlands have discussed ways to strengthen bilateral political and economic ties, including boosting cooperation at the United Nations and other international fora.
- India welcomed the participation of the Netherlands as the partner country for the 25th edition of the CII-DST Tech Summit scheduled to be held in New Delhi in October this year, the MEA said.

Books & Authors:**Booklet of 'Selected speeches of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar**

- Prasar Bharati Chairman, A Surya Prakash released a booklet of the 'Selected speeches of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly' , in New Delhi. The event was organized to commemorate the contributions of Baba Saheb in the upliftment of underprivileged in the country.

International Affairs:**Sudan President Omar al-Bashir ousted, placed under arrest**

- President Omar al-Bashir, who ruled Sudan with an iron fist for 30 years, was overthrown in a coup by the armed forces which announced a two-year period of military rule to be followed by elections.
- Mr. Bashir has been indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague and is facing an arrest warrant over allegations of genocide in Sudans Darfur region during an insurgency that began in 2003 and led to death of an estimated 300,000 people.

China trying to create its own globally decisive naval force through BRI: Pentagon

- China is trying to create its own globally decisive naval force through the ambitious multi-billion dollar **Belt and Road Initiative**, the Pentagon has told the US Congress. The BRI focuses on improving connectivity and cooperation among Asian countries, Africa, China and Europe.
- The project has become a major stumbling block in India-China relations as the controversial \$60 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been listed as its “flagship project”.

After years of giving refuge, Ecuador suspends Assange’s citizenship

- Ecuador has suspended Julian Assange’s citizenship and accused him and people connected to his WikiLeaks group of collaborating in attempts to destabilize the Andean nation’s government, after years of offering him shelter.
- Assange was offered refuge in 2012 by Ecuador's then-president Rafael Correa, but his relationship with Ecuador has soured under Moreno, who has said Assange violated the terms of his asylum.

Sports Affairs:**Indian women's hockey team beat Malaysia, win series 4-0**

- The Indian women's hockey team beat Malaysia by a solitary goal to complete a 4-0 win in the five-match bilateral series in Kuala Lumpur.

Rio Paralympics medallist Deepa Malik wins New Zealand PM’s Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship

- Rio Paralympics silver medallist Deepa Malik was named as the recipient of the New Zealand Prime Minister’s Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship for 2019 in recognition of her “inspiring achievements”. The 48-year-old Deepa, who won the silver medal in shot put F53 event in Rio in 2016, will work to promote sporting, cultural as well people-to-people relationship between India and New Zealand.



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