

International Current Affairs

**April
2024**

1. INDIA FOURTH-LARGEST MILITARY SPENDER, OVERALL GLOBAL SPENDING ACCELERATES: SIPRI REPORT

- Latest report by **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**.
- **India was the fourth largest military spender globally in 2023**
- At \$83.6 billion, India's military expenditure was 4.2% higher than in 2022.
- Meanwhile, global military expenditure **rose by 6.8% to \$2443 billion in 2023, the steepest annual rise since 2009**
- **As per the report, the 10 largest spenders in 2023, led by the United States, China and Russia, all increased their military spending.**
- **The largest percentage increase in military spending by any country in 2023 was seen in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (+105%),** where there has been protracted conflict between the government and non-state armed groups.
- **South Sudan recorded the second largest percentage increase (+78 %) amid internal violence and spillover from the Sudanese civil war.**

2. OVER 282 MILLION PEOPLE FACED ACUTE HUNGER IN 2023: UN REPORT

- According to the United Nations **Global Report on Food Crises 2023**, nearly **282 million people** in 59 countries and territories suffered from acute hunger, an increase of **24 million** compared to 2022.
- **Three neighbouring countries of India - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, are among the top ten countries facing acute hunger.**
- **Acute hunger is different from chronic hunger. Chronic hunger** occurs when a person is unable to consume enough food over an extended period to maintain a normal, active lifestyle.



3. SCO DEFENCE MINISTERS' MEETING IN KAZAKHSTAN ENDORSES 'ONE EARTH, ONE FAMILY, ONE FUTURE'

- **Defence Secretary Girdhar Aramane participated in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan on April 26, 2024.**
- During the meeting, a protocol was signed by the Defence Ministers of all SCO Member States.
- The SCO Defence Ministers agreed, amongst other initiatives, to developing the idea of **'One Earth, One Family, One Future', which is rooted in the ancient Indian philosophy of 'VasudhaivaKutumbakam'.**

ABOUT SCO

- **SCO is an intergovernmental political, economic, and security alliance**
- Founded in 2001 by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.
- **Headquarter:** Beijing, China
- The first summit was held in Shanghai, China, in 2001.
- **9 Members:** China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Iran, and Uzbekistan
- **Observers:** Afghanistan, Belarus, and Mongolia

4. ITALIAN PM MELONI INVITES INDIA TO G7 SUMMIT MEETING IN JUNE 2024

- Italian Prime Minister **Georgia Meloni** has invited Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Group of Seven (G7) Outreach session to be held in **Borgo Egnazia, Apulia, Italy**, from 13 to 15 June 2024.
- The 2024 G7 presidency is with **Italy**.



5. CHINA LAUNCHES SHENZHOU-18 CREW TO TIANGONG SPACE STATION

- China's space program, the **Shenzhou-18 mission** saw the successful launch of a **three-member crew aboard the Shenzhou-18 spacecraft.**
- The mission's objective is to rendezvous with the Tiangong space station, marking another milestone in China's ambitious space exploration endeavors.
- The **Shenzhou-18 spacecraft, dubbed the "Divine Vessel,"** lifted off **atop a Long March-2F rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre.**

6. OPENING CEREMONY OF FIRST GULF YOUTH GAMES TOOK PLACE AT DUBAI OPERA

- **GCC Youth Games UAE 2024 opened at Dubai Opera** (GCC - Gulf Cooperation Council)
- Featuring 3,500 athletes competing in 24 sports with a focus on sustainability, unity, and youth.
- From April 16 to May 2.

- The theme, "Our Gulf is One... Our youth are promising."
- Participating nations - UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Qatar

7. IRAQ ENACTS HARSH ANTI-LGBT LEGISLATION: A BLOW TO HUMAN RIGHTS

- Iraq's parliament recently passed a stringent law criminalizing same-sex relationships, imposing a maximum 15-year prison sentence.
- The legislation, titled the Law on Combating Prostitution and Homosexuality, reflects a concerning trend of increased scrutiny and persecution of LGBT individuals in Iraq.

8. IRAN UNVEILS KAMIKAZE DRONE SIMILAR TO RUSSIAN LANCET

- The Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has introduced a new kamikaze drone resembling Russia's Lancet drone.
- This drone, yet to be named publicly, is designed for targeted attacks, akin to those witnessed in the Ukraine conflict.

9. DISCOVERY OF PLANET AS TWICE AS BIG AS EARTH

- Planet K2-18b – which is more than twice as big as Earth and 120 light-years away – sits within the habitable zone of its star in the Leo constellation.
- they'd detected dimethylsulphide gas in its atmosphere – a compound that is 'only produced by life'
- the James Webb Space Telescope will undertake hours of observations of the planet
- Investigations of planet K2-18b are being led by Dr Nikku Madhusudhan, an astrophysicist at the University of Cambridge.
- He's called it a 'hycean' world – a relatively new term he coined for a rocky planet with a hydrogen-rich atmosphere and oceans of water.

10. SAUDI COMPANY ARAMCO TO SPONSOR FIFA WORLD CUP

- The world football governing body FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) announced a major sponsorship deal with the Saudi Arabian oil giant Aramco
- Under the FIFA deal, the Aramco company would sponsor multiple FIFA events, including the 2026 Men's World Cup and the 2027 Women's World Cup. The 2026 Men's World Cup will be co-hosted by Canada, the United States and Mexico. The host country for the Women's World Cup 2027 is yet to be decided.

11. FIRST 'ASEAN FUTURE FORUM'

- The ASEAN Future Forum (AFF) is an important initiative proposed by Prime Minister of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh at the 43rd ASEAN Summit last September.
- AFF 2024 theme "Toward Fast and Sustainable Growth of a People-Centered ASEAN Community"
- The forum is aimed at creating a common platform for ASEAN member states as well as partner countries to contribute to promoting and shaping the bloc's development path.
- EAM S Jaishankar also Speaks At First 'ASEAN Future Forum' Virtually

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- 1967 – ASEAN was established (Bangkok Declaration)
- Founding Fathers of ASEAN are: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- The motto of ASEAN is "One Vision, One Identity, One Community".
- 8th August is observed as ASEAN Day.
- ASEAN HQ – Indonesia, Jakarta.

Who are the Member Nations?

1. Indonesia
2. Malaysia
3. Philippines
4. Singapore
5. Thailand
6. Brunei
7. Vietnam
8. Laos
9. Myanmar
10. Cambodia
11. Timor Leste (newly added)

12. INDIA NEW POST OFFICE IN ANTARTICA

- Recently, the BHARAT BRANCH POST OFFICE was inaugurated at bharti station in Antarctica. This marks INDIA'S third post office to be established in antartica.
- In 1984 first post office at DAKSHIN GANGOTRI
- IN 1990 a new post office branch was opened at maitri research station
- The letters meant for the post office in antartica are sent to the NATIONAL CENTRE FOR POLAR OCEAN RESEARCH (NCPOR), GOA
- India has three research stations in Antarctica, namely Bharati, Dakshin Gangotri and Maitri.



FACTS ABOUT ANTARTICA

- 5 largest continents.
- Continent divided into east antartica(greater antartica), west antartica(lesser antartica)
- Longest river- onyx
- Largest lake- vostok
- Antarctica treaty signed in 1959. India signed the antartica treaty in 1983
- Indian antartic bill 2022 proposes to set up Indian antartica authority (IAA) under the ministry of earth sciences.

13. INC-4: NEGOTIATIONS ON A GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY STARTED IN OTTAWA, CANADA

- The fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4) began in Ottawa, Canada.
- The committee is working towards developing an international legally binding instrument to address plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.
- INC-5 will take place in Busan, the Republic of Korea

14. 6TH EDITION OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

- 6th edition of the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure held on 24-25 April, 2024 in New Delhi
- PM Modi addressed via video conferencing.
- The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure has seen impressive growth since its inception in 2019, it is now a global coalition of 39 countries and 7 organizations



15. AFTER BILLIONS OF YEARS FIRST TIME TWO LIFEFORMS MERGED INTO ONE

- An international team of scientists has made a groundbreaking observation of an evolutionary event between a species of algae commonly found in the ocean and a bacterium.
- This event has led to the merger of the two lifeforms, resulting in a single organism.
- This is the first time in at least a billion years that such an occurrence has been witnessed.

Endosymbiosis

- Primary endosymbiosis, a process that has only occurred twice in Earth's history, gave rise to complex life through mitochondria and plants.
- In this process, algae engulfed a bacterium and provided it with nutrients, energy, and protection, while the bacterium gave the algae the ability to "fix" nitrogen from the air. The bacterium became an internal organ, or organelle, vital to the host's function.

16. NEPAL HOSTS FIRST INTERNATIONAL RAINBOW TOURISM CONFERENCE

- The single-day international conference was organised by Mayako Pahichan Nepal, a non-governmental organisation.
- The conference's main objective is to position Nepal as an LGBT-friendly tourism destination.
- In June 2023, Nepal allowed same sex marriages to be registered legally

17. INDIA-KUWAIT RELATIONS STRENGTHENED WITH INAUGURAL HINDI RADIO BROADCAST

- The Indian Embassy in Kuwait announced the launch of the first-ever Hindi radio broadcast in Kuwait, a significant step to deepen ties between the two nations.
- Initiated by Kuwait's Ministry of Information, the program will air every Sunday on FM 93.3 and AM 96.3, highlighting the bond between India and Kuwait.

18. US TO LAUNCH FIRST EVER IN-ORBIT MILITARY EXERCISE TO COMBAT SPACE THREATS (MISSIONVICTUS HEDGE)

- The first-ever in-orbit combat drill will be soon conducted by the US military in preparation for potential battles outside Earth.
- The Space System Command (SSC) will arrange the first of this technology by making history in the process.
- Its goal is to get the US military ready for any combat that may arise outside Earth.
- It informed how two commercial space businesses have inked contracts with the Space Force for the 'Victus Hedge' mission, which is scheduled to be finished by the fall of 2025.

19. APPLE BECOMES THE FIRST COMPANY TO EXPORT IPHONES WORTH MORE THAN \$10 BILLION FROM INDIA /APPLE

- American company Apple exported a record \$10 billion worth of iPhones from India in 2023-24 under the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI). This is almost double the export of last year.
- The iPhone export is the largest ever export of a single branded product by any company from India.
- Apple signed deals with three Taiwanese companies – Foxconn Hon Hai, Pegatron and Wistron (now owned by Tata) – as well as Korea's Samsung and India's FIH (a Foxconn company that makes devices other than iPhones).
- The only Indian company to manufacture iPhone in India is Wistron. Wistron Company was acquired by Tata Electronics in 2023. Tata Electronics is building Apple's largest assembly plant in Hosur, Tamil Nadu. It has an existing plant at Malur near Kolar in Karnataka.

20. NIGERIA BECOME 1ST COUNTRY TO ROLL OUT A VACCINE FOR MENINGITIS

- Nigeria has become the first country to administer the Men5CV/MenFive conjugate vaccine recommended by WHO, which protects from five strains of meningococcal bacteria.
- This vaccine called MenFive is used to prevent meningococcal disease caused by Neisseria meningitidis groups A, C, Y, W, and X in people aged 9 months to 85 years.
- The vaccine was developed by PATH and the Serum Institute of India through a 13-year partnership and with financial support from the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

About Meningitis

- Meningitis is an infection that causes inflammation of the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord. These membranes are called meninges.
- Meningitis can be caused by different types of bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. Most infections can spread from one person to another, but some cases can be caused by injuries, cancer, or drugs.
- Bacterial meningitis is the most dangerous type of meningitis and can be fatal within 24 hours in any age group. Meningitis can cause illness.
- Fortunately, there are effective treatments and vaccines available for some of the main bacterial causes of meningitis.

21. INDIRA GANDHI INTERNATIONAL (IGI) AIRPORT 10TH BUSIEST AIRPORT

- Airports Council International (ACI) World, a global organisation which measures and assesses airport standards – ranked Delhi's IGI Airport as the 10th busiest airport in the world in 2023 with 7.22 crore passengers.
- From the top 10 rankings for total passenger traffic, five of the airports are in the United States.
- The Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in the United States held the top rank with 10.46 crore passengers.

22. TRUMP BECOMES THE FIRST FORMER US PRESIDENT TO FACE CRIMINAL TRIAL**23. REUTERS' MOHAMMED SALEM WINS 2024 WORLD PRESS PHOTO OF THE YEAR AWARD**

- For his image of a Palestinian woman cradling the body of her five-year-old niece in the Gaza Strip.

24. PYOLJJI-1-2 AND HWASAL-1 RA-3: NORTH KOREA TESTS CRUISE MISSILE WARHEAD

- North Korea tested a "super-large" cruise missile warhead and a new anti-aircraft missile in a western coastal area

25. EUVICHOL-S : WHO APPROVES NEW ORAL CHOLERA VACCINE

- Cholera is an acute diarrhoeal infection caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*.
- Euvichol-S has a similar efficacy to existing vaccines but a simplified formulation, allowing opportunities to rapidly increase production and supply which many communities battling with cholera outbreaks urgently need.
- Euvichol-S is produced by EuBiologicals Co. Ltd, Republic of Korea

26. BRIGHTON COUNCIL, ENGLAND, TO HONOUR INDIAN ARMY'S ROLE IN WORLD WARS

- The Brighton and Hove city council in England has decided to hold an annual multi-faith event at the town's India Gate memorial this October to commemorate the role of Indian soldiers in the two World Wars.
- The one-day event will be held at the India Gate in Brighton to pay tribute to the soldiers of the undivided India.
- Maharaja of Patiala Bhupender Singh unveiled the India Gate in Brighton on 26 October 1921.
- Edward Lutyens designed the 42-meter-high India Gate. In 1931, Viceroy Lord Irwin dedicated the monument to the nation.
- The entire arch of the India Gate stands on a base made of red Bharatpur stone and rises in stages to a huge moulding.

27. SBI, ICICI & HDFC BANKS IN TOP 50 ASIA PACIFIC BANK : S&P GLOBAL

- Three Indian banks, SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank, have been included in the top 50 banks of the Asia-Pacific region according to a report of S&P Global Market Intelligence.
- The list dominated by mainland Chinese banks Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd., the world's largest bank (TOPS) has been ranked based on their assets (loans).
- SBI was ranked 20, HDFC Bank 33 and ICICI Bank 48 on the list.

28. INDIA DELIVERS FIRST BATCH OF BRAHMOS MISSILE SYSTEM TO PHILIPPINES

- India delivered first batch of BrahMos missiles to the Philippines on April 19, two years after signing a \$375 million deal.
- Indian Air Force transported missiles and launchers to the Philippines via military transport aircraft.
- BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd, an India-Russian joint venture, produces supersonic cruise missiles.
- BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach, nearly three times the speed of sound.
- India seeks to expand defence ties with the Philippines amid concerns over China's military assertiveness in the South China Sea.

29. THOUSANDS DISPLACED BY 'MOUNT RUANG' ERUPTION IN INDONESIA

- The first volcanic eruption occurred on the night of 16 April 2024 in 'Mount Ruang' located in North Sulawesi province of Indonesia.
- Four consecutive explosions occurred in this area. Due to this incident of volcanic eruption, clouds of smoke and ash covered the sky.

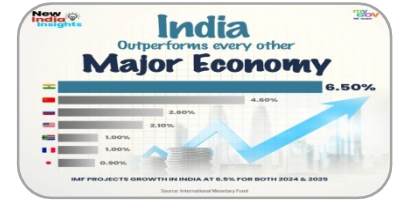
30. UNFPA REPORT: INDIA'S POPULATION TRENDS AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INEQUITIES

- The United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) latest report, titled "Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope: Ending Inequalities in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights," sheds light on India's population dynamics and the persistent disparities in sexual and reproductive health.
- India leads globally with an estimated population of 144.17 crore, surpassing China.

- The report reveals that India's population is expected to double in 77 years. Notably, 24% of India's population falls in the 0-14 age bracket, indicating a significant youth demographic.

31. UNCTAD AND IMF FORECASTS FOR INDIA'S GDP GROWTH IN 2024

- UNCTAD forecasts India's GDP growth at 6.5% in 2024, a slight deceleration from the previous year's 6.7%.
- This projection aligns with the IMF's revised forecast, attributing growth to strong public investment and the services sector
- **IMF also revises its forecast to 6.8%, citing strong domestic demand.**



International Monetary Fund

The International Monetary Fund is a global multilateral development (MDB) bank established as a specialised agency of the United Nations on 27 December 1945. It formally started operating on 1 March 1947.

- The **Bretton Woods Conference**, also known as the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference
- **44 countries, including India**, participated in the conference the conference decided to establish the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**, which later became part of the World Bank group.
- **India is a founder member of the IMF.** India has the **eighth largest quota-2.75%** in the IMF. India has a voting share of 2.63% in the IMF.
- **Headquarters of the IMF:** Washington D.C, United States of America.
- **First MD of IMF:** Ivar Rooth of Sweden 1951-1956
- **Member countries:** 190

32. RAJIV GANDHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HYDERABAD RECEIVES SKYTRAX AWARD FOR 'BEST AIRPORT STAFF'

- **GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL)** has been honored with the 'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024' award by Skytrax.
- Singapore's Changi Airport has lost its pole position as the world's best airport to Doha's Hamad International Airport, according to air transport rating firm SKYTRAX.
- This is the third time Hamad International Airport clinched the top spot, after winning the title in 2021 and 2022.
- South Korea's Incheon International Airport rose to third place — from No. 4 in 2023 — and was named the world's most family-friendly airport for the year.
- Tokyo's Haneda Airport came in fourth and was also named the "World's Cleanest Airport."

Skytrax: World's best airports in 2024		
Sr. No.	Name of Airport	Country
1	Hamad International Airport	Qatar
2	Singapore Changi Airport	Singapore
3	Incheon International Airport	South Korea
4	Haneda Airport	Japan
5	Narita International Airport	Japan

- The **Delhi airport remained 36th** on the list, while the Mumbai airport slid to 95th from 84th the previous year.

33. HIGH-LEVEL UKRAINE PEACE SUMMIT TO BE LED BY SWITZERLAND IN JUNE 2024

- Switzerland announced on 11 April 2024 that it has proposed to host a conference at the level of the heads of state of Russia and Ukraine.
- The objective of the summit is to create common understanding and a concrete roadmap for the peace process.
- India has also been invited to this peace conference to be held in Switzerland.

About Switzerland:

Capital: **Bern**

Currency: **Swiss Franc**

President: **Viola Amherd**

34. INDIA AMONG TOP MISMANAGED PLASTIC WASTE GENERATOR IN THE WORLD

- According to a recent report of Switzerland's non profit group **EA Earth Action**, India is among the top **twelve** countries in the world responsible for **60 percent of the planet's mismanaged plastic waste**.
- The report **Plastic Overshoot Day** was released by EA Earth Action on 12 April 2024.
- **Eritrea topped the Mismanaged Waste Index** while Bermuda was at the bottom. The higher the rank of the country in the Index means greater waste mismanagement in the country.
- **Mismanaged plastic waste** refers to plastic that is not properly recycled, incinerated, or kept in sealed landfills. It is mainly thrown in the open, polluting soil, land, water or air.
- The per capita plastic waste production in India is **lowest in the world**. It was **8 kg per capita per year**.
- **India's expected mismanaged waste in 2024 will be 7.4 million tons**, which is "very high".
- The report predicts that the Indian mismanaged plastic waste will be less than one-fifth of China and one-third of the US.

35. KRISTALINAGEORGIEVA RE-APPOINTED IMF MD FOR ANOTHER 5 YEARS TERM

- **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, KristalinaGeorgieva has been **re-appointed** as the **Managing Director (MD)** of the IMF for a new 5 year term.
- KristalinaGeorgieva's new term will start on 1 October 2024.

36. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MILLETS 2023: A RECAP

- **The International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023**, concluded with a closing ceremony held at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) headquarters in Rome, Italy, on March 29th, 2024.
- United Nations General Assembly designated 2023 as the International Year of Millets following a proposal by India, supported by over 70 countries.
- **Millets offer solutions to food scarcity** while promoting sustainable land restoration and biodiversity.
- Presenting India as the "Global Hub for Millets," as **India produces one-fifth of the world's millets**
- Millets are a highly varied group of **small-seeded grasses**

37. ROMANIA AND BULGARIA PARTIALLY JOIN SCHENGEN TRAVEL ZONE

- **Romania and Bulgaria** have taken a significant step in their integration with the **European Union** by partially joining the Schengen travel zone
- **EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen** describes the partial inclusion as a "huge success" and a "historic moment" for European integration
- **Travelers arriving by air or sea from both countries now have unrestricted access to the Schengen zone.**

38. WHO LAUNCHES 'COVINET', A GLOBAL LABORATORY TO MONITOR THE EMERGING CORONA VIRUS

- It is a global network of laboratories to identify and monitor possible new coronaviruses that may emerge soon.
- It will assess other coronaviruses including **SARS-CoV2, Corona virus and MERS-CoV** with increased laboratory capacity.
- CoViNet is a **network of global laboratories** specializing in human, animal and environmental coronavirus surveillance.
- The network currently includes **36 laboratories from 21 countries** in all 6 WHO regions.
- Three Indian laboratories are also included in CoViNet.

39. GERMANY LEGALIZES RECREATIONAL CANNABIS

- **Germany** became the largest **European Union (EU)** nation to **legalize recreational cannabis use**, despite facing opposition from politicians and medical associations.
- Under the new law, **adults over 18** are now permitted to carry up to **25 grams of dried cannabis** and cultivate up to **three marijuana plants** at home.
- Germany joins **Malta and Luxembourg** as countries with the most liberal **cannabis laws** in Europe.

40. KOREAN FUSION REACTOR 'ARTIFICIAL SUN' SETS NEW RECORD

- **South Korea** have set a new world record using the **Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research (KSTAR)** device, an "artificial sun" nuclear fusion reactor.
- They generated plasma temperatures of **100 million degrees Celsius** for duration of **48 seconds**.
- The achieved temperature of 100 million degrees Celsius is a remarkable seven times hotter than the Sun's core.

41. ZIMBABWE'S PRESIDENT MNANGAGWA DECLARES NATIONAL DISASTER OVER DROUGHT

- Due to the El Nino-induced drought more than 80% of country received below normal rainfall
- The country needs \$2bn to tackle hunger caused by low rainfall which has wiped out about half of the maize crop.
- The grain shortage has pushed up food prices and an estimated 2.7 million people will face hunger.
- Neighbouring Zambia and Malawi have also recently declared states of disasters due to drought.
- The lack of rain induced by the El Nino global weather pattern has also affected electricity production, as Zimbabwe relies on hydroelectric power.



42. WORLD'S OLDEST MAN, CERTIFIED IN GUINNESS WORLD RECORD, PASSES AWAY. VENEZUELAN JUAN VICENTE PEREZ MORA

Venezuelan Juan Vicente Perez Mora, certified in 2022 by Guinness World Records as the oldest man in the world, died on at the age of 114.

43. NATO CELEBRATES 75 YEARS OF COLLECTIVE DEFENSE ON 4 APRIL

- **The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** is marking its **75th anniversary this year**. The alliance, founded in 1949, will hold a special event in Brussels
- **NATO Secretary-General:** Jens Stoltenberg;
- **NATO Founded:** 4 April 1949, Washington, D.C., United States
- **NATO Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium.

44. INDIA ABSTAINED ON VOTE CALLING FOR GAZA CEASEFIRE AT UNHRC

- **India** chose to abstain from voting on a resolution passed by the **Human Rights Council**.
- The resolution called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and urged states to implement an arms embargo.
- The resolution was adopted by the **47-member Human Rights Council**.

- India voted in favor of three resolutions that criticized Israel for human rights violations against Palestinians, Israel's occupation of Syrian Golan, and called for the Palestinian right to self-determination.
- India did not vote for a fourth resolution that condemned Israel's actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which the US, Germany, and four other countries voted against. India, along with France and Japan, abstained from voting on this resolution.

45. A GIGANTIC OCEAN 700 KM UNDER THE EARTH DISCOVERED BY SCIENTISTS

- The scientific community has been buzzing about an incredible discovery recently - a massive ocean hidden deep beneath the Earth's crust.
- This subterranean reservoir is located 700 kilometers below the surface of the Earth in a rock called ringwoodite.
- It is believed that the reservoir is three times the volume of all the Earth's surface oceans combined.
- The paper, titled 'Dehydration melting at the top of the lower mantle', explains how ringwoodite can absorb water due to its sponge-like structure. This mineral has a unique crystal structure that allows it to attract hydrogen and trap water.
- This discovery was made possible by using a network of 2000 seismographs across the United States.

46. CHINA IMPORTS MAXIMUM CRUDE OIL FROM RUSSIA, LEAVING INDIA BEHIND

- Energy cargo tracker 'Vortexa' released its report in the first week of April 2024. According to this report, China has overtaken India as the primary importer of Russian crude oil through sea routes.
- China imported 1.82 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian crude oil by sea. This was more than India's 1.36 million bpd
- Indian imports of Russian oil increased by 7 percent

47. BRITON, 'HARDEST GEEZER', BECOMES FIRST PERSON TO RUN ACROSS AFRICA

- British national Russ Cook, also known as the "Hardest Geezer", has successfully completed a challenge that took him more than 352 days to finish.

48. INDIA'S 2ND GLOBAL PORT IN SITTWE, MYANMAR

- The Ministry of External Affairs has approved India Ports Global (IPGL) 'sproposal to take over the entire operation of the Sittwe port, located on the Kaladan River in the Rakhine province of Myanmar.
- Thus, the Sittwe port of Myanmar became the second international port after the ShahidBeheshti Port, Chabahar of Iran to come under the control of India Ports Global Limited.
- The port was built with a grant of \$ 500 million from India to Myanmar.
- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, ShriSarbanandaSonowalformally inaugurated the project on 9 May 2023. He received the first Indian cargo ship, which sailed from the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata to the Sittwe Port.

49. QUTUBMINAR ILLUMINATES IN REMEMBRANCE OF RWANDA GENOCIDE OF 1994 / 1994

- UN International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda (7th April)
- The QutubMinar was lit up with the colours of the Rwandan national flag on April 7 in solidarity in remembrance of the 100-day massacre that claimed the lives of 8,00,000 people in 1994 in the Rwanda capital, Kigali.
- On this day in 1994, extremists from the Hutu ethnic group launched a 100-day killing spree, in which members of the Tutsi minority and Hutu moderates were slaughtered.

About Rwanda:

Capital: Kigali
Currency: Rwandan franc (RWF)
President: Paul Kagame

50. 111-YEAR-OLD JOHN ALFRED TINNISWOOD BECOMES WORLD'S NEW OLDEST MAN

- Guinness World Records (GWR) has shared a video of the world's oldest living man, 111-year-old John Alfred Tinniswood, from England

51. OVER 3.4 CRORE INDIANS INFECTED WITH HEPATITIS INFECTION: WHO

- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Hepatitis Report 2024, India is one of the countries with the highest prevalence of viral hepatitis disease.
- According to the report, around 2.9 crore Indians were infected with hepatitis B infection and 0.55 crore with hepatitis C.
- The WHO released the report during the World Hepatitis Summit, which was held in Lisbon, Portugal.
- WHO has set a target of eliminating Hepatitis worldwide by 2030.

World Health Organisation (WHO)

- The WHO was set up on 7 April 1948 as an agency of the United Nations.
- **Members:** 194 countries
- **Director General of WHO:** Dr. TedrosAdhanomGhebreyesus (since May 2017).
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- The foundation day of the WHO, April 7, is observed as the **World Health Day**.

52. ZIMBABWE INTRODUCES A NEW GOLD-BACKED CURRENCY ZIG

- Zimbabwe issued a new gold-backed currency called **ZiG**. Its name **ZiG** means "**Zimbabwe Gold**".
- This effort of Zimbabwe is to stabilize the economy which has been continuously moving towards crisis for **the last 25 years**.
- The announcement of the new currency in Zimbabwe comes as the country **grapples with the effects of severe drought**

About Zimbabwe:Capital: **Harare**Currency: **Zimbabwe dollar, henceforth ZiG**President: **Emmerson Mnangagwa****53. FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS GIVEN ITS VERDICT AGAINST SWITZERLAND IN A CASE RELATED TO CLIMATE CRISIS**

- The **European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in France** has delivered a landmark ruling, finding that Switzerland's failure to adequately deal with the climate crisis constitutes a human rights violation.
- The Court ruled that Switzerland had "failed to comply with its duties under the Convention relating to climate change" and had violated the right to respect for private and family life

54. US, JAPAN ANNOUNCE PLANS TO SEND JAPANESE ASTRONAUT TO MOON

- In a joint announcement, **President Joe Biden** and **Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida** revealed that Japanese astronauts will join future **NASA lunar missions as part of the Artemis program**.
- This move is seen as a strategic effort to **strengthen economic and defense ties between the United States and Japan**.
- Two Japanese astronauts will join future NASA lunar missions, and one will become the first non-American ever to land on the moon

55. UK'S FIRST WOMAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO INDIA: LINDY CAMERON

- **Lindy Cameron**, a distinguished **Oxford University alumna** and former **CEO of the UK's National Cyber Security Centre**, has been appointed as the first woman high commissioner to India.
- Her appointment marks a significant milestone in UK-India relations; coming 70 years after India appointed its first high commissioner to London.

**56. CITROEN MAKES HISTORIC MOVE: FIRST MNC TO EXPORT EVS FROM INDIA / CITROEN**

- **French automaker Citroën** has become the first multinational car manufacturer to export **electric vehicles (EVs)** produced in India to the international market.
- The company announced the commencement of exports of its locally manufactured ë-C3, sending an **initial shipment of 500 units to Indonesia from the Kamarajar Port**.
- The export of the ë-C3 symbolizes the strength of **Indo-French industrial cooperation and mutual commitment to cleaner mobility**.

57. ISRAEL DEPLOYS C-DOME DEFENSE SYSTEM AGAINST AERIAL THREAT NEAR EILAT

- Israel deployed its ship-mounted defense system, the **C-Dome**, for the first time against a suspicious aerial target near **the southern city of Eilat**.
- The incident occurred following an alert in the area, which had previously been targeted by missile fire from **Yemen's Houthi rebels**.
- The C-Dome defense system is the naval counterpart of the land-based Iron Dome. **Developed by Rafael Advanced Defence Systems**.

**8822-010101**

National News

Current Affairs



8822-010101

1. GREAT NICOBAR'S PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUP, SHOMPEN, CAST THEIR VOTE FOR THE FIRST TIME

- For the first time, members of the **Shompen**, one of the **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** in the country and who reside in the dense tropical rain forests of the **Great Nicobar Island**, took part in the election process by casting their votes in the Andaman and Nicobar Lok Sabha constituency.
- **Shompen is the only PVTG in the region with Mongoloid features, such as light brown to yellow brown skin and oblique eye features.**
- The estimated population of **Shompen was 229** as per the 2011 Census data.

PVTG:

- PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups.
- 1975, the Government of India **declared 52 tribal groups as PVTGs** on the recommendation of **Dhebar commission**.
- Currently, there are 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes

Characteristics of PVTGs:

Population – stagnant/declining
Technology – pre-agricultural
Literacy Level – extremely low
Economy – Subsistence level

2. VIZHINJAM PORT OF ADANI GROUP WILL RUN INDIA'S 1ST TRANS SHIPMENTS

- **Adani Group's Vizhinjam Port in Kerala** has received approval from the shipping ministry to operate as **India's first transshipment port**. This will be India's first full-fledged deepwater transshipment port.
- **Transshipment ports are transit hubs where cargo from one ship is transferred to another on the way to its final destination.**
- World's biggest Transshipment ports are Singapore, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Busan and Hong Kong.



3. SUPREME COURT UPHELD THE VALIDITY OF EVM IN ADR'S CASE

- The **Supreme Court's** two-judge benches, including Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta have made a decision in the '**EVM case**' of **Association for Democratic Reforms vs Election Commission of India and Another**.
- The petitioners argued that if EVMs were to continue, the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slip should be handed to the voter so that they could physically cast it into the ballot box, or all VVPAT slips in the country should be counted alongside the electronic tally.
- **They argued that the petitioners' request for a return to paper ballots revealed a lack of trust in the system. The court upheld the use of EVMs for recording and counting votes.**

4. INDIA'S ECOMMERCE MARKET WILL BE WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST BY 2030

- **Invest India** has forecasted a **bright future** for India's e-commerce industry, predicting a massive surge to **\$325 billion by 2030**. This growth coincides with a digital economy expected to reach a staggering \$800 billion in the same timeframe.
- The report suggests that this will happen due to the growth of the internet user base and the flourishing digital economy. According to the report, India is expected to have around 500 million online shoppers by 2030.

5. HITACHI PAYMENT SERVICES INTRODUCES UPGRADABLE ATMS IN INDIA

- **Hitachi Payment Services** has unveiled **new upgradable ATMs in India**, allowing banks to adapt their machines into **Cash Recycling Machines (CRMs)** as per evolving needs.
- Manufactured under the 'Make in India' initiative, these ATMs offer flexibility and efficiency to banks, potentially revolutionizing the Indian ATM industry.
- **In addition to upgradable ATMs, Hitachi Payment Services previously introduced the first-of-its-kind UPI ATM on the Android platform for card-less cash withdrawals in September 2023.**

6. RELIANCE JIO IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST MOBILE OPERATOR IN DATA TRAFFIC

- **Reliance Jio**, a telecommunications company in India, has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the **world's largest mobile operator in data traffic, surpassing China.**

- The company revealed its quarterly results, which showed that the total traffic on the Jio network has reached 40.9 Exabytes, marking a 35.2 percent year-on-year increase.
- Additionally, **Jio has a wide subscriber base of 481.8 million**, making it a strong player in the industry.

7. 'ONE NATION, ONE AIRSPACE': INDIA'S PROJECT ISHAN

- In order to **streamline and enhance air traffic management (ATM)**, India has initiated the process of consolidating its four airspace regions into a single entity spanning the entire nation -**Indian Single Sky Harmonized Air Traffic Management (ISHAN) initiative, centered in Nagpur.**
- **The Airports Authority of India (AAI)** has called for expressions of interest to prepare a detailed project report for it
- **Indian airspace is controlled through four flight information regions (FIRs) at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai, and a sub-flight information region at Guwahati.**



8. SJVN INAUGURATES FIRST MULTI-PURPOSE GREEN HYDROGEN PILOT PROJECT OF THE NATION

- SJVN Limited has achieved a significant milestone with the inauguration of India's first Multi-purpose (Combined Heat & Power) Green Hydrogen Pilot Project at **SJVN's 1,500 MW NathpaJhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS) in Jhakri, Himachal Pradesh.**
- **The green hydrogen produced from the project will be utilized for High Velocity Oxygen Fuel (HVOF) Coating Facility of NJHPS for meeting its combustion fuel requirements; it will also generate electricity through its fuel cell of 25 kW capacity.**

SJVN Limited

- SJVN, formerly known as Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam, SJVN Limited, a Mini Ratna, Category-I and Schedule -'A' CPSE under the supervision of Ministry of Power.
- It is involved in hydroelectric power generation and transmission.
- It was incorporated in **1988 as NathpaJhakri Power Corporation**, a joint venture between the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

9. TAMIL NADU AND KERALA TO CONDUCT FIRST SYNCHRONISED NILGIRI TAHR CENSUS FROM APRIL 29

- 'The Nilgiri Tahr' project was officially launched by Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin in October 2023.
- Now, Tamil Nadu is all set to estimate the population of its State animal, in the **first-ever synchronised census with Kerala Nilgiri Tahr (Nilgiritragus hylocrius)**
- **IUCN Status:** Endangered .
- Listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972
- **Habitat:** Endemic to the Nilgiri Hills in parts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- The Nilgiri tahr is the state animal of Tamil Nadu.
- It inhabits **montane grasslands and shola forests within the South Western Ghats.**
- **The largest population resides in Eravikulam National Park (Kerala)**

10. INDIAN BANK & TATA SOLAR POWER TO FINANCE CENTRAL ROOFTOP SOLAR SCHEME

- The Chennai-based public sector **Indian Bank** has signed an agreement with **Tata Power Solar Systems** to provide loans under the **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.**
- **The Indian Bank will provide loans to customers to install rooftop solar systems on their houses.**
- **Tata Power Solar Systems** is a leading Indian company that installs rooftop solar power plants to generate electricity.

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

- The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana is a central government scheme that Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched on **13 February 2024.**
- The Scheme aims to provide free electricity to **one crore households** in India.
- Households can get **300 units of free electricity per month** by installing a rooftop solar electricity generating unit.
- The government of India has allocated **Rs 75,021 crore** for the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

11. INNOVATIVE 3D PRINTED DUMMY BALLOT UNIT UNVEILED BY IIT GUWAHATI

- The **Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Cell (SVEEP)** of **Kamrup Election District** along with the **Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati** developed a **3D-printed dummy ballot unit** to enhance voter awareness and engagement.
- The purpose of creating a 3D-printed dummy ballot unit is to educate people, particularly new voters and senior citizens, about the complexities of the voting process and alleviate any fears, concerns or doubts they may have. By providing a practical experience, the dummy ballot unit aims to encourage greater voter turnout.

SVEEP

- **SVEEP is a programme launched by the Election Commission of India.** It aims to educate and spread awareness among the citizens, electors, and voters regarding the electoral process.
- **This programme is designed to fulfill the needs of different states based on their socio-economic, cultural, and demographic profile as well as their history of electoral participation.**

12. FIRST BJP CANDIDATE EVER TO WIN LS POLL UNOPPOSED : MUKESH DALAL

- Mukesh Dalal, a candidate from the BJP, recently won the Lok Sabha election without any opposition. This is the first time in the last 12 years that a candidate has won an election unopposed.
- Mr. Dalal's victory from the **Surat parliamentary constituency** is also believed to be the first time a candidate from the BJP has won a parliamentary poll **without any opposition**.

13. PAYU GETS RBI'S IN-PRINCIPLE APPROVAL TO OPERATE AS PAYMENTS AGGREGATOR

- PayU, a digital financial services provider had received in-principle authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Payments Aggregator (PA) under the Payment Settlements Act, 2007.
- A payment aggregator is a third-party service provider that enables customers to make and businesses to accept payments online
- PayU is a Netherlands-based payment service provider to online merchants. The company was founded in 2002 .
- Anirban Mukherjee, CEO, PayU India

14. GOVERNMENT ALLIES WITH SBI CARD AND TELCOS TO TACKLE OTP FRAUDS

- The Ministry of Home Affairs, SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd. (SBI Card) and telecom companies are partnering up to create a solution for notifying users about stolen OTP (onetime passwords).
- This initiative forms part of a larger strategy to tackle the increasing menace of cyber fraud and phishing attacks within the banking sector.

15. CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER'S OFFICE OF HARYANA LAUNCHES 'VOTERS-IN QUEUE' APP FOR INFORMATION ON QUEUES AT POLLING CENTRES

- The app has been launched with the target of achieving at least 75 percent voting in the Lok Sabha elections as compared to the 70 percent voting in the previous Lok Sabha elections.
- The 'Voter-In-Queue' app will be operational in 30 urban assembly constituencies



16. KARNATAKA AND GUJARAT LEAD INDIA'S CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION: REPORT

- Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and Ember evaluates the progress of India's clean electricity transition at the state level.
- While Karnataka and Gujarat maintain strong performances, states like Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh lag behind, necessitating increased efforts for renewable energy integration and decarbonization.

17. PASSPORT AFFORDABILITY RANKINGS: INDIAN PASSPORT SECOND CHEAPEST, UAE TOPS

- A recent study conducted by Australian firm Compare the Market AU has revealed intriguing insights into global passport affordability and accessibility.
- According to the study, the Indian passport ranks as the second cheapest worldwide, with the UAE passport claiming the top spot for affordability.
- While the Indian passport offers a cost-effective option in terms of both acquisitions cost and yearly expenses, its visa-free access is relatively limited compared to higher-priced passports.

18. CANCEROUS ETHYLENE OXIDE CONTAMINATION IN INDIAN SPICE BRANDS

- Hong Kong & Singapore recently banned several spice variants manufactured by MDH and one (Fish Curry Masala) by Everest Food Products.
- The decision came after authorities reportedly found the presence of the cancer-causing pesticide ethylene oxide in the spice mixes.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has commissioned quality checks on MDH and Everest products.

19. INSV TARINI RETURNS TRIUMPHANT AFTER HISTORIC TRANSOCEANIC EXPEDITION

- The Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini has returned triumphant to her base port at Goa after a historic transoceanic expedition of nearly two months duration.
- The expedition was Flagged off from Goa on 28 Feb 24. After 22 days of navigating through the Indian Ocean, INSV Tarini arrived at Port Louis, Mauritius, and then back to Goa.
- It marks a historic milestone as they become the first from India to accomplish such a feat.

20. NATIONAL FERTILIZERS GETS NAVRATNA STATUS

- National Fertilizers Ltd made a significant announcement, revealing that it has achieved "Navratna" status, as granted by the Department of Public Enterprise.
- This designation is reserved for top-performing Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and grants them enhanced autonomy and financial powers.

21. BARANASI'S TRICOLOUR BARFI AND DHALUA IDOL METALCRAFT GET GI TAG

- Tiranga Barfi of Varanasi, associated with India's independence on 16 April 2024, has been given the status of GI product. Besides, another product of Varanasi, Dhalua Murti Metal Casting Craft, has also been included in the GI category.
- After this tag, these products of Varanasi will now get a special identity in the world. In this way, a total of 34 products in Banaras region and 75 products in Uttar Pradesh have now received the GI tag. Kashi is also called the most diverse GI city.

22. ON VANDE BHARAT PLATFORM INDIA TO UNVEIL 250 MPH BULLET TRAIN

- India is preparing to launch an indigenous bullet train that will reach speeds of more than 250 kilometres per hour (km/h).
- India is currently relying on Japanese technology for the bullet trains that will operate on the Ahmedabad to Mumbai line, the Vande Bharat trains will utilize more Indian tech and domestic manufacturing
- The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is providing a soft loan of approximately Rs 40,000 crore for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail project, which has a total project cost of more than Rs 1.08 lakh crore.

23. ALIA, SAKSHI MALIK NAMED IN TIME'S LIST OF 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE

- Time magazine has released the list of 100 most influential personalities of the world.
- In this list, along with various well-known personalities of the world, many famous personalities of India were included. Actor Alia Bhatt and wrestler Sakshi Malik are prominently involved in this.



24. J&K HIGH COURT UPHOLDS RULE OF LAW, QUASHES DETENTION UNDER PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

- The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed the detention of Jaffar Ahmad Parray under the Public Safety Act.
- Justice Rahul Bharti emphasized that India operates under the rule of law, asserting that citizens cannot be detained without proper legal grounds.

25. SANY INDIA LAUNCH OF ITS FULLY ELECTRIC DUMP TRUCK

- Sany India, a leading manufacturer of mining and construction equipment, has launched the SKT105E Electric Dump Truck.
- SKT105E becomes the first locally manufactured electric off-highway dump truck, paving the way for a more environmentally conscious and cost-effective future.

26. INDIAN NAVY SEIZES 940KG DRUGS IN ARABIAN SEA IN 1ST INTERDICTION AS CMF MEMBER

- INS Talwar, in support of the Canadian-led Combined Task Force (CTF) 150, conducted its first drug interdiction since becoming a member of combined bvMaritime Forces (CMF) in November 2023.
- CMF is the world's largest international naval partnership (43-nations) upholding the international rules-based order by promoting security and stability across 3.2 million square miles of water

27. DUE TO DROUGHT & INTENSE HEAT, LAKSHMANA TIRTHA RIVER DRIED UP

- **The Lakshmana Tirtha River**, located in the **Kodagu District, Karnataka**, is well-known for its picturesque hills, dense forests, and crystal-clear rivers. However, due to ongoing severe drought conditions and intense heat, the river is facing an acute water crisis.
- **The flow of the Cauvery River**, another important water source in the district, has dwindled and as a result the **Lakshmana Tirtha river has completely dried up**.

Cauvery River

- **Origin:** Talakaveri in Coorg District of Karnataka in Brahmagiri Range of hills in the Western ghats
- **Basin:** Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Union Territory of Puducherry
- **Tributaries:** from left are the Harangi, the Hemavati, the Shimsha and the Arkavati whereas the Lakshmana Tirtha, the Kabbani, the Suvarnavati, the Bhavani, the Noyil and the Amaravati join from right.

Drain: Into the Bay of Bengal



28. GOVERNMENT NOTIFIES 100% FDI IN SPACE SECTOR

FDI in the Space Sector

- The notified FDI in the space sector allows
- **74 per cent FDI** in **satellite manufacturing and data products** under the automatic routes,
- **49 per cent** for the satellite launch vehicles and spaceports, and
- **100 per cent** for manufacturing components required by the space sector.
- India's share of the global space economy is around **2 to 3 per cent**. The government plans to **increase it to more than 10 per cent by 2030**.

29. PERMANENT EDUCATION NUMBER (PEN) REQUIRED FOR STUDENTS STARTING ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25

- To simplify and streamline the process of students' transition from one school to another, the School Education Department in the state has made the use of **Permanent Education Number (PEN)** mandatory from the academic year 2024-25.
- PEN is a unique identification number assigned to every student by the **Union Ministry of Education**, through the **UDISE+ (Unified District Information System for Education Plus)** portal, which covers more than 14.89 lakh schools, 95 lakh teachers, and 26.5 crore children.

30. HINDUSTAN ZINC LIMITED BECOMES WORLD'S THIRD-LARGEST SILVER PRODUCER

- Hindustan Zinc Limited, a Vedanta group company, became the **third-largest silver producer globally**, according to the World Silver Survey 2024 conducted by 'The Silver Institute', USA.
- The survey also mentioned the company's **Sindesar Khurd Mine** was now the world's second-largest silver-producing mine, moving up from last year's fourth position.
- **Mexico-based Fresnillo** is the world's largest silver producer. It has silver and gold mining operations across Mexico. Fresnillo produced 53.5 million ounce silver in 2023, 5% year-on-year growth.
- **Polish miner KGHM Polska Miedz** is the second-largest producer of silver in the world. It produced 45.9 million ounce in 2023, an 8% increase from the previous year.

31. INTERGLOBE TO BRING AIR TAXIS IN 2026

- **InterGlobe Enterprises**, which owns India's largest airline **IndiGo**, will launch an **all-electric air taxi service in India from Delhi's Connaught Place to Haryana's Gurugram by 2026**.
- In November 2023, **InterGlobe Enterprises entered into a deal with Archer Aviation to supply 200 eVTOL aircraft**
- The electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft can carry the pilot in addition to four passengers.

32. 100TH YEAR OF VIAKOM SATYAGRAHA

- **Vaikom Satyagraha**, the **non-violent agitation against untouchability in Kerala** lasted for **603 days**
- It was **held for the right of backward communities to travel through the public road leading to Vaikom Mahadeva Temple at Kottayam district in Kerala (Travancore Kingdom)**.
- The **Satyagraha started on the 30th of March 1924 and ended on the 23rd of November 1925**.

33. MP TOPS IN IMPLEMENTING THE CENTRE'S GREEN CREDIT PROGRAMME (GCP)

- Madhya Pradesh is leading in implementing the Green Credit Programme (GCP) of the Centre. The GCP has approved the plantation of trees in over 500 land parcels, covering 4,980 hectares across 10 states in the past two months.
 - MP reported the highest area of approved degraded forest land for plantation or greening exercises, followed by Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, and Assam
- The Green Credit Programme (GCP) is a new market-based mechanism that aims to encourage voluntary environmental actions across various sectors.

34. 1ST GLASS SKYWALK BRIDGE OF UP IS READY TO OPEN IN CHITRAKOOT

- The enchanting **Tulsi (Shabari) waterfall** in Chitrakoot is now home to the first glass skywalk bridge in Uttar Pradesh.
- The awe-inspiring bridge, fashioned to resemble Lord Rama's bow and arrow, was constructed in the Kodand forest area at a cost of Rs 3.70 crore.
- Other Skywalks of India **Sikkim Skywalk**, **Glass Bridge In Rajgir, Bihar**, **Wayanad Glass Bridge In Thollayiram Kandi, Kerala**

35. INTRODUCING CDP-SURAKSHA: REVOLUTIONIZING HORTICULTURE SUBSIDIES / CDP-SURAKSHA

- The Indian government has launched **CDP-SURAKSHA**, a groundbreaking digital platform aimed at streamlining the distribution of subsidies to horticulture farmers under the Cluster Development Programme (CDP)
- **CDP-SURAKSHA**, which stands for "System for Unified Resource Allocation, Knowledge, and Secure Horticulture Assistance," is designed to ensure swift subsidy disbursement to farmers' bank accounts via the e-RUPI voucher system provided by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

36. PROBA-3 MISSION OF ESA TO STUDY SUN WILL BE LAUNCHED BY ISRO

- In a remarkable display of cutting-edge space technology, India is set to launch the European Space Agency's (ESA) revolutionary **Proba-3 mission** in September 2024.
- This groundbreaking mission is set to achieve a world-first in precision formation flying, using two satellites that have been designed to operate together in perfect unison, forming a 'large rigid structure' amidst the vastness of space.
- Two satellites will work together to create a 144-meter long instrument known as a solar coronagraph. This will help scientists to study the Sun's corona which is difficult to observe due to the brightness of the solar disk.
- India sent a solar mission into space on September 2, 2023. It took around 127 days and travelled about 1.5 million kilometers to reach its final destination.

37. ISRO AIMS TO MAKE SPACE MISSIONS DEBRIS FREE BY 2030

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was set up by the government of India on 15 August 1969.
- ISRO was earlier known as the Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR), which was set up by the Government of India in 1962.
- ISRO is involved in science, engineering and technology to use the benefits of outer space for India and mankind.
- ISRO comes under the Department of Space (DOS), Government of India.
- **Vikram Sarabhai** the founder of ISRO was its first chairman.

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Chairman: S.Somanath



38. MAHINDRA SUSTEN'S ₹1,200 CRORE HYBRID RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT IN MAHARASHTRA

- Mahindra susten, a subsidiary of the mahindra group, enters the hybrid renewable energy sector with a **₹1,200-crore project in Maharashtra**, combining 101 MW wind and 52 MW solar capacities.
- The project aims to generate 460 million kWh of clean energy and offset 420,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions.

39. GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH COTTON TEST LABS IN 6 STATES FOR KASTURI COTTON

- The union government is planning to set up dedicated labs for testing high-grade cotton in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat and Karnataka as part of a push to establish the Indian Kasturi cotton as a global brand
- The labs would be set up in convergence with the Bureau of Indian Standards' (BIS) testing facilities
- India aims to compete with global cotton brands such as Supima and Giza, which are known for their exceptional softness, strength and durability
- While India has only recently branded its cotton despite being a major producer with the largest area under the crop

40. RAJIV GAUBA TO HEAD CENTRAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ON LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

- The government of India has set up a committee on **LGBTQ+ communities' welfare** headed by Union Home Secretary **Rajiv Gauba**.
- The committee has been set up by the government on the suggestion of the Supreme Court in the **Supriyo Chakraborty vs Union of India Case**.
- In the **Supriyo Chakraborty vs. Union of India Case 2023**, the Special Marriage Act of 1954 was challenged because it did not permit same-sex marriage.
- The plaintiffs argued that this was against **Article 14 of the fundamental rights, which provides for equal protection of law**.

41. INDIA'S OLDEST AIR FORCE PILOT DALIP SINGH MAJITHIA PASSES AWAY

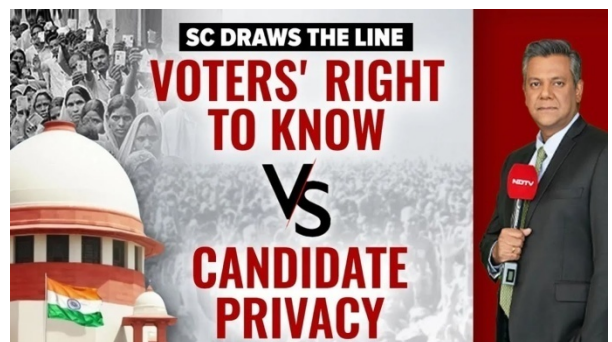
- The country's **oldest fighter pilot and entrepreneur, Squadron Leader Sardar Dalip Singh Majithia**, passed away at the age of 103.

42. PRIME MINISTER NARENDRAMODI BECOMES FIRST PM AFTER INDIRA GANDHI TO FEATURE ON NEWSWEEK COVER

- **Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi** featured on the cover of **Newsweek's April 1966 issue**.
- Newsweek is the New York-based magazine

43. CANDIDATES HAVE RIGHT TO PRIVACY FROM VOTERS: SUPREME COURT

- The Supreme Court said that candidates contesting elections need not disclose each and every moveable property owned by them or their dependents
- However, candidates need to disclose information about property that is of substantial value or reflects a luxurious lifestyle.
- a voter had no absolute right to know about each and every asset of a candidate and that a candidate had the right to privacy regarding matters irrelevant to his/her candidature.
- A Bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Sanjay Kumar said a candidate's choice to retain his privacy on matters which were of no concern to the voters or were irrelevant to his candidature for public office did not amount to a 'corrupt practice' under Section 123 of the Representation of People Act, 1951.
- Such non-disclosure would not amount to a "defect of a substantial nature" under Section 36(4) of the 1951 Act.



Representation of People Act, 1951

- The Act was introduced following the adoption of the Constitution of India in 1950 to lay down specific procedures and rules for the conduct of elections, which are fundamental to the democratic governance of the country.
- The Representation of the People Act, 1951, along with the other laws governing elections, work in conjunction with the constitutional provisions to ensure the integrity of the electoral process in India.

44. WORLD'S LARGEST RENEWABLE ENERGY PARK BEING BUILT IN GUJARAT

- **Adani Group Company 'Adani Green Energy Limited'** is building the world's largest renewable energy park in **Khavda in Kutch district of Gujarat**.
- This park is spread over **538 square kilometers**. This park is about five times larger than the total size of the French capital Paris.

45. AVANTIKA VANDANAPU HONoured AS SOUTH ASIAN PERSON OF THE YEAR BY HARVARD

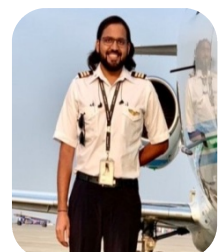
- Indian-American actress **Avantika Vandanapu**, best known for her role as Karen Shetty in the **2024 musical comedy "Mean Girls"**, has been honored with the prestigious **"South Asian Person of the Year"** award by **Harvard University**.

46. INDIA'S GDP TO GROW 6.1% IN 2024

- India's economy will likely grow **6.1% in 2024**, lower than **7.7% in 2023**, **Moody's Analytics** projected

47. GOPICHANDHOTAKURA SET TO BE THE FIRST INDIAN SPACE TOURIST

- **Gopichand Thotakura**, an entrepreneur and pilot, has been selected as one of the six crew members for **Amazon founder Jeff Bezos's space company Blue Origin's New Shepard -25 (NS-25) mission**.
- Thotakura is poised to join the esteemed group of 31 people who have surpassed the **Karman line**, via the **New Shepard** program.



- The Karman line is the internationally recognized boundary of space at the altitude of 100 kilometres above Earth's mean sea level.
- Named after Theodore von Kármán (1881-1963), a Hungarian American engineer and physicist

48. INDIA'S GEM: WORLD'S 3RD LARGEST E-COMMERCE PLATFORM

- India's 'Government e-Market' (GeM) portal is the world's third largest e-commerce platform for public procurement after Korea's On-Line e-Procurement System (KONEPS) and Singapore's GeBIZ.
- GeM ended this financial year with a gross merchandise value (GMV) of over Rs 4 lakh crore.
- GEM Launched in August 2016.

49. CBI RAISING DAY- CJI WILL DELIVER 20TH D. P. KOHLI MEMORIAL LECTURE

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is hosting the 20th D. P. Kohli Memorial Lecture to commemorate the Raising Day (1 April) of the Investigation Agency.
- Chief Justice of India, Justice D. Y. Chandrachud, will deliver the lecture on the theme of "Adopting Technology to Advance Criminal Justice" at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- Kohli headed the Delhi Special Police Establishment DSPE in 1955 to curb corruption in public services. He continued as the Director of CBI from its inception in 1963 until 1968.
- The CBI is not a statutory body, but it derives its power to investigate from the DSPE Act.
- The beginning of the establishment was initiated by the Santhanam Committee from 1962-1964.

50. TN GOVERNOR R.N. RAVI INAUGURATES PARAM VIR CHAKRA GARDEN

- Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi inaugurated Param Vir Chakra garden and Aikyam exhibition in the KanchiMahaswamiVidyaMandir in Tambaram
- The garden displayed the history with statues of the 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees.

51. PARADIP PORT, THE TOP CARGO-HANDLING PORT IN INDIA IN 2023-24

- The Paradip Port Authority, Odisha, has displaced the Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla, as the top cargo-handling major port of India in 2023-24
- In 2023-24, the Paradip Port handled 145.38 Million Metric Tons (MMT) of cargo.
- The Paradip Port achieved the highest productivity among all major ports in India.
- Paradip Port is the cheapest in terms of tariff among all the ports in the country

52. ONE VEHICLE, ONE FASTAG' NORM IMPLEMENTED

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has introduced the 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' norm, which aims to prevent the use of a single FASTag for multiple vehicles or linking multiple FASTags to a particular vehicle
- This new norm has come into effect from April 1, 2024.
- "Multiple FASTags won't work... People who have multiple FASTags for one vehicle won't be able to use all of them from today (April 1)"
- FASTag is an electronic toll collection system operated by NHAI in India.
- It utilizes Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for making toll payments directly from a linked prepaid or savings account

53. EC ROPES IN AYUSHMANN KHURRANA TO URGE YOUTH TO VOTE

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has roped in popular actor Ayushmann Khurrana to encourage the youth to exercise their franchise in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections
- Every vote counts and every vote is important.
- Voting is a symbol of empowerment in a democratic nation like ours

54. INDIA'S NUCLEAR ENERGY ROADMAP: 1 LAKH MW BY 2047

- India aims to increase its nuclear power production from the current level of over 8,000 MW to 1 lakh MW by 2047, according to a report titled 'Synchronising Energy Transitions Towards Possible Net Zero for India: Affordable and Clean Energy for All'.
- The Department of Atomic Energy is preparing a vision document for 'Amrit Kaal', which includes plans to reach a nuclear capacity of approximately 100 GW by 2047.

55. MOPA AIRPORT INTRODUCES DIGIYATRA SYSTEM

- The Manohar International Airport, Mopa, became the 14th airport in India to launch the Digi Yatra system, which makes the travelling experience more seamless and convenient.
- The Digi Yatra system is already operational in 13 airports in India: Delhi, Bengaluru, Varanasi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Vijayawada, Pune, Mumbai, Kochi, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Jaipur, and Guwahati.

WHAT IS DIGI YATRA??

- The Digi Yatra is a biometric-enabled system that uses facial recognition technology to establish the passengers' identities and link them to their boarding passes.
- It automates the entry and verification of passengers at airport checkpoints, such as security, entry, and boarding passes.
- Digi Yatra reduces waiting lines, quickens processing times, and simplifies procedures for the passengers.

56. INDIA TO ESTABLISH FIRST PRIVATELY MANAGED STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE BY 2029-30

- India is embarking on establishing its first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) by 2029-30.

- This initiative aims to allow the operator the liberty to trade all stored oil, aligning with models seen in countries such as **Japan and South Korea**

57. MANSUKHMANDAVIYA: INDIA TO STOP IMPORTING UREA BY END OF 2025

- ❖ According to the Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, **MansukhMandaviya**, India will stop importing urea by the **end of 2025** due to an increase in local production capacity with the commissioning of new fertilizer plants.
- ❖ **India is a big importer of Urea and meets around 30% of its 35 million tonnes of annual urea requirement from imports.**

58. THE SUVIDHA PORTAL

- To have a **single window to process all the election permission** the Election Commission of India launched an application called '**Suvidha Portal**'.
- It caters to permissions for organising rallies, opening temporary party offices, door-to-door canvassing, video vans and helicopters, obtaining vehicle permits, and distributing pamphlets.
- **Based on first in first out system**

59. MANOJ PANDA APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE 16TH FINANCE COMMISSION

- The government of India has appointed **eminent economist Manoj Panda** as a member of the **16th Finance Commission**.
- Manoj Panda will **replace NiranjanRajadhyaksha**, who resigned recently due to personal circumstances.

Members of the 16th Finance Commission

According to Article 280 of the constitution, the Finance Commission comprises a Chairman and four other members. The Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951, enacted by the Parliament, mentions the qualifications of the Chairman and members of the Finance Commission.

Chairman - DrArvindPanagariya, former vice-chairman of the NITI Aayog

Other Members of the 16th Finance Commission

- **Ajay Narayan Jha** - former secretary of Expenditure, Union Ministry of Finance,
- **Annie George Mathew**- former special secretary of Expenditure, Union Ministry of Finance
- **Manoj Panda** - an eminent economist.
- **SoumyaKantiGhosh**- He has been appointed as a **part-time member**. He was the former group chief economic advisor of the State Bank of India.

60. SANGEETNATAKAKADEMI TO ORGANIZE 'SHAKTI – FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND DANCE' AT SEVEN DIFFERENT SHAKTIPEETHS IN THE COUNTRY

- From 9th to 17th April (Navratri)
- At 7 different Shaktipeeths
- The inauguration of the Shakti festival will begin from the Kamakhya Temple, Guwahati and this will be concluded at ShaktipeethMaaHarsidhi Temple, Jaisinghpur, Ujjain.
- There are 51 Shaktipeeth in India

61. NGT DIRECTED PUNJAB GOVERNMENT TO DISCLOSE HOW IT WILL ACHIEVE ITS TARGET TO CUT STUBBLE BURNING INCIDENTS / NGT

What is NGT?

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a specialized body that was formed under the **NGT Act, 2010** for effective and expeditious disposal of cases that are related to the protection and conservation of the **environment, forests, and other natural resources**.
- India has become the third country in the world after **Australia and New Zealand**, to set up a specialized environmental tribunal and also the first developing country to do so.
- The National Green Tribunal has a total of five places of sitting namely: Bhopal, Pune, New Delhi, Kolkata, and Chennai, amongst which, New Delhi is the Principal place of sitting.
- NGT Chairman - **Justice PrakashShrivastava**

62. INDIA HELPING 5 NATIONS DEVELOP EARLY WARNING SYSTEM(EWS): INDIA METROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT(IMD)

- India is helping **NEPAL,MALDIVES,SRI LANKA,BANGLADESH** and **MAURITIUS** to develop EWS to reduce loss of life and property due to extreme weather events
- India efforts are part of "EARLY WARNING FOR ALL (EW4ALL)"initiative announced by UN in 2022
- EWS-an integrated system for hazard monitoring forecasting etc. and process enabling individuals, government to take timely actions reduce disaster risks.



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State News

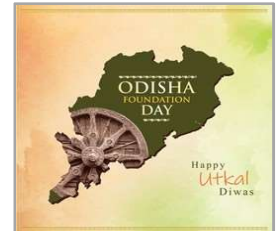
Current Affairs

**April
2024**

1. ODISHA FOUNDATION DAY :

It is observed on 1 April. It is also known as Utkal Divas. On 1 April 1936, the Odisha state became a separate province.

- The Government of India Act of 1935, which was passed on April 1, 1936, ultimately resulted in Odisha being awarded the status of a distinct state.



2. WEBSITE 'BOOTH RAABTA' LAUNCHED BY PUNJAB FOR ELECTION RELATED INFORMATION

- In the district of Malerkotla, Punjab, a unique initiative has been launched by the District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Pallavi.
- The initiative involves the launch of a special website called 'Booth Raabta', which aims to provide election-related information to the people of the district.



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Science & Technology

**April
2024**

1. SPACE TESTING HUB SET UP BY DRDO FOR INDIAN NAVY INAUGURATED IN KERALA

- A state-of-the-art **Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterization and Evaluation (SPACE)** was inaugurated by Secretary of Defence (R&D) and Chairman of DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat at the Underwater Acoustic Research Facility, Kulamavu, in Idukki, Kerala.

The Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory of DRDO set up the SPACE.

This facility is a center for testing and evaluating sonar systems used by the Indian Navy on different types of vessels, including ships, submarines, and helicopters.

2. DRDO DEVELOPS LIGHTEST BULLET PROOF JACKET OF COUNTRY

- DRDO's Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur has successfully developed the lightest Bullet Proof Jacket in the country
- For protection against 7.62 x 54 R API (Level 6 of BIS 17051) ammunition.
- Army soldiers would no longer be in danger of being killed by AK-47 and sniper rifle fire from a distance of ten meters of the enemy during any operation.
- Recently, this bullet proof jacket was successfully tested at Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh

3. KAIST RESEARCHERS DEVELOP HIGH-POWER, FAST-CHARGING SODIUM-ION BATTERY

- In a potential breakthrough, South Korean researchers from Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST) have developed a high-power hybrid sodium-ion battery that can be charged in seconds.
- Sodium is nearly 1000 times more abundant than lithium
- So sodium-ion electrochemical energy storage would be a cheaper and potentially more feasible source of energy.

4. INDIA TESTS CRYSTAL MAZE 2, AIR-LAUNCHED MEDIUM RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE

- India's Strategic Forces Command has successfully tested a new model of its Medium-Range Ballistic Missile, Crystal Maze 2.
- This missile is believed to be the **Crystal Maze 2, also known as ROCKS, of Israeli origin.**
- The missile has a range of over 250 kilometers and was launched from a Su-30 MKI fighter jet in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The Indian Air Force recently tested an air-launched ballistic missile, significantly boosting its capabilities.

5. RAZORPAY PARTNERED WITH AIRTEL PAYMENTS BANK, LAUNCHED 'UPI SWITCH'

- For faster, smoother transactions.
- It has enhanced transaction success rates by 4-5% and can handle up to 10,000 TPS, addressing peak time demands.

6. INDIAN STUDENTS SHINE AT NASA'S HUMAN EXPLORATION ROVER CHALLENGE

- Two Indian student teams have brought laurels to the country by winning prestigious awards at the NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge (HERC).
- The KIET Group of Institutions from Delhi-NCR bagged the "Crash and Burn" award, while the Kanakia International School from Mumbai received the "Rookie of the Year" award.

7. NASA'S SOLAR-POWERED SPACECRAFT: PIONEERING SOLAR SAIL TECHNOLOGY

- NASA recently launched a groundbreaking space mission from New Zealand, deploying the **Advanced Composite Solar Sail System** spacecraft aboard Rocket Lab's Electron rocket.
- This innovative spacecraft utilizes solar energy for propulsion, marking a significant leap in space exploration technology.
- The primary objective of the mission is to demonstrate the effectiveness of solar sail propulsion, paving the way for future missions with reduced reliance on heavy propulsion systems

8. NASA ANNOUNCED TO SEND 'DRAGONFLY ROTORCRAFT MISSION' TO SATURN'S MOON TITAN BY THE YEAR 2028

- NASA has confirmed its **Dragonfly rotorcraft mission** to Saturn's organic-rich moon Titan.
- In early 2023, the mission successfully passed all the success criteria of its initial design review.
- The **car-sized Dragonfly**, being built by the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) in Laurel, Maryland, is to be **nuclear powered.**
- Using data obtained by NASA's **Cassini spacecraft**, scientists discovered that Saturn's moon Titan contains lakes of liquid methane.
- **Titan and Earth** are the two places in the Solar System where liquids have been found on the surface.

9. ISRO: GLACIAL LAKES IN INDIAN HIMALAYAS ARE EXPANDING

- ISRO's satellite images of catchments of Indian Himalayan river basins over the past 40 years have shown a significant expansion of glacial lakes.
- The Gepang Gath glacial lake (Indus River Basin) at an elevation of 4,068 m in Himachal Pradesh has witnessed a long-term change, with its size increasing by 178% from 36.49 to 101.30 hectares between 1989 and 2022.
- ISRO has flagged that the rate of increase is approximately 1.96 hectares per year.
- The Himalayan Mountains, known as the Third Pole because of their extensive glaciers and snow cover, are highly sensitive to changes in the global climate.
- Glacial lakes are expanding, which poses significant risks to communities downstream. Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) can occur as a result, which are sudden and severe floods caused by the release of large volumes of melt water from glacial lakes due to the failure of natural dams made of moraine or ice.
- A glacial lake is a body of water that forms at the foot, on, in, or under a glacier. As global warming continues, glaciers are shrinking, increasing freshwater output to glacial lakes.

10. INDIAN NAVY CONDUCTED AN EXTENSIVE EXERCISE 'POORVI LEHER'

- The exercise 'Poorvi Leher' was conducted along the East Coast on 20 April 2024.
- The exercise was aimed at validating procedures for assessing the Indian Navy's preparedness to meet maritime security challenges in the region.
- This was conducted under the Operational Control of the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.

11. DRDO DELIVERS 1ST BATCH OF INDIGENOUS PARTS FOR LCA TEJAS MK1A TO HAL

- The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) handed over the first batch of indigenous Leading Edge Actuators and Airbrake Control Module for LCA Tejas MK1A to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- It has been handed over to HAL by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA). This is an important achievement towards self-reliance in aeronautical technologies.
- HAL, Lucknow has already made preparations for production of these to meet the existing order of 83 Light Combat Aircraft Tejas MK1A.

12. OUTBREAK OF BIRD FLU IN KERALA AS WHO WARNS ABOUT H5N1 VARIANT

- Thousands of ducks in the Edathua and Cheruthana in the Kuttanad region of the Alappuzha district of Kerala have been infected by the highly pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1.

Bird Flu

- Avian influenza, also known as 'bird flu', is a disease primarily affecting birds and is caused by a virus of the Orthomyxoviridae family.
- H5N1 virus is a subtype of influenza type A that causes a highly infectious, severe respiratory disease in birds called avian influenza (or "bird flu").

13. META UNVEILS UPGRADED AI ASSISTANT POWERED BY LLAMA 3

- Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has announced the launch of the company's advanced AI assistant, Meta AI, powered by the state-of-the-art language model Llama 3.
- The new AI offering is designed to enhance the user experience across Meta's popular apps, including WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, and Messenger, while also being available on a dedicated website, meta.ai.

14. KERALA TO INTRODUCE SOPS UNDER ONE HEALTH INITIATIVE

- One Health project is currently being implemented as part of the World Bank-aided Rebuild Kerala project in four districts of the State - Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, and Idukki
- SOPs will cover at least 8 diseases like Hepatitis A and E, dengue, Nipah, and Avian influenza. Aimed at early disease surveillance and prevention, these SOPs were developed at a two-day workshop by the Centre for One Health, Kerala. The initiative targets robust outbreak investigation and control mechanisms at district levels.
- This is perhaps for the first time that infectious diseases outbreak investigation guidelines are being prepared at the State-level on the One Health platform.

15. IISC, BENGALURU DEVELOPS HYDROGEL TO REMOVE MICROPLASTICS FROM WATER

- Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru have created a sustainable hydrogel to tackle the problem of plastic pollution.
- The hydrogel has a unique polymer network that can bind and destroy microplastics found in water using UV light radiation.
- The hydrogel was found to be highly efficient – it could remove approximately 95% and 93% of two different types of microplastics in water at nearly neutral pH (~6.5).
- Microplastics are tiny plastic particles less than 5 millimeters in size and have spread all over the planet, from oceans to mountains. These tiny particles can enter our body through the water we drink, posing a serious threat to our health.

16. WORLD'S FIRST 'MISS AI' BEAUTY PAGEANT ANNOUNCED FEATURING AI JUDGES

- The competition is being held by the World AI Creator Awards (WAIC) and aims to recognise the achievements of AI creators around the world.
- The pageant will be judged by a panel of four members, including two AI influencers, Aitana Lopez and Emily Pellegrini.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) was developed in the 1950s. The father of AI, John McCarthy, defined it as the intelligence displayed by machines.

17. INDIAN OIL, PANASONIC ENERGY INK PACT FOR LITHIUM ION CELL JV

- India's top refiner Indian Oil Corp entered a pact with Panasonic Energy to form a joint venture to manufacture lithium-ion cells in India
- Lithium-ion batteries, which power electric vehicles (EV) and are used to store energy, are expected to play a major role in India's goal to be a net zero emitter of greenhouse gases by 2070.
- The country is expected to see sales of more than 10 million EVs a year by 2030, according to an annual Economic Survey.

18. DRDO CONDUCTED FLIGHT-TEST OF INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGY CRUISE MISSILE

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently conducted a successful flight test of the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) located at Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha.
- These included radar, an electro-optical tracking system (EOTS), and telemetry deployed by ITR at different locations to ensure complete coverage of the missile's flight path. The missile's flight was also monitored from the Su-30-Mk-I aircraft of the Indian Air Force.
- The missile has been developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), a laboratory based in Bengaluru, along with other Indian industries and laboratories.
- It has a range of approximately 1500 kilometers and can carry 24 different types of warheads that weigh between 200 and 300 kilograms, depending on the mission's requirements.

19. GENERAL MANOJ PANDE INAUGURATES HIGH-TECH IT LAB AT ACADEMY OF ARMED FORCES IN UZBEKISTAN

- During his visit to Uzbekistan from April 15-18, 2024, Chief of the Army Staff, General Manoj Pande, marked a significant milestone in bilateral defense cooperation between India and Uzbekistan by inaugurating a state-of-the-art IT Laboratory at the Uzbek Academy of Armed Forces.
- This initiative stems from a commitment made during the Defence Ministers' meeting in September 2018, highlighting the growing partnership between the two nations.

20. AFMS AND IIT KANPUR PARTNER FOR SOLDIER HEALTH TECH IN TOUGH TERRAINS

- The Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur for collaborative research and training.
- AFMS and IIT Kanpur will work together for better health of soldiers in remote areas
- Under this, research will be done and new technology will be developed to deal with the health problems faced by soldiers in inaccessible areas.

21. 'DUSTLIK 2024' JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE BETWEEN INDIA AND UZBEKISTAN

- The 5th edition of the 'Dustlik' joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan will take place in the Termez district of Uzbekistan starting from April 15.
- Exercise Dustlik 2024 is the 5th edition of the joint military exercise 'DUSTLIK' between India and Uzbekistan.
- Indian and Uzbekistan armed forces joined for a training programme to enhance cooperation and future military ties.

About Uzbekistan:

Capital: Tashkent
 Currency: Som
 Prime Minister : Abdulla Nigmatovich Aripov
 President: Shavkat Mirziyoyev

22. GOVERNMENT ISSUES TENDER TO PURCHASE OF 97 LCA MARK-1A FIGHTER PLANES

- Ministry of Defence, Government of India has issued a tender for procurement of 97 indigenously manufactured LCA Mark – 1A fighter aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- Their cost is likely to be more than Rs 65 thousand crore.
- These aircraft will replace MiG-21, MiG-23 and MiG-27 aircraft in the Air Force

Variants of Tejas:

- Tejas Trainer: 2-seater operational conversion trainer for training air force pilots.
- LCA Navy: Twin- and single-seat carrier-capable for the Indian Navy.
- LCA Tejas Navy MK2: This is phase 2 of the LCA Navy variant.
- LCA Tejas Mk-1A: This is an improvement over the LCA Tejas Mk1 with a higher thrust engine.
- 21 (a) American President Joe Biden hosted the first-ever trilateral summit meeting between the leaders of the United States of America, the Philippines, and Japan at the White House, Washington D.C,
- The United States of America's President Joe Biden has affirmed the commitment of the American government to defend its close allies, Japan and the Philippines.
- Japan and the Philippines are facing a territorial dispute with China.
- Before the summit meeting, the maritime forces of the Philippines, Japan, the United States and Australia conducted a joint maritime exercise named Maritime Cooperative Activity (MCA) in the Philippines' exclusive economic zone

23. TEAM LED BY PRL AHMEDABAD FINDS OZONE ON JUPITER'S MOON CALLISTO

- Scientists led by R. Ramachandran, of Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, discovered strong evidence indicating the presence of ozone on Jupiter's moon Callisto.
- Jupiter has 95 moons.

- The planet Jupiter's four largest moons are called the Galilean satellites after Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei, who first observed them in 1610.
- These large moons, named Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto
- Callisto is the third-largest moon in the Solar System after Ganymede and Titan.

24. TATA LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST PRIVATE EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE

- India's first private sector built earth observation satellite TSAT-1A, has been launched by Tata Advanced System Limited, a subsidiary company of Tata Son's.
- Till date only the government of India's owned Indian Space Research Observation (ISRO) had the capability to build and launch such satellites.
- The satellite is considered to be a military grade.
- The TSAT-1A was launched on board the SpaceX Falcon 9 Rocket launched from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, and United States.
- The TSAT-1A satellite has been built by Tata Advanced Systems in collaboration with the Satellogic company of the United States of America.
- TSAT-1A has been assembled in TASL's Assembly, Integration and Testing ("AIT") plant at its Vemagal facility in Karnataka.

25. AI SUPERCOMPUTER 'STARGATE': \$100 BILLION PLAN OF MICROSOFT AND CHATGPT

- According to reports, Microsoft and OpenAI are collaborating on a massive data centre project that could potentially cost up to \$100 billion.
- The project aims to develop an artificial intelligence supercomputer called "Stargate."
- Other companies such as Google, Baidu, and Meta are also developing their own competitive products, including Bard, Ernie Bot, and LLaMA.

26. WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL MRI SCANS FIRST IMAGES OF HUMAN BRAIN

- Iseult, the world's most powerful Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine
- The magnetic field created by the scanner is a whopping 11.7 teslas, a unit of measurement named after inventor Nikola Tesla.
- It can scan images with 10 times more precision than the common MRIs, whose power does not normally exceed 3 teslas.
- The machine design is the result of two decades of research by a partnership between French and German engineers.

27. NASA TO CREATE LUNAR TIME STANDARD

- The White House has directed NASA to create a "Coordinated Lunar Time" or the "Lunar Standard Time" for the Moon by the end of 2026, as governments and private companies increasingly compete in space.
- The European Space Agency in 2023 had announced similar plans to give the Moon its own time

28. INDIA'S FIRST GENE THERAPY FOR CANCER LAUNCHED

- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, launched India's first home-grown gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay.
- This groundbreaking treatment, called 'CAR-T cell therapy', is a major breakthrough in the battle against cancer.
- shining example of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India) campaign

29. WORLD'S FIRST CONVERSATIONAL AI WITH EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

- Hume, a New York-based research lab, unveiled the first emotionally intelligent conversational AI named **Empathic Voice Interface (EVI)**. It utilizes live audio input, returning both audio and transcripts with vocal expression measures.
- Powered by an **empathic large language model (eLLM)**, it understands tones and word emphasis, optimizing human-AI conversations.]
- Trained on human reactions, EVI learns from users to enhance positive expressions.
- By analyzing speech nuances, it can determine when to speak and generate empathic language

30. ROMANIA UNVEILS WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL LASER

- A research center in Romania has revealed the world's most potent laser, based on the groundbreaking inventions of Nobel Physics Prize winners Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland.
- The laser, operated by the French company Thales, promises revolutionary applications across sectors from healthcare to space exploration
- The heart of this groundbreaking laser lies in **Chirped-Pulse Amplification (CPA) technology**, developed by Mourou and Strickland.
- This technique enables the **amplification of laser power while maintaining safe intensity levels.**

31. LARGEST DIGITAL CAMERA ON EARTH, READY FOR ITS COSMIC PHOTOSHOOT

- Scientists are on the verge of exploring the greatest mysteries of the universe using a powerful new tool, the Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST) camera.
- This camera, funded by the US Department of Energy's Office of Science, boasts a record-breaking 3,200 megapixels, designed to capture unprecedented detail of the cosmos and shed light on elusive dark matter and dark energy.
- The LSST camera represents a significant leap in astronomical technology, as it is capable of capturing images of dark matter, which despite comprising most of the universe's mass, remains invisible to current instruments.
- The Vera C Rubin Observatory, located in a remote area of Chile, will soon be equipped with the LSST camera, which provides an unobstructed view of the southern sky.

32. AGNI-PRIME MISSILE HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY FLIGHT-TESTED IN ODISHA

- **Strategic Forces Command (SFC)**, along with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), conducted the successful flight-test of New Generation Ballistic Missile Agni-Prime from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- Agni-Prime met all the trial objectives **validating its reliable performance**.

Agni-Prime Missile

- Agni-Prime is a medium-range **nuclear capable ballistic missile** that will have a range of **1000 km to 2000 km**.
- Agni-P is a new generation, an advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles
- Agni-P will **replace the Prithvi, Agni-1, and Agni-2 ballistic missiles** that were built two decades ago with technologies now considered outdated.
- Agni-P has been developed **specifically for nuclear strikes against targets in Pakistan**.
- Last month, India successfully carried out the first flight test of indigenously developed nuclear capable Agni-5 missile with multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles (MIRV).

33. CHANDRAYAAN 3 TEAM OF ISRO RECEIVES JOHN L JACK SWIGERTJR AWARD

- India's premier national space agency, the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** Chandrayaan -3 mission team was awarded the **2024 John L "Jack" Swigert, Jr, Award** for Space Exploration by the **US-based Space Foundation**.
- This award is given by the **US-based non-profit organisation Space Foundation** to honour a space agency, company, or consortium of organisations in the realm of space exploration and discovery
- The Indian Consul General of India in Houston, **D C Manjunath**, received the 2024 John L "Jack" Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration Award on behalf of the ISRO's Chandrayaan -3 team

34. CHANDRAYAAN-4: ISRO CHIEF SOMANATH SHARES PLANS FOR NEXT MOON MISSION IN 2040

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** chief **S Somanath** has revealed that the upcoming phase of the **Chandrayaan project** is in progress, aiming to advance India's lunar exploration efforts.
- He indicated that Chandrayaan-4 marks the initial stride towards India's aspiration of landing an astronaut on the **moon by 2040**.

35. BREAKTHROUGH IN HEALTHCARE: IIT JODHPUR UNVEILS NANO-SENSOR FOR DISEASE TRACKING

- Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur (IIT Jodhpur)** have unveiled a groundbreaking nano-sensor **designed to swiftly detect Cytokines**, vital proteins regulating various cellular functions.
- This innovation aims to combat the high mortality rates resulting from delayed diagnoses and the absence of early warnings in disease progression
- The nano-sensor is seamlessly integrated with **artificial intelligence (AI)**, facilitating swift and accurate data processing and analysis

36. INDIAN ARMY CONDUCTS ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILE TRAINING EXERCISE IN SIKKIM

- The **Trishakti Corps** of the **Indian Army** executed a rigorous **Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)** exercise in Sikkim, operating at an altitude of **17,000 feet**.
- The exercise reaffirmed the strategic objective of "**Ek Missile Ek Tank**" while highlighting the accuracy and efficiency of ATGM systems
- The exercise involved **Missile Firing Detachments** from **Mechanized and Infantry Units** of the **Eastern Command**, emphasizing live firing scenarios against both moving and static targets, simulating battlefield conditions.



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Artificial Intelligence



8822-010101

1. US AND UK SIGN AGREEMENT ON AI SECURITY TESTING

- The United States and the United Kingdom have signed an agreement to work together on testing advanced artificial intelligence (AI) models
- The agreement follows commitments made at the Bletchley Park AI Security Summit last year.

2. MICROSOFT'S VASA-1: BRINGING IMAGES TO LIFE WITH AI

- Microsoft Research Asia's AI team has introduced VASA-1, an innovative AI application showcased in a recent paper on arXiv.
- VASA-1 converts still images into animated representations with synchronized speech or song, exhibiting realistic facial expressions.
- The system generates high-resolution (512-by-512 pixels) animations at 45 frames per second, with an average processing time of two minutes per video using a Nvidia RTX 4090 GPU.

3. UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF PHI-3-MINI: MICROSOFT'S BREAKTHROUGH IN AI

- Phi-3-mini marks a significant milestone in AI innovation, offering unparalleled performance and efficiency. Microsoft's latest small language model (SLM) has surpassed benchmarks, demonstrating superiority over models of similar and larger sizes.
- Leveraged by prominent entities like India's ITC, Phi-3-mini showcases Microsoft's commitment to delivering cutting-edge AI solutions.

4. INDIA'S AI SOFTWARE ENGINEER 'DEVIKA' LAUNCHED

- After the world's first "AI software engineer" Devin, created by Cognition Labs in the United States, India has launched its own AI software engineer, Devika.
- This open-source project, a passion project of Mufid VH (Hamzakutty), the 21-year-old Kerala-based founder of Liminal and Stition.AI, aims to rival the capabilities of Devin.
- Devika focuses on taking those instructions and breaking them down into actionable tasks
- Devika, like Devin, leverages machine learning (ML) and natural language processing (NLP) to understand human instructions.

Defence

April 2024

1. INDIAN NAVY RESCUE IRANIAN VESSEL AL KAMBAR UNDER OPERATION SANKALP

- The Indian Navy rescued an Iranian fishing vessel **Al Kambar** and its **crew of 23 Pakistani nationals**, in the Indian Ocean which was hijacked by armed pirates under its **Operation Sankalp**.

2. IAF'S 'GAGAN SHAKTI-2024' 10-DAY MEGA EXERCISE

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is going to conduct the country's largest air military exercise in the **name of 'Gagan Shakti-2024'**.
- All the Air Force stations of the country will participate in the ten-day **'Gagan Shakti-2024'** exercise.
- **Maneuvers will be held in the field firing range of Pokaran**
- **'Gagan Shakti Abhyas' takes place every five years**

3. ACCORDING TO SATELLITE BASED PHOTOS, CHINA BUILT A SECRET SUBMARINE BASE IN BANGLADESH

- China has built a submarine base in Bangladesh. It has been named **BNS Sheikh Hasina**.
- The construction of the submarine base being built in Bangladesh with the help of China is almost complete.

4. INDIA, MALDIVES & SRI LANKA'S 'DOSTI-16' HELD IN MALDIVES

- Highlighting the importance of "collaboration and interoperability" among the coast guards personnel of the Maldives, India, and Sri Lanka, Maldivian Defence Minister Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon said the trilateral exercise 'Dosti' will unite the troika to address "shared maritime security concerns through collaboration."
- Indian Coast Guard ships Samarth and Abhinav, along with Sri Lanka Naval Ship Samudura, are participating in the exercise 'DOSTI-16', while Bangladesh is participating as an observer.
- Sri Lanka has described 'Dosti' as a trilateral exercise that aims to enhance cooperation, strengthen friendship, improve mutual operational capability, and develop interoperability among the Coast Guard personnel of India, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka.

5. RECORD GROWTH IN INDIAN DEFENCE EXPORTS: A MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENT

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) announced that India's defence exports surged to a record Rs 21,083 crore in the fiscal year 2023-24, marking a remarkable growth of 32.5% from the previous year
- This achievement is attributed to the concerted efforts of both the private sector and Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)
- The Ministry credited policy reforms and 'Ease of Doing Business' initiatives for fostering an enabling environment for defence exports.

6. 'AKASHTEER' DEPLOYED TO STRENGTHEN ARMY'S AIR DEFENCE

- The Army inducted **'Akashteer Command and Control System'** into the Air Defence Corps of the Indian Army to **strengthen air defence security**. The Army has prepared this air defence system to meet new challenges.
- The **first batch of Akashteer** was flagged off for air defence control centers from the **Ghaziabad facility of Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**. It has been developed as part of the Self-reliant India initiative.
- The Army has declared the year 2024 as the **'Year of Technological Absorption'**. The Indian Army is accelerating the induction of specific technologies and systems.

7. DRDO INITIATES PROJECT FOR TEST CENTRE IN WEST BENGAL

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has commenced a project in **Junput village, West Bengal**, to establish a test centre for the country's weapon systems.
- This initiative aims to address the saturation of testing activities at Odisha's Chandipur Integrated Test Range (ITR) by providing an additional operational area.
- The proposed test centre in Junput has received approvals from both the central and state governments, including the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

8. PHILIPPINES TO HOLD JOINT NAVAL DRILLS WITH U.S., JAPAN, AUSTRALIA

- **To counter China's expanding influence in the Asia-Pacific region.**
- **China stakes claim to 90% of the South China Sea**, and this claim is based on the U-shaped nine-dash line etched on map in the 1940s by a Chinese geographer.
- **US, Australia & Southeast Asian countries rejected China's maritime claims over the South China Sea**

South China Sea

- **The South China Sea is bordered by China and Taiwan** to the north, the Indo-Chinese peninsula (including Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore) to the west, Indonesia and Brunei to the south, and the Philippines to the east (referred to as the West Philippine Sea).
- **It is connected by the Taiwan Strait with the East China Sea**
- **The Luzon Strait with the Philippine Sea** (both marginal seas of the Pacific Ocean).

9. 'PARIVARTANCHINTAN', A TRI-SERVICE CONFERENCE BY DEFENCE MINISTRY

- ParivartanChintan, a pioneering Tri-Service Conference aimed at generating new and fresh ideas, initiatives and reforms to achieve enhanced jointness and integration among the army, navy, and air force
- A day long discussions will be chaired by Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan.
- The 'Chintan' will be the first-ever conference of the heads of all tri-services institutions, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) and the three services

10. INS SHARDA AWARDED 'ON THE SPOT UNIT CITATION' FOR ANTI PIRACY OPERATIONS / INS

- Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, during his visit to Southern Naval Command, Kochi, awarded 'On the Spot Unit Citation' to INS Sharda for successful conduct of antipiracy operations.
- The ship was involved in the safe release of all 19 crew members (11 Iranian & 08 Pakistani) of Iranian fishing vessel Omari which was held hostage by pirates off East coast of Somalia.
- Situated in the Horn of Africa, bordered by the Gulf of Aden to the north, the Indian Ocean to the east, Kenya and Ethiopia to the west, and Djibouti to the northwest

Capital: Mogadishu
Currency: Somali shilling
President: Hassan Sheikh Mohamud

11. COAST GUARD INAUGURATES AQUATIC CENTRE AT MANDAPAM, TAMIL NADU

- Director General of the Indian Coast Guard, **Rakesh Pal**, inaugurated the **Indian Coast Guard Aquatic Centre** at the **ICGS Mandapam near Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu**
- The Indian Coast Guard was set up on **1 February 1977** under the **Union Ministry of Defence**
- The first ship of the Indian Coast Guard, **ICGS Kuthar**, was actually a naval ship of the Indian Navy, which was transferred to the Coast Guard.
- The first Director General of the Indian Coast Guard was **Vice-Admiral V.A. Kamath**.

12. SAGARKAVACH 2024: COASTAL SECURITY EXERCISE IN LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS

- A two-day coastal security exercise called **SagarKavach 01/24** was conducted off the Lakshadweep Islands
- The exercise involved the participation of all maritime security agencies, including the **Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Marine Police, Fisheries, Customs, and other security agencies**.
- The primary objective of the exercise was to validate the effectiveness of the coastal security mechanism in dealing with asymmetric threats emanating from the sea.

13. INDIA RECEIVES FRESH BATCH OF IGLA-S AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM FROM RUSSIA, TO BE DEPLOYED AT LAC

- **Indian Army received 24 Igla-S Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS), which were accompanied by 100 missiles.**
- The rest of these systems will be made in India through Transfer of Technology (ToT) from Russia.
- **This procurement aims to enhance the Army's Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) capabilities**, particularly in high mountainous terrain along the northern border.

Igla-S

- It is a man-portable air defence system (MANPADS) developed by Russia.
- It is known in the **West as SA-24 Grinch**.
- It entered service with the **Russian Army in 2004**.
- It has the capability of bringing down low-flying aircraft. It can also identify and **neutralise air targets, such as cruise missiles and drones**.
- It has an **effective range upto 6 km**.
- The limiting altitude of effective target destruction for the "**Igla-S**" complex is **3.5 km**.

Sports

Current Affairs

**April
2024**

1. YUVRAJ SINGH BECOMES ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2024 AMBASSADOR

- Yuvraj Singh joins Chris Gayle and Usain Bolt as previously announced ambassadors.
- Usain Bolt is a **Jamaican** international sprinter and **eight-time Olympic gold medalist**. All this will add to the excitement of the biggest T20 World Cup ever.

2. SANA MIR NAMED AMBASSADOR OF ICC WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

3. STEFANOS TSITSIPAS WON MONTE CARLO MASTERS TITLE FOR THE THIRD TIME

- Greece's 25-year-old tennis player Stefanos Tsitsipas won his third ATP Monte Carlo Masters 1000 title by defeating Norway's Casper Ruud in straight sets 6-1, 6-4. They also won the title in 2021 and 2022.
- With the win in Monte Carlo, Stefanos also moved into the top 10 ATP rankings.
- Rafael Nadal has won the Monte Carlo Masters a record 11 times. With the win in Monte Carlo, Stefanos also moved into the top 10 ATP rankings.

4. USAIN BOLT TO BE THE BRAND AMBASSADOR OF THE 2024 ICC T20 WORLD CUP

- Legendary Jamaican sprinter **Usain Bolt** has been named by the International Cricket Council (ICC) as the ambassador for the **9th ICC Men's T-20 World Cup**, which will be hosted by the **West Indies** and the **United States of America** jointly from 1 to 29 June 2024.
- **International Cricket Council (ICC)**
- The International Cricket Council is the world governing body of men's and women's cricket.
- Initially, it was founded as the Imperial Cricket Conference in 1909.
- **Members:** 108 members.
- **Headquarters:** Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- **Chairman of ICC:** Greg Barclay of New Zealand
- **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICC:** Geoff Allardice of Australia



5. ARJUN BABUTA BREACHES AIR RIFLE WORLD RECORD IN OLYMPIC SELECTION TRIALS

- In men's **10M Air Rifle**.
- His tally of 254.0 was 0.3 above the mark set by fellow finalist and India teammate **Divyansh Singh Panwar**, at the Cairo World Cup earlier this year.

6. INDIAN PARA-SHOOTER MONA AGGARWAL CLAIMED A GOLD MEDAL AT WORLD SHOOTING PARA SPORT TOURNAMENT

- At the World Shooting Para Sport tournament in Changwon, Korea
- Aggarwal claimed a gold medal in women's 10m air rifle
- **Army man Amir Ahmed Bhatt secured a silver in 25m pistol**

7. HISTORIC GOLD FOR THE INDIAN ARCHERY TEAM AT THE ARCHERY WORLD CUP STAGE-1

- **The Indian men's recurve team won a historic gold medal at the Archery World Cup Stage-1** by defeating the world-champion **South Korean team** for the first time ever.
- **The gold medal ended a 14-year gold medal drought** at the men's recurve team event at the Archery World Cup.
- **India finished the Archery World Cup Stage 1 in Shanghai with eight medals - five gold, two silvers and one bronze.**
- The Indian men's recurve team of **Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai and Pravin Jadhav** defeated the World no.1 ranked South Korean team in the final. The Indian team defeated South Korea's team consisting of World and Asian Games champions Lee Wooseok and Olympic champions Kim Je Deok and Kim Woojin.
- It consisted of eight men and eight women players. **eight medals - five gold, two silvers and one bronze.**

8. V SENTHILKUMAR WINS BATCH OPEN SQUASH TITLE

- National men's Squash champion **Velavan Senthilkumar** defeated Melvil Scianimanico of France to win the Batch Open Challenger Squash. This was the **eighth PSA (Professional Squash Association)** title for the **US-based Indian Velavan Senthilkumar**.
- However, the International Olympic Committee has decided to **introduce Squash in the Los Angeles Summer Olympics 2028 for the first time.**

- The Batch Open was organised by the world squash governing body Professional Squash Association with the host French Squash Federation at Jeu de Paume, **Paris**, France,
- 9. YUZVENDRA CHahal BECOMES FIRST BOWLER WITH HISTORIC 200 IPL WICKETS**
 - The leg-spinner accomplished the milestone in Rajasthan Royal's match against Hardik Pandya's Mumbai Indians.
- 10. MARCUS STOINIS REGISTERS HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORE DURING RUN-CHASE IN IPL HISTORY**
 - Australia and Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) all-rounder Marcus Stoinis registered the highest individual score ever during a run chase in the Indian Premier League (IPL)
 - made an unbeaten 124* in 63 balls
 - **Chris Gayle**, holds the record of highest individual score in IPL cricket - 175* runs of 66 ball. Gayle made the record as a part of the Royal Challengers Bangalore against Sahara Pune Warriors in IPL 2013.
- 11. YUKI BHAMBRI WINS BMW OPEN TENNIS DOUBLES TITLE**
 - Indian tennis player **Yuki Bhambri** and his French partner **Albano Olivetti** won the **2024 BMW Open tennis tournament** title.
 - The BMW Open tennis title, also popularly known as **Bavarian International Tennis Championship**, is an ATP 250 event which is played on the clay court.
 - ATP 250 events mean that the winner gets 250 ranking points. The BMW Open is held in **Munich, Germany**.
 - **Yuki Bhambri** also became the **first Indian tennis player to win the Bavarian International Tennis Championships**, which has been held since 1899.
- 12. DJOKOVIC, BILES, BONMATÍ & BELLINGHAM WINNERS OF LAUREUS SPORTS AWARDS**
 - **Novak Djokovic, Simone Biles, Aitana Bonmatí, and Jude Bellingham** was honored at the **2024 Laureus Sports Awards** ceremony held in Madrid.
 - The event was a grand celebration of the world's best athletes and their achievements.
 - **Novak Djokovic**, the world's top-ranked tennis player, was named the **Laureus World Sportsman of the Year for the fifth time**, matching Roger Federer's record.
 - **Aitana Bonmatí**, a **Barcelona and Spain football star**, made history as the first footballer to win the Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year award.
 - **Simone Biles**, an **American artistic gymnast**, became the most decorated gymnast in history, with 37 World and Olympic medals.
 - **Jude Bellingham**, an **English professional footballer** who plays as a midfielder for Real Madrid and the England national team, was also honored at the ceremony.
 - The **Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar** won the Laureus Sporting Moment Award (2000-2020).
 - **Neeraj Chopra**, an Indian Tokyo Olympics gold medalist, is the third Indian after **Vinesh Phogat** and **Sachin Tendulkar** who was **nominated** for the Laureus World Sports Awards.
- 13. SAURAV GHOSAL RETIRES FROM PROFESSIONAL SQUASH**
 - India's most successful male squash player, **Saurav Ghosal**, has announced his retirement from professional squash.
 - Saurav Ghosal announced his retirement. It brings an end to a 21-year-old successful career in professional squash.
 - **First squash player to be Awarded Arjuna Award**
 - In 2007, Saurav Ghosal became the first ever squash player to be awarded country's second highest sport award, Arjuna Award.
- 14. SREEJA AKULA BECOMES INDIA'S NUMBER 1 TT PLAYER BY SURPASSING MANIKA**
 - In the latest ITTF Table Tennis World Rankings released on 23 April 2024, **Sreeja Akula** jumped one place to 38th in the world ranking.
 - With this Sreeja Akula became the top ranked women's singles table tennis player in India. In this sequence, Sreeja Akula left **Manika Batra** behind.
- 15. CASPER RUUD WINS BARCELONA OPEN, RYBAKINA CLINCHES STUTTGART OPEN**
 - World number six ranked player **Casper Ruud** of Norway defeated **Stefanos Tsitsipas** of Greece to win the ATP Barcelona Open 500 tennis title's singles title.
 - **Elena Rybakina** of Kazakhstan defeated **Marta Kostyuk** of Ukraine to win the singles title of the WTA Stuttgart Grand Prix.
- 16. NITIN MENON & JAVAGALSRINATH RETAINED IN THE ICC ELITE PANEL**
 - India's **Nitin Menon** and **Javagal Srinath** have been retained by the **International Cricket Council** in its Elite Panel of Umpires and Match Referees.
- 17. DHARAMSALA TO GET INDIA'S FIRST 'HYBRID PITCH'**
 - Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium has become the first BCCI-accredited venue to install a state-of-the-art 'hybrid pitch' and future international and IPL matches will be held on this track.
 - The Netherlands-based 'SISGrass', a part of the SIS Pitches group of companies, has been roped in for the first-ever hybrid pitch installation.
 - This cutting-edge technology will transform the game by providing a more durable, consistent, and high-performing playing surface.
- 18. PAT CUMMINS, NAT SCIVER-BRUNT NAMED AS WISDEN'S LEADING CRICKETERS IN THE WORLD**
 - England all-rounder Nat Sciver-Brunt and Australia captain Pat Cummins have been named as the Leading Cricketers (Women and Men) in the World in the 2024 edition of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack.

- Sciver-Brunt becomes the first English woman to be given the honour
- Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, or simply Wisden, colloquially the Bible of Cricket, is a cricket reference book published annually in the United Kingdom.

19. ROHIT BECOMES FIRST INDIAN TO HIT 500 T20 SIXES

- India and Mumbai Indians star batter Rohit Sharma became the first Indian to **smash 500 sixes in T20 cricket**.
- He achieved this milestone during Indian Premier League (IPL) match against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at Wankhede Stadium.
- Rohit's tally has **gone up to 502 sixes**.
- Only Chris Gayle, Kieron Pollard, Andre Russell, Colin Munro have more T20 sixes to their name.

20. INDIA'S GUKESH D MAKES HISTORY, BECOMES YOUNGEST TO WIN CANDIDATES CHESS TOURNAMENT

- D Gukesh, the 17-year-old from Chennai **has become the youngest ever winner of the prestigious Candidates tournament** (which will also make him the youngest ever to compete at the World Chess Championship) **after his draw against Hikaru Nakamura in the final round of the Candidates chess tournament**.
- **D Gukesh will take on reigning world champion, China's Ding Liren, for the crown later this year**
- D Gukesh became only the second Indian after the great Viswanathan Anand to win the Candidates. Five-time world champion Anand's triumph came in 2014



21. ANOTHER RACE, ANOTHER VICTORY FOR RED BULL'S MAX VERSTAPPEN AT CHINESE GP

- **Red Bull's Max Verstappen, the threetime defending champion won the Chinese Grand Prix**, making it four wins from five races in the 2024 season.
- ❖ **Previous wins: 1) Bahrain GP 2) Saudi Arabia 3) GP Japan GP**

22. TAKSHVI VAGHANI SETS NEW WORLD RECORD FOR THE LOWEST LIMBO SKATING OVER 25 METRES

- **Takshvi Vaghani** has etched her name in the record books by setting a new world record for the **lowest limbo skating over 25 metres**.

23. INDIA FINISHES ASIAN WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2024 WITH NINE MEDALS

- The senior Indian wrestling team finished their campaign at the 20th Asian Wrestling Championship by winning **nine medals - four silvers and five bronzes**.
- A total of 30 Indian men and women wrestlers competed in the championship.
- Amongst the Indian wrestlers, only **Antim Panghal** has secured a quota for the Paris Olympics 2024.
- The men's wrestlers participated in the freestyle and Greco-Roman events while the women's team participated only in the freestyle events.

24. NEPAL'S BATSMAN DEEPENDRA SINGH ARI BECAME THE THIRD PLAYER IN THE WORLD TO HIT SIX SIXES IN AN OVER IN INTERNATIONAL T20

- The 24-year-old joins **India's Yuvraj Singh and West Indies' Kieron Pollard** after his **explosive innings against Qatar** in the ACC Men's Premier Cup match in the Al Emirates.
- This is the second time that 24-year-old Ari has hit six sixes in a row. Ari had earlier hit **six sixes in a row in the Asian Games match against Mongolia** last year, but that was spread over two overs.
- **Herschelle Gibbs** of South Africa and **Jaskaran Malhotra** of USA has achieved this feat in One Day International cricket, whereas no one has been able to do so in Test cricket.

25. LITHUANIA'S MYKOLAS ALEKNA SHATTERS DECADES-OLD DISCUS THROW RECORD

- Mykolas Alekna broke the longest-standing men's athletics world record when he smashed the mark in the discus throw on 14 April 2024, with a heave of 74.35m* at the **Oklahoma Throws Series competition in Ramona**.
- The European gold medallist's mark of 74.35m was initially measured as 74.41m, but later revised.

26. FIRST SPORT TO PAY MEDAL WINNER PRIZE MONEY IN OLYMPICS: TRACK & FIELD

- **World Athletics** has announced that it will award prize money to the athletes who win a **gold medal** at the Paris Olympics 2024.
- Track and field has become the first sport in the modern Olympics to offer prize money at the Olympics.
- The World Athletics plans to start prize money for the silver and bronze medal winners from the **2028 Olympics in Los Angeles**.
- Created a **\$2.4 million fund** for this purpose. Every gold-winning track and field athlete in the **48 men's, women's, and mixed events** of the Paris Olympics will receive \$50,000 prize money each.

World Athletics

- World Athletics is the world governing body of **track and field athletics**. It was initially set up as the International Amateur Athletic Federation on 17 July 1912 in Stockholm, Sweden
- In 2001, its name was changed to 'International Association of Athletics Federations', and finally, in 2019, to World Athletics.

Headquarters: **Monaco**
President: **Sebastian Coe**

27. MANIPUR'S PANTHOICHANU MAKES HISTORY: FIRST INDIAN TO PLAY IN AUSTRALIAN PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE

- She assumes her position to the **Metro United WFC** in the esteemed **South Australian Women's National Premier League**.

28. MARY KOM STEPS DOWN AS PARIS OLYMPICS CHEF-DE-MISSION

- **Six-time world champion boxer M C Mary Kom** stepped down as India's chef-de-mission for the upcoming **Paris Olympics**, due to some personal reasons.
- Earlier, table tennis star **Sharath Kamal**, who will head into his sixth Olympics, was named as the male flag-bearer

29. RASHMIKUMARI WINS NATIONAL WOMEN'S CARROM TITLE FOR THE 12TH TIME

- **Rashmi Kumari** has etched her name deeper into the annals of **Indian carrom history** by claiming her **12th National Carrom Championship title**.
- The three-time World Champion overcame a tough challenge from **K Nagajothi** in the **women's final**, emerging victorious with a scoreline of 25-8, 14-20, 25-20.

30. CHIRAG -SATWIKSAIRAJ BREAK SAINANEHWAL'S RECORD AS WORLD NO. 1 IN BADMINTON RANKINGS

- **Chirag Shetty** and **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** on Friday created a new record for being Men's badminton doubles pair for 10 weeks now.
- **Saina Nehwal** climbed up to the No. 1 rank in the badminton rankings on August 18, 2015, and remained there till October 21, 2015, for nine weeks.
- The first Indian badminton player to be crowned world No.1 was **Kidambi Srikanth**. He reached the world No.1 ranking in men's singles in April 2018. He was No.1 for only one week.
- The second Indian player was **Saina Nehwal**. She became the world's No.1 player in women's singles on 18 August 2015 and remained there for nine weeks, till 21 October 2015.

31. SREEJESH AND CAMILACARAM APPOINTED AS CO-CHAIRS IN FIH ATHLETES COMMITTEE

- **International Hockey Federation (FIH)** has named legendary goalkeeper **P.R. Sreejesh** and Chile's **Camila Caram** as the co-chairs of the **FIH Athletes Committee**.
- The **FIH Athletes Committee** is a **consultative body** that provides recommendations to the **FIH Executive Board** and other bodies.
- **FIH President Tayyab Ikram**

32. SHARFUDDOULA BECOMES BANGLADESH'S FIRST ICC ELITE UMPIRE

- **Sharfuddoula** has created history by becoming the first **Bangladeshi umpire** to be appointed to the **ICC Elite Panel of Umpires**.

33. HARDIK SINGH AND SALIMATETE HONoured AT HOCKEY INDIA AWARDS 2023

- **Hardik Singh** and **Salima Tete** were named the **Players of the Year** for **2023** in the men's and women's categories, respectively, at the **sixth annual Hockey India Awards**.
- Hockey India announced the **revival of the Hockey India League (HIL)**, which will return in **January 2025** after a hiatus since 2017
- The revived league will feature **eight men's teams** and **six women's teams**, with auctions likely to be held after the **Paris Olympics**

34. ROHANBOPANNA AND MATT EBDEN TRIUMPH AT MIAMI OPEN

- The top-seeded duo of **Rohan Bopanna** from India and **Matthew Ebden** from Australia won the **Men's Doubles Title** at the **Miami Open**, a prestigious **ATP Masters** tennis tournament.
- In an exciting final, they **defeated** the second seeds **Ivan Dodig** and **Austin Krajicek** with a score of **6-7(3), 6-3, [10-6]**.
- **Women's singles** American **Danielle Collins** defeated **Elena Rybakina**
- **Men's singles** Italian **Jannik Sinner** defeated **Grigor Dimitrov**.

35. MS DHONI SCRIPTS HISTORY IN T20 CRICKET

- **Mahendra Singh Dhoni**, the legendary **wicketkeeper-batter**, has fetched his name in the history books once again.
- During an **Indian Premier League (IPL)** match between **Delhi Capitals (DC)** and **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)**, Dhoni achieved a remarkable feat, becoming the first **wicketkeeper** to record **300 dismissals** in **T20 cricket**.

Most Dismissals by Wicketkeepers in T20s

300 – MS Dhoni	274 – Kamran Akmal
274 – Dinesh Karthik	270 – Quinton de Kock
209 – Jos Buttler	

36. NOVAK DJOKOVIC BECOMES THE OLDEST WORLD NO. 1 IN ATP RANKINGS HISTORY

- **Novak Djokovic**, the **24-time Grand Slam champion**, continues to break records on the ATP Tour. As of this week, he begins his **419th week** as the **World No. 1**, extending his huge record.
- Djokovic will surpass **Roger Federer's record** and become the **oldest World No. 1** in ATP Rankings history at the age of **36 years and 321 days**.

37. MAHARASHTRA MEN'S AND WOMEN NATIONAL KHOKHO CHAMPION

- The **Maharashtra team** made a clean sweep at the **56th National KhoKho Championship 2023-24**.
- In the final match played at the **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium**, the **Maharashtra men's team** defeated the **Indian Railway team**
- In the women's category, the **Maharashtra team**, led by **Sampada Maurya**, defeated the **Airport Authority of India team** by 18-16 points

- The 56th National KhoKho Championship 2023-24 was organised by the KhoKho Federation of India at Delhi's Karnail Singh Stadium and the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium from 28 March to 1 April 2024.

38. MIRABAI CHANU BECOMES THE ONLY INDIAN WEIGHTLIFTER TO QUALIFY FOR PARIS OLYMPICS

- Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Mirabai Chanu finished third in Group B of the women's 49kg at the IWF World Cup in Phuket, Thailand.

39. BINDYARANI DEVI WINS BRONZE IN THE IWF WORLD CUP

- 25 year old Bindyarani Devi, competing in the women's 55 kg category, recorded a lift of 196 kg .It included 83 kg snatch and 113 kg clean and jerk) to bag the bronze medal.
- The IWF World Cup 2024 is being organised by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) in Phuket, Thailand.

40. SUMIT NAGAL ATTAINS CAREER-HIGH ATP RANKING OF 95

- Ace Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal achieved a career-high ranking of 95 in the ATP singles chart.
- He recently won the Chennai Open, an ATP Challenger series event.
- Nagal made headlines in January after he made it to the main draw of the Australian Open and also became the first Indian to beat a seeded player (Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan) in the same.

41. CHESS: INDIA HAS A NEW NO. 1 AS ARJUNERIGAIISI CLIMBS TO NO. 9 IN THE WORLD

- In the latest FIDE rankings released by the world governing body of chess, India has a new number 1 chess player – Arjun Erigaisi.
- With a standard rating of 2756, Erigaisi is ranked ninth in the world.
- This is his debut in the top 10 of the Open standard list.
- Following Erigaisi is the five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand, who is the second-ranked Indian on the FIDE list.
- The 21-year-old Erigaisi collected eight points in the 5th Shengzhen Chess Masters and Bundesliga, which propelled him to the ninth position on the list.

42. INDIA TOP DOPE OFFENDING COUNTRY IN WORLD: WADA

- Percentage wise the maximum dope offending sample were from India. 3.2% of the total samples tested positive. India reported the highest number of doping cases in the world in 2022.
- In second place was South Africa. Of the total 58 samples tested 2.9% were tested positive.
- In third place was Kazakhstan with 1.9% of its 2,174 samples testing positive.

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

- The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) was established in 1999 as an international independent agency composed and funded by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and governments of the world.

- Headquarters: Montreal, Canada
- President: Witold Bańka

43. BILQUIS MIR, THE FIRST INDIAN WOMAN JURY MEMBER AT THE PARIS OLYMPICS

- Bilquis Mir of Jammu Kashmir has become the first Indian to be appointed a jury member at the 33rd Summer Olympics to be held in Paris, France
- She is also the first woman from India to be made a jury member in the Olympics games. Bilquis Mir, who is a qualified jury member, was a jury member at the 19th Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China, last year.

44. MAX VERSTAPPEN OF RED BULL DOMINATED THE JAPANESE GRAND PRIX

- Triple world champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull dominated the Japanese Grand Prix, leading a one-two finish for his team alongside teammate Sergio Perez.

45. OLYMPIC CHAMPION VALERIE ADAMS NAMED AMBASSADOR FOR TCS WORLD 10K BENGALURU 2024

- Iconic shot putter and two-time Olympic medalist, Valerie Adams, has been named the International Event Ambassador for the 16th edition of the Tata Consultancy Services World 10K Bengaluru.

46. MOHAMMEDAN SPORTING WON I- LEAGUE 2023-24 TITLE

- Mohammedan Sporting of Kolkata won the I-League 2023-24 by defeating Shillong Lajong Club 2-1 on 6 April 2024 at the SSA Ground in Shillong, Meghalaya.
- Mohammedan Sporting, known as Black and White Brigade
- The I-League is a professional men's football league started in 2007-08 by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) . The I-League replaced the National Football League
- Dempo Sports Club of Goa won the first I-League in 2007-08. It is also the most successful team in the I-League history, winning the title 3 times.
- The 2022-23 champion teams were Round Glass Punjab.

47. SUMITNAGAL BECOMES FIRST INDIAN TO WIN MONTE-CARLO MASTERS SINGLES MAIN DRAW IN 42 YEARS

- Sumit Nagal created history, becoming the first Indian to record a main-draw win at Monte Carlo Masters, beating Italy's Matteo Arnaldi in the first round
- He is only the third Indian to feature in the main draw in Monte Carlo after Vijay Amritraj (1977) and Ramesh Krishnan (1982)
- Nagal is also the first Indian to win an ATP Masters 1000 match on clay since the series began in 1990.

48. HARENDRA SINGH HAS BEEN APPOINTED NATIONAL WOMEN'S HOCKEY COACH

- Former Indian Hockey player and Dronacharya awardee Harendra Singh has been selected by Hockey India as the coach of the senior national women's hockey team.

- He will be **appointed coach until the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics**.
- Harendra Singh will replace **JannekeSchopman** of Holland JannekeSchopman, who is a former Dutch hockey player

49. INDIAN-AMERICAN GOLFER AKSHAY BHATIA WINS THE VALERO TEXAS OPEN

50. SRI LANKAN STAR KAMINDUMENDIS AND ENGLAND'S MAIA BOUCHIER CROWNED ICC PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

51. UDIT WINS SILVER AT THE ASIAN WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

- **Indian male wrestlers won three medals, one silver and two bronze medals**, on the first day of the **20th Asian Wrestling Championship 2024**.
- The 20th Asian Wrestling Championship 2024 was held in the Kyrgyzstan capital, **Bishkek**
- The U20 Asian champion **Udit lost his gold medal match against Japan's KentoYumiya**. In the **57kg freestyle category** final match, settle for a **silver medal**.

Awards

April 2024

1. AMITABH BACHCHAN WILL RECEIVE LATA DEENANATH MANGESHKAR AWARD

- Hindi cinema actor Amitabh Bachchan, RANDEEP HOODA, AR REHMAN will be honoured with the third Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award to be held this year.
The award was announced at a press conference organized by the Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smriti Pratisthan Public Charitable Trust and the Mangeshkar family.
- This award was started by the Trust and the Mangeshkar family in the year 2022 in the memory of Bharat Ratna and Swara Kokila late Lata Mangeshkar.
This award is given to a person who has made a path-breaking and exemplary contribution to the people of the nation and society.
Earlier, in the year 2022 and 2023, this award was given to PM Narendra Modi and singer Asha Bhosle respectively.



2. RATAN TATA RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS KISS HUMANITARIAN AWARD 2021

- Renowned industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of the Tata Group, was honored with the esteemed KISS Humanitarian Award 2021 at a ceremony held at his Mumbai residence.
- The award, initiated in 2008 by Achyuta Samanta, recognizes individuals and organizations epitomizing humanitarian efforts globally.

3. MATTER BAGGED CLARIVATE SOUTH ASIA INNOVATION AWARD 2024 IN AUTOMOTIVE CATEGORY

- MATTER, a leader in India's electric mobility and energy sector, clinched the Clarivate South Asia Innovation Award 2024 in automotive category.
- The company boasts an impressive portfolio of patents, focusing on cutting-edge solutions for thermal management, motor assembly, and energy storage.

Padma Awards 2024	Padma Vibhushan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total 132 Padma Awards announced The list comprises 5 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan, and 110 Padma Shri Awards. 30 of the awardees are women. 8 persons from the category of Foreigners / NRI / PIO / OCI 9 Posthumous awardees. The awards are announced on the Eve of Republic Day every year. These Awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year. Padma Awards were instituted in the year 1954. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Former Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu Actors Chiranjeevi Vyjayanthimala Bali Bharatanatyam dancer Padma Subrahmanyam Bindeshwar Pathak, founder of Sulabh International (posthumous) Nirmal Rishi and Pran Sabharwal honored for their exemplary work in Punjabi film and theater

4. GINA JUSTUS RECEIVES 2024 CAMBRIDGE DEDICATED TEACHER AWARD FOR MENA

- Sharjah Girls Branch teacher Gina Justus has been named regional winner for the **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** at the **2024 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards**. Gina Justus is an English High School teacher in Sharjah Girls Branch, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- India's **Meena Mishra** has also been included among the total nine regional winners in this competition. Meena Mishra is a teacher at **Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan International School, Mumbai**.

5. ALOK SHUKLA GET'S 2024 GOLDMAN PRIZE FOR HIS HASDEO ARAND MOVEMENT

- Chhattisgarh's environmental activist and convenor of Chhattisgarh BachaoAndolan **Alok Shukla** has been selected for the **2024 Goldman Environmental Prize**. The Goldman Environmental Prize, also popularly known as the **Green Nobel Prize**, is awarded annually to grassroots environmental champions worldwide.

Sr no.	Winner	Country	Region
1	Marcel Gomes	Brazil	South and Central America
2	MurrawahMaroochy Johnson	Australia	Islands & Island Nations
3	Alok Shukla	India	Asia
4	Teresa Vicente	Spain	Europe
5	Andrea Vidaurre	United States of America	North America
6	Nonhle Mbuthuma and Sinegugu Zukulu	South Africa	Africa

6. HEMA MALINI, SAIRA BANU & 8 OTHERS TO GET PT. LACCHU MAHARAJ AWARD

- Noted Hindi film superstars **Hema Malini** and **Saira Banu** as well as other prominent personalities from the fields of art and culture, will be honoured with the prestigious **Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award**.
- The **Lacchu Maharaj Award**, Instituted in memory of the famous kathak exponent **Lacchu Maharaj**, was not given after 2014. Thus, the **Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Ballet Foundation** has decided to honour 10 personalities this year. No award has been announced for the year 2020 due to COVID-19.

Sr. No.	Awardee	Award for Year	Belongs to Place	Exponent of Dance form
1	Uma Sharma	2015	New Delhi	Kathak
2	Rama Vaidyanathan	2016	New Delhi	Kathak
3	Uma Dogra	2017	Jaipur	Kathak
4	Hema Malini	2018	Mumbai	Kathak, Film actress
5	Saira Banu	2019	Mumbai	Kathak, Film actress
6	Sandhya Puricha, Chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi	2018	Mumbai	Bharatanatyam Exponent
7	Dr. Malabika Mitra	2021	Kolkata	Kathak
8	Prachi Shah	2022	Mumbai	Kathak, Film actress
9	Ashim Bandhu Bhattacharya	2023	Mumbai	Kathak
10	Pandit Rajendra Gangani	2024	Jaipur	Kathak

About Kathak Dance

- The government of India recognises Kathak as one of eight classical dance forms. The other classical dance forms are **Bharatnatyam (Tamil Nadu)**, **Kuchipudi (Andhra Pradesh)**, **Odissi (Odisha)**, **Manipuri (Manipur)**, **Sattriya (Assam)**, **Kuchipudi**, and **Mohiniyattam** from Kerala.
- Kathak originated in North India and was later enriched by the Mughals.
- **It is the only classical dance form which has been enriched by Muslim culture.**
- **Wajid Ali Shah**, the last Nawab of Oudh (Awadh), founded the **Lucknow** gharana of Kathak. The other gharanas of Kathak are **Jaipur** and **Benaras**.
- The most famous exponent of Kathak is **Birju Maharaj**.

7. IREDA GRANTED PRESTIGIOUS 'NAVRATNA' STATUS BY GOVERNMENT

- The **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)**, a public sector enterprise, has been granted the coveted '**Navratna**' status by the government, according to a recent filing with the stock exchanges.
- This prestigious designation takes the total number of **Navratna PSEs (Public Sector Enterprises)** in India to 17.

8. KAUSHIK RAJASHEKARA HONORED WITH INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP BY THE ENGINEERING ACADEMY OF JAPAN

- **Kaushik Rajashekara**, a distinguished professor at the **University of Houston's Cullen College of Engineering**, has been elected as an **International Fellow** of the prestigious **Engineering Academy of Japan**.
- This honour recognizes his outstanding contributions to the field of **power conversion** and the **electrification of transportation**.

9. PAVULURI SUBBA RAO HONOURED WITH ARYABHATTA AWARD FOR ASTRONAUTICS CONTRIBUTION

- **Pavuluri Subba Rao**, the Founder, CEO, and Chairman of **Ananth Technologies**, has been conferred with the prestigious '**Aryabhatta Award**' by the **Aeronautical Society of India (ASI)**.
- This honour recognizes Rao's "**tremendous lifetime contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India.**"

10. INDIAN-BRITISH WRITER'S BOOK ON AI SHORTLISTED FOR WOMEN'S PRIZE

- **Indian-British journalist** and commentator **Madhumita Murgia's** book "**Code Dependent: Living in the Shadow of AI**" has been shortlisted for the 2024 inaugural **Women's Prize for Non-Fiction**.

11. PRESTIGIOUS JOHN DIRKS GAIRDNER GLOBAL HEALTH AWARD FOR DR. GAGANDEEP KANG

- **Dr. Gagandeep Kang**, an Indian researcher, has been awarded the **2024 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award** for her achievements in global health research.
- The **John Dirks Award** in global health is awarded by the **Gairdner Foundation in Canada**.

12. KANNADA POET MAMTA G SAGAR RECEIVES AN INTERNATIONAL LITERARY AWARD

- Kannada poet, **Mamta Ji Sagar** was honored with the **World Literary Prize** for her contribution to literature by the **World Organization of Writers (WOW)**

13. PRINCETON PROFESSOR AV WIGDERSON HONORED WITH NOBEL COMPUTING AWARD 'AM TURING AWARD'

- The **Association for Computing Machinery** has awarded Israeli mathematician and Princeton professor **Avi Wigderson** the **AM Turing Award**. The **Turing Award**, widely known as the "**Nobel Prize of computing**".

- The first annual A. M. Turing Award was distributed in 1966. It is named after Alan M. Turing, a British mathematician who was famous for helping decipher Enigma during World War II.
- In 2021, Wigderson won the Abel Prize, considered the Nobel Prize of mathematics, awarded by the King of Norway. He became the first person to receive both the Abel and Turing awards.

14. ALLU ARJUN BECOMES FIRST SOUTH INDIAN ACTOR TO GET A WAX STATUE AT MADAME TUSSAUDS DUBAI

15. PROF. MEENA CHARANDA HONORED WITH 'INTERNATIONAL CULTURE AWARD'

16. REC WINS SKOCH ESG AWARD 2024 IN RENEWABLE ENERGY FINANCING CATEGORY

- REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been bestowed with the SKOCH ESG Award 2024 in the 'Renewable Energy Financing' category.

17. WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ANNOUNCES 2024 YOUNG GLOBAL LEADERS COMMUNITY

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) has announced the 20th edition of its Young Global Leaders Community.
- The list includes nearly 90 individuals under the age of 40 from diverse fields, including politics, business, civil society, the arts, and academia.

This year, five Indians have been selected for the Young Global Leaders program.

- Bhumi Pednekar (Art and Culture) – Bollywood actress known for films like "Dum LagaKeHaisha", "Toilet: EkPrem Katha", and "Badhaai Do"
- Adwaita Nayar (Business) – Chief Executive Officer, Nyka Fashion
- Arjun Bhartia (Business) – Director, Jubilant Group
- Priya Aggarwal Hebbar (Business) – Non-Executive Director, Vedanta Limited.
- Sharad Vivek Sagar (Social Entrepreneurs) – Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Dexterity Global

18. 15TH CIDC VISHWAKARMA AWARDS 2024 HONOUR SJVN FOR ITS CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY CONTRIBUTION

- SJVN Limited (Miniratnacompany) has been awarded the Achievement Award for Creating Social Development and Impact by the Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC) for the third consecutive year
- The company has also received the CIDC Partners in Progress Trophy for its ongoing CSR initiatives
- SJVN Limited, a Mini Ratna- Category-I and Schedule - 'A' Central Public Sector Enterprise
- SJVN Ltd is a hydroelectric power generation company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power, Government of India
- Incorporated on May 24, 1988 as a joint venture of the Government of India (GOI) and the Government of Himachal Pradesh (GOHP)

19. RAGHU RAM RECEIVED FELLOWSHIP OF AMERICAN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION (ASA)

- The American Surgical Association (ASA) has honored Dr. Raghu Ram with an Honorary Fellowship on April 5, 2024 in Washington DC.
- Dr. Raghu Ram is the third surgeon from South Asia to receive the Honorary Fellowship of ASA, America's oldest and most prestigious surgical organization.
- Dr. Raghu Ram Pillarisetti is the founder director of KIMS-Ushalakshmi Center for Breast Diseases in Hyderabad.

20. GAIL WINS 15TH CIDC VISHWAKARMA AWARD FOR BARAUNI – GUWAHATI PIPELINE

- GAIL (India) Limited won the prestigious 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award in the 'Achievement Award for Best Construction Projects' category for its Barauni – Guwahati Natural Gas Pipeline project (BGPL).
- The 718km pipeline which traverses through Bihar, West Bengal and Assam has been built at a cost of Rs 3,992 crore by GAIL, a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

21. ALEKSEINAVALNY AND YULIANAVALNAYAHONoured WITH FREEDOM PRIZE

- The late Russian dissident Aleksei Navalny and his wife, Yulia Navalnaya, will receive the Freedom Prize of the Media from a leading German forum, the Ludwig Erhard Summit.
- The award is presented annually to public figures that have made significant contributions to freedom of expression, dialogue, and democracy.
- The Freedom Prize has been awarded to other prominent figures, including Russian politician Garry Kasparov in 2023 and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the past.

22. LOKESH MUNI HONoured WITH AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER AWARD 2024

- Jain Acharya Lokesh Muni has become the **first Indian monk** to be honoured with the **American President's Gold Volunteer Service award** in recognition of his contribution to the public good and humanity.
- Acharya Lokesh Muni is the founder of a non-governmental organisation, **Ahimsa Vishwa Bharat and the World Peace Center** in India.

Cinema

Current Affairs

**April
2024**

1. GEORGE LUCAS TO RECEIVE HONORARY PALME D'OR AT 2024 CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

- Hollywood veteran George Lucas will be felicitated with an honorary Palme d'Or at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival.
- Lucas is best known for creating the long running and smash hit franchises **Star Wars** and **Indiana Jones**
- The **77th edition of the Cannes Film Festival** will be held from May 14 to 25 in Cannes, France

2. INDIA'S FIRST AI-BASED FILM 'IRAH' TRAILER UNVEILED

- India's first Hindi film on this subject, **"IRAH,"** took place in Mumbai. The movie boasts an impressive cast, including **Rohit Bose Roy, Rajesh Sharma, Karishma Kotak,** and **Rakshith Bhandary** in prominent roles.
- Produced by **Big Films Media** and directed by **Sam Bhattacharjee**, **"IRAH"** is set to hit theaters nationwide on **April 4th, 2024**, through **Iamplex Digital Theatrical Distribution**
- The trailer of **"IRAH"** offers a glimpse into the **dark underbelly of AI technology**, highlighting its potential misuse and negative repercussions.



3. 'ALL WE IMAGINE AS LIGHT' WILL BE FIRST INDIAN FILM TO COMPETE AT CANNES FILM FESTIVAL IN 30 YEARS

- Writer-director **Payal Kapadia's** debut feature **All We Imagine as Light** becomes first Indian film since **Shaji N Karun's Swaham** (1994) to compete for **Palme d'Or** award ("Golden Palm") for the best film.
- **Chetan Anand's Neecha Nagar** is the only Indian film to have won the **Palme d'Or** at the Cannes Film Festival in 1946

4. "SUNFLOWERS WERE THE FIRST ONES TO KNOW" - FILM BY FTII STUDENT SELECTED AT 77TH CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 'LA CINEF' CATEGORY

- Four students from the **Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)** in Pune, have pulled off the remarkable achievement of having their short film, **'Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know'**, securing a spot in the competition at the **La Cinef** section of the 2024 Cannes Film Festival, France. The film, directed by **Chidanand S Naik**.
- **'La Cinef'** is the official section for film schools across the world to encourage new talent.
- **'All We Imagine as Light'** by **Payal Kapadia** in the official competition of the Cannes Film Festival

Summits & conferences

**April
2024**

1. NSA DOVAL LEADS THE INDIAN DELEGATION AT SCO MEETING IN ASTANA

- The Indian National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval led the Indian delegation at the meeting of the Secretaries of the Security Councils of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- The meeting was held in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- He also met Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the current Chairman of SCO.
- Trained on human reactions, EVI learns from users to enhance positive expressions.
- By analyzing speech nuances, it can determine when to speak and generate empathic language

2. 16TH WORLD FUTURE ENERGY SUMMIT STARTED IN ABU DHABI

- The 16th World Future Energy Summit has recently commenced in Abu Dhabi, gathering global leaders, policymakers, and experts in the field of sustainable energy and climate initiatives.
- The summit aims to position itself as a leading forum for discussion on global climate action, renewable energy, energy and water security, and sustainable development.



3. TWO DAY CRITICAL MINERALS SUMMIT OF MINES MINISTRY STARTED

- The Ministry of Mines is organizing the "Critical Minerals Summit: Enhancing Beneficiation and Processing Capabilities" in partnership with the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (Shakti), Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), and Indian Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD).
- This two-day summit will take place from April 29th to April 30th, 2024, at the India Habitat Centre in Lodhi Estate, New Delhi.
- The Critical Minerals Summit is an essential event that aims to promote collaboration, share knowledge and drive innovation in the critical mineral beneficiation and processing industry.

Reports & Indices

**April
2024**

1. FOOD WASTE INDEX REPORT 2024

- Households across the globe wasted over **one billion meals** a day in 2022, even as **783 million people** struggled with **hunger and a third of humanity** faced food insecurity,
- According to the Food Waste Index Report 2024, a study jointly authored by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** and **WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme)**, a **U.K.-based non-profit**
- The report, released ahead of the International Day of Zero Waste (March 30), noted that in 2022, **there were 1.05 billion tonnes of food waste generated (including inedible parts), amounting to 132 kilograms per capita and almost one-fifth of all food available to consumers.**
- At present, **only four G-20 countries (Australia, Japan, U.K., U.S)** and the European Union have food waste estimates suitable for **tracking progress to 2030.**

2. LANCET STUDY EXPECTED GLOBAL LIFE EXPECTANCY UP 6.2 YEARS SINCE 1990

- According to a Lancet study, people worldwide are living more than six years longer on average in 2021 than they did in 1990.
- The study also showed that life expectancy in India has increased by nearly eight years in the past three decades.
- **Bhutan has biggest life expectancy gain** of 13.6 years, followed by Bangladesh with a gain of 13.3 years, Nepal with 10.4 years and Pakistan with a modest increase of 2.5 years

3. THE CARBON MAJORS REPORT BY INFLUENCEMAP

- Report by non-profit think tank InfluenceMap.
- From 2016 to 2022, **80% of the world's CO₂ emissions** can be traced to a group of just 57 fossil fuels and cement producing companies.
- The world's top three CO₂-emitting companies in the period were Saudi Arabian state-owned oil firm Saudi Aramco, Russia's state-owned energy giant Gazprom and Indian state-owned producer Coal India.
- The report found most companies had **expanded their fossil fuel production since 2015**, the year when nearly all countries signed the **U.N. Paris Agreement**, committing to take action to curb climate change.
- **Global energy-related CO₂ emissions hit a record high last year,"** the International Energy Agency

U.N. Paris Agreement

- The Paris Agreement is a **legally binding international treaty** on climate change. It was **adopted by 196 Parties** at the **UN Climate Change Conference (COP21)** in Paris, France, on 12 December 2015. It entered into force on 4 November 2016.
- Its overarching goal is to hold **"the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels"** and pursue efforts **"to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels."**

4. UNICORNS WORLDWIDE: INDIA RANKS THIRD WITH 67 UNICORNS, US HAS 703, CHINA HAS 340

- India in 2023 had 67 unicorns, which is one less than 68 such startups last year, according to the latest **Hurun Global Unicorn Index.**
- The US led the list with 703 unicorns, up 37 from 2022, and China with 340 unicorns.
- UK and EU ranked No 4 and No 5 in the list, respectively.

Rank	Rank Change	Unicorn	Valuation (US\$bn)	Change (US\$bn)	Country	Sector	Year Founded
1-	0	ByteDance	220	20	China	Social Media	2012
2-	0	SpaceX	180	43	USA	Aerospace	2002
3*	14	OpenAI	100	80	USA	AI	2015
4↓	-1	Ant Group	80	-40	China	FinTech	2014

5. THE 2024 EDITION OF THE QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS BY SUBJECT FEATURES 55 INDIVIDUAL SUBJECTS ACROSS FIVE BROAD SUBJECT AREAS.

- CEO of Quacquarelli Symonds (QS): Jessica Turner
- Headquarters of QS: London
- Founded Year: 1990
- Founded By: Nunzio Quacquarelli

6. IMPORTANT POINTS OF 14TH EDITION OF QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS BY SUBJECT 2024:

1. **Jawaharlal Nehru University** has made a big stride in the global rankings, debuting at **number 20 (for Development Studies)** and becoming India's highest-ranked university in the QS World University Rankings 2024 by Subject.
2. **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad** (at 22nd position globally) is among the top 25 institutions around the globe for **business and management studies**. This is India's second highest-ranked University by a subject.
3. **Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (SIMATS), Chennai**, grabbed the 24th position globally for **dentistry studies**.
 - This is India's third highest-ranked University by a subject. This is the only Indian university to achieve a perfect score (100/100) in one of the QS indicators, namely the **H Index**.
4. A total of **69 Indian universities with 424 entries** have made it to the QS World University Rankings by subject, marking a 19.4% rise from the previous year's 355 entries achieved by 66 universities.
5. The most represented Indian universities in this edition of the rankings are the University of Delhi (30 entries), IIT Bombay (28 entries) and IIT Kharagpur (27 entries).
6. India is the second most represented country in Asia for the number of ranked universities (69), after mainland China with 101.
7. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati has excelled particularly in Data Science, securing a global ranking of 51-70, and Petroleum Engineering, where it ranks 51-100 globally.
8. The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IITB) secured 25th rank in the subject of Engineering-Mineral & Mining.
9. Indian **Institute of Technology, Madras (IITM)** secured 29th spot in Petroleum Engineering.
 - "In terms of volume, India is now the fourth largest research/research producer in the world," said senior vice president of QS.
 - 1.3 million Academic papers have been produced over this period, slightly less than **China's 4.5 million, the United States' 4.4 million, and the United Kingdom's 1.4 million**.
 - The top three universities are
 1. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, United States,
 2. University of Cambridge, United Kingdom and
 3. University of Oxford, United Kingdom.

Appointment

**April
2024**

1. NALIN PRABHAT BECOMES THE NEW CHIEF OF NATIONAL SECURITY GUARD

- Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer **Nalin Prabhat** has been appointed the Director General of the **National Security Guard (NSG)**, the country's counter-terrorism and counter-hijack force.
- Earlier **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)** chief **Daljit Singh Chaudhary** was holding additional charge of NSG.

About National Security Guard (NSG):

- **NSG was established in 1984.**
- The National Security Guard was established as an anti-terrorism unit. NSG came into existence by an Act of Parliament – '**National Security Guard Act, 1986**'.
- **The idea of setting up NSG came in 1984 after Operation Blue Star, the attack on Akshardham temple and the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.**
- The main objective of establishing NSG has been to protect the states from internal disturbances and to combat terrorist activities.
- **NSG works under the Home Ministry.** It has two complementary elements:
 - ✓ **First, the Special Action Group (SAG)**
 - ✓ **Second, the Special Ranger Group (SRG)**
- **The head of the NSG is designated as the Director General (DG). It is selected and appointed by the Home Minister.**
- **NSG's motto: 'SarvatraSarvottam Suraksha'.**

2. NARSINGH YADAV ELECTED PRESIDENT OF WFI ATHLETE PANEL

- Former Commonwealth Games gold medalist **Narsingh Pancham Yadav** was elected the **Chairman of the Athletes Commission of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)**.
- **WFI governs wrestling in India.** The headquarters of WFI is located in **New Delhi**.

3. AMITABH CHAUDHRY REAPPOINTED AS AXIS BANK MD & CEO

Sudhir Kakar, Father of Indian psychoanalysis pioneer, passes away at 85

4. India's Gita Sabharwal Appointed as UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia

- The United Nations Secretary-General, **António Guterres**, has appointed **Gita Sabharwal** of India as the new **UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia**.
- Sabharwal assumed her post, bringing with her nearly three decades of experience in development, supporting climate transition, sustainable peace, governance, and social policy, while leveraging digital technology and data to accelerate the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

5. PRAGYA MISRA, APPOINTED AS OPENAI'S FIRST EMPLOYEE IN INDIA

- **OpenAI**, the organization behind the development of ChatGPT, has hired its first official in India, **Pragya Misra**, to facilitate government relations as it moves forward with its generative AI products

6. PROF NAIMA KHATOON, THE FIRST WOMEN VC OF AMU

- The Union Ministry of Education has appointed **Professor Naima Khatoon** the Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). She is the **first women** to be appointed the Vice Chancellor of the University.
- The **Aligarh Muslim University was established in 1920** under the Aligarh Muslim University Act, 1920.
- The origin of the Aligarh Muslim University is traced to the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College set up on 7 January 1877 by **Sir Syed Ahmad Khan**.

7. APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL DIRECTOR AT INTELLIGENCE BUREAU

- appointment of **Sapna Tewari** as the Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau (IB), for a tenure of two years

INTELLIGENCE BUREAU

IB is an **internal intelligence agency of India** that is used to **gather intelligence from within India** and also **execute counter-intelligence and counter-terrorism tasks**.

- In addition to domestic intelligence responsibilities, the IB is particularly **tasked with intelligence collection in border areas, following the 1951 recommendations of the Himmatsinhji Committee** (also known as the North and North-East Border Committee), a task entrusted to military intelligence organizations, prior to independence in 1947.
- It comes **under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs**.

Composition:

- ✓ The Bureau comprises **employees from law enforcement agencies, mostly from the Indian Police Service (IPS) or the Indian Revenue Service (IRS), and the military.**
- ✓ The **Director of Intelligence Bureau (DIB)** has always been an **IPS officer**.

8. FSIB SELECTS NEW CMDS FOR NEW INDIA ASSURANCE AND UNITED INDIA

- The **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)**, the head-hunting agency for **public sector banks and insurance firms**, has selected the next **Chairpersons and Managing Directors (CMDs)** for **New India Assurance** and **United India Insurance**.
- **Girija Subramanian**, the current Chairperson and MD of **Agriculture Insurance Company (AIC)**, has been selected as the next CMD of **New India Assurance**.
- **Bhupesh Sushil Rahul**, a General Manager at AIC, has been chosen as the new CMD of **United India Insurance**.

9. VICE ADMIRAL DINESH KUMAR TRIPATHI APPOINTED AS NEXT CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF

- The Government of India has appointed **Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi**, PVSM, AVSM, NM, currently serving as the **Vice Chief of the Naval Staff**, as the next **Chief of the Naval Staff** with effect from the afternoon of **April 30, 2024**.
- He will succeed the present Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R Hari Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, who retires from service on the same

10. SPACE INDIA APPOINTED SANJANA SANGHI AS ITS BRAND AMBASSADOR

Space Technology and Education Pvt. Ltd., also recognized as SPACE India was founded in 2001. SPACE India is a pioneering institution promoting Astronomy, Space Science & STEM Education. It is a registered Space Tutor of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

11. BHARATPE APPOINTS NALIN NEGI AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER /BHARATPE

12. WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM NAMES NYKAA'S ADWAITA NAYAR AS A 2024 YOUNG GLOBAL LEADER

The World Economic Forum has named Adwaita Nayar, the co-founder of Nykaa and CEO of Nykaa Fashion, as a '2024 Young Global Leader'.

13. RAM CHARAN HONORED WITH HONORARY DOCTORATE IN LITERATURE FROM VELS UNIVERSITY

Vels University in Chennai conferred an honorary doctorate in literature upon renowned Indian actor Ram Charan.

14. KUWAIT NAMES AHMAD ABDULLAH AL-AHMAD AL-SABAHAS PRIME MINISTER

- Kuwait's Emir on Monday appointed **Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah** prime minister, state news agency KUNA reported.
- Former Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah resigned in April only a few months after he was designated to form a government.

15. SINGAPORE PM LEE STEPS DOWN; TO HAND OVER POWER TO SUCCESSOR WONG ON MAY 15

- Wong has been prime minister-in-waiting since [April 2022](#).

16. JUSTICE ANIRUDDHA BOSE BECOMES NEW HEAD OF NATIONAL JUDICIAL ACADEMY

- **Supreme Court Justice Aniruddha Bose** has been appointed as the new director of the **National Judicial Academy (NJA)**, Bhopal. Supreme Court Chief Justice **DY Chandrachud** had announced the decision to appoint him.

17. SENIOR IPS OFFICER ANURAG KUMAR APPOINTED AS JOINT DIRECTOR OF CBI

18. SALMAN RUSHDIE'S MEMOIR "KNIFE": A HARROWING TALE OF RESILIENCE AND THE FIGHT FOR FREE SPEECH

- **Salman Rushdie** is set to release his memoir "**Knife**", recounting the chilling experience of being stabbed at a public event in 2022 and his journey to overcome the near-fatal ordeal.
- The book serves as a **powerful testament to Rushdie's unwavering commitment to free speech**, a core value that has defined his life and literary career.

19. JOYSHREE DAS VERMA HAS TAKEN OVER AS THE 41ST NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE FICCI LADIES ORGANISATION (FLO) FOR THE YEAR 2024-25.

- FLO is the **oldest women-led and women-centric business chamber** of South East Asia.

20. SANTHOSH KUMAR JHA TO BE NEW CMD OF KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION

- It is a **public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways**.
- Headquartered at CBD Belapur in Navi Mumbai.

21. THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO HAS APPOINTED JUDITH SUMINWATULUKA AS THE COUNTRY'S FIRST FEMALE PRIME MINISTER

22. LT GEN JS SIDANA IS NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF EME

- Lieutenant General **JS Sidana** has taken over as the **33rd Director General of the Department of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (DGEME)** and **Senior Colonel Commandant of the EME Corps**.

23. SANJAY NAYAR APPOINTED AS NEW ASSOCHAM PRESIDENT

- The **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)**, a prominent industry chamber, has appointed **Sanjay Nayar** as its new **President**.

24. ABDEL FATTAH AL-SISI SWORN IN AS EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT FOR HIS THIRD TERM

25. RAKESH MOHAN APPOINTED TO WORLD BANK ECONOMIC ADVISORY PANEL

- The **World Bank Group** has appointed former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor **Rakesh Mohan** as a member of its Economic Advisory Panel.
- The World Bank's Economic Advisory Panel will focus on strategic issues for the World Bank Group in relation to their objectives, research agenda, and actions.
- **World Bank Headquarters:** Washington, D.C., United States;

- **World Bank Founded:** July 1944, Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States
- **World Bank President:** Ajay Banga;
- **World Bank Founders:** John Maynard Keynes, Harry Dexter White;
- **World Bank CFO:** Anshula Kant.

26. PETER PELLEGRINI ELECTED SLOVAKIA PRESIDENT IN BOOST FOR PRO-RUSSIA PM FICO

- Slovak nationalist-left government candidate Peter Pellegrini has won the country's presidential election, cementing the grip of pro-Russian Prime Minister Robert Fico over the country.

27. INDIA'S NOMINEE JAGJITPAVADIA RE-ELECTED TO INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD

- India's nominee **Ms. JagjitPavadia** was elected by the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** as a member of the **International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)** for the third term from 2025-2030.

28. SUSHIL SHARMA APPOINTED CMD OF SJVN LIMITED

- **The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)** panel has recommended **Sushil Sharma** for the position of Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of **SJVN Limited**.

29. FORMER REVENUE SECRETARY TARUN BAJAJ TO HEAD US-INDIA TAX FORUM

- The **US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF)** has appointed former Revenue Secretary and ex-Secretary of Economic Affairs **Tarun Bajaj** as the head of the US-India Tax Forum.

30. SUNIL KUMAR YADAV (IRS) APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS/

Books & Authors

**April
2024**

1. A BOOK TITLED "FROM A CAR SHED TO THE CORNER ROOM & BEYOND" BY S. RAMAN

- **S. Raman** - retired Chairman and Managing Director of Canara Bank.
- He also worked as a whole-time Member of the board of SEBI.

2. SRINGERI SEER JAGADGURU SRI SRIVIDHUSHEKHARA BHARATI RELEASES BOOK AUTHORED BY GOA GOVERNOR

- **"Heavenly Islands of Goa"**, a book authored by Governor of Goa P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
- The book, which is **Mr. Pillai's 221st**
- Released by Shankaracharya of Dakshinamnaya Sri Sharada Peetham, Sringeri, Jagadguru Sri SriVidhushekhara Bharati Swami
- **Jnanpith award** winner **Damodar Mauzo** received the first copy of the book.

3. SAM PITRODA'S NEW BOOK 'THE IDEA OF DEMOCRACY

- It explores the current state of democracy and its potential challenges in countries like India and the United States.

Sam Pitoda is famous as:

- Father of Indian Telecom Revolution
- He was the Founder and First Chairman of India's Telecom Commission.
- Father of Yellow Revolution

4. A BOOK 'INDIA—THE ROAD TO RENAISSANCE: A VISION AND AN AGENDA' LAUNCHED IN HYDERABAD

- Retired IAS officer and former UN official Bhimeswara Challa unveiled his latest book India— the Road to Renaissance: A Vision and an Agenda.

5. SIDDHARTHRAJSEKAR AUTHORED BOOK 'I CAN COACH' RELEASED

- Digital coaching leader **SiddharthRajsekar** announced the release of volumes 2 and 3 of his transformative book series, **'I Can Coach'**.

6. A BOOK TITLED "THE WINNER'S MINDSET," AUTHORED BY SHANE WATSON

Economics

Current Affairs

**April
2024**

1. SBI LIFE INTRODUCES IDEATIONX FOR LIFE INSURANCE INNOVATION

- SBI Life Insurance, one of the country's most trusted private life insurance companies, launched the first edition of 'IdeationX'.
- It is a pioneering initiative that promises to revolutionize the future of the insurance sector. Currently only 3% people in India have insurance available.
- SBI Life's 'IdeationX' aligns with IRDAI's 'Insurance for All by 2047' vision, fostering innovation and thought leadership.

2. INDIA'S PHARMACEUTICAL EXPORTS GROW 10% TO \$28 BILLION IN FY24

- The country's pharmaceutical exports **increased by 9.67 percent** on an annual basis to **US \$ 27.9 billion** in the financial year 2023-24. Earlier, in the financial year 2022-23, the **country's pharmaceutical export was \$ 25.4 billion**.
- **Top destination countries for Indian pharmaceutical exports:**
- Indian pharmaceutical exports have been seen at the global level in the financial year 2023-24. The top destination countries for Indian pharmaceutical exports during this period were:

America	Britain	Netherlands
Britain	South Africa	Brazil

- In the financial year 2023-24, **America's share in India's total pharmaceutical exports was more than 31 percent**.

3. AXIS BANK OVERTOOK KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK TO BECOME 4TH LARGEST BANK IN MARKET VALUE

- RBI's recent ban on Kotak Mahindra Bank's facilities caused this.
- **Top 3 India's banks in market value terms: HDFC bank (1st), SBI (2nd), ICICI bank (3rd).**

4. INDUSIND BANK'S PILOT PROGRAM WITH RBI'S PROGRAMMABLE CBDC: REVOLUTIONIZING AGRICULTURAL FINANCE

- **IndusInd Bank, in collaboration with Circularity Innovation Hub India Private Limited (CIH),** has achieved a significant milestone by successfully executing the Reserve Bank of India's pilot program on programmable **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)**.
- This pioneering initiative aims to revolutionize agricultural finance by targeting farmers for carbon credit generation.

5. RBI OPEN ON TAP LICENSING FOR SFB BANK

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed the Small Finance Banks (SFB) to apply for Universal Bank licenses as per the on tap licensing norms of the RBI.**
- The SFBs can apply for a universal bank license after fulfilling the norms laid by the RBI.
- **RBI provides licenses to the banks in India under the Banking Regulation Act 1949.** When RBI started granting licenses to the new private sector banks in 1993, it followed the **Stop and Go model**.

6. INDIA'S SERVICE SECTOR EXPORT GREW BY 11.4 % IN 2023: UNCTAD

- According to a recent report by the **United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, Indian service sector exports grew by **11.4 per cent** to **\$345 billion** in the calendar year 2023(January-December) despite prevailing global uncertainties.
- However, Chinese service exports declined by 10.1 per cent to \$381 billion in 2023.
- **India's services imports, however, dipped marginally by 0.4 per cent to \$248 billion last year.**

7. INDIA'S ELECTRONICS EXPORTS SURGE TO \$29.12 BILLION IN FY24

- **India's electronics industry experienced a notable surge in exports, reaching \$29.12 billion in fiscal year 2023-24, a substantial 23.6% increase from the previous year.**
- This growth is particularly significant amid an overall contraction of the **country's total exports by 3%.**

8. GEMS & JEWELLERY EXPORTS DECLINED BY 14.94 % IN FY23-24

- The country's export of Gems and Jewellery declined by **14.94%** to **US\$32.02 billion** in the financial year 2023-24, compared to US\$ 37.6 billion in 2022-23.
- The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) released provisional data regarding the trade figure of the Gem and Jewellery sector for the financial year 2023-24.
- **Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)**
- The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) is a recognised export promotion council.
- It was set up in **1966** to promote the export of the gem and jewellery sector.
- It facilitates interaction between the government of India, the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** and other trade-related government bodies to promote the trade of gems and jewellery in India.
- Headquarters: **Mumbai**

➤ Chairman: **Vipul Shah**

9. **TN LEADS IN ELECTRONICS EXPORTS WITH A \$9.6 BILLION RECORD IN FY23-24**

- **Tamil Nadu** has achieved a record breaking achievement of **\$9.56 billion** in **electronics exports** in the financial year **2023-24**.
- This accounted for approximately one-third (33%) of the total national electronics exports share.

10. **OCEAN DECADE CONFERENCE 2024: INDIA BACKS REGIONAL OBSERVATION CENTER**

- India has called for setting up a region-specific ocean observation centre for better forecasting and understanding of the deep sea ecosystem.
- The Indian delegation led by Earth Sciences Secretary M Ravichandran made these observations at the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference held in Barcelona, Spain
- The theme of the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona was: **Delivering the science we need for the ocean we want**.
- It was organised by the government of Spain with UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

11. **ISKCON AND NSDC COLLABORATE FOR TRIBAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT/ISKCON**

- In a bid to empower tribal and underprivileged youth across India, the **International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)** and the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** have joined forces.
- The partnership aims to provide vocational training to marginalized communities, initially focusing on Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh.

12. **AIRTEL PAYMENTS BANK LAUNCHES NCMC-ENABLED DEBIT AND PREPAID CARDS**

- Airtel Payments Bank has introduced NCMC-aligned debit and prepaid cards in collaboration with NPCI, powered by RuPay.
- These cards are designed to support India's **One Nation, One Card** initiative.

13. **ROHIT SHARMA BECOMES 2ND PLAYER AFTER MS DHONI TO PLAY 250 MATCHES IN IPL**

- **Rohit Sharma**, the former captain of the **Mumbai Indians**, etched his name in the annals of **Indian Premier League (IPL)** history by becoming only the second player to feature in **250 IPL matches**.
- This remarkable milestone was achieved during a match against the **Punjab Kings** in Mullanpur, Chandigarh, further solidifying Rohit's status as an IPL legend.

14. **DEEPIKA SORENG HONOURED WITH ASUNTA LAKRA AWARD**

- **Deepika Soreng**, the promising forward of the **India Women's Hockey Team**, has been honoured with the prestigious **Hockey India Asunta Lakra Award** for Upcoming Player of the Year during the **Hockey India 6th Annual Awards 2023**

15. **THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI) IS CONTEMPLATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DIGITAL INDIA TRUST AGENCY (DIGITA) TO COMBAT THE PROLIFERATION OF ILLEGAL LENDING APPS.**

- This initiative aims to bolster cybersecurity measures and clamp down on fraudulent activities in the digital lending sector.

16. **SEBI UNVEILS SCORES 2.0: ENHANCING INVESTOR COMPLAINT REDRESS SYSTEM**

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched SCORES 2.0, an upgraded version of its Complaint Redress System (SCORES), to strengthen mechanisms for addressing investor complaints.
- This enhanced system features automated routing, oversight by designated authorities, and streamlined processes

17. **FORBES RICHEST LIST 2024: MUKESH AMBANI TOPS IN INDIA, GAUTAM ADANI AT 2**

- On the Forbes' 2024 list of the World's Billionaires, there are **2781 people worldwide**.
- **200 Indians featured**- up from 169 last year.
- The combined wealth of these Indians is a record total of **\$954 billion—up 41% from \$675 billion last year**
- **Mukesh Ambani** retained his position as the **9th richest person in the world** is both **India's and Asia's richest person**.
- **Gautam Adani** is the **second richest Indian**, Overall in the list, **he is at No.17**
- **Bernard Arnault** and his family are at number one , followed by **Elon Musk** then **Jeff Bezos**
- **US has the most billionaires (813)**
- Wealthiest woman on the list **Francoise Bettencourt Meyers**, the granddaughter of the founder of **L'Ore**.

18. **COAL PRODUCTION TARGET SET AT 170 MILLION TONNES FOR 2024-25**

- The government of India has set a target to produce **170 million tonnes** of coal from captive and commercial coal blocks in the country during the 2024-25 financial year.
- **The target is 26 per cent higher from 116 MT produced in 2023-24.**
- The target for coal production for Coal India Limited in 2024-25 is one billion tonnes from Coal India Limited mines.
- India is the **second largest producer of coal** in the world after China.
- India has the **4th largest known coal reserves in the world** .

19. **RBI TO ALLOW FOREIGN INVESTORS IN IFSC TO INVEST IN SOVEREIGN GREEN BONDS**

- The RBI has decided to permit eligible foreign investors in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) to also invest in Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs).
- At present, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) registered with SEBI are permitted to invest in SGrBs under the different routes available for investment by FPIs in government securities.

- Based on an announcement in the Union Budget for FY23, the Government of India (GoI) issued Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) in January 2023.

Sovereign Green Bonds

- Green bonds are issued to exclusively fund projects that have positive environmental or climate benefits and provide investors with fixed income payments.
- The projects can include renewable energy, clean transportation and green buildings, among others.

20. ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK RAISES INDIA'S GDP GROWTH FORECAST

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has raised India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal year (FY25) to 7% from the previous estimate of 6.7%
- For the 2025-26 fiscal, ADB has projected India's growth at 7.2%.

21. HDFC BANK BECOMES FIRST PRIVATE BANK TO OPEN BRANCH IN LAKSHADWEEP

- Private lender **HDFC Bank** has opened a branch at **Kavaratti Island in Lakshadweep**, making it the **only private sector bank** to have a presence in the Union Territory.
- This branch is aimed at upgrading the banking infrastructure in Lakshadweep by offering a wide range of services with a focus on personal banking and digital banking solutions.

22. PHONEPE PARTNERS WITH ESEWA, HAN POKHARA TO PROMOTE UPI IN NEPAL

- **PhonePe**, in collaboration with **eSewa** and the **Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN) Pokhara**, is set to promote UPI during the **Fewa New Year Festival in Nepal**.
- The festival, spanning from April 11-14th, is a celebrated event attracting both locals and Indian tourists, offering cultural experiences and culinary delights.

23. ICRA DOWNGRADES INDIAN BANKING SECTOR OUTLOOK /ICRA

- ICRA downgrades Indian banking sector **outlook to stable from positive**.
- It cited moderation in credit growth and profitability due to decline in interest margins as the **reason for the downgrade**.

Environment

Current Affairs

**April
2024**

1. FORMER JUDGE WAZIRI TO HEAD THE COMMITTEE ON PROTECTING DELHI FOREST

- The Delhi High Court has appointed a former Delhi High Court judge, Justice Najmi Waziri as chairman of an internal departmental committee of city officials dealing with the protection of forests in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

2. UTTARAKHAND'S RESPONSE TO GLOF RISKS IN HIMALAYAS

- The state government of Uttarakhand has initiated proactive measures to assess and mitigate the risks associated with Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs).
- These lakes have been identified as prone to immediate danger, necessitating urgent attention and intervention.
- In response to the heightened risk of GLOFs, advanced radio technologies have been employed to enhance early warning systems'extended line of sight' (ELOS) methodology.

3. SITARS, TANPURAS MADE IN MAHARASHTRA'S MIRAJ TOWN GET GI TAGS

- The sitars and tanpuras of Miraj, a small town in Maharashtra's Sangli district known for its craftsmanship in making musical instruments, have been awarded the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
- The tradition of making sitars and tanpuras in Miraj goes back more than 300 years, with over seven generations of craftsmen having worked towards making these string instruments
- The wood for making the Miraj sitars and tanpuras is procured from forests in Karnataka, while pumpkin gourds are sourced from Mangalvedha region of Maharashtra's Solapur district.

4. H5N1 BIRD FLU BEHIND HUNDREDS OF DEAD PENGUINS IN ANTARCTICA

- A scientific expedition discovered at least 532 dead Adelie penguins, with thousands more believed to have perished.
- H5N1 bird flu has spread more aggressively in wildlife than ever before since arriving in South America in 2022
- The first case of H5N1 in Antarctica was confirmed in February.

Bird Flu

- Avian influenza, also known as 'bird flu', is a disease primarily affecting birds and is caused by a virus of the Orthomyxoviridae family.
- H5N1 virus is a subtype of influenza type A that causes a highly infectious, severe respiratory disease in birds called avian influenza (or "bird flu").

Cultural

Current Affairs

April
2024

1. 'KOTI GITA LEKHANA YAJNA' INITIATIVE

- Koti Gita Lekhana Yajna is an initiative where over 1 Crore people from across the Globe are expected to write the entire Bhagavad Gita by hand in the language of their choice, over the next two years and offer it at the feet of Lord Sri Krishna at Udupi.
- Sri SriSugunendraTheerthaSwamiji of Sri PuthigeMatha has started this initiative at Udupi Matha.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi complimented the 'Koti Gita Lekhana Yajna'

2. NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES UNVEIL TELANGANA'S ANCIENT HERITAGE

- Archaeologists in Telangana have unearthed three remarkable sites, each offering distinct insights into the region's ancient history.
- Mulugu district reveals an Iron Age megalithic site at Ooragutta near Bandala village
- Gundala mandal of BhadrakriKothagudem district, two new rock art sites have been uncovered at Damaratogu. Particularly noteworthy is the 'Devarlabanda Mula',

3. FOSSILS OF COLOSSAL SNAKE VASUKI UNEARTHED IN INDIA MINE

- IIT Roorkee scientists have unearthed Fossil vertebrae of one of the largest snakes that ever lived, from a lignite mine located in the Panandhro area of the Kutch district in Gujarat
- Scientists have named it **Vasuki indicus**.
- It would have looked like a **modern-day large python** and would not have been venomous.
- **Scientists have recovered 27 vertebrae from the snake**, including a few still in the same position as they would have been when the limbless reptile was alive.
- **Vasuki, named after the snake king associated with the Hindu deity Shiva**, rivals in size another huge prehistoric snake called **Titanoboa**, whose fossils were discovered in a **coal mine in northern Colombia**, as announced in 2009.

4. LARGEST TEMPLE FESTIVAL THRISSUR POORAM 2024 CELEBRATED

- **Thrissur Pooram** is a grand temple festival that is celebrated all over the world.
- **Kerala** is a state known for its rich culture and traditions.
- **Thrissur Pooram is a seven-day festival**, and the most important day is the sixth day, which is when the festival takes place.
- Devotees from all over India, as well as from abroad, participate in the processions and visit **Thrissur Pooram to offer their prayers to Lord Vadakkunnathan on this auspicious day**

5. KHASI TRIBE'S SENG KHIHLANG FESTIVAL CONCLUDED IN WAHIAJER, MEGHALAYA

- **The 34th Seng Khihlang festival, Concluded in Wahiajer, Meghalaya which had been started in Wahiajer**
- The Khasi people are an indigenous ethnic group residing in the eastern part of Meghalaya, in the **Khasi and Jaintia Hills** of north-eastern India.
- The Khasi people live in the eastern part of Meghalaya which is the majority of people, and are the **largest community in the state** with about **48% of the population of Meghalaya**.

6. ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNEARTH LEAD COIN HOARD FROM IKSHVAKU PERIOD IN PHANIGIRI, SURYAPET

- Officials of the Department of Archaeology and Museums have unearthed a coin hoard at the Phanigiri Buddhist site in Suryapet district, Telangana.
- The team led by N. Sagar, the excavation director found an earthen pot with 3,730 lead coins with elephant symbol on one side and Ujjain symbol on the other side.
- The coins belong to the Ikshvaku period dated between 3rd century and 4th century Common Era.

Ikshvaku period

- The dynasty ruled in the eastern Krishna River valley of India, from their capital at Vijayapuri (modern Nagarjunakonda in Andhra Pradesh) during approximately 3rd and 4th centuries CE.
- The Ikshvakus are also known as the Andhra Ikshvakus or Ikshvakus of Vijayapuri
- The Ikshvaku kings were Shaivites and performed Vedic rites, but Buddhism also flourished during their reign.
- Several Ikshvaku queens and princes contributed to the construction of the Buddhist monuments at present-day Nagarjunakonda.

Geographical Indicator

**April
2024**

1. 19 TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS OF ASSAM RECEIVED GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION TAG

- Nineteen traditional products and crafts from Assam have been granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag, out of which thirteen are credited to the Bodo community.
- **Assam's Products**
- **Assamese BihuDhol:** The two-faced drum is an iconic instrument in Assam's folk culture, played with both a stick and hand.
- **Assamese Jaapi:** Tokou Pat and a traditional bamboo hat made of densely woven bamboo or cane are a symbol of pride in Assam and were historically used for protection from sun and rain.
- **Sarthebari Metal Craft:** The handicraft industry from Barpeta, known for its bell-metal products, engages around 2000 artisans.
- **Panimeteka Craft (Water Hyacinth):** This product, made from water hyacinth, has gained recognition.
- **MisingTaot (Handloom):** Handwoven textiles made by the Mising community play a significant role in Assamese culture.
- **Asharikandi's Exquisite Terracotta Works:** The beautiful terracotta creations from Asharikandi are an essential part of Assamese cultural heritage.
- These products represent the cultural heritage of the Bodos and include a variety of items, such as **Jotha, Gongona, Gamsa, Sifung, Serja, Khardwi, Kham, GongarDunjia, Thorka, Keradapini, Jwmgra, Dokhona, and Eri Silk**. These GI tags cover both agricultural products and musical instruments.

2. TRIPURA: MATABARIPERA PRASAD, RIGNAIPACHARA TEXTILES GET GI TAG

- Three traditional products from Tripura have recently received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The products are Matabariperaprasad, Rignaipachara textiles and Risa.
- With this, Tripura now has 4 GI Protected products.

3. UP LEADS WITH MOST GI-TAGGED PRODUCTS

- The northern Indian state of **Uttar Pradesh** has taken the lead in having the highest number of **Geographical Indication (GI)** certified products in the country.
- Uttar Pradesh now boasts a total of **69 GI-tagged products**, surpassing Tamil Nadu's 58.
- The holy city of **Varanasi** has emerged as a leader in GI-tagged goods production, with a remarkable **30 certified products**

NEW GI-TAGGED PRODUCTS FROM UP			
The newly added GI-tagged products from Uttar Pradesh include:			
1	Banaras Thandai (a refreshing milk-based drink)	2	Banaras Tabla (a popular Indian percussion instrument)
3	Banaras Shehnai (a traditional wind instrument)	4	Banaras LalBharwamirch (red chili peppers)
5	ChiragaonKaronda (a fruit variety from Varanasi)	6	Banaras Lal Peda (a sweet delicacy)
7	Banaras Mural Painting (a traditional art form)	8	Jaunpurlmarti (a sweet dish)
9	Mathura Sanjhi Craft (a traditional art form)	10	BundelkhandKathiyaGehu (a wheat variety)
11	PilibhitBansuri (a type of flute)	12	Sambhal Bone Craft
13	Chitrakoot Wooden Craft & Toys	14	Moonj Craft
15	Rampur Patchwork		

4. 'APRICOT BLOSSOM FESTIVAL' 2024 STARTED IN LADAKH

- Ladakh Tourism has launched 'Apricot Blossom Festival' 2024, which will run from 06-17 April 2024 and will organize cultural programs and exhibitions.
- With the aim of sharing the local traditions of Apricot blossom, this festival is going to be organized at all places in Kargil and Leh. **Apricots, also known as Chuli**, are the focal point during the festival

Obituaries

**April
2024**

1. FORMER ASIAD STAR DEANNA SYME TEWARI PASSES AWAY

- She represented India at the 1962 Asian Games in Jakarta and was a torch bearer – alongside hockey icon (late) Balbir Singh Sr. – at the 1982 Asian Games in New Delhi.
- She was high jumper player

2. R.M. VEERAPPAN, THE MOST TRUSTED LIEUTENANT OF LATE MGR, PASSES AWAY

Important Day

1. **TRADITIONAL HARVEST FESTIVALS BEING CELEBRATED IN VARIOUS REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY FOR TWO DAYS:**
 - In Punjab as 'Vaisakhi',
 - In Kerala, the day as 'Vishu',
 - in West Bengal as 'PoilaBoishakh',
 - In Assam, as 'BohagBihu'.
 - In Tamil Nadu as 'Puthandu'
 - In Odisha as MahaBishuba/ PanaSankranti
2. **EARTH DAY**
 - Earth Day is an annual event observed across the globe to demonstrate support for environmental protection.
 - The theme for World Earth Day 2024 is **Planet vs Plastics**. The theme aims to bring attention to the serious issue of plastic pollution and how it harms nature.
 - For Earth Day 2024, EARTHDAY.ORG aims to end plastic for planetary health and demands a **60 per cent reduction in the production of all plastics by 2040**.
3. **WORLD IMMUNIZATION WEEK 2024**
 - Every year the **last week of April (24 to 30 April)** is celebrated as '**World Immunization Week**'.
 - The global vaccine campaign of the late 20th century is one of humanity's greatest achievements. Vaccination campaigns have enabled us to eradicate smallpox, almost defeat polio.
 - **This year the theme of 'World Immunization Week' 2024 has been kept as 'Humanly Possible: Immunization for All'.**
4. **WORLDS MALARIA DAY**
 - The history of World Malaria Day dates back to 2000, when the African Summit on Roll Back Malaria was held in Abuja, Nigeria.
 - In 2016, WHO launched the **Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030**, emphasizing the goal of reducing Malaria cases and deaths by 90 per cent by 2030.
 - To raise awareness about the significance of the strategy and to stimulate global action, WHO declared **25 April as World Malaria Day**.
 - This year's theme is '**Accelerate the Fight against Malaria for a More Equitable World**'.
5. **NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICES DAY**
 - National Civil Services Day is celebrated in India on 21 April every year. This day is dedicated to the civil servants and provides an opportunity for them to rededicate themselves to the citizens' service.
 - The first Civil Services Day was first held in Vigyan Bhawan on 21 April 2006. The day was first introduced by Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel in 1947. He referred to civil servants as the '**steel frame of India**' in his inspiring speech.
6. **WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY**
 - The World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) will be celebrated on 26 April 2024.
 - The day is dedicated to promoting the role of intellectual property (IP) in **stimulating innovation and creativity**.
 - The day is dedicated to showcasing how creativity can be used to drive economic, social, and sustainable development.
 - Theme for World IP Day 2024, "**IP and the SDGs: Building our common future with innovation and creativity**."
7. **WORLD LIVER DAY**
 - World Liver Day is celebrated every year to create awareness about the significance of liver functions and prevention measures we should take to ensure that the liver is healthy.
 - The theme for World Liver Day 2024 is "Keep your liver healthy and disease-free".
8. **WORLD HERITAGE DAY 2024**
 - April 18 is annually recognized as 'World Heritage Day,' a day dedicated to celebrate and promote awareness of cultural heritage sites worldwide.
 - April 18 is also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites, highlighting the importance of preserving and appreciating our cultural heritage.
 - It serves as a global celebration of remarkable cultural and natural sites acknowledged by the UNESCO World Heritage List.
 - Theme of World Heritage Day 2024 "Discover and Experience Diversity".
 - Currently there are a total of 1199 World Heritage Sites around the world

9. WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY

- World Hemophilia Day is observed on 17 April every year to raise awareness about hemophilia and other bleeding disorders.
- The theme for World Hemophilia Day year 2024 is "Equitable access for all: recognizing all bleeding disorders".
- Hemophilia is a rare blood disorder that affects the ability of the blood to clot properly.
- It is caused by a deficiency in clotting factors, which can lead to prolonged bleeding. While there is no known cure, treatment can help to manage the condition.

10. 14 APRIL - BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF DR B.R. AMBEDKAR

- This day is also known as Equality Day,
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was born in 1891 in Mhow, Central Province (now Madhya Pradesh).
- He is known as the Father of the Indian Constitution and was India's first Law Minister.
- He was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee for the new Constitution.
- Participated in all three Round Table Conferences.
- 1932 signed the Poona pact with Mahatma Gandhi (resulting in reserved seats for the Depressed Classes in the general electorate)
- Resigned from the cabinet in 1951, over differences on the Hindu Code Bill (aimed to give equal rights to women, including in matters of marriage, divorce, property rights, and succession).
- He converted to Buddhism. He passed away on 6th December 1956
- Chaitya Bhoomi is a memorial to B. R. Ambedkar, located in Mumbai.

Organisations	Journals	Books
Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (1923)	Mooknayak (1920)	Annihilation of Caste
Independent Labor Party (1936)	Bahishkrit Bharat (1927)	The Untouchable: Who are They and Why They Have Become Untouchables
Scheduled Castes Federation (1942)		Buddha and His Dhamma

11. 17 INDIANS STRANDED ON ISRAELI SHIP CAPTURED BY IRAN

- Iran's Navy had captured an Israeli ship coming towards India in the Gulf of Oman near the Strait of Hormuz.
- There were 17 Indians on board this ship as crew members. All of which are now under the control of Iranian officials.
- India urges both sides to return to diplomacy
- The Iranian Foreign Minister called for India's continued role through international institutions, including the UN Security Council, to stop the war in Gaza as well as the Israeli offensive in the Palestinian enclave

12. INDIAN OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM OF INDIA AND US WILL REACTIVATE

- India and the US plan to restart the Indian Ocean Observing System (IndOOS), a network of 36 buoys stationed in the high seas. These buoys will collect detailed data on ocean and atmospheric conditions to help improve weather forecasts.

13. WORLD CYBERCRIME INDEX UNVEILED: RUSSIA AND UKRAINE TOP LIST

- According to the World Cyber Crime Index recently published in PLoS One journal and prepared under the leadership of Oxford University, Russia and Ukraine have been ranked first and second respectively with respect to cyber crime.
- The results highlight the concentration of cybercriminal activity in selected countries, with China, Russia, Ukraine, the United States, Romania and Nigeria consistently in the top 10 across all categories.
- India secures the 10th position, scoring notably in impact, professionalism, and technical skills.
- China and the United States closely follow, showcasing their prominence in cybercriminal activities.

14. INDIA OVERTAKES CHINA IN DIGITAL SERVICES EXPORTS: KEY FINDINGS FROM WTO REPORT

- In 2023, India emerged as a frontrunner in digital services exports, surpassing China, as outlined in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) report.
- The report highlights significant growth in digitally delivered services globally, with India's exports reaching \$257 billion, marking a 17 percent increase from the previous year.
- This growth outpaced that of Germany and China, which registered only 4 percent each.

15. 105 YEARS OF JALLIANWALABAGH MASSACRE

- The Amritsar Massacre, also known as the JallianwalaBagh Massacre, remains one of the darkest episodes in India's struggle for independence.
- On April 13, 1919, General Dyer ordered his soldiers to open fire on an unarmed gathering in JallianwalaBagh, Amritsar, leading to hundreds of deaths and injuries.
- In 2024, India observes 105th anniversary of the JallianwalaBagh Massacre which serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made in the pursuit of freedom

Quotes to Mourn to Lives Lost in JallianwalaBagh Massacre

- "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it." – **BalGangadharTilak**
- "Freedom is never dear at any price. It is the breath of life. What would a man not pay for living?" **Mahatma Gandhi**
- "Sarfarooshikitamannaabhamaredilmahai,dekhnaizorkitnabaazu-e-qaatilmahai" – **BismilAzeemabadi**
- "InquilabZindabad" – **Bhagat Singh**
- "Tum MujeKhoon Do, Mai TumheAzadiDunga" – **Subhash Chandra Bose.**

16. LONGTE FESTIVAL

- The **Longte festival** is a unique tribal festival celebrated by the **Nyishi tribe in Arunachal Pradesh**. Unlike other festivals, it does not involve the sacrifice of animals.
- Therefore, it is the only festival that prohibits the killing of animals during or after the festival.

About Nyishi tribe

- The largest ethnic group in Arunachal Pradesh is the Nyishis community. They have a rich tradition and culture, and are known for their courage and determination.
- They live in **longhouses called Namlo**, made of mud and locally-sourced cane and bamboo. The houses are built on stilts using bamboo and wooden pillars, with the floor and walls made of split bamboo.

Popular festivals in Arunachal Pradesh		
Siang River Festival	Solung	Dree Festival
Pangsau Pass Winter Festival	Nyokum	Boori Boot
Ziro Festival of Music	Losar Festival	Loku
Sanken		

17. 14 APRIL - WORLD QUANTUM DAY 2024

- **World Quantum Day is celebrated on 14 April**, as a reference to 4.14, which are the rounded first digits of Planck's constant, fundamental constant governing quantum physics.
- Quantum mechanics is the science of atoms and particles—the building blocks of the world.
- **The National Quantum Mission (NQM)**, conceptualized by the Prime Minister Science Technology Advisory Council (PMSTIAC) received Cabinet approval on April 19, 2023 with a total outlay of Rs 6003.65 Crore for a period of 8 years.

18. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO WASTE 2024

- **International Day of Zero Waste** is celebrated every year on **30 March**
- On this occasion, emphasis is laid on increasing awareness and motivating action towards '**zero-waste**'.
- Every year, on April 2, the global awareness event of World Autism Day is observed to raise awareness about **autism spectrum disorders (ASD)**.
- This special day aims to spread awareness about autism as a disorder and to support those who are suffering from it.
- **Autism spectrum disorders (ASD)** are a diverse group of conditions characterized by some degree of difficulty with **social interaction and communication**.
- The theme of World Autism Awareness Day this year is '**Empowering Autistic Voices**'

19. 61ST NATIONAL MARITIME WEEK

- The '**National Maritime Week**' synonymous with the '**Merchant Navy Week**' is being observed from the **30 March, 2024 to 5 April, 2024**.
- **Theme- 'Sustainable Shipping: Opportunities and Challenges'**
- **61st National Maritime Day** will be celebrated on 5 April in commemoration of the maiden voyage of the **first Indian Vessel "S.S. LOYLTY"** owned by M/s. Scindia Steam Navigation Company from Mumbai to London on 5 April, 1919.

20. WORLD HEALTH DAY 2024

- **World Health Day** is observed annually on **7 April** to raise awareness about global health issues and promote healthy living.
- This day is celebrated as the anniversary of the establishment of the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- **Theme of World Health Day 2024: 'My Health, My Rights'**.

21. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE 24

- **International Day of Sports for Development and Peace' (IDSDP)** is celebrated every year on 6 April. It provides an opportunity to recognize the positive role of sport and physical activity in the lives of communities and people around the world.
- The theme of the International Day of Sports for Development and Peace this year 2024 is the global theme '**Sport for the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies**'

22. WORLD HOMEOPATHY DAY

- World Homeopathy Day is celebrated to honour homeopathy, the work of its founder **Dr Samuel Hahnemann**, and the people who got benefitted by it.
- It is celebrated on April 10 to **raise awareness about this alternate medicinal practice** that has minimal side effects and trusts body's self healing powers.
- The theme for World Homeopathy Day 2024 is '**Empowering Research, Enhancing Proficiency: A Homeopathy Symposium**'.

23. PUNE CELEBRATES YOGA MAHOTSAV AHEAD OF INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

- The '**Yoga Mahotsav**' was held in Pune, Maharashtra, to mark the 75-day countdown to the **International Day of Yoga**.
- Organized by the **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga and the National Institute of Naturopathy, Ministry of Ayush**.

24. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT

- **12 April 1961** was the date of the first human space flight, carried out by Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet citizen. This historic event opened the way for space exploration for the benefit of all humanity.
- **International Day of Human Space Flight 2024** is being observed with the theme, "**Encourage scientific curiosity**".

Important MCQs April Month

1. **Who has recently won the presidential election of Slovakia?**
(a) BasirouDiomaye Faye (b) Judith SuminwaTuluka
(c) Abdel Fatah al-Sisi (d) Peter Pellegrini
2. **When was World Health Day 2024 celebrated recently?**
(a) 5 April (b) 6 April
(c) 7 April (d) 8 April
3. **Recently, which Indian actress has been included in the Young Global Leaders Community of the year 2024 by the World Economic Forum?**
(a) Bhumi Pednekar (b) Deepika Padukone
(c) Alia Bhatt (d) Kiara Advani
4. **Which 'Command and Control System' for air defense has recently been included in the Indian Army?**
(a) Akashteer (b) Samar
(c) S-125 Pechora (d) Prabal
5. **According to the report of the Atomic Energy Commission, by when is there a plan to establish 1 lakh MW nuclear power capacity in the country?**
(a) Year 2027 (b) Year 2037
(c) Year 2047 (d) Year 2057
6. **Who has recently won the title of women's singles category in Kazakhstan International Badminton Challenge Tournament-2024?**
(a) Manisha's (b) Ishrani Barua
(c) Anupama Upadhyay (d) Lim Chiew Hsien
1. **Who has recently received the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award2024 for Corporate Social Responsibility?**
(a) Satluj Hydropower Corporation (SJVN)
(b) Airports Authority of India
(c) Power Grid Corporation
(d) Bharat Dynamics Limited
8. **Who is the oldest player in the world to achieve the No. 1 position in recent ATP ranking history?**
(a) Andre Agassi (b) Novak Djokovic
(c) Rafael Nadal (d) Roger Federer
9. **Who is the first Indian woman to be appointed a jury member in the Paris Olympic Committee recently?**
(a) Bilkis Mir (b) Shefali Sharan
(c) Jayshree Das Verma (d) Hansha Mishra
10. **Recently, which position has India got in Hurun Global Unicorn Index24?**
(a) First (b) Second
(c) Third (d) Fourth
11. **What has the recently deceased Nobel laureate Peter Higgs invented?**
(a) Internet (b) God particle
(c) Optical fiber (d) Google
12. **According to the World Health Organization's Global Hepatitis Report 2024, where have the highest number of hepatitis B and C cases been recorded?**
(a) China (b) India
(c) Bangladesh (d) Ethiopia
13. **Recently, for the first time, the European Court of Human Rights has given its verdict against who in a case related to climate crisis?**
(a) Britain (b) France
(c) Switzerland (d) Germany
14. **Who has recently been honored with USA's prestigious 'John L. Jack Swigert, Jr. Award'?**
(a) Roscosmos (b) SpaceX
(c) Jaxa (d) ISRO
15. **Who has recently launched the new gold backed currency 'ZiG'?**
(a) Republic of Congo (b) Venezuela
(c) Zimbabwe (d) Niger
16. **Who has recently launched India's first private Earth observation satellite 'TSAT-1A'?**
(a) Tata Group (b) Reliance Group
(c) Skyroot Aerospace
(d) Newspace India Limited
17. **Where has 'Apricot Blossom Festival' 2024 started recently?**
(a) Ladakh (b) Sikkim
(c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Uttarakhand
18. **Who has recently been appointed the coach of the national women's hockey team?**
(a) Rakesh Mohan (b) Peter Pellegrini
(c) Srinivas Palliya (d) Harendra Singh
19. **Who has been recently selected for the 'German Democracy Award'?**
(a) Michel Tallagrand (b) Yulia Navalnaya
(c) Valerie Adams (d) Riken Yamamoto
20. **Recently, for the first time, under which article of the Constitution has the Supreme Court recognized the right to be free from the adverse effects of climate change?**
(a) Article 14 (b) Article 21
(c) Article 48A (d) Both a and b
21. **Recently, from which country has the Indian Army acquired the Man Portable Air Defense System 'Iglas'?**
(a) Russia (b) France
(c) Israel (d) USA
22. **Who has recently won the ILeague 2023-24 title?**
(a) Kolkata Mohammedan Sporting
(b) Shillong Lajong Club
(c) Hyderabad Srinidhi Deccan
(d) Real Kashmir
23. **Who has recently achieved the feat of scoring most centuries in the history of IPL?**
(a) KL Rahul (b) Jos Buttler
(c) Virat Kohli (d) Shane Watson
24. **Who is the second Indian Prime Minister to appear on the recent Newsweek cover?**
(a) Atal Bihari Vajpayee (b) Rajiv Gandhi
(c) Dr. Manmohan Singh (d) Narendra Modi
25. **Recently who has been awarded the A.M. 'Turing Award', the Nobel of Computing '?**
(a) T M Krishna (b) Michel Tallagrand

- (c) Avi Wigderson (d) Riken Yamamoto
26. Who is related to the recently discussed memoir "Knife"?
- (a) S. Raman (b) Sam Pitroda
(c) Gotabaya Rajapaksa (d) Salman Rushdie
27. Who has recently been appointed to the post of Director of National Judicial Academy?
- (a) Anurag Kumar (b) Tarun Bajaj
(c) Anirudh Bose (d) Jagjit Pawadia
28. Where is the 'Longte Youlo festival' celebrated recently?
- (a) Sikkim (b) Arunachal Pradesh
(c) Tripura (d) Nagaland
29. Who has recently won the National Women's Carrom title for the 12th time?
- (a) Rashmi Kumari (b) Vandita Kaul
(c) Najmi Waziri (d) Shefali Sharan
30. Who has made the highest team score in IPL history recently?
- (a) Royal Challengers (b) Sunrisers Hyderabad
(c) Rajasthan Royals (d) Mumbai Indians
31. Who has recently tied up with eSewa and HAN Pokhara to launch UPI payment service in Nepal?
- (a) PhonePe (b) Paytm
(c) Razorpay (d) PayU
32. What position has India got in the recently released World Cyber Crime Index?
- (a) 10th (b) 11th
(c) 12th (d) 13th
33. Who has recently successfully launched 'Angara- A5 rocket'?
- (a) USA (b) France
(c) Israel (d) Russia
34. With whom will the Indian Army start the joint military exercise 'Dustlik'?
- (a) Tajikistan (b) Uzbekistan
(c) Kyrgyzstan (d) Turkmenistan
35. Who has recently attacked Israel with hundreds of aerial drones and missiles?
- (a) Egypt (b) Iran
(c) Turkey (d) Oman
36. Who has recently been honored with the prestigious 'John Dirk Gairdner Global Health Award'?
- (a) Lokesh Muni (b) Avantika Vandanpu
(c) Dr. Gagandeep Kang (d) Vineet Jain
37. Who is the first Indian pilot recently selected for Blue Origin's space tourism mission 'NS-25'?
- (a) Gopi Thotakura (b) Jagjit Pavadia
(c) Harendra Singh (d) Manoj Panda
38. Where was the traditional harvest festival 'Puthandu' organized recently?
- (a) Kerala (b) Maharashtra
(c) Goa (d) Tamil Nadu
39. Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar birth anniversary celebrated recently on?
- (a) 12 April (b) 13 April
(c) 14 April (d) 15 April
40. Deependra Singh Airi, the third player in the world to hit six sixes in an over in a recent T20 International, is related to?
- (a) Bangladesh (b) Sri Lanka
(c) India (d) Nepal
41. Lee Hsien Loong, who recently announced his resignation from the post of Prime Minister after two decades, belongs to which country?
- (a) Malaysia (b) Vietnam
(c) Singapore (d) Cambodia
42. Who has recently been appointed to the post of Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund?
- (a) AM Khanwilkar (b) Louis Montenegro
(c) Peter Pellegrini (d) Kristalina Georgieva
43. Which is the only airport in India included in the top-10 list of world's busiest airports recently?
- (a) Bengaluru (b) Delhi
(c) Mumbai (d) Pune
44. Who is the first former US President to face criminal trial recently?
- (a) George Walker Bush (b) Barack Obama
(c) Joe Biden (d) Donald Trump
45. According to the Global Forest Watch report, where has the maximum tree cover loss occurred between 2001-23?
- (a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Mizoram
(c) Assam (d) Nagaland
46. Which digital platform has been prepared by the Central Government to provide subsidy to horticulture farmers?
- (a) Indus App (b) CDP-Suraksha
(c) Suvidha Portal (d) Saksham App
47. Who has recently achieved the feat of becoming the first Indian cricketer to hit 500 T20 sixes?
- (a) Virat Kohli (b) Hardik Pandya
(c) Suryakumar Yadav (d) Rohit Sharma
48. Who has recently been named the world's leading female cricketer by Wisden?
- (a) Nat Sciver Brunt (b) Harmanpreet Kaur
(c) Ashley Gardner (d) Nigar Sultana
49. Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah appointed as the new Prime Minister of _____ by the Emir of the country.
- (a) Qatar (b) Bahrain
(c) Oman (d) Kuwait
50. Who will take oath as the next Prime Minister of Singapore?
- (a) Goh Chok Tong (b) Lee Hsien Loong
(c) Lawrence Wong (d) Lee Kuan Yew
51. Which of the following countries have signed a protocol to amend tax treaty?
- (a) India and Mauritius (b) India and Indonesia
(c) India and Myanmar (d) India and Nepal
52. Who has been appointed as full-time CEO of BharatPe?
- (a) Nalin Negi (b) Abhishek Kumar
(c) Shashvat Nakrani (d) Ashneer Grover
53. Astronomers have detected the largest stellar black hole in which galaxy?
- (a) Andromeda Galaxy (b) Cartwheel Galaxy
(c) Black Eye Galaxy (d) Milky Way galaxy
54. Name the Indian Jain spiritual leader, who has been presented with the US President's Gold Volunteer Service award in recognition of his contribution to the public good and humanity.
- (a) Dharmendra Sonar (b) Lokesh Muni
(c) Manushya Gana (d) Nemi Chandra Jain

55. **British-American author Salman Rushdie releases his memoir_____.**
 (a) "Knife" (b) "The Last Fire Season"
 (c) "Breaking the Curse" (d) "Secret Harvest"
56. **As per Global Forest Watch, India lost _____ of tree cover since 2000.**
 (a) 2.13 million hectares (b) 2.23 million hectares
 (c) 2.33 million hectares (d) 2.43 million hectares
57. **The Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi is ranked _____ in a list of the world's top 10 busiest airports.**
 (a) Fifth (b) Sixth
 (c) Ninth (d) Tenth
58. **Which is the first country to recently introduce vaccine for meningitis?**
 (a) Djibouti (b) Uganda
 (c) South Africa (d) Nigeria
59. **Recently, ISRO has announced till when to make space missions debris free?**
 (a) Year 2025 (b) Year 2030
 (c) Year 2035 (d) Year 2040
60. **Where has the rare phenomenon of 'Surya Tilak' happened recently?**
 (a) Lord Ramlala Temple (b) Tirupati Balaji Temple
 (c) Sabarimala Temple (d) Shirdi Sainath Temple
61. **Which is the first company to export iPhones worth more than \$10 billion from India in the financial year 2023-24?**
 (a) Apple (b) Samsung
 (c) Vivo (d) Oppo
62. **Recently, India's first 'hybrid pitch' has been installed in which cricket stadium?**
 (a) Narendra Modi (b) Eden Gardens
 (c) M.A. Chidambaram (d) Dharamshala
63. **When was World Haemophilia Day 2024 celebrated recently?**
 (a) 14 April (b) 15 April
 (c) 16 April (d) 17 April
64. **Who has recently won the singles title of Monte Carlo Masters 1000?**
 (a) Jannik Sinner (b) Casper Rudd
 (c) Stefanos Tsitsipas (d) Carlos Alcaraz
65. **Recently, with whose cooperation India has announced the reactivation of the Indian Ocean Surveillance System 'IndOOS'?**
 (a) Indonesia (b) USA
 (c) Malaysia (d) Singapore
66. **Who has recently developed hydrogel to remove microplastics from water?**
 (a) IIT Jodhpur (b) Banaras Hindu University
 (c) IIT Madras (d) IISc, Bengaluru
67. **Who will launch the European Space Agency's 'Proba-3 mission'?**
 (a) NASA (b) ISRO
 (c) SpaceX (d) Jaxa
68. **Who has recently announced to conduct war exercise 'Mission Victus Hedge' for the first time in space?**
 (a) Canada (b) China
 (c) Russia (d) USA
69. **Where has DRDO and Indian Army successfully tested the indigenous 'MPATGM'?**
 (a) Goa (b) Gujarat
 (c) Odisha (d) Rajasthan
70. **Where has the outbreak of flood been seen due to artificial rain recently?**
 (a) Canada (b) Turkey
 (c) UAE (d) Australia
71. **Who will be honored with 'Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar Award'?**
 (a) Amitabh Bachchan (b) Sachin Tendulkar
 (c) Mithun Chakraborty (d) Ratan Tata
72. **Recently RBI has banned 'Bob World' app of which bank?**
 (a) Canara Bank (b) HDFC
 (c) State Bank of India (d) Bank of Baroda
73. **When was World Heritage Day 2024 celebrated recently?**
 (a) 15 April (b) 16 April
 (c) 17 April (d) 18 April
74. **Which Indian actress has recently been included in the list of Time's 100 most influential people?**
 (a) Priyanka Chopra (b) Deepika Padukone
 (c) Bhumi Pednekar (d) Alia Bhatt
75. **Where has DRDO recently inaugurated the Sonar System Test and Evaluation Center 'SPACE'?**
 (a) Maharashtra (b) Goa
 (c) Kerala (d) Gujarat
76. **Indian team won how many medals in the Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) 2024?**
 (a) Six (b) Four
 (c) Eight (d) Five
77. **How many Indians got place in the Time's 100 Most Influential List 2024?**
 (a) Six (b) Four
 (c) Nine (d) Eight
78. **What is the theme of the World Liver Day 2024?**
 (a) Keep your liver healthy and disease-free
 (b) Keep liver healthy
 (c) Keep liver disease free
 (d) Keep control on your liver
79. **Who of the following has been appointed as next chief of Indian Navy?**
 (a) Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi
 (b) Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh
 (c) Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh
 (d) Vice Admiral Suresh Kohli
80. **Recently, in which country has there been a massive explosion in the 'Mount Ruang' volcano?**
 (a) Russia (b) Indonesia
 (c) Japan (d) Italy
81. **Who has recently been announced to be appointed to the post of Navy Chief of the country?**
 (a) Dinesh Kumar Tripathi
 (b) Anurag Kumar
 (c) Sachchidanand Mohanty
 (d) Harendra Singh
82. **To whom has India recently exported the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system?**
 (a) Argentina (b) Indonesia
 (c) Ecuador (d) Philippines
83. **Recently, under whose chairmanship has the Central Government constituted a committee on LGBTQ+ community?**
 (a) Rajiv Gauba (b) Nalin Negi
 (c) Sanjana Sanghi (d) Jagjit Padvia

84. **Where was the 16th World Future Energy Summit held recently?**
(a) Abu Dhabi (b) Geneva
(c) Tokyo (d) London
85. **Tirangi Barfi and Dhalua idol metal crafts which recently received GI tag are related to?**
(a) Patna (b) Indore
(c) Varanasi (d) Jaipur
86. **Who has been recently honored with Skytrax's 'Best Airport Staff Award'?**
(a) Indira Gandhi New Delhi
(b) MAA Chennai
(c) Chhatrapati Shivaji Mumbai
(d) GMR Hyderabad
87. **What is the recently discussed memoir 'Just a Mercenary' related to?**
(a) D Subbarao (b) Salman Rushdie
(c) Raman Mittal (d) Sam Pitroda
88. **In which country has General Manoj Pandey recently inaugurated a high-tech IT lab?**
(a) Kyrgyzstan (b) Tajikistan
(c) Uzbekistan (d) Turkmenistan
89. **Where was the Asian Wrestling Championship 2024 organized recently?**
(a) Kyrgyzstan (b) Mongolia
(c) Jordan (d) Egypt
90. **Vedanta firm Hindustan Zinc has become the _____ largest silver producer globally.**
(a) First (b) Second
(c) Third (d) Fourth
91. **Which airport has received the 'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024' award by Skytrax?**
(a) Indira Gandhi International Airport
(b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport
(c) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
(d) GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd
92. **On April 19, the first batch of indigenous Leading Edge Actuators and Airbrake Control Modules was handed over to _____ by the DRDO.**
(a) Bharat Electronics
(b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
(c) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
(d) Aeronautical Development Agency
93. **On 18 April 2024, An MoU was signed between the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) and the _____ for collaborative research and training.**
(a) IIT Bombay (b) IIT Kanpur
(c) IIT Lucknow (d) IIT Delhi
94. **Which country became the 38th country to join the Artemis Accords?**
(a) Sweden (b) Norway
(c) India (d) Japan
95. **Which company unveils Llama 3 and its real-time image generator?**
(a) Google (b) IBM
(c) Meta (d) Wipro
96. **Which Indian Women's Hockey Team player won the Asunta Lakra Award?**
(a) Ishika Chaudhary (b) Vandana Katariya
(c) Preeti Dubey (d) Deepika Soreng
97. **Three new archaeological sites have been discovered in which state?**
(a) Karnataka (b) Kerala
(c) Telangana (d) Uttar Pradesh
98. **Who has been appointed as the NSG chief?**
(a) Daljit Singh Chawdhary (b) Sapna Tewari
(c) Prabhat Kumar (d) Nalin Prabhat
99. **What is the name of the exercise carried out by the Indian Navy recently on the East Coast?**
(a) Exercise Poorvi Lehar (b) Exercise Poorvi Sagar
(c) Exercise Poorvi Satark
(d) Exercise Poorvi Saksham
100. **In April 2024, the Department of Public Enterprise has granted "Navratna" status to _____.**
(a) Kamarajar Port Limited
(b) Hindustan Copper Limited
(c) Indian Rare Earths Limited
(d) National Fertilizers Ltd
101. **The IRDAI has removed the age limit of _____ for individuals buying health insurance policies.**
(a) 65 years (b) 75 years
(c) 68 years (d) 70 years
102. **A new species of tiger cat named the clouded tiger cat has been discovered in _____.**
(a) Myanmar (b) Thailand
(c) Vietnam (d) Brazil
103. **When has World Earth Day 2024 been celebrated recently?**
(a) 19 April (b) 20 April
(c) 21 April (d) 22 April
104. **How much has the United Nations Population Fund recently estimated the population of India in its report?**
(a) 142 crores (b) 143 crores
(c) 144 crores (d) 145 crores
105. **Who has recently announced the implementation of 4-day work system in a week?**
(a) Indonesia (b) Singapore
(c) Malaysia (d) Vietnam
106. **Which is the 39th country to recently join the Artemis Agreement?**
(a) Sweden (b) Finland
(c) Slovenia (d) Canada
107. **Who has recently got the title of the world's best airport?**
(a) Hamad (b) Changi
(c) Incheon (d) New Delhi
108. **BJP's Mukesh Dalal, the first MP recently elected to the 18th Lok Sabha from which constituency?**
(a) Ayodhya (b) Surat
(c) Srinagar (d) Jodhpur
109. **Who has recently been appointed as its brand ambassador by French car manufacturer Citroen India?**
(a) Aamir Khan (b) Virat Kohli
(c) Neeraj Chopra (d) MS Dhoni
110. **Who is the youngest challenger to win the title of 'Candidates Chess Tournament' recently?**
(a) Hikaru Nakamura (b) D Gukesh
(c) R Praggnanandha (d) Vidit Gujarati
111. **According to the recent SIPRI report on global military expenditure, what position has India got in the year 2023?**
(a) First (b) Second
(c) Third (d) Fourth

112. Who has recently been awarded the World Press Photo of the Year award for the year 2024?
(a) Michel Tallagrand (b) Rezwana Chaudhary
(c) Mohammad Salem (d) Vijay Jain
113. Where has Hindi radio broadcasting started for the first time recently?
(a) Turkey (b) Kuwait
(c) Israel (d) Oman
114. Where was the first International Rainbow Tourism Conference held recently?
(a) Nepal (b) Netherlands
(c) Sri Lanka (d) Thailand
115. Where have researchers from IIT Roorkee recently discovered the fossil of the world's largest snake 'Vasuki Indicus'?
(a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra
(c) Kerala (d) Karnataka
116. Recently, which tribal group of Andaman and Nicobar has voted for Lok Sabha 2024 for the first time?
(a) Shompen (b) Onge
(c) Great Andamanese (d) Jarawa
117. When was World Book and Copyright Day 2024 celebrated recently?
(a) 20 April (b) 21 April
(c) 22 April (d) 23 April
118. Where was the biggest temple festival 'Thrissur Pooram 2024' organized recently?
(a) Karnataka (b) Tamil Nadu
(c) Kerala (d) Odisha
119. Who has been appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) for a term of five years, making her the first woman to hold the top post in over 100 years?
(a) Fathima Beevi (b) Naima Khatoon
(c) Sucheta Kriplani (d) Vijaya Lakshmi
120. A new oral vaccine for Cholera has been pre-qualified by the WHO. What is the name of the vaccine?
(a) Euvichol-S (b) EuBio
(c) Dukoral (d) Shanchol
121. Which of the following has appointed Col Edison Napyo as 1st defence adviser to India?
(a) Papua New Guinea (b) Fiji
(c) Kiribati (d) Tonga
122. Which Bangladeshi Singer has received the Padma Shri Award in 2024?
(a) Monir Khan (b) Shakib Khan
(c) Mehreen Mahmud (d) Rezwana Choudhury
123. Where has NASA recently announced to send 'Dragonfly rotorcraft mission'?
(a) Titan (b) Phobos
(c) Enceladus (d) Ganymede
124. Recently, the Parliament of which country has approved the bill to ban TikTok?
(a) Canada (b) USA
(c) Britain (d) Germany
125. Who is the first female footballer to be honored with the 'Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year' award recently?
(a) Sam Kerr (b) Salma Parluelo
(c) Aitana Bonmati (d) Keira Walsh
126. Where was the sixth edition of the International Disaster Resilient Infrastructure Conference held recently?
(a) Thimphu (b) Kathmandu
(c) New Delhi (d) Colombo
127. When was National Panchayati Raj Day-2024 celebrated recently?
(a) 20 April (b) 21 April
(c) 22 April (d) 24 April
128. Which is the first Indian film recently selected in the 'La Cin  f' section of the 77th Cannes Film Festival?
(a) Country of Blind
(b) Sunflowers were the first ones to know
(c) Donkey
(d) 12th fail
129. Where has India's largest climate clock been launched recently?
(a) Chennai (b) Pune
(c) New Delhi (d) Kochi
130. Who has been honored with the Aryabhata Award recently?
(a) Mohammad Salem (b) Ratan Tata
(c) Pavuluri Subba Rao (d) Lokesh Muni
131. According to a recent study by Australian firm Compare the Market AU, which is the cheapest passport in the world?
(a) UAE (b) India
(c) South Africa (d) Kenya
132. Recently which country has appointed 'Colonel Edison Napyo' as its first Defense Advisor to India?
(a) Philippines (b) Mauritius
(c) Papua New Guinea (d) Vietnam
133. Where was the first Ocean Decade Conference 2024 held recently?
(a) Brazil (b) Japan
(c) Philippines (d) Spain
134. Where has Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam recently inaugurated the country's first multi-purpose green hydrogen project?
(a) Jammu and Kashmir (b) Uttarakhand
(c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Punjab
135. When was World Malaria Day 2024 celebrated recently?
(a) 22 April (b) 23 April
(c) 24 April (d) 25 April
136. Where has the Indian Air Force recently tested 'ROCKS' or 'Crystal Maze 2' ballistic missile?
(a) Andaman-Nicobar (b) Odisha
(c) Rajasthan (d) Goa
137. India's leading player Saurav Ghoshal, who recently announced his retirement, is related to?
(a) Basketball (b) Hockey
(c) Table Tennis (d) Squash
138. Who is the first bowler to take 200 wickets in recent IPL history?
(a) Dwayne Bravo (b) Jasprit Bumrah
(c) Yuzvendra Chahal (d) Piyush Chawla
139. Where was the 26th World Energy Congress held recently?
(a) Riyadh (b) St. Petersburg
(c) Abu Dhabi (d) Rotterdam

140. Recently, with whom has the world football governing body FIFA signed an agreement for sponsorship of its tournaments?
(a) Meta (b) Aramco
(c) Gazprom (d) Alibaba
141. Where is the 'Mount Erebus' volcano, which was in the news recently due to gold eruption, located?
(a) Italy (b) India
(c) Antarctica (d) Ecuador
142. To whom has India exported maximum pharmaceutical products in FY24?
(a) Brazil (b) USA
(c) Britain (d) Netherlands
143. When has World Intellectual Property Day 2024 been celebrated recently?
(a) 23 April (b) 24 April
(c) 25 April (d) 26 April
144. Who was recently deceased Sudhir Kakkar related to?
(a) Hockey (b) Music
(c) Psychology (d) Politics
145. Who has recently been appointed to the post of Chairman of the Athletes Commission of the Indian Wrestling Federation?
(a) T Rabi Shankar (b) Naima Khatoon
(c) Narsingh Yadav (d) Kaushik Rajasekhar
146. Who is the first Indian to win the doubles title of the Bavarian International Tennis Championship?
(a) Yuki Bhambri (b) Rohan Bopanna
(c) Sumit Nagal (d) Chirag Shetty
147. Under whose chairmanship will the G7 summit be held in the year 2024?
(a) Britain (b) Germany
(c) Japan (d) Italy
148. According to UNCTAD report, what position has India got at the global level in service sector exports in the year 2023?
(a) Fourth (b) Fifth
(c) Sixth (d) Seventh
149. Who has recently passed a law criminalizing homosexual relations?
(a) Iraq (b) Oman
(c) Saudi Arabia (d) Qatar
150. Recently, Indian and Russian companies have got joint management of Matala Airport located in which country?
(a) Bangladesh (b) Sri Lanka
(c) Maldives (d) Myanmar
151. Recently, National Defense University, Gandhinagar and which country's Starburst have signed an agreement to promote innovation in aerospace?
(a) Britain (b) USA
(c) France (d) Russia
152. Which port of Adani Group will be developed as India's first transshipment hub?
(a) Gopalpur Port (b) Mundra Port
(c) Vizhinjam Port (d) Karaikal Port
153. Which Indian cricketer has recently been appointed by ICC as the brand ambassador of T20 World Cup?
(a) Sachin Tendulkar (b) Yuvraj Singh
(c) Zaheer Khan (d) Yusuf Pathan
154. Where was the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's 'Bima Manthan' organized recently?
(a) Bengaluru (b) Mumbai
(c) Hyderabad (d) Pune
155. Omkareshwar-Kevadiya Cruise 'Yatra' on Narmada River which was in discussion recently is related to?
(a) Maharashtra-Gujarat
(b) Madhya Pradesh-Gujarat
(c) Madhya Pradesh-Maharashtra
(d) Uttar Pradesh-Gujarat
156. Project Nilgiri Tahr, recently seen in the news, is an initiative launched by which state government?
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Maharashtra
(c) Karnataka (d) Odisha
157. Harshit Kumar, who recently won a gold medal in the 21st U-20 Asian Athletics Championship 2024, belongs to which sports?
(a) Javelin throw (b) Hammer throw
(c) Tennis (d) Chess
158. What is nephrotic syndrome, recently mentioned in the news?
(a) A skin disorder
(b) A kidney disorder causing excessive protein in urine
(c) A respiratory condition
(d) A neurological disorder
159. Who has recently been appointed as the brand ambassador of the 2024 ICC T20 World Cup?
(a) Usain Bolt (b) Neeraj Chopra
(c) Shahrukh Khan (d) Novak Djokovic

Answer Key

1-d	2-c	3-a	4-a	5-c	6-c	7-a	8-b	9-a	10-c
11-b	12-a	13-c	14-d	15-c	16-a	17-a	18-d	19-b	20-d
21-a	22-a	23-c	24-d	25-c	26-d	27-c	28-b	29-a	30-b
31-a	32-a	33-d	34-b	35-b	36-c	37-a	38-d	39-c	40-d
41-c	42-d	43-b	44-d	45-c	46-b	47-d	48-a	49-d	50-c
51-a	52-a	53-d	54-b	55-a	56-c	57-d	58-d	59-a	60-a
61-a	62-d	63-d	64-c	65-b	66-d	67-b	68-d	69-d	70-c
71-a	72-d	73-d	74-d	75-c	76-b	77-d	78-a	79-a	80-b
81-a	82-d	83-a	84-a	85-c	86-d	87-a	88-c	89-a	90-c
91-d	92-b	93-b	94-a	95-c	96-d	97-c	98-d	99-a	100-d
101-a	102-d	103-d	104-c	105-b	106-c	107-a	108-b	109-d	110-b
111-d	112-c	113-b	114-a	115-a	116-a	117-d	118-c	119-b	120-a
121-a	122-d	123-a	124-b	125-c	126-c	127-d	128-b	129-c	130-c
131-a	132-c	133-d	134-d	135-d	136-a	137-d	138-c	139-d	140-b
141-c	142-b	143-b	144-c	145-c	146-a	147-d	148-d	149-d	150-b
151-c	152-c	153-b	154-c	155-b	156-a	157-b	158-b	159-a	