



Current Affairs Supplement

April 2023

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National

Himachal Pradesh's Kangra tea gets European GI tag

- The **European Commission (EC)** has awarded protected geographical indication (PGI) status to **Kangra tea**, a unique variety of tea grown in the Kangra district of **India's Himachal Pradesh**.
- The PGI will be effective from April 11, 2023, as per the notification issued by the EC on March 22.
- This move comes at a time when the EC has been delaying granting a similar status to Basmati rice, for which India applied in 2018.
- However, the EU wants India and Pakistan to hold discussions so that Basmati rice from Pakistan can also be recognized, but Pakistan is currently not meeting the necessary requirements for the recognition.
- The tag will help Kangra tea to get an opportunity to enter the European market.



Haryana becomes first state in India to have 100% electrified railway network

- In March 2023, the railway network in the state of **Haryana** in India was **completely electrified** by Indian Railways, making it the first state in the country to achieve **100% electrification** of its **railway network**.
- The existing Broad Gauge network of Haryana is 1,701 Route kilometre, which is now 100% electrified, resulting in saving on account of reduced line haul cost (about 2.5 times lower), heavier haulage capacity, increased sectional capacity, reduced operating & maintenance cost of electric loco, energy efficient and eco-friendly mode of transportation with reduced dependence on imported crude oil, saving of foreign exchange.



Odisha Day or Utkal Divas is celebrated on 1st April 2023

- **Odisha Day or Utkal Divas** is a significant day for the people of **Odisha**, India as it marks the formation of the state on **April 1, 1936**.
- Every year on this day, the state celebrates with cultural programs, parades, and flag hoisting ceremonies.
- Community leaders and politicians give speeches highlighting the state's achievements and history.
- This event provides the opportunity for the people of Odisha to come together and celebrate their cultural heritage and progress made by the state.
- Odisha, also known as the Land of Lord Jagannath, is famous for its scenic seas and ancient temples, such as the JagannathPuri Temple and the Sun Temple of Konark, which attract tourists. This year, on April 1, Odisha will celebrate its **88th foundation day**.



RBI Foundation Day 2023 observed on 1st April

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** was established on **April 1, 1935**, in accordance with the provisions of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.
- The Central Office of the RBI, initially set up in Kolkata, was permanently moved to Mumbai in 1937.

- **Sir Osborne Smith** the first Governor of the Bank.
- The Bank was constituted as a shareholders' bank.
- The RBI is the central bank of India and is responsible for regulating the country's monetary and credit system.
- It is also responsible for issuing currency and managing the country's foreign exchange reserves.
- The RBI works closely with the government of India to formulate and implement monetary and fiscal policies that promote economic growth and stability.
- It was set up as a private shareholder's bank with a capital of Rs. 5 crores.

A book titled "Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire" by Nandini Das

- "**Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire**" is a book written by **Nandini Das**, a professor of English Literature at the University of Liverpool.
- The book explores the complex relationship between England and Mughal India in the early modern period, focusing on the cultural and literary exchanges that took place between these two worlds.

RajyaSabha passes Competition Amendment Bill, 2023

- The **RajyaSabha** approved the **Competition Amendment Bill, 2023**, aimed at modernizing the two-decade-old anti-trust law to align with changes in the economy.
- The Competition Amendment Bill, 2023 aims to modify the **Competition Act, 2002**, which authorizes the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** to prevent practices that adversely impact competition and consumer interests.
- The Bill was introduced to Parliament in August 2022 and referred to the **Standing Committee on Finance** for review.
- The committee submitted its report in December 2022, and the Bill was re-introduced with a few amendments in February 2023.
- The LokSabha passed the Bill on March 29.



India Justice Report 2022: Karnataka tops among 18 large States

- According to the **India Justice Report (IJR) 2022**, which assesses the performance of states in terms of justice delivery, the state of **Karnataka** has achieved the top rank among the 18 large and mid-sized states with populations over one crore.
- The report considers several parameters such as police, judiciary, prisons, and legal aid to assess the overall performance of each state.

Forbes billionaire 2023 list: MukeshAmbani become richest sports owner

- **MukeshAmbani** has been named the richest sports owner in the **Forbes billionaire 2023 list**, with a net worth of \$83.4 billion, surpassing Steve Ballmer, the owner of the Los Angeles Clippers, whose net worth is \$80.7 billion.
- It's interesting to note that despite a 3% fall in Reliance Industries' share value over the past year, Ambani's net worth has still increased, indicating the strength and diversity of his business interests.

A new book titled “Gandhi: SiyasataurSampradaiykta” written by PiyushBabele

- A new book in Hindi titled **Gandhi: SiyasataurSampradaiykta** (‘**Gandhi: Politics and Communalism**’) written by journalist-turned-author **PiyushBabele**, who currently heads the Madhya Pradesh Congress’ media department.
- He cites extracts from Dr.Ambedkar’s book Pakistan or the Partition of India and other sources, and claims to “contextualise the developments leading up to India’s Partition in 1947 to bust the illusion spread by the Hindu right wing that Mahatma Gandhi was responsible for the Partition”.

BanarasiPaan, three other Varanasi-based goods receive GI tag

- On April 3, 2022, the **BenarasiPaan**, which was featured in Amitabh Bachchan’s famous song “**KhaikePaanBenarasWala**,” was granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- This means that these products have unique qualities specific to their respective regions.
- The BenarasiPaan, known for its distinct taste and unique blend of ingredients, has been awarded the GI tag along with three other Varanasi-based products: **BanarasiLangda Mango**, **RamnagarBhanta (Brinjal)**, and **Adamchini Rice**.
- The expert Rajinikant, who is a Padma Awardee in GI, has confirmed the designation of these products.



India become world’s second-largest solar manufacturer by 2026

- **India** has been making significant strides toward **renewable energy** in recent years, with a focus on **solar energy**.
- The country has set ambitious targets to increase its solar energy capacity and has been taking various steps to achieve them.
- In line with this, India is expected to become the **world’s second-largest solar manufacturer** by 2026.
- According to a report by the **India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF)**, India is poised to become the second-largest solar manufacturing country in the world by 2026, overtaking Japan and trailing only China.
- The report states that **India’s solar manufacturing capacity** is expected to increase from 10 GW in 2020 to 50 GW by 2030.
- This increase in capacity is expected to create around 3 lakh (300,000) direct jobs and 9 lakh (900,000) indirect jobs.



Kerala tops GI tag list in FY 2022-23

- According to data shared by the GI Registry, **Kerala** has secured the highest number of Geographical Indication (GI) tags for products among all states in India in FY23.
- Several products from Kerala, including AttappadyAattukombuAvara (beans), AttappadyThuvara (red gram), OnattukaraEllu (sesame), KanthaloorVattavadaVeluthuli (garlic), and KodungallurPottuvellari (snap melon) have been recognized with the GI tag.



- In addition to the six products from Kerala, the Geographical Indication (GI) Registry selected MithilaMakhana (aquatic fox nut) from Bihar and Alibag white onion from Maharashtra for the GI recognition tag.
- TandurRedgram from Telangana, the local variety of pea, LadakhRaktseyKarpoo Apricot from Ladakh, and Gamosa handicrafts from Assam were also selected for the honour.

5 Indian-origin women feature in '100 Most Influential Women in US Finance' list

- Barron's prestigious annual '100 Most Influential Women in US Finance' list includes five Indian-origin women executives who have attained prominent positions in the financial services industry and have played a role in shaping its future.
- These women are **AnuAiyengar from J.P. Morgan, Rupal J. Bhansali from Ariel Investments, Sonal Desai from Franklin Templeton, Meena Flynn from Goldman Sachs, and Savita Subramanian from Bank of America.**
- The fourth annual version of the list, released last month, recognized these women and 95 others for their accomplishments and influence in the US finance industry.



Amit Shah Unveils 54-Foot-Tall Statue Of Lord Hanuman At Gujarat Temple

- Indian Home Minister Amit Shah has unveiled a 54-foot-tall statue of **Lord Hanuman** at a temple in **Gujarat, India.**
- The statue, made of bronze, was installed at the **Hanuman temple** in Shah's hometown, Naranpura, in Ahmedabad.
- The statue, which stands on a 48-foot-tall pedestal, has been built at a cost of around **Rs 30 crore** (\$4 million USD) by the **Hanuman SevaSamiti**, a trust associated with the temple.
- It is said to be one of the tallest statues of Lord Hanuman in the world.

Shah Rukh Khan tops 2023 TIME100 Reader Poll

- Bollywood superstar **Shah Rukh Khan**, who is basking in the glory of the success of the blockbuster 'Pathaan', has proved he is the ultimate king.
- The actor won the **2023 TIME100 Reader Poll**, beating the likes of royal-couple **Prince Harry and Meghan Markle**, Argentinian player Lionel Messi, and Meta founder Mark Zuckerberg.
- It is the readers of the magazine who voted for the world-renowned personalities they believe deserve a spot on TIME's annual list of the most influential people.
- Securing the lead position in Time Magazine's poll for its annual TIME100 list, SRK bagged over 1.2 million votes.
- The American publication said that the actor bagged 4 per cent of votes in the poll.

Delhi airport now 9th busiest in world

- According to the Airports Council International (ACI) World, **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport** has been ranked as the ninth busiest airport in the world in 2022, handling approximately 59.5 million passengers every year.
- This is a noteworthy achievement for the IGI Airport as it had secured the 13th position in 2021 and the 17th position in 2019, before the pandemic.
- In a separate release, Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) said it is the only airport to figure in the top 10 list from South and South East Asia.



Bihar's aromatic 'Marcha Rice' gets GI tag

- The **Mircha rice** variety from **West Champaran district of Bihar** has recently been granted the GI tag.
- The grains of this rice are similar in size and shape to black pepper, which is why it is called **Mircha or Marcha rice**.
- The rice has a distinct aroma, and its grains and flakes are known for their palatability.
- The rice is also famous for its ability to produce aromatic chura (rice flakes).
- When cooked, the rice is fluffy, non-sticky, and sweet with a pleasant aroma resembling that of popcorn.
- The application for the GI tag was submitted by the **MarchaDhanUtpadakPragatisheelSamuh**, a registered organization of paddy cultivators.



Govt approves Kirit Parikh panel recommendations on natural gas pricing

- The government implemented changes to the pricing model of **domestic natural gas** in accordance with the **Kirit Parikh committee's** recommendations on gas pricing.
- The new pricing system will announce prices monthly and link them to **10%** of the international price of the **Indian crude basket**.
- As a result, prices for **piped natural gas (PNG)** and compressed natural gas (**CNG**) used by households, auto fuel, and various industries are expected to decrease by 10%.



KSINC launches India's first solar-powered tourist boat

- **Kerala State Inland Navigation Corporation (KSINC)** has launched a **solar-powered** tourist boat called **Sooryamshu** that can produce **27 KW of energy**.
- The boat also comes equipped with generators, which will help power passenger lift systems and air-conditioners.
- The solar panels will provide about 75% of the vessel's energy needs, while the rest will be met by the generators.
- The **boat was built in Sri Lanka for Rs. 3.95 crores**.



President of India takes a historic sortie in a Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter aircraft

- As part of her three-day official visit to the northeastern state, President **Draupadi Murmu** boarded a **Sukhoi 30 MKI** fighter jet for a flight from the strategic **Tezpur Airforce station in Assam**.
- It is noteworthy that the previous instance of a President flying in a Sukhoi was in 2009, when India's 12th President, **Pratibha Devi Singh Patil**, took a similar flight.
- Upon her arrival at the Tezpur Air Force Station, President Murmu was welcomed with a **Guard of Honour**.

northeastern state,



PM Modi launched big cats alliance to conserve seven cats

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA)** during his visit to Karnataka on April 9, 2022.

- The IBCA aims to conserve **seven species of big cats**, including tigers, lions, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, snow leopards, and clouded leopards.
- International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) will focus on the protection and conservation of seven major big cat species in the world.
- These species are the **tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar, and cheetah**.

World's first Asian King Vulture conservation and breeding center to be inaugurated in Uttar Pradesh

- The **world's first** conservation and breeding center for the **critically endangered Asian king vulture** is set to open in **Uttar Pradesh's Maharajganj district**.
- The center, named **Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre (JCBC)**, is spread over **1.5 hectares** and is designed to maintain a sustainable population of the species by **breeding** king vultures in captivity and releasing them into the wild.
- The JCBC, worth approximately **Rs 15 crore**, features multiple aviaries, including breeding and holding aviaries, nursery aviaries for juveniles, hospital and recovery aviaries, a food processing center, and an incubation center.



Tripura becomes best performer in northeast in e-procurement, receives award

- **Tripura's** recent award as the best-performing state in the **North Eastern region for e-Procurement** is a significant achievement for the state.
- The award was presented at a National Workshop on e-Procurement organized by the Union Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology in March 2023, held at the India Habitat Center in New Delhi.

Project Tiger: India's tiger population was 3,167 in 2022

- According to the latest tiger census data released by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, the **tiger population in India has reached 3,167 in 2022**, which is a significant increase compared to the previous census figures of 1,411 in 2006, 1,706 in 2010, 2,226 in 2014, and 2,967 in 2018.
- During the inauguration of the commemoration of 50 years of **'Project Tiger'**, the Prime Minister also launched the 'International Big Cat Alliance' that aims to protect and conserve seven major big cats worldwide, including tigers and lions.
- The Prime Minister emphasized that wildlife protection was a universal issue and that the IBCA was India's contribution to protecting and conserving big cats.
- Additionally, he released a booklet named 'AmritKaalKa Tiger Vision', which outlines the vision for tiger conservation in the next 25 years.



Criteria for becoming national party

- According to the **Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968**, a political party can be recognized as a national party if it satisfies any of the following three conditions:
- If the party wins at least 2% of seats in the Lok Sabha (the lower house of Parliament) from at least three different states in a general election.
- If the party secures at least 6% of the total valid votes polled in any four or more states, at a general election to the Lok Sabha or to the Legislative Assembly.
- If the party is recognized as a state party in at least four states.

Amit Shah launches Vibrant Village program at Kibithu border village in Arunachal Pradesh

- On April 7, 2023, India's Home Minister Amit Shah launched the **Vibrant Village program** at Kibithu, a border village in Arunachal Pradesh.
- This program aims to bring about the overall development of rural areas and transform them into self-sufficient and prosperous communities.
- **Kibithu** is a remote village located at an altitude of 9,000 feet above sea level, near the **India-China border**.

Election Commission grants national party status to AamAadmi Party

- In a significant development, the **Election Commission** has granted national party status to the **AamAadmi Party (AAP)**.
- The party's recognition as a **national party** is based on its electoral performance in four states- Delhi, Goa, Punjab, and Gujarat.
- With this recognition, the AAP joins the list of national parties in India such as the BharatiyaJanata Party, Congress, BahujanSamaj Party, and Communist Party of India (Marxist).
- The recognition also means that the party can contest elections in all states and union territories of India.



India will be third largest economy by 2027-28: PiyushGoyal

- In a recent address to the Indian diaspora community in France, Union Minister **PiyushGoyal** announced that India is set to become the **third-largest economy** in the world by 2027.
- Currently the fifth-largest economy, India has been experiencing an average annual growth rate of around 7% over the last decade, driven by factors such as a growing middle class and a focus on innovation and entrepreneurship.

Mumbai among 19 cities with the best public transport in the world

- **Berlin in Germany** has been named the city with the most exceptional public transport system globally, according to a survey conducted by **Time Out**, a London-based media outlet that specializes in the hospitality industry and identifies itself as a global brand committed to urban life.
- Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, came in second place. Mumbai, the top-ranked Indian city, secured the 19th spot in the rankings.

Food Conclave-2023 in Hyderabad

- The **Telangana government** has scheduled the **Food Conclave-2023** on April 28 and 29, which is a yearly gathering of 100 experts in the **agri-food industry** to discuss and exchange ideas.
- The main aim of the event is to recognize the primary obstacles and prospects for the Indian agri-food sector's expansion in the current decade.
- The event will encompass five theme-based sessions that will delve into different facets of the agri-food industry.
- The focal points will revolve around agriculture (green), edible oils (yellow), dairy (white), meat and poultry (pink), and aquaculture (blue).



PM Modi flags off Rajasthan's first Vande Bharat Express train

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched **Rajasthan's first Vande Bharat Express** train via video conferencing, which is the **15th such train** in the country.
- The prime minister emphasized that the Vande Bharat Express symbolizes development, modernity, self-reliance, and stability, enriching the spirit of 'India First, Always First'.
- He also mentioned that the train will greatly benefit Rajasthan's tourism industry.



India's first 3D-printed post office to come up in Bengaluru

- According to recent news reports, a **3D-printed post office** is being built in **Bengaluru, India**, which will be the first of its kind in the country.
- Residents of Cambridge Layout are reportedly pleased with this development.
- The cost of constructing this post office is estimated to be **30 to 40 percent** lower than that of a traditional building, and it is expected to be completed within 30 days.
- The 1100 square feet post office will cost around Rs 23 lakh to construct.

India's First Semi-High Speed Regional Rail Service Named 'RAPIDX'

- **The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)** has named India's first semi-high-speed regional rail services as '**RAPIDX**'.
- These trains will operate on the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors, which are being constructed to link important urban nodes across the National Capital Region (NCR).
- The name '**RAPIDX**' has been selected because it is simple to read and pronounce in different languages.



Kolkata Metro becomes India's first metro train to run under river

- **Kolkata Metro** has achieved a significant milestone as it became the first metro rail in India to complete an under-river journey.
- The metro rakes passed through an underwater tunnel beneath the **Hooghly river**, with the general manager, P Uday Kumar Reddy, traveling from Mahakaran to Howrah Maidan station in rake No. MR-612 at 11:55 am.
- Senior officers, including the Additional General Manager and MD of Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Limited (KMRCL), H N Jaiswal, also accompanied him during the historic journey.
- After reaching the Howrah station, Reddy performed a puja, and rake No MR- 613 was also taken to the Howrah Maidan station. Flowers were sprinkled and coconuts were broken to celebrate this achievement.



Ambedkar Jayanti 2023: Celebrating the Legacy of a Visionary Social Reformer

- India is commemorating the **132nd birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar on April 14, 2023**, as Ambedkar Jayanti.
- This day has been declared a public holiday by the central government, underscoring the importance of Ambedkar's contributions to Indian society.
- The occasion is an opportunity to remember and celebrate Ambedkar's life and legacy, and to renew our commitment to the principles of social justice and equality that he championed throughout his career.



India to host maiden Global Buddhist meet next week

- India will host the **Global Buddhist Summit** in New Delhi, where leaders and scholars from the **Buddhist community** around the world will gather to discuss contemporary global issues through a Buddhist perspective.
- The summit aims to find solutions to problems such as climate change, poverty, and conflict, among others, by exploring the Buddhist teachings and practices.
- The upcoming two-day Global Buddhist Summit to be hosted by India has the theme **'Responses to Contemporary Challenges from Philosophy to Praxis'**.



'Vande Metro' to be rolled out by December 2023, says Ashwini Vaishnaw

- **Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** has announced that the Union government plans to introduce **'Vande Metro'** by December 2023.
- This announcement comes after the successful launch of the **Vande Bharat Express**, which is a semi-high-speed train operating in several parts of the country.
- The upcoming metro network is expected to connect major cities and provide a cost-effective mode of transportation.

Telangana CM unveils 125 ft-tall Ambedkar statue unveiled in Hyderabad

- The Chief Minister of Telangana, K Chandrasekhar Rao, unveiled a 125-foot bronze statue of **BR Ambedkar in Hyderabad** to commemorate the **132nd birth anniversary** of the renowned Indian Constitution architect.
- The unveiling ceremony was a grand affair, with provisions made to accommodate over 35,000 individuals from all 119 constituencies.
- Additionally, approximately 750 state-owned Road Transport Corporation buses were deployed to facilitate public transportation to the event.
- This statue in Hyderabad is now the **tallest statue of Ambedkar** in India.



SRK, Rajamouli in Time Magazine's '100 Most Influential People' list

- **Shah Rukh Khan** and 'RRR' director **SS Rajamouli** are included in Time Magazine's annual 100 Most Influential People of 2023, becoming the only two Indians on the list.
- Both SRK and Rajamouli's last big screen ventures, Pathaan and RRR, earned over Rs 1000 crore worldwide.

- The esteemed list by Time magazine includes the likes of US President Joe Biden, King Charles, billionaire CEO Elon Musk, Bella Hadid, and Beyonce, among others.

Andhra Pradesh's CM Jagan Mohan Reddy wealthiest CM in India: ADR Report

- According to a report by the **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)**, out of the 28 state chief ministers and two union territories, 29 of them are millionaires in India.
- **Jagan Mohan Reddy** from Andhra Pradesh is the richest among them with assets worth ₹510 crore, while **Mamata Banerjee**, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, has the lowest assets worth around ₹15 lakh.
- The report also noted that Jammu and Kashmir, which is a Union Territory, does not have a chief minister at present.



Bihu performance in Guwahati creates Guinness World Record

- **Assam** made a historic achievement by entering the **Guinness Book of World Records** with over 11,000 dancers and drummers performing the traditional 'Bihu' dance and playing the 'dhol' at a single venue.
- The performers, comprising both dancers and drummers, participated in the event at Sarusajai Stadium in Guwahati as part of the State Government's initiative to set a new world record in the Guinness Book.

MRF emerges as 'second strongest tyre brand in the world'

- According to a recent report by **Brand Finance**, a U.K.-based brand valuation consultancy, **MRF Ltd.** has been ranked as the second-strongest tyre brand in the world.
- The report evaluated various parameters, and MRF scored high on most of them, including being the second fastest-growing tyre brand globally.
- With a score of 83.2 out of 100, MRF received a AAA- brand rating.

India retains top status in International Flight Safety Standards

- India's International Aviation Safety Assessment rating has been reaffirmed as Category One, indicating that the country satisfies global standards for aviation safety oversight.
- The **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)** of the United States conducted an audit of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in the domains of aircraft operations, airworthiness, and personnel licensing, following which India was granted Category One status.



Arunachal Pradesh CM inaugurates SharNyimaTsho Sum NamyigLhakhang

- The Chief Minister of **Arunachal Pradesh**, **PemaKhandu**, inaugurated the newly renovated **SharNyimaTsho Sum NamyigLhakhang (Gonpa)** at Gyangkhar, his native village in Tawang district.
- The Gonpa has great historical significance for the well-being of humans, particularly for the people of SharNyimaTsho Sum and all Buddhists in general.
- The 11-12th century Gonpa was on the verge of collapse, but it has now been renovated, and all the necessary rituals and blessings have been performed to restore it to its former glory.



India surpasses China to become world's most populous nation: UN

- **India** has surpassed **China** to become the world's most populous nation with 142.86 crore people, according to the latest United Nations data.
- With the latest statistics, China now has a population of 142.57 crores, becoming the second most populous country.

A new book titled 'Sachin@50'- Celebrating A Maestro by BoriaMajumdar

- **BoriaMajumdar**, a renowned sports historian and popular TV show host, unveiled a new book called '**Sachin@50 – Celebrating A Maestro**' on the occasion of legendary cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar's 50th birthday**.
- The book has been conceptually designed and curated by Majumdar, with a special back cover note written by Gulzar.

India Approves National Quantum Mission

- On April 19, the Union Cabinet approved the **National Quantum Mission**, aimed at propelling India into a leading position in the **quantum technology** sector and promoting economic growth through its development.
- The mission seeks to expedite progress in the field and cement India's position as a major player in the industry.
- The total cost of the mission is over six thousand crore rupees.
- The mission will run from 2023-24 to 2030-31.

**MGNREGA: Rajasthan tops in persondays generation for 4th year**

- For the fourth year in a row, **Rajasthan** topped the country in terms of persondays generation under **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme**.
- In 2022-23, Rajasthan generated 35.61 crore persondays at a total cost of Rs 10,175 crore under the scheme. Rajasthan is followed by Tamil Nadu (33.45 crore), Uttar Pradesh (31.18 crore), Andhra Pradesh (23.96 crore) and Bihar (23.69 crore) in terms of persondays generation, according to MGNREGA MIS report.

Apple's First Store In India Opens In Mumbai

- **Apple** opened its first official store in **Mumbai, India**. Located at the Jio World Drive mall in the **BandraKurla Complex area**, the store is the first of the two outlets Apple to open in India. Apple CEO Tim Cook threw open the gates to the 28,000 sqft store.
- An Apple store is aimed at providing a top-notch experience to customers by functioning as a one-stop destination for product sales, services and accessories.
- These stores are also architectural marvels, adding to an unrivalled customer experience.
- The opening of Apple's two retail stores in India has generated much public excitement, especially among users of the tech giant's products.

**Andhra Pradesh CM lays foundation stone for Mulapeta port**

- The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, **Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy**, initiated the construction of the **Mulapet greenfield port** in Srikakulam district.
- The port is estimated to cost Rs 4,362 crore and is expected to be completed within two years.
- In addition to the port, the Chief Minister also laid the foundation for a fishing harbor in Budagatlapalem, a life irrigation project that will span from the Gotta barrage to the HiraMandalam reservoir, and the continuation of work on the **Mahendra Tanaya river**.



Tata Steel to set up a pilot plant for methanol

- **Tata Steel** plans to set up a 10-tonnes-per-day pilot plant at its **Kalinganagar facility** in Odisha to produce **methanol** using blast furnace flue gases.
- The success of this pilot plant could pave the way for significant methanol production in India.
- The project aims to explore the possibility of combining carbon dioxide from steel mill blast furnaces with hydrogen from electrolyzers to produce methanol.
- This will enable Tata Steel to test the feasibility of this process and potentially pave the way for a more sustainable approach to methanol production in the country.

Mann Ki Baat 100th episode: Rs 100 coin to be released on the occasion

- The Ministry of Finance has issued an official notification stating that a new **Rs 100 coin** will be minted by the Central Government to commemorate the **100th edition** of the radio programme, **Mann Ki Baat**, with Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
- The notification specifies that the One Hundred Rupees denomination coin will only be minted at the Mint and issued under the authority of the Central Government on the occasion of the 100th Episode of Mann Ki Baat.

Tamil Nadu assembly passes Bill allowing 12-hour work days, DMK allies

- The passage of the **Factories (Amendment) Act 2023** in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, which provides for flexible work hours for employees in factories, is reportedly facing opposition from political parties, including **DMK allies**.
- The Act's provisions to extend the mandatory working hours from 8 hours to 12 hours have been the main point of contention for the opposition, with concerns raised about worker welfare, safety, and work-life balance.

Uttar Pradesh on track to be first Indian state with 100% EVs in govtdepts

- The government of **Uttar Pradesh**, led by Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath**, has launched an ambitious plan to promote the adoption of **electric vehicles (EVs)** in the state.
- As part of this initiative, the government has set a target to convert all vehicles used by government departments into EVs by 2030, in a phased manner.
- The Uttar Pradesh government has issued instructions to all government departments to promote the usage of electric vehicles (EVs) by purchasing them on a nomination basis without tender.



Russia now the biggest Oil Supplier to India

- Official data revealed that **Russia** remained the biggest supplier of **crude oil** to **India** in terms of value in **February**, even though there was a cap on western prices at \$60 per barrel.

- In February, India imported crude oil worth \$3.35 billion from **Russia**, with **Saudi Arabia** coming second at \$2.30 billion and Iraq at \$2.03 billion.

First-ever waterbody census: West Bengal tops list among states, Sikkim at the bottom

- The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** has released the first-ever Census of Water Bodies, which has revealed that **West Bengal** has the highest number of water bodies in India, while **Sikkim** has the lowest.
- This census has been conducted in convergence with the 6th Minor Irrigation Census under the Irrigation Census scheme launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

PM Modi to flag off India's first Water Metro in Kochi

- During his two-day visit to Kerala, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate India's first-ever **water metro** that connects 10 islands surrounding Kochi using battery-operated **electric hybrid boats**.
- This innovative mode of transportation will provide seamless connectivity between the islands and the city, offering a similar level of convenience and travel experience as traditional metro systems. This transportation system is particularly beneficial in urban areas like Kochi.



BRO puts up signboard describing Mana as 'First Indian Village'

- **Mana village** in Uttarakhand, which was previously recognized as the last Indian village, will now be acknowledged as the “first Indian village.”
- The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has installed a signboard at the entrance of the border village to declare Mana's updated status.
- This decision comes after Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** supported Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami's** assertion that Mana was the first village in the country, and all border villages should be recognized as such.

Gujarat celebrates 20 years of PM Modi's Swagat Initiative

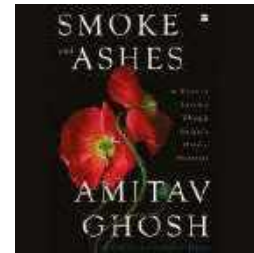
- Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** has declared the last week of April as “**SwagatSaptah**” in commemoration of the completion of 20 years of the “State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology” (**SWAGAT**) initiative, which was launched by Narendra Modi during his tenure as the Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2003.
- As part of this initiative, a technology-based system was developed to address grievances, and on the last Thursday of each month, the Chief Minister personally listens to the complaints of citizens in the presence of relevant officials.

Bengaluru is all set to witness Zero Shadow Day today across the city

- On Tuesday, April 25, **Bengaluru**, India's technological hub, is poised to witness a unique celestial event known as “**Zero Shadow Day**,” according to the **Astronomical Society of India (ASI)**.
- During this event, any vertical objects in the city will not cast any shadows, due to the sun's position directly overhead. The phenomenon is expected to occur at around 12:17 PM and will last for a brief period.

Amitav Ghosh's new non-fiction book 'Smoke and Ashes' to release in July 2023

- On July 15th, HarperCollins' Fourth Estate will publish a book titled **"Smoke and Ashes: A Writer's Journey Through Opium's Hidden Histories"** by **Amitav Ghosh**.
- The book is a combination of a memoir, a travelogue, and a deep dive into the economic and cultural history of opium.
- Ghosh explains that the book is based on the vast amount of research he conducted while writing his trilogy of novels between 2005 and 2015. Overall, "Smoke and Ashes" explores the hidden and often overlooked aspects of opium's impact on history and society.



SCO Summit: India will host Summit in New Delhi on July 3-4

- India will host the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit** in New Delhi On July 3–4, which will be **Russian President Vladimir Putin**'s first visit to the country since the conflict in Ukraine.
- The agenda for the Summit, which is anticipated to centre on counter-terror, Afghan stability, inclusive connectivity efforts including **Chabahar Port & INSTC**, aside from India's extensive outreach to Eurasia, will be finalised at the SCO Foreign Ministers meeting next week in Goa on May 4-5.

Fit India Champion Arjun Vajpai Summits Mt. Annapurna

- Fit India Champion, **Arjun Vajpai** has achieved a significant feat by becoming the first Indian man to reach the summit of Mt. Annapurna 1.
- This mountain, located in Nepal, is the tenth highest peak in the world, standing at an elevation of 8,091 metres (26,545 ft) above sea level.
- Arjun accomplished this climb on April 17 and has now become the first Indian mountaineer to scale all 7 peaks that are over 8,000 metres high. It is worth noting that Mt. Annapurna 1 is considered the most perilous mountain among the 14 that stand over 8,000 metres in height.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi revealed the book 'Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamprashastih'

- At the end of the 'Saurashtra Tamil Sangam' event, the Prime Minister of India, **Narendra Modi**, revealed a book called **'Saurashtra Tamil Sangam Prashasti'**, authored by Somnath Sanskrit University.
- The Sangam celebrates the cultural and historical bond between Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, as many people migrated from the Saurashtra region to Tamil Nadu several centuries ago. According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, the Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam event allowed Saurashtrian Tamils to reconnect with their ancestral roots.



International

Finland Becomes 31st NATO Member After Turkey's Approval

- **Jens Stoltenberg**, the Secretary General of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**, has announced that **Finland** has become the 31st member of the alliance, thanks to Turkey's unanimous vote.
- Despite Russia's opposition to Finland's membership, Turkey's approval has allowed the extension of NATO.
- Finland shares a long border of over 1,300 kilometers with Russia, and its decision to join NATO was prompted by security concerns following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.
- However, Sweden's application to join NATO has been declined by Turkey and Hungary.



Georgia Assembly passes resolution condemning Hinduphobia

- **Georgia Assembly** has passed a resolution that condemns **Hinduphobia** and **anti-Hindu bigotry**, making it the first state in America to take such legislative action.
- The resolution highlights that Hinduism is a diverse religion with over **1.2 billion adherents** worldwide, and it **promotes values of acceptance, mutual respect, and peace**.
- The resolution recognizes the contributions of the American-Hindu community in various fields, such as science, medicine, engineering, and hospitality.
- Additionally, the resolution acknowledges the **contributions of yoga, meditation, ayurveda, music, and art, which have enriched American culture**.



'MF Hydra': World's first liquid hydrogen-powered ferry gets operational

- Norwegian company **Norled** has successfully launched the world's first **ferry** that runs on liquid hydrogen.
- The vessel, called **MF Hydra**, is a hybrid that uses both batteries and liquid hydrogen fuel cells.
- It underwent sea trials for two weeks after initial testing at Hjelmeland quay earlier this year.
- The Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA) has given final approval for the ferry to operate.
- This milestone achievement is a significant step towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the maritime industry, as hydrogen fuel cells produce only clean water as a byproduct.



Britain forges biggest trading deal since Brexit, set to join trans-Pacific pact

- In a significant development for **post-Brexit Britain**, the UK has reached its largest trade deal yet.
- The country is set to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), which covers a market of around 500 million people with a combined GDP of £9tn.
- The CPTPP agreement was signed by **11 countries**, including Canada, Japan, Mexico, and Australia, and came into force in December 2018.



PM Modi invited to France for Bastille Day parade

- Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has been invited to France for the **Bastille Day parade**, which is scheduled for July 14th.
- The invitation was extended by French President **Emmanuel Macron**, who expressed his desire to strengthen the bilateral ties between the two countries.
- The Bastille Day parade is a significant event in **French history**, commemorating the storming of the **Bastille prison** on July 14th, 1789, which was a turning point in the French Revolution.
- The parade is a celebration of the nation's military and its achievements

China announces 'renaming' of 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh

- **China's Civil Affairs Ministry** published a list of standardized names for 11 locations in **Arunachal Pradesh**, referring to it as "**Zangnan**," the southern region of Tibet, and using Chinese, Tibetan, and pinyin characters.
- This move is seen as an attempt by China to stake a claim on the Indian state, in line with their regulations on geographical names.
- China's Civil Affairs Ministry has disclosed the precise coordinates and official names of 11 locations in Arunachal Pradesh. These places include **two residential areas, two land areas, five mountain peaks, and two rivers**



After ChatGPT, Italy plans to ban English language

- In a startling move, the **Italian government** has announced that it plans to ban the **English language** and impose heavy fines on individuals and organizations that continue to use it.
- The announcement comes just weeks after the ban on **ChatGPT**, a language model developed by OpenAI.
- The decision has been met with widespread criticism and has raised questions about Italy's commitment to international cooperation and its position in the global economy.
- According to the government's statement, the ban on English language use will be enforced with fines of up to **Rs 89.3 lakh**.



China's Yuan Replaces Dollar as Most Traded Currency in Russia

- In recent years, there has been a shift in the global currency landscape, with **China's yuan** steadily gaining ground against the **US dollar**.
- This trend is reflected in **Russia**, where the yuan has now overtaken the dollar as the **most traded currency**.
- According to data from the **Moscow Exchange**, the yuan accounted for 23.6% of **Russia's foreign exchange** turnover in the first quarter of 2023, while the dollar's share was 22.5%.

New Zealand's Kim Cotton becomes first female umpire to officiate men's T20I match

- On April 5th, during the second T20I match between Sri Lanka and New Zealand in Dunedin, **Kim Cotton** became the first woman to serve as an on-field umpire in a men's international match between two full-member teams, making history.
- Cotton has previously worked as an on-field and TV umpire in 54 women's T20Is and 24 women's ODIs, as well as officiating at the women's T20 and ODI World Cups from 2018 to 2023.

India ranks 5th in countries with most AI investment

- **Stanford University's AI Index report** states that **India is ranked fifth** in terms of investments received by startups offering AI-based products and services in 2022.
- AI startups in India received a total investment of \$3.24 billion, surpassing countries such as **South Korea, Germany, Canada, and Australia.**
- **However, India is still behind the US, China, the UK, and Israel in terms of AI investments received.**

Freedom House Index: Tibet ranked world's least free country

- A recent report by Tibet Press highlights that, according to the **Freedom in the World Index for 2023** published by international watchdog Freedom House, Tibet is the country with the least freedom in the world.
- The report, titled "**Freedom in the World 2023 Report,**" was released by Freedom House on March 9 and identified Tibet, South Sudan, and Syria as the "least-free countries" in the world.

New York City appoints first-ever 'Rat Czar'

- **Kathleen Corradi** has been appointed by **NYC Mayor Eric Adams** to tackle the city's severe rodent issue.
- She has been designated as the city's inaugural "**rat czar**" and given the responsibility of minimizing the rat population and creating a cleaner and more hospitable environment for residents.
- In addition, the Adams administration is dedicating \$3.5 million to the Harlem Rat Mitigation Zone, a new initiative to expedite rat control measures throughout Harlem.

**Nepal becomes founding member of International Big Cats Alliance**

- **Nepal** has become a founding member of the **International Big Cats Alliance.**
- During the launch of the alliance under India's initiative, Minister for Energy Shakti Bahadur Basnet handed over the letter mentioning Nepal will be associated with the alliance as a founding member to Indian Minister for Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav.

**US emerges as India's biggest trading partner in FY23 at \$128.55 bn; China at second position**

- According to provisional data from the commerce ministry, the bilateral trade between **India and the United States** has risen by 7.65% to reach \$128.55 billion in the fiscal year 2022-23, making the United States India's largest trading partner.
- This represents an increase from \$119.5 billion in the previous year and \$80.51 billion in 2020-21, indicating a growing economic relationship between the two countries.

Elon Musk sets low expectations before first SpaceX launch of Starship, most powerful rocket ever built

- SpaceX, founded by Elon Musk, is preparing to conduct an unprecedented test flight of its groundbreaking **Starship**, which is currently the most powerful rocket in existence.

- Ahead of the launch, Elon Musk has set modest expectations.

Syria becomes world's largest 'narco-state': Report

- According to reports, **Syria** has now become the **world's largest narco-state**, with the majority of its foreign currency earnings coming from the **production and export of Captagon**, a highly addictive amphetamine commonly referred to as "poor man's coke".
- In line with the definition provided by Collins Dictionary, Syria can be classified as a narco-state as the illegal trade of narcotics, specifically Captagon, forms a significant portion of its economy, accounting for over 90 percent of the country's foreign currency earnings.



UAE India's second largest export destination and third largest source of imports

- According to recent figures released by the **Indian Ministry of Commerce**, the **UAE** remains the second most significant export destination for India.
- The **US** and **UAE** held onto their first and second positions, respectively, during the financial year 2022-23.
- The ministry's figures, released two weeks into the new fiscal year, indicate a six percent increase in **India's overall exports of goods** and services during the financial year that concluded last month.



India to challenge WTO panel ruling on ICT import duties at appellate body

- **India** is set to appeal against the recent ruling by the **World Trade Organization's (WTO)** trade dispute settlement panel, which found that the country's import dues on certain information and technology products are inconsistent with global trade norms.
- The dispute was filed by the **European Union, Japan, and Taiwan**, which argued that the import duties imposed by India on certain informational and technology products violated **WTO rules**.

China launched Fengyun-3 satellite

- **China** has achieved a significant milestone on April 16, 2023, by successfully launching the **Fengyun-3** meteorological satellite. The satellite was launched using the **Chang Zheng-4B carrier** rocket from the **Jiuquan Cosmodrome**, located in Gansu Province.
- The Fengyun-3 satellite has been primarily designed to monitor and provide crucial information on severe weather conditions, including heavy rainfall that can result in natural calamities like landslides and floods.
- This successful mission marked the **471st launch** for the Chang Zheng rocket family, cementing their reputation as one of the most reliable and consistent rocket families globally.



Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to open first overseas office in Abu Dhabi

- The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** has recently signed an agreement to create its first Interim Operational Hub in **Abu Dhabi Global Market**, marking its initial foray into establishing an overseas office.
- AIIB is a multilateral development bank that focuses on financing infrastructure projects that prioritize sustainability.
- As the host country for COP28 later this year, the **UAE** has emphasized the importance of climate finance, a key concern for nations as they strive to increase their efforts and commitments towards climate action.

Cuba's Parliament ratifies President Díaz-Canel for new term

- **Cuba's** National Assembly has confirmed **President Miguel Díaz-Canel** for a new five-year term, as the country grapples with a severe economic crisis.
- The decision to maintain continuity in leadership was made by more than 400 representatives who were elected in March and took office on Wednesday, 19 April.
- The assembly then voted to elect the government's leadership, with Díaz-Canel receiving 459 out of 462 votes. **Vice President Salvador Valdés Mesa** was also ratified, receiving 439 votes.



Kenya's Kiptum Wins London Marathon in 2nd Fastest Time

- **Kelvin Kiptum**, a 23-year-old Kenyan athlete, collapsed to the ground after achieving victory in the London Marathon and posting the second-best time in history for the distance.
- Kiptum broke the course record with an impressive time of 2 hours, 1 minute, and 25 seconds, falling short of Eliud Kipchoge's world record by only 16 seconds.

Who is Udai Tambar, Indian-origin CEO on racial justice advisory board in New York City?

- Fifteen experts, including **Udai Tambar**, an Indian-origin CEO working on youth development services in the **United States**, have been selected to serve as members of **New York City's** newly formed racial justice advisory board.
- Udai Tambar, who serves as the CEO and President of New York Junior Tennis and Learning (NYJTL), has been appointed as a member of the newly-formed **racial justice advisory board** in New York City.

Zimbabwe to introduce gold-backed digital currency

- To combat the falling value of the Zimbabwean currency, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has announced plans to introduce a **gold-backed digital currency**.
- The digital gold tokens will be a form of electronic money, backed by gold held at the RBZ.
- This will enable holders of small amounts of **Zimbabwean dollars** to exchange their money for tokens and protect themselves against exchange rate fluctuations.



IIT Madras to set up its first international campus in Tanzania

- **IIT Madras** is set to establish the first Indian Institute of Technology in Africa in **Tanzania**, with classes scheduled to begin in October. The new campus will be located in **Zanzibar**, and marks IIT Madras' first international campus.
- **V Kamakoti**, the institute's director, announced the plans during his address at IIT Madras' 64th Institute Day. A team of five IIT Madras professors visited Tanzania in February to hold discussions with officials about setting up the new campus.



Japan's health ministry approves first abortion pill in its history

- A panel in **Japan's health ministry** has approved the country's **first abortion pill**, in a major step for reproductive rights decades after other countries made abortion medication widely available.
- The ministry's pharmaceutical board granted approval to the **MeFeego Pack**, an abortion pill manufactured by British pharmaceutical Linepharma, according to a spokesperson from the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

US State Pennsylvania Recognizes Diwali as an Official State Holiday

- **Senator NikilSaval** tweeted that the state of **Pennsylvania** in the **United States** has declared Diwali, the Hindu festival, as a national holiday.
- The legislation to make Diwali an official state holiday was introduced by State **Senators Greg Rothman** and **NikilSaval** in February of this year.
- The bill was passed unanimously by the Senate. According to My Twin Tiers, there are almost 200,000 South Asian residents in Pennsylvania, many of whom celebrate Diwali as a time for gathering and reflection.



Pakistan becomes largest recipient of ADB funded programmes in 2022

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** Annual Report 2022 revealed that **Pakistan** received loans of \$5.58 billion, making it the largest recipient of ADB-funded programs/projects in the year 2022.
- Out of the total lending, Pakistan received concessional funding of \$2.67 billion from the bank, highlighting the dire economic situation in the country.
- This significant lending reflects the severity of the economic crisis in Pakistan, which has been compounded by political and geopolitical uncertainties.

Defence

US and Indian Air Force to engage in 'Cope India' fighter training exercise

- Next week, **India's Sukhoi-30s**, which are made in **Russia**, will participate in an exercise named '**Cope India**' that involves dogfighting with **American F-15 Strike Eagle fighter jets**.
- The exercise was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is taking place after a four-year gap.

10th Indian – Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime exercise SLINEX-2023 begins

- The 10th annual **SLINEX-2023** bilateral maritime exercise between **India and Sri Lanka** has commenced in **Colombo, Sri Lanka**.
- The exercise is divided into two phases, the Harbour Phase and the Sea Phase, each lasting three days.
- The Indian Navy is represented by INS Kiltan and INS Savitri, while the Sri Lanka Navy is represented by SLNS Vijayabahu and SLNS Samudura.
- In addition, the exercise also includes participation from the Indian Navy's Chetak helicopter and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft, as well as Sri Lanka Air Force's Dornier and BEL 412 helicopters.
- The exercise will also feature the Special Forces of both navies working together.



Andaman & Nicobar command conducts large scale joint military exercise 'KAVACH'

- On **April 5, 2023**, the Andaman & Nicobar command, which is India's sole tri-services unit, held a collaborative **military drill** named **Exercise 'KAVACH.'**
- The soldiers performed multiple exercises such as amphibious landing, air landing operations, heliborne operations, and swift insertion of special forces commandos.
- The weaponry and equipment of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard were utilized by the soldiers participating in 'EX-KAVACH.'
- The primary objective of this joint service exercise was to enhance the coordination and joint warfighting capabilities of the various services.



Indian Rafale to participate in French Military exercise with NATO allies

- **The Indian Air Force's Rafale fighter jets** will be participating in a military exercise in France that involves thousands of **NATO troops**.
- The jets are expected to arrive in France in mid-April to participate in Orion 23, a large-scale war game that includes multiple dimensions, such as ground troops, warships, aircraft carriers, and combat aircraft.
- The exercise, which began in February and is scheduled to end in early May, is aimed at enhancing military cooperation and interoperability among participating nations.

INS Vikrant gets back its 'original' 1961 bell

- **The INS Vikrant**, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, was presented with a special gift in the form of its original bell from the first carrier of the same name commissioned in **1961**.
- The bell was given by Vice Admiral SN Ghormade, who recently retired as the Vice Chief of Navy Staff, to the commanding officer of INS Vikrant on March 22.

Greek-Indian Air Forces To Conduct Massive Joint Exercise Over Mediterranean Sea

- **The Greek and Indian Air Forces** will collaborate on a joint training exercise with Su-30, F-16, and Rafale fighter jets for ten days over Greece and the Mediterranean Sea.
- The exercise will be conducted as part of the annual **Greek exercise Iniochos 23**, led by the Greek Air Force and the Greek Air Tactics Center of the Ministry of Defense.
- The training is scheduled to begin on April 18th and will conclude on April 28th.



Wing Commander Deepika Misra is first IAF woman officer to receive gallantry award

- **Wing Commander Deepika Misra** has made history as the first female Air Force officer to receive a gallantry medal.
- She was awarded the VayuSeva Medal for gallantry by the President of India on Independence Day in the previous year, and recently received the award from the Air Chief Marshal of the Indian Air Force at an investiture ceremony in New Delhi.

Operation Kaveri launched to evacuate Indians from Sudan

- **India** initiated **Operation Kaveri** to evacuate its citizens from the unrest-stricken **Sudan**. As per External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar's** tweet, the operation is currently in progress, and roughly 500 Indians have already arrived at Port Sudan.
- Operation Kaveri is the latest evacuation operation initiated by India **to rescue** its citizens and friendly nations' citizens from war zones.
- The Ministry of External Affairs had announced the standby status of two C-130s aircraft and INS Sumedha for the safe **evacuation of stranded Indians** in Sudan.



"AJEYA WARRIOR – 2023" An Indo-UK Joint Military Exercise

- The 7th edition of the joint military exercise **"AJEYA WARRIOR-23"** is currently underway at Salisbury Plains in the United Kingdom from 27 April to 11 May 2023.
- This biennial training event with the **United Kingdom** alternates between the United Kingdom and India, and the last edition was held in **Chaubatia, Uttarakhand** in October 2021.

Appointments or Resign/Retired

Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh is new Vice-Chief of Navy

- On April 2nd, Vice-Admiral **Sanjay Jasjit Singh** assumed the position of **Vice-Chief of Naval Staff (VCNS)** as part of a series of high-level changes in the Indian Navy.
- Vice Admiral Singh graduated from the National Defence Academy in Pune and joined the Indian Navy's executive branch in 1986. Over his 37-year career, he has served on various types of ships and held many leadership roles, including Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (CSNCO), Flag Officer Commanding of the Western Fleet, Commandant Naval War College, and Controller Personnel Services.
- Prior to his current position as VCNS, he was Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations).



Kalikesh takes charge as NRAI president

- Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo**, who held the position of Senior Vice-President, took over as the **President of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)**.
- This change occurred as the previous president, Raninder Singh, went on a long leave after the Sports Ministry issued a directive stating that the heads of national sports federations (NSFs) cannot hold office for more than 12 years, as per the National Sports Code.
- Raninder Singh, who was re-elected as the NRAI president in September 2021, went on leave following this directive.



AnshumanSinghania new chairman of tyre makers body ATMA

- The Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association has announced that **AnshumanSinghania**, who is currently serving as the **Managing Director of JK Tyre & Industries Ltd**, has been chosen as its new Chairman.
- Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA) said Arnab Banerjee, Managing Director & CEO of CEAT Ltd has taken over as the Vice-Chairman.

Aparesh Kumar Singh is new chief justice of Tripura HC

- Justice **Aparesh Kumar Singh** has been appointed as the new chief justice of the Tripura High Court, replacing Justice **Jaswant Singh** who recently retired.
- The Department of Justice in the Law Ministry issued a notification stating that President, under the powers conferred by **Article 217 of the Constitution of India**, has appointed Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh, who is a judge at the Jharkhand High Court, to assume the position of the Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court with effect from the date he takes charge of the office. Justice Singh was born on July 7, 1965, and started his career as an advocate in 1990.



World's 'most criminal countries' ranking: India behind US, UK at 77 spot

- World of Statistics has shared the ranking of the world's "most criminal countries".
- On the list, Venezuela has been ranked top, followed by **Papua New Guinea (2), Afghanistan (3), South Africa (4), Honduras (5), Trinidad (6), Guyana (7), Syria (8), Somalia (9) and Jamaica (10), respectively.**
- India stood at 77 spots while the US and UK were ahead of India in the criminal ranking country.
- The USA was at 55th number and the UK at 65th rank, according to the World of Statistics. Turkey, Germany, and Japan were among the least criminal countries, ranking at 92nd, 100th, and 135th ranks.

**Star Sports signs Rishabh Pant as brand ambassador**

- The Walt Disney Company-owned **Star Sports** has signed cricketer **Rishabh Pant** as its latest brand ambassador.
- The company said it also has other cricketers as its 'Believe Ambassadors' like Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, KL Rahul, and Shreyas Iyer. Star Sports said it only had two ambassadors in 2017. Cricketer Virat Kohli is also part of this association.
- The ambassadors will represent different parts of the country as well as different IPL Teams, the broadcaster said. "The 'Believe Ambassadors' represent different parts of the country as well as different IPL Teams.

**HSBC signs up Virat Kohli as their brand influencer**

- **HSBC India** has recently announced **Virat Kohli**, the former captain of the **Indian cricket team**, as its brand ambassador. The financial services company issued a press release on April 19 to confirm the partnership.
- According to the release, the association with Kohli will involve a multi-media campaign that will showcase the benefits of banking with HSBC. The campaign will highlight the value proposition of the bank and demonstrate how HSBC can help customers achieve their financial goals.

India captain Rohit Sharma Announced as JioCinema's brand ambassador

- **JioCinema**, a digital streaming platform, has announced India cricket team captain **Rohit Sharma** as their new brand ambassador.
- As part of this collaboration, Rohit will be working with the JioCinema team to promote their digital-first approach towards sports viewing. Together, they will work towards expanding the fan base for sports properties nationwide by introducing a series of initiatives.

Mahavir Singh Phogat Appointed as Chairman of MMA-1

- The legendary wrestler and coach, **Mahavir Singh Phogat** has been appointed as the **Chairman of the MMA-1 Federation**. Mahavir is responsible for promoting mixed martial arts (MMA) in India.

- As the Chairman of the MMA-1 Federation, Phogat will work towards developing and promoting MMA in India, with a focus on identifying and nurturing young talent in the sport.
- Mohamedali Budhwani the president of MMA1 Federation sent a humble request to Phogat to claim the seat as the chairman, and he gladly accepted the same.

Shahabuddin Chappu takes oath as Bangladesh's 22nd president

- **Mohammed Shahabuddin Chappu** has become the **22nd president of Bangladesh**, taking over from Abdul Hamid, in a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, politicians, judges, and senior officials.
- The event was held at the historic Durbar Hall of Bangabhaban, where Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury administered the oath to Shahabuddin.
- He was elected unopposed in February this year as the candidate of the ruling party, and after the ceremony, he signed the documents for the office of the president.



Pankaj Singh elected unopposed as cycling federation president

- **Pankaj Singh**, the BJP MLA from Noida and son of Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has been elected unopposed as **Cycling Federation of India (CFI)** president in the Annual General Body meeting in Nainital.
- **Maninder Pal Singh** was elected as secretary general for the second consecutive term while **Sudeesh Kumar** of Kerala was elected as the treasurer. Twenty six states and boards affiliated to CFI participated in the AGM.

Siddhartha Mohanty appointed as Chairman of LIC Until June 2024

- The government announced the appointment of **Siddhartha Mohanty** as the Chairperson of the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** until June 29, 2024.
- Following this, he will serve as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer until June 7, 2025, as stated by LIC in a release.
- **Mohanty**, who is currently the Managing Director, had been serving as the interim Chairperson of the state-run life insurance company since March 14, replacing **M R Kumar**, whose term ended on March 13, 2023.

Honours/ Awards

Indian-American physician Dr.Nitya Abraham honoured with young urologist of the year award

- An Indian-American physician and professor **Dr.Nitya Abraham** has been honoured with the **Young Urologist of the Year Award** conferred by the American Urological Association (AUA).
- **Dr. Abraham** is an Associate Professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Program Director for the Montefiore Urology residency programme.
- She is among the honorees of the 2023 Young Urologist of the Year Award. Abraham is among members selected by their colleagues who serve on the Young Urologists Committee and endorsed by their respective Section/Society to receive the special honour for 2023.



Ukrainian president decorated with Poland's top award

- The highest decoration of Poland, the Order of the White Eagle, was presented to Ukraine's President **Volodymyr Zelensky** by the President of Poland, Andrzej Duda, during a meeting between the two leaders at the Presidential Palace in Warsaw.
- During his visit, the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky, intends to hold meetings with the President of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Duda, the Prime Minister of Poland, Mateusz Morawiecki, and representatives from the business community, as well as with Ukrainian and Polish citizens at the Royal Castle.



C.R. Rao wins International Prize in Statistics 2023

- **The 2023 International Prize in Statistics**, which is regarded as the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in statistics, has been awarded to **Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao**, an Indian-American statistician.
- The prize, established in 2016, is presented once every two years to an individual or team that has made significant contributions to science, technology, and human welfare through the use of statistics.
- The award is given out by a collaboration of five major international statistics organizations and recognizes major accomplishments by an individual or team.
- Rao will be honored with the prize, which carries an \$80,000 cash award, at the International Statistical Institute World Statistics Congress in Ottawa, Canada, in July.



AshaBhosle to receive LataDeenanathMangeshkarPuraskar

- **AshaBhosle**, the renowned singer, will be honored with the **LataDeenanathMangeshkar award**, which was established by the Mangeshkar family and trust in memory of LataMangeshkar.
- The award ceremony will take place on April 24, which is the anniversary of their father's death. AshaBhosle, who is LataMangeshkar's younger sister, will be the recipient of the award.



Angela Merkel receives Germany's highest honor

- Former Chancellor **Angela Merkel** received **Germany's highest Order of Merit**.
- The Grand Cross award was handed to her by President Frank-Walter Steinmeier.
- The award has only been given twice before, to former chancellors Konrad Adenauer and Helmut Kohl.
- All three former leaders belong to the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU).



UtsaPatnaik selected for Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023

- **UtsaPatnaik**, a well-known economist of both national and international acclaim, has been chosen for the prestigious **Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023**.
- The award is presented annually by the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust, with outstanding social scientists being recognized by a national-level jury from the nominations received.

Raj Subramaniam honoured with PravasiBharatiyaSamman

- **Raj Subramaniam**, the CEO of FedEx, a renowned global transportation company, and an Indian-American, was recently honored with the distinguished **PravasiBharatiyaSamman award**.
- This award is the highest civilian recognition bestowed by India upon individuals of Indian descent and Indian diaspora.
- Due to travel restrictions, Subramaniam, aged 55, received the award from Taranjit Singh Sandhu, India's Ambassador to the US, at a ceremony held at India House on Saturday instead of receiving it in India earlier this year.



Kumar Mangalam Birla received AIMA's 'Business Leader of the Decade' award

- At the 13th Managing India Awards ceremony hosted by the All India Management Association (AIMA), **Kumar Mangalam Birla**, Chairman of Aditya Birla Group, was presented with the '**Business Leader of the Decade Award**' for his contributions to the Indian industry in the last ten years.
- Birla was recognized for his leadership in consolidating and streamlining the operations of the diversified group.

SonamWangchuk conferred with Prestigious Santokbaa Humanitarian Award

- **SonamWangchuk**, a distinguished engineer, innovator, educationist, and sustainable development reformist, has been honored with the prestigious **Santokbaa Humanitarian Award**.
- The award has been initiated by **Shree Ramkrishna Exports (SRK)**, a leading company in diamond crafting and exports, and its philanthropic arm Shree Ramkrishna Knowledge Foundation (SRKKF).
- Wangchuk is the Founder-Director of Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL).



PM GatiShakti national master plan wins award for excellence in public administration

- At the 16th Civil Services Day Celebration, Prime Minister Narendra Modi awarded the Excellence in Public Administration-2022 award to the **PM Gati Shakti national master plan** in the ‘Innovation (Central)’ category.
- The plan was launched in October 2021 to reduce logistics costs and streamline critical infrastructure projects.
- The award recognizes the innovative approach of the plan towards improving the country’s infrastructure and its impact on public administration.

Dalai Lama Gets 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award In Person After 64 Years

- After a 64-year wait, members of the **Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation** personally presented the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award to the **Dalai Lama** at his residence.
- The award was the first international recognition given to the spiritual leader for his exceptional leadership of the Tibetan community’s courageous fight in safeguarding their sacred religion, which serves as the foundation of their culture and way of life.
- The award was given by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation in the Philippines in August 1959.



Shakira Receives Billboard’s Inaugural Latin Woman of the Year Award

- **Shakira**, the renowned Colombian singer, will be recognized with the prestigious ‘**Latin Women of the Year**’ award at the inaugural Latin Women in Music gala hosted by Billboard.
- With her exceptional music contributions spanning over three decades, Shakira has been titled as the ‘**Queen of Latin Music**’.
- The two-hour event will celebrate the achievements of prominent Latin women in the music industry and will be recorded at Miami’s WatscoCenter, hosted by Ivy Queen and Jacqueline Bracamontes.



Alessandra Korap from Amazon wins Goldman Environment Prize

- **Alessandra Korap**, an indigenous Mundurucu woman from the Brazilian Amazon, has been recognized with a 2023 Goldman Environmental Prize, an esteemed award that acknowledges the efforts of six activists from six continents who work at the grassroots level to safeguard the environment.
- Since its establishment in 1989, the Goldman Prize has celebrated leaders who engage in local initiatives that result in positive environmental changes through citizen or community involvement.



Tata Sons’ Chairman Ratan Tata awarded Australia’s highest civilian honour

- **Ratan Tata**, the Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, has been awarded the **Order of Australia (AO)**, which is Australia’s highest civilian honour. The announcement was made by Australia’s High Commissioner to India, Barry O’Farrell.
- The award was given to Tata in recognition of his contributions towards strengthening the bilateral relations between India and Australia.



- Tata has been a strong supporter of the 2022 India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is said to have the largest workforce of any Indian company in Australia, with around 17,000 employees.

68th Filmfare Awards 2023 Announced:

- On April 27, 2023, the **68th edition of the Hyundai Filmfare Awards** took place at the **Jio World Conventional Centre** in Mumbai.
- This year's ceremony was co-hosted by Salman Khan, AyushmannKhurrana, and Maniesh Paul, marking Salman Khan's first time as a host for the event.
- The awards were presented in collaboration with Maharashtra Tourism.
- The award ceremony was a platform for many up-and-coming artists to achieve their dreams of receiving the prestigious Black Lady trophy.



Immigrant Achievement Award 2023

- **NeeliBendapudi**, the current president of Penn State University, is set to receive the **Immigrant Achievement Award** for her significant contributions to higher education in the **United States**.
- The award recognizes immigrants who have made significant contributions to their communities and professions, and Bendapudi's innovative leadership and extensive career in academia have earned her this prestigious recognition.



PGCIL wins Global Gold Award for CSR work

- The **Green Organization** has awarded **Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL)**, a Maharatna CPSU of Ministry of Power, Government of India, with the **Global Gold Award** for their **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** work.
- The recognition was given at the Green World Awards 2023 function held in Miami, USA. This award is a recognition of PGCIL's efforts to improve agriculture productivity and rural livelihood through watershed management, community participation, and better crop management practices in 10 villages of Jaipatna Block of Kalahandi District in Odisha.



Sports

F1 race results: Max Verstappen wins wild Australian GP

- Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** has claimed his first Australian Grand Prix 2023.
- Seven-time world champion **Lewis Hamilton**, who drove superbly in his Mercedes, finished second, while Aston Martin's **Fernando Alonso** filled third spot on the podium.
- Verstappen had appeared to be coasting to victory with an eight-second lead when debris from Kevin Magnussen's Haas forced the second of three red flags issued in the race with three laps remaining.



Russian superstar Daniil Medvedev Wins Maiden Miami Opens Title 2023

- Russian tennis star **Daniil Medvedev** claimed his fourth title of the year by defeating **Jannik Sinner** in a closely-contested final match in Miami Opens 2023.
- Medvedev, who was once the top-ranked player in the world, has now won 24 out of his last 25 matches, including his latest victory at the prestigious Miami Open.
- The win marked his first-ever title win at the Miami Open. Medvedev clinched his fifth Masters 1000 title and 19th title overall by beating Sinner, who has also been in impressive form this season, with a scoreline of 7-5, 6-3.
- Interestingly, Medvedev has won each of his 19 titles in different tournaments.
- This was also his first Masters 1000 title since winning in Toronto back in 2021.



IPL 2023 Schedule, Start Date, Time table, Match List, Venues

- **IPL 2023** commenced with a thrilling encounter between defending champions Gujarat Giants and Chennai Super Kings at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on the 31st of March 2023.
- In their debut season, under the leadership of Hardik Pandya, GT exhibited their dominance, clinching a top spot in the IPL 2022 table with 20 points in 14 matches, including ten wins and four losses.

Madrid Spain Masters 2023:

- **Gregoria Mariska Tunjung**, an Indonesian badminton player, emerged victorious in the Women's singles category at the Madrid Spain Masters 2023 finals.
- She defeated PV Sindhu from India, marking her first BWF World Tour title and her first win over **PV Sindhu** in eight matches.
- The tournament took place at Centro Deportivo Municipal Gallur in Madrid, Spain from March 28th to April 2nd, 2023, as part of the Spain Masters championship.
- The 2023 Spain Masters was the eighth event of the 2023 BWF World Tour.



Indian men, women bag 4th Asian KhoKho titles

- **India** emerged as the winners in **both men's and women's categories** at the **4th Asian KhoKho Championships** held in Tamulpur, located in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) of north-central Assam's Baksa district.
- In the finals, the Indian men's team beat Nepal by a margin of 6 points and an inning, while the Indian women's team outscored their Nepalese opponents by 33 points and an inning.
- During the semi-finals of the 4th Asian KhoKho Championships, the Indian men's team defeated Sri Lanka by 45 points, while Nepal won against Bangladesh by 12 points with 1.5 minutes remaining.
- The Indian women's team beat Bangladesh by 49 points and an inning in their semi-final, while Nepal comfortably won against Sri Lanka by 59 points and an inning in the other semi-final.
- Bangladesh and Sri Lanka shared the third place in both men's and women's categories.



Aleksander Ceferin re-elected UEFA president unopposed until 2027

- At the Ordinary Congress of European Soccer's governing body held in Lisbon, **Aleksander Ceferin** was re-elected as the **UEFA president unopposed**.
- The Slovenian, who was first elected as UEFA's seventh president in 2016, will serve another four-year term until 2027.
- Ceferin succeeded Michel Platini in 2016 after the latter was banned from football administration due to ethics violations and lost his appeal against the ban, leading to his resignation from UEFA.



Peru removed as host of 2023 FIFA Under-17 World Cup

- **FIFA** announced that it had withdrawn **Peru's** hosting rights to the **FIFA U-17 World Cup 2023™**.
- The decision was made following extensive discussions between FIFA and the **Peruvian Football Federation (FPF)**.
- The reasons for the withdrawal of Peru's hosting rights were not immediately clear, but FIFA officials cited concerns over the country's ability to meet the requirements for hosting such a major tournament.



Dhoni, Yuvraj inducted with the MCC honorary life membership

- **MS Dhoni**, the former captain of the Indian cricket team who led the team to victories in the **T20 and ODI World Cups and the 2013 Champions Trophy**, along with **Yuvraj Singh**, the Player of the Tournament in the 2011 ODI World Cup, have been named among the five Indians to be awarded honorary life membership of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
- Dhoni, who was also a wicketkeeper-batsman, played 538 international matches across formats and scored over 17,000 runs.



FIFA Rankings: India's Football Team Rises to 101

- According to the latest **FIFA rankings**, the **Indian men's football team** has climbed up five spots and is now ranked at **101**.
- The team's upward movement in the rankings can be attributed to their recent wins against **Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan** during the Tri-nation tournament, which helped them secure 8.57 rating points.
- The victories were achieved in matches held last month in Imphal, with scores of 1-0 and 2-0 against Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan, respectively.
- The current ranking chart is the first of the year, with the previous one being published on December 22.



David Warner becomes fastest to score 6000 runs in IPL

- During a match against Rajasthan Royals at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati, Delhi Capitals' captain **David Warner** became the fastest batsman to reach 6000 runs in the **Indian Premier League (IPL)**.
- He is now the third player to achieve this feat after Virat Kohli from Royal Challengers Bangalore and Shikhar Dhawan, captain of Punjab Kings.
- It took Warner 165 innings to reach this milestone, while Kohli and Dhawan achieved it in 188 and 199 innings respectively.



Asian Wrestling Championships 2023: Aman Sehrawat wins India's 1st Gold Medal

- **Aman Sehrawat**, a freestyle wrestler, won India's 1st gold medal, under the men's 57kg freestyle category, at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2023.
- 36th edition of Asian Wrestling Championships was held in **Astana, Kazakhstan**, from 9 April to 14 April 2023.
- Aman Sehrawat won the gold medal by defeating Kyrgyzstan's Almaz Smanbekov (9-4), who won the bronze medal in 2022.
- India has won 14 medals (one gold, three silvers and 10 bronze) and is ranked 7th in overall medal tally.
- Kazakhstan was topped in medal tally followed by Japan and Iran.



Kagiso Rabada becomes the fastest player to take 100 wickets in IPL

- During a match between **Punjab Kings** and **Gujarat Titans** at IS Bindra Stadium, **Kagiso Rabada** achieved a significant milestone by taking his **100th wicket in the Indian Premier League (IPL)**.
- He became the fastest bowler to reach this milestone in terms of matches played, completing it in his 64th IPL match.
- Rabada, who is a right-arm pacer, surpassed Lasith Malinga, who reached the 100-wicket mark in his 70th match.
- The wicket that led to Rabada's achievement was that of Wriddhiman Saha.



Harmanpreet Kaur & Suryakumar Yadav named Wisden T20I player of 2022

- The Indian duo of **Suryakumar Yadav and Harmanpreet Kaur** has added another feather to their outstanding crown after bagging the Wisden Almanack's leading cricketer in the World awards.
- Suryakumar won the honour of **Wisden Almanack's leading T20I cricketer** while Harmanpreet Kaur became the first Indian woman to win the **Cricketer of the Year award**.



FIFA: Argentina to replace Indonesia as under-20 World Cup host

- **FIFA** has selected **Argentina** to host the under-20 soccer World Cup after revoking the hosting rights from Indonesia.
- This decision was made after Indonesia's football association cancelled the draw scheduled to take place in Bali due to the governor's refusal to host Israel's team.
- The South American Football Confederation Congress received the official bid from the Argentine Football Association to host the under-20 soccer World Cup from May 20 to June 11.



Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara named gates unveiled at iconic SCG

- Master blaster **Sachin Tendulkar** has turned 50 this year on 24 April and to honour him the iconic **Sydney Cricket Ground** in Australia has unveiled a set of gates named after him. Along with him, the SCG also added the name of another cricketing legend **Brian Lara**, who will be sharing the honour with Sachin Tendulkar.
- The gates were unveiled to mark Tendulkar's 50th birthday and the 30th anniversary of Lara's 277 at the SCG, in which he scored a century in the test played in January 1993. With this new honour, both the legends will join the league of great **Donald Bradman, Alan Davidson and Arthur Morris**.



Sharjah stadium stand named after Sachin Tendulkar on his 50th birthday

- In honor of **Sachin Tendulkar's 50th birthday**, the West Stand at the renowned Sharjah cricket stadium has been renamed as the 'Sachin Tendulkar Stand.'
- A special ceremony was held on Monday to commemorate the occasion, which coincided not only with the batting icon's birthday but also with the 25th anniversary of his remarkable performance of scoring back-to-back centuries against Australia in 1998, known as the 'Desert Storm,' in front of a packed stadium.

Odisha FC clinch Hero Super Cup 2023 with a 2-1 victory over Bengaluru FC

- **Odisha FC** won the **Hero Super Cup 2023** Final by defeating **Bengaluru FC** 2-1. Diego Mauricio scored both goals for Odisha FC, the first one from a free kick in the 23rd minute and the second one in the 37th minute.
- Despite Bengaluru FC's efforts, Odisha FC maintained their lead and did not face any major challenge. Bengaluru FC managed to score a goal through a penalty taken by Sunil Chetri in the 85th minute, but it was not enough to make a comeback in the game.

Jaden Pariat Becomes First Indian to Finish on Podium in British F4 Championship

- **Jaden Pariat**, a young Indian racing talent representing Argenti Motorsport, has demonstrated his exceptional skills by securing a podium position in the opening round of the ROKiT British F4 Championship held at Donington Park.
- He has become the second Indian racer to achieve an international podium in a Tatuus F4 car, following Kush Maini's feat in 2017.

Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), IOA forms a two-member Ad Hoc committee

- The **Indian Olympic Association** has announced that a two-member ad-hoc committee consisting of **Bhupender Singh Bajwa**, an IOA executive council member, and Suma Shirur, an accomplished IOA sportsperson, will oversee the **Wrestling Federation of India's** office.
- Ahead of the WFI's election, a retired **High Court Judge** will also be appointed to the Ad-Hoc Committee to ensure impartial and transparent voting.

Obituaries

Former cricketer Salim Durani passes away at the age of 88

- **Salim Durani**, a former Indian cricketer known for his striking looks, humor, and ability to hit powerful sixes, passed away at the age of 88.
- Salim Durani, who was originally from Kabul, Afghanistan, was a talented cricketer known for his explosive batting and left-arm orthodox bowling.
- He played in 29 Tests for India and played a significant role in India's 2-0 victory over England in a five-match Test series in 1961-62.
- Durani was especially influential in India's victories at Calcutta and Madras, where he took eight and 10 wickets, respectively.
- He was renowned for his ability to hit the ball out of the park and was considered an all-rounder due to his talent with both bat and ball.



India's oldest billionaire Keshub Mahindra passes away at 99

- **Keshub Mahindra**, the Chairman Emeritus of Mahindra & Mahindra and India's oldest billionaire, passed away at the age of 99. He had a net worth of \$1.2 billion as per Forbes.
- He retired as the Chairman of Mahindra Group on August 9, 2012, and passed on his responsibilities to his nephew, Anand Mahindra.
- Under his 48-year long tenure as Chairman, the Mahindra Group diversified from being solely an automobile manufacturer to expanding into other sectors such as IT, real estate, financial services, and hospitality.
- Keshub Mahindra played a crucial role in establishing strategic partnerships with global giants like Willys Corporation, Mitsubishi, International Harvester, United Technologies, British Telecom, among others.

Bangladeshi Freedom fighter, public health pioneer Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury passes away

- **Dr. Zafrullah Chowdhury**, a renowned public health activist and veteran fighter of the Liberation War, passed away in Dhaka, Bangladesh at the age of 81.
- He had been admitted to Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital the previous week, and had been on life support since Monday due to kidney-related ailments and other age-related health problems.



Pakistani-Canadian journalist Tarek Fatah passes away

- **Tarek Fatah**, a Pakistani-Canadian journalist who referred to himself as a "Midnight's Child" due to being born shortly after Pakistan's independence in 1949, has passed away from cancer at the age of 73.
- Fatah was recognized for his critiques of Islamic extremism and the Pakistani establishment, as well as his support for queer rights.
- After his parents migrated from Bombay to Karachi, he was born and later attended the University of Karachi where he studied biochemistry and became a leftist activist before eventually transitioning into journalism. Fatah's daughter confirmed his death on social media.

Former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal passes away at 95

- **Parkash Singh Badal**, a former Chief Minister of Punjab and leader of the Akali Dal, has passed away at the age of 95 in Mohali.
- He started his political career as a village sarpanch and went on to contest assembly elections for the first time in 1957 as a member of the Congress party.
- He became the youngest Chief Minister of Punjab at the age of 43. Badal was born in AbulKhurana, a village in Punjab near the Rajasthan border, and received his education at Lahore's Forman Christian College.

**Ex Odisha MP And 3 Time MLA Trilochan Kanungo passes away**

- **Trilochan Kanungo**, a prominent economist and a long-standing member of the **Biju Janata Dal (BJD) party**, has died at the age of 82.
- Mr. Kanungo was previously the chairman of Cuttack Municipality and served as the chairperson of the state finance commission.
- He was born on November 24, 1940 in the village of Badamulei in Cuttack district and had been residing in the Sheikh Bazaar area of Cuttack city for the past few years.

Important Days with theme

National Maritime Day 2023 observed on 05th April

- In India, the **National Maritime Week** begins on March 30 and culminates in the celebration of **National Maritime Day on April 5**.
- This year marks the **60th anniversary** of the event, which aims to recognize India's significant contribution to the maritime industry and its history as a seafaring nation.
- National Maritime Day plays a crucial role in promoting awareness about India's maritime heritage and current role in supporting the country's economy.
- The day is an opportunity to express gratitude to the sailors who work tirelessly at sea, often spending months away from their families, to ensure the smooth functioning of the industry.



World Health Day 2023 celebrates on 7th April

- Every year on April 7th, the **World Health Day** is celebrated to bring global attention to a specific health issue that impacts people worldwide.
- This day is also significant as it coincides with the founding day of the **World Health Organisation (WHO) in 1948**.
- This year marks the **75th anniversary of WHO**. Each year, the WHO chooses a theme for the World Health Day, and various activities and events are organized to promote awareness of the issue.
- The aim is to encourage governments, organizations, and individuals to take action to improve global health and well-being.
- The World Health Day 2023 has adopted the theme **“Health For All”** with the objective of reflecting on the accomplishments of public health in enhancing people's quality of life over the past seven decades.



World Homeopathy Day 2023 observed on 10th April

- On **April 10th** every year, **World Homeopathy Day** is celebrated to honor the birth anniversary of **Samuel Hahnemann**, the founder of homeopathy and a German physician.
- This day is dedicated to recognizing the valuable contributions of homeopathy to the field of healthcare. This year marks the 268th birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann.
- The focus of World Homeopathy Day 2023 is centered around the theme **‘One Health, One Family’**.

JallianwalaBagh Massacre 104th Anniversary

- On April 13, 1919, the **JallianwalaBagh massacre** took place in Amritsar, Punjab, which is remembered as a tragic event and a symbol of the atrocities committed against the Indian people during the British colonial era.
- The massacre played a significant role in India's fight for independence, as it increased the nation's determination to achieve self-rule and break free from British subjugation.

Save the Elephant Day 2023 celebrates on 16 April

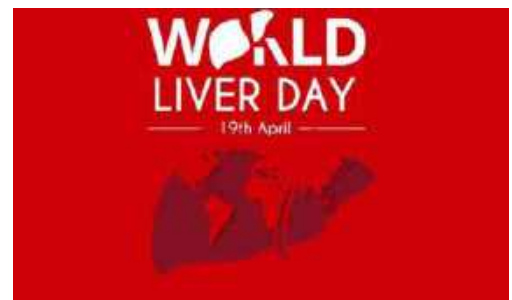
- On April 16th each year, people across the globe observe **Save the Elephant Day**, which aims to promote awareness of the issues faced by elephants and inspire efforts to protect these majestic animals.
- This day provides an opportunity to highlight the significance of elephants, the challenges they encounter, and the actions that can be taken to safeguard their existence.
- In this blog post, we will discuss the importance of elephants, the dangers they confront, how we can aid in their conservation, and all about the celebrations of Save the Elephant Day 2023.

**World Heritage Day 2023 observed on 18th April**

- April 18th marks the observance of **World Heritage Day**, also referred to as **International Day for Monuments and Sites**.
- The primary objective of this day is to raise awareness of the significance of safeguarding cultural heritage, including historical structures, landmarks, and archaeological locations, and to celebrate the variety of global heritage.

World Liver Day 2023 Observed globally on 19 April

- **World Liver Day** is observed on April 19 in order to raise awareness about liver-related diseases.
- The liver is one of the most complex organs in the human body.
- It plays a pivotal role in our body's immunity, digestion and metabolism.
- Plus, it also carries out the filtration of toxins, stores vitamins and minerals, and produces bile, among other functions.
- The theme for this year's World Liver Day is **“Be vigilant, do a regular liver check-up, fatty liver can affect anyone.”**

**National Civil Services Day 2023 celebrates on 21st April**

- In India, April 21 is celebrated as **National Civil Service Day**, to recognize and appreciate the vital role played by civil servants in the advancement and betterment of the nation.
- This day offers a chance to express gratitude towards the contributions made by civil servants to society.
- The prime minister of the country presents awards of excellence on this occasion, to encourage civil servants to continue their efforts towards serving the public effectively.
- Civil Services Day is an occasion for civil servants to rededicate themselves to the cause of citizens and renew their commitments and excellence in work.

Earth Day 2023 observed on 22nd April

- **Earth Day** is observed on April 22 each year. The purpose of the day is to raise awareness of the rapidly-rising levels of pollution, climate change, and other circumstances that contribute to damaging the environment and threaten the survival of our planet.
- The theme this year is — **‘Invest in our Planet,’** with a clear motto of ‘everyone accounted for, everyone accountable.’

World Immunization Week 2023 observed on 24th to 30th April

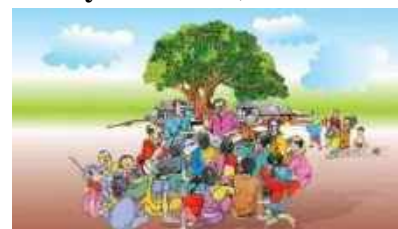
- **World Immunization Week**, celebrated in the last week of April, aims to highlight the collective action needed to protect people from vaccine-preventable diseases.
- The aim of this week is to increase awareness around the benefits of immunization and also to encourage people to get vaccinated.
- This year the day is observed from April 24th to April 30th and is an important effort to help prevent the spread of deadly diseases around the world.

**World Book and Copyright Day 2023: 23 April**

- **World Book and Copyright Day** is observed on **April 23** every year to promote reading books, particularly among the younger generation.
- **The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** initiated this event with the aim of combating the reduced importance given to reading due to the excessive availability of information from various sources.
- The purpose of this day is to encourage people worldwide to cultivate a habit of reading books. The focus is on promoting reading as the primary source of information and entertainment.

India celebrates 24th April as National Panchayati Raj Day

- The **Government of India**, in collaboration with the **Government of Madhya Pradesh**, will commemorate **National Panchayati Raj Day** on **April 24, 2023**, at **Rewa** in **Madhya Pradesh**. The event is part of the **AzadiKaAmritMahotsav (AKAM) – SamaaveshiVikaas (Inclusive Development) campaign**, which aims to celebrate people's participation in the saturation of people-centric schemes.
- The Prime Minister will be the chief guest and will address the elected representatives and functionaries of **Panchayati Raj Institutions** as well as Special Gram Sabhas across the country.

**World Malaria Day 2023 observed on 25th April**

- **World Malaria Day (WMD)** is an international observance commemorated every year on **25 April** and recognizes global efforts to control malaria.
- The aim of World Malaria Day is to raise awareness of the devastating impact of malaria and to mobilize resources and support for malaria control and prevention programs in endemic countries.
- The day serves as an opportunity for individuals, organizations, and governments to come together and renew their commitment to eliminating malaria, which is a preventable and treatable disease.

**World Intellectual Property Day 2023 observed on 26 April**

- **World Intellectual Property Day** is marked on **April 26th** with the objective of raising awareness about the impact that patents, copyrights, trademarks, and designs have on our daily lives.

- The purpose of intellectual property (IP) rights is to encourage innovation and creativity worldwide, with a particular focus on the younger generation's potential to create sustainable solutions for the IP refers to intangible assets generated by the mind, including inventions, literary and artistic works, designs, symbols, names, and images used in commerce.
- These non-physical assets can be owned by individuals or companies, and intellectual property rights give them control over their creations.