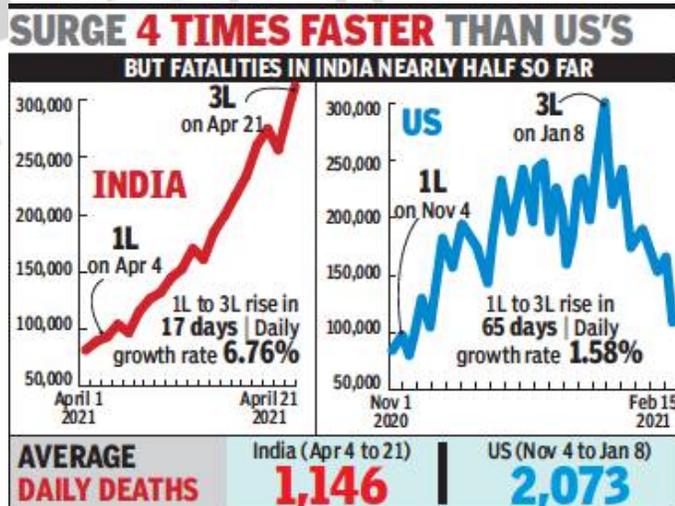




EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 22, 2021

NATIONAL

- **On April 21, India - reported about 3.16 lakh fresh cases, the highest single-day count recorded in any country so far.**
- ✓ Deaths from the virus also climbed to another high of 2,102 in the past 24 hours.
- ✓ India reported 3,15,925 new cases on the day, crossing the 3-lakh mark for the first time
- ✓ The country surpassed the previous highest daily case count of 3,07,581 reported in the US on January 8.
- ✓ It has taken just 17 days for the daily case count to rise from 1 lakh on April 4 to more than 3 lakh.



- ✓ US is the only other country that has recorded more than 1 lakh cases in a day.
- ✓ However, the US has recorded 97,881 cases per million so far, nearly nine times higher than India's numbers (11,418).
- ✓ The US's deaths per million, at 1,752, are more than 13 times India's per-million toll of 132.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh logged 33,214 new infections on the day -- the highest daily number ever recorded in any state outside Maharashtra.

- ✓ Maharashtra continued to record the highest number of fatalities at 568, the highest ever in the state.
- **Indigenous Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin - has shown an overall interim clinical efficacy of 78% in fighting Covid-19.**
- ✓ It has also shown 100% efficacy against severe Covid-19 disease, as per its manufacturers, Bharat Biotech and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- ✓ The above results are indicated in the second interim analysis of 87 symptomatic cases of Covid-19
- ✓ The final analysis of the safety and efficacy results will be available in June after which the final report will be submitted to a peer-reviewed publication.
- ✓ In the first week of March, the developers of Covaxin had declared an interim efficacy of nearly 81% based on the first interim analysis of Phase 3 trials data.
- ✓ In the phase 3 study, 25,800 participants between the ages of 18-98 years were enrolled, including 10% participants over the age of 60.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Italy - recently launched the first “Mega Food Park” in India involving food processing facilities.**

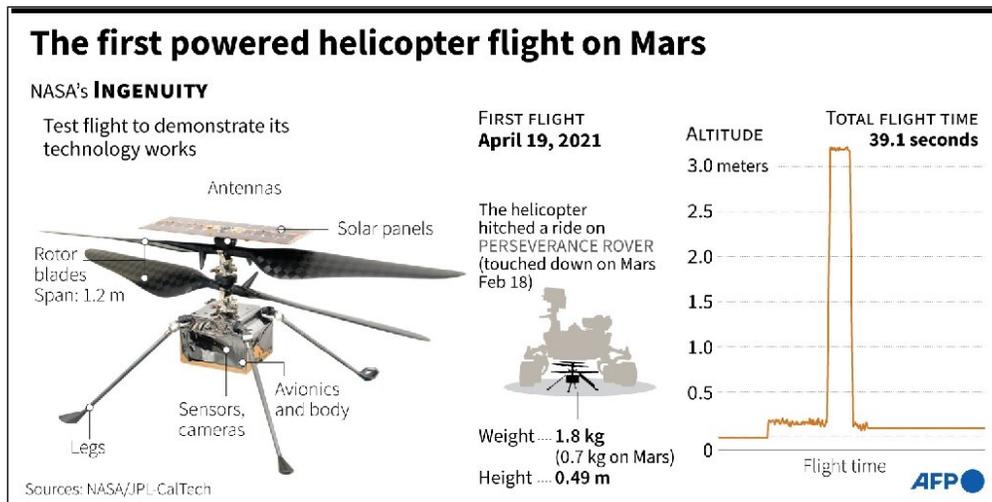


- ✓ The project was launched virtually on April 17, with the signing of a Letter of Intent between the ICE Office in Mumbai and Fanidhar Mega Food Park, in Gujarat
- ✓ The initiative in the food processing field was launched as per the statement of PM Modi and Italy's Mario Draghi in a virtual bilateral summit held on November 6.
- ✓ The main aim of the project is to create cooperation in the agriculture and industry sectors
- ✓ Further, it will also focus on the research and development of efficient technologies in the sector.
- ✓ The project is promoted by the Italian Embassy in New Delhi and the ICE Office in Mumbai and involves the Emilia Romagna Region, SACE, ANIMA (Italian Association representing companies operating in the metalworking sector) and Feder Unacoma (Italian Agricultural Machinery Federation of Manufacturers).

- ✓ The Mega Food Park is a scheme implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing to establish direct linkage from farms to processing and consumer markets.
- ✓ Under the scheme, the Centre provides Rs 50 crore to each food park.
- ✓ The scheme aims to implement around 30 to 35 food processing units.
- ✓ So far, forty-two Mega Food Parks have been sanctioned in six phases.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- On April 19, the Ingenuity Mars Helicopter - has successfully become the first aircraft in history to fly in another planet.



- ✓ During the 39-second flight, Ingenuity reached a maximum height of ten feet (three metres).
- ✓ The solar-powered helicopter was carried by the Perseverance Mars rover as part of the Mars 2020 mission launched on Atlas V launch vehicle.
- ✓ Perseverance Rover acted as the medium of communication throughout the flight of Ingenuity.
- ✓ The data between the control station in the earth and perseverance rover was sent and received through the Deep Space Network of NASA.
- ✓ The Deep Space Network, also called the DSN of NASA is an international array of giant radio antennas located in three different locations
- ✓ It is operated by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory of NASA.
- ✓ The three locations of the antennas - in Madrid (Spain), Goldstone (California) and Canberra (Australia) - are spaced at 120 degrees apart in longitude to facilitate constant communication

DEFENCE

- On April 21, three more Rafale fighters - were flagged off by Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhaduria in France



- ✓ These three new jets will add to the 14 such omni-role fighters already delivered to India.
- ✓ They are scheduled to touch down in India late on April 21 after mid-air refueling by tankers of France and UAE
- ✓ IAF will get all the 36 twin-engine Rafales, contracted under the Rs 59,000 crore deal signed with France in September 2016, by next year.
- ✓ The first Rafale squadron, 17 `Golden Arrows` Squadron, is already operational at the Ambala airbase.
- ✓ The second, 101 `Falcons` Squadron, in turn, will now come up at the Hasimara airbase in West Bengal.
- ✓ The IAF chief is currently on a five-day visit to France to discuss measures to further bolster bilateral military ties and enhance avenues for strengthening interaction between the two air forces.
- ✓ Indian and French armed forces regularly conduct joint exercises as part of their strong bilateral ties.
- ✓ Their last air exercise was “Desert Knight” at the Jodhpur airbase in January this year, while the two air forces also participated in the multi-nation “Desert Flag” exercise hosted by UAE in March.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Earth Day - April 22



- ✓ The day aims to create awareness about protecting the environment and focus on the need for conservation.

- ✓ In 1969, Peace Activist John McConnell proposed to celebrate World Earth Day to emphasize the conservation of the earth.
- ✓ The proposal was triggered by the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, as well as other issues such as smog and polluted rivers.
- ✓ It was first proposed to be celebrated on March 21, 1970, which is the first day of spring in the northern hemisphere.
- ✓ In 2009, the United Nations designated April 22 as 'International Mother Earth Day'
- ✓ On the World Earth Day in 2016, the landmark Paris Agreement with a common target to reduce global greenhouse emissions was signed by 122 countries, which included China and United States.
- ✓ This year, US President Joe Biden has invited leaders of forty top economies of the world including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jing Ping to the Leader's Summit on Climate on April 22.
- ✓ Theme 2021 - "Restore our Earth"
- ✓ The World Earth Day celebrations are organised by Earth Society Foundation, which was founded by John McConnel.

REPORT

