

Category
<u>Awards and Honours</u>
<u>Appointments</u>
<u>Banking & Finance</u>
<u>Indian Affairs</u>
<u>State Affairs</u>
<u>International Affairs</u>
<u>Business News</u>
<u>Ranks</u>
<u>Foreign Relation</u>
<u>Defence News</u>
<u>Science and Tech News</u>
<u>Books News</u>
<u>Sports News</u>
<u>Obituary News</u>
<u>Important Days and Themes</u>

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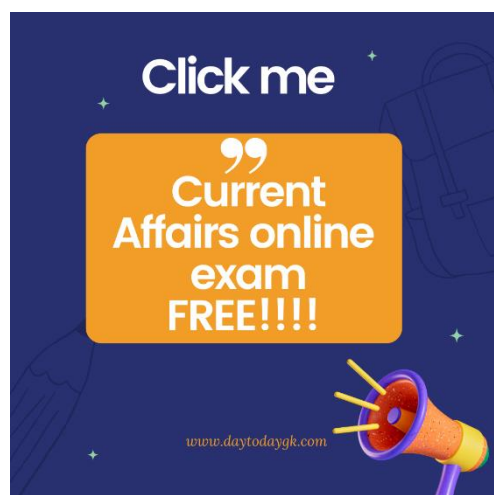
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[Current Affairs Quiz PDF](#)

[Math Tricks PDF](#)

[GK World PDF](#)

[GK India PDF](#)



Awards and Honours

Awardee Name	Award Name	Extra Information
Dr. Nitya Abraham	Young Urologist of the Year Award	An Indian-American physician and professor Dr. Nitya Abraham has been honoured with the Young Urologist of the Year Award conferred by the American Urological Association (AUA).
C.R. Rao	International Prize in Statistics 2023	Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao has been a revered Mathematician as well as Statistician throughout his life. 102-year-old Indian-American C.R. Rao is entitled to receive his International Prize in Statistics 2023 this year.
Bharat Biotech	World Vaccine Congress 2023 - Best Production/Process Development award	At the World Vaccine Congress 2023 held in Washington, USA from April 3-6, Bharat Biotech was awarded the Best Production/Process Development award as a part of the Vaccine Industry Excellence (ViE) awards.
Nilesh Sambare	‘Maratha Udyog Ratna 2023’	Nilesh Bhagwan Sambre, the founder of Jijau Educational and Social Foundation, was recently honored with the “Maratha Udyog Ratna” award at the “Maratha Entrepreneurs Conference 2023”.
Kumar Mangalam Birla	AIMA’s ‘Business Leader of the Decade’ award’	At the 13th Managing India Awards ceremony hosted by the All India Management Association (AIMA), Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of Aditya Birla Group, was presented with the ‘Business Leader of the Decade Award’ for his contributions to the Indian industry in the last ten years.
Nandini Gupta	Femina Miss India 2023	This 19-year-old girl hails from Kota, Rajasthan and is crowned at the 59th edition of the big national beauty show.
Raj Subramaniam	Pravasi Bharatiya Samman	Raj Subramaniam, the CEO of FedEx, a renowned global transportation company, and an



CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

		Indian-American, was recently honored with the distinguished Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award
Angela Merkel	Germany's highest honor	Former Chancellor Angela Merkel received Germany's highest Order of Merit. The Grand Cross award was handed to her by President Frank-Walter Steinmeier.
Sonam Wangchuk	Prestigious Santokbaa Humanitarian Award	The Santokbaa Humanitarian Award, which includes a cash prize of Rs. 1 crore, has been created in honor of Late Santokbaa Dholakia, the mother of Govind Dholakia, the Founder Chairman of SRK and SRKKF.
Deepika Misra	1 st IAF Woman to be Awarded Gallantry Award	Deepika Misra becomes the first woman IAF officer to have been honoured with the Gallantry Medal.
Dr Raghu Ram	Telugu Association of London award	He is the founding director of the AKIMS-Ushalakshmi Centre for Breast Diseases located in Hyderabad. Despite his relatively young age, Dr Raghuram has become one of the few people to receive the award.
Dalai Lama	Ramon Magsaysay Award	After a 64-year wait, members of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation personally presented the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award to the Dalai Lama at his residence.
Alessandra Korap	Goldman Environment Prize	Alessandra Korap, an indigenous Munduruku woman from the Brazilian Amazon, has been recognized with a 2023 Goldman Environmental Prize, an esteemed award that acknowledges the efforts of six activists from six continents who work at the grassroots level to safeguard the environment.
Ratan Tata	Australia's highest civilian honour	Ratan Tata, the Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, has been awarded the Order of Australia (AO), which is Australia's highest civilian honour. The announcement



CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

		was made by Australia's High Commissioner to India, Barry O'Farrell.
Shakira	Billboard's Inaugural Latin Woman of the Year Award	Shakira, the renowned Colombian singer, will be recognized with the prestigious 'Latin Women of the Year' award at the inaugural Latin Women in Music gala hosted by Billboard.
Neeli Bendapudi	Immigrant Achievement Award 2023	Neeli Bendapudi, the current president of Penn State University, is set to receive the Immigrant Achievement Award for her significant contributions to higher education in the United States.

Appointments

Name	Designation Name	Extra Information
Richard Verma	Deputy Secretary of United State	Richard Verma, an Indian-American lawyer, diplomat, and executive, has been appointed as the Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources by the US Senate.
Rajib K Mishra	Power Trading Corporation of India Limited – Chairman	Power Trading Corporation of India Limited (PTC) is a public sector undertaking established in 1999 under the Ministry of Power, Government of India. Its primary business is to trade electricity across different regions of India.
Neeraj Nigam	Executive Director – RBI	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Neeraj Nigam as Executive Director with effect from April 3. Before the appointment, Nigam was heading the Bhopal Regional Office of the Bank as Regional Director.
Sanjay Jasjit Singh	Vice-Chief of Navy	On April 2nd, Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh assumed the position of Vice-Chief of



CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

		Naval Staff (VCNS) as part of a series of high-level changes in the Indian Navy.
Sudha Shivkumar	40th President of FICCI Ladies Organisation	Sudha Shivkumar has been appointed as the 40th president of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), which is the oldest women-led and women-centric business chamber in Southeast Asia.
Kenichi Umeda	Suzuki Motorcycle - MD	Kenichi Umeda has been appointed as the new Managing Director of Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt. Ltd. He takes over from Satoshi Uchida, who has completed his term as Managing Director.
Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo	President of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)	This change occurred as the previous president, Raninder Singh, went on a long leave after the Sports Ministry issued a directive stating that the heads of national sports federations (NSFs) cannot hold office for more than 12 years
Ratnakar Patnaik	Chief Investment Officer of LIC	Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has announced the appointment of Ratnakar Patnaik as the new Chief Investment Officer, replacing PR Mishra, who stepped down from the role on April 10.
Sekhar Rao	MD and CEO of Karnataka Bank	The duration of the appointment is for three months, starting from April 15, 2023, or until the appointment of a regular managing director and chief executive officer.
Randhir Thakur	CEO & MD of Tata Electronics	Tata Group, appointed Dr. Randhir Thakur, as the CEO and managing director of Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd (TEPL), as the group has drawn a strategy to strengthen its semiconductor manufacturing capabilities in an attempt to gain an edge over rivals in the country's thriving precision machining business.
Asha Bhosle	Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar	The award ceremony will take place on April 24, which is the anniversary of their father's



CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

		death. Asha Bhosle, who is Lata Mangeshkar's younger sister, will be the recipient of the award.
Kaizad Bharucha	deputy managing director – HDFC	Kaizad Bharucha is an experienced banker with over 35 years of work experience. He has been a part of HDFC Bank since 1995.
Rishabh Pant	Star Sports - brand ambassador	The Walt Disney Company-owned Star Sports has signed cricketer Rishabh Pant as its latest brand ambassador. The company said it also has other cricketers as its 'Believe Ambassadors' like Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, KL Rahul, and Shreyas Iyer.
Virat Kohli	HSBC – Brand Ambassador	HSBC India has recently announced Virat Kohli, the former captain of the Indian cricket team, as its brand ambassador. The financial services company issued a press release on April 19 to confirm the partnership.
Md. Sahabuddin	President of Bangladesh	Veteran freedom fighter, jurist and politician Md. Sahabuddin was sworn in as the 22nd President of Bangladesh on Monday, 24 April 2023 in Dhaka.
Shantanu Roy	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of BEML Limited	The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel selected him for the position from a list of three candidates, all of whom were from BEML Limited.
Mahavir Singh Phogat	Chairman of the MMA-1 Federation	As the Chairman of the MMA-1 Federation, Phogat will work towards developing and promoting MMA in India, with a focus on identifying and nurturing young talent in the sport.
Anant Maheshwari	Nasscom chairperson	Anant Maheshwari, the President of Microsoft India, has been appointed as the Chairperson of Nasscom for the period 2023-24, succeeding Krishnan Ramanujam, the President of Business and Technology



		Services at Tata Consultancy Services, who held the position for the year 2022-23.
Shreekant Bhandiwad	Chairman of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank	Prior to his appointment, Bhandiwad served as the head of the Patna circle of Canara Bank, and also gained experience working in the CMD's Secretariat at the bank's head office.
Siddhartha Mohanty	Chairman of LIC	The government announced the appointment of Siddhartha Mohanty as the Chairperson of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) until June 29, 2024.

Banking & Finance

Airtel-IPPB WhatsApp Banking Services

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Bharti Airtel have partnered to launch banking services through **WhatsApp for their customers in India**. This joint statement was released on March 31st, 2023.

In this article, we will explore what IPPB is, what services customers can avail through WhatsApp banking, and what the partnership with Bharti Airtel means for customers.

What is IPPB?

IPPB (India Post Payments Bank) is a division of India Post that comes under the aegis of the Department of Post, which comes under the Union Ministry of Communications. It was opened in 2018 and has **more than 6 crore customers** as of January 2022.

IPPB Partnership with Bharti Airtel

The partnership between IPPB and Bharti Airtel will enable IPPB customers to connect with the bank on WhatsApp and easily avail of a range of banking services. The partnership is aimed at driving digital and financial inclusion in India.

Canara Bank has partnered with Reserve Bank of India innovation hub

Canara Bank, in partnership with the **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)**, has introduced a new customer-friendly service called **“Digitalised Submission of Form 15G/15H,”** which is aimed at enhancing customer satisfaction.



These are self-declaration forms that individuals submit to the bank to avoid the deduction of TDS on interest income, provided their income is below the basic exemption limit. These forms, namely Form 15G (for individuals and HUFs) and Form 15H (for senior citizens), require PAN information to be furnished.

Bank of Maharashtra inaugurated its first dedicated Branch for Start-ups in Pune

State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has opened its first dedicated branch for startups in **Pune, Maharashtra**. The dedicated branch will provide all kinds of support to a startup during its growth journey.

Asheesh Pandey, Executive Director, Bank of Maharashtra, was present in the inaugural ceremony. Sadashiv Survase, Joint Director, Industries, Govt. of Maharashtra, Sajit Kumar, Senior VP SIDBI venture capital, General Managers of the bank, entrepreneurs from start-ups along with customers were present at the event.

RBI imposes Rs 44 lakh penalty on 4 co-op banks

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has levied penalties of **Rs 44 lakhs** on four cooperative banks for violating various norms. The penalties are based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the banks with their customers, the RBI said.

City Union Bank launches India's 1st Voice Biometric Authentication Banking App

City Union Bank Limited (CUB) has introduced a new feature that allows customers to use voice **biometric authentication** when logging into the bank's mobile banking app, aimed at improving security.

The bank plans to extend this feature to net banking users as well, and the development process is currently underway. The voice biometric login option will join other existing authentication methods such as **User ID/PIN, face ID**, and fingerprint authentication, giving customers multiple choices.

CUB has stated that customers can select the authentication method that best suits their needs and preferences.

RBI allows AU Small Finance Bank to deal with foreign exchange

AU Small Finance Bank has announced that it has been granted permission by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to act as an authorized **dealer in foreign exchange**.

The bank has received a license to operate as an Authorized Dealer Category-I (AD-I) under section 10 of FEMA, 1999. As a result, the bank will be able to deal in foreign exchange going forward, provided it adheres to all relevant regulations. This announcement was made by the bank in a **SEBI filing**.



Karnataka bags National Award For Fasal Bima Yojana

During a national conference in **Chhattisgarh**, **Karnataka** was recognized as the leading state in implementing the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme**.

The award was accepted by **Shivayogi Kalasad**, the Secretary to the government, Department of Agriculture. As per officials from the agriculture department, a sum of Rs. 687.4 crore has been settled for 5.66 lakh farmers, who had pending claims since 2018.

AIIB signs agreement to launch First Overseas Office

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and United Arab Emirates (UAE) jointly signed MoU to open the bank's First Office abroad.
- It will be an Interim Operational Hub in the Abu Dhabi Global Market. While the bank aims to fund infrastructure projects.
- The office will be located between the Middle East and the world. UAE is dedicated to improving its cooperation with global institutions.

SBI to launch new current accounts and savings accounts in FY24 to attract deposits

The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has revealed plans to introduce new variants of current accounts and savings accounts in the fiscal year **2023-24**, as it seeks to reduce the gap between deposit growth and credit growth.

The bank intends to launch two new variants of current accounts, one with a balance of **₹50,000** and another with a balance of ₹50 lakh. It also plans to introduce a new savings account called **"Parivar" (family) account**.

SBI's fourth startup branch opens in Mumbai BKC

SBI opened its fourth branch exclusively for startups in **Mumbai's BKC area**. At the inaugural event, **SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara** stated that the branch's key objective is to offer comprehensive assistance to startups throughout their journey, from establishing their business entity to conducting IPOs and FPOs.

In addition to providing standard banking services to startups, the branch will also serve as a comprehensive resource for investment banking, treasury/forex, advisory, and other supplementary financial services offered by the bank's subsidiaries, according to him.

HDFC Bank Signs \$300 Million Credit Agreement with Export-Import Bank of Korea

HDFC Bank, the leading private sector bank in India, has signed a Master Inter Bank Credit Agreement with the Export-Import Bank of Korea, with a total value of **US \$300 million**. The signing ceremony took place in GIFT City, Gujarat, and aims to help HDFC Bank raise foreign currency funds, which will be used to support Korea-related businesses.



Credit line to be used for funding Korea-related businesses

The credit line will be utilized by **HDFC Bank** for the funding requirements of companies with equity participation by **Korean firms**, companies having business relationships with Korean companies, and consumers who wish to purchase cars manufactured by Korea-related companies.

Canara Bank and NPCI Launch Cross-Border Bill Payment Service for Indians in Oman

Canara Bank and NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL) have collaborated to launch a service that allows Indians residing in Oman to make payments for their bills in India.

Canara Bank has achieved a significant feat by becoming India's first public sector bank to provide inbound cross-border bill payment services through BBPS. This breakthrough means that Indians residing in Oman can now conveniently and securely pay bills for services in their home country with ease.

Indian Affairs

Rajya Sabha passes Competition Amendment Bill, 2023

The **Rajya Sabha** approved the **Competition Amendment Bill, 2023**, aimed at modernizing the two-decade-old anti-trust law to align with changes in the economy.

The Competition Amendment Bill, 2023 aims to modify the Competition Act, 2002, which authorizes the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to prevent practices that adversely impact competition and consumer interests.

President of India Inaugurates GAJ UTSAV-2023

The Gaj Utsav-2023 was inaugurated at the **Kaziranga National Park** by the President of India, **Smt Droupadi Murmu**. During her speech, she highlighted the significant bond between nature and humanity, which is regarded as sacred.

India has always identified itself with a culture of respecting nature. Our country has a unique connection between nature and culture, where both have been intertwined and nourishing each other.

Elephants have been held in high esteem in our tradition, and are considered a symbol of prosperity. As the National Heritage Animal of India, safeguarding elephants is an essential element of our national duty to conserve our national heritage.

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



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched **Rajasthan's first Vande Bharat Express train** via video conferencing, which is the 15th such train in the country.

The prime minister emphasized that the Vande Bharat Express symbolizes development, modernity, self-reliance, and stability, enriching the spirit of 'India First, Always First'. He also mentioned that the train will greatly benefit Rajasthan's tourism industry.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launches 'Reflections'

The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, launched a book called "**Reflections**" in Mumbai. The author of the book is Narayanan Vaghul, a well-known banker, and it provides a detailed account of his experiences in the financial landscape of India over several decades.

Sitharaman praised Vaghul for his leadership qualities and extensive experience in banking, as well as his contributions to mentoring leaders. She particularly highlighted his ideas and vision for women empowerment, which she believes will continue to be relevant and valuable as more women take on leadership roles in financial services in India.

Indian Space Policy 2023: Union govt approves Indian Space Policy 2023 to enhance role of Department of Space

The Union Government of India has recently approved the Indian Space Policy 2023, which aims to enhance the role of the Department of Space and boost the activities of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. This policy is a significant step towards strengthening India's space sector and achieving self-reliance in space technology.

Indian Space Policy 2023: Aim

The Indian Space Policy 2023 aims to establish a conducive environment for the private sector to participate in space activities, thereby boosting innovation and entrepreneurship in the space sector. It also aims to promote international cooperation in space research and exploration.

Project Tiger: PM Narendra Modi Visits National Park on 50th Anniversary, Census Rises Up To 3,167

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in **Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka** today i.e. April 09, 2023 (Sunday). The day signifies the 50th anniversary since the conservation initiative was launched in India.

Modi announced the total tiger population in **2022 to be 3,167**. Moreover, this was his 8th visit to poll-bound Karnataka. He is proud of the increase in the number of tiger data compared to the previous census.



Project Tiger Inauguration

During the opening session, PM Modi remembered **50 years of the tiger conservation programme**. He emphasized the protection of different species of flora and fauna. Project Tiger is one of the largest initiatives taken to highlight the importance of big cats and further reminding of the duties to take corrective measures in order to save them.

PM Narendra Modi to Inaugurate India's First Water Metro, Will Improve Connectivity Around Kochi

Kochi Water Metro Project, India's first-ever initiative to enhance the port city's development. On April 25, 2023 (Tuesday) Prime Minister Narendra Modi will put this water metro service into action.

With this, the Kochi Water Metro, the country's first water metro service, on April 25. This transport system will link about 10 island communities in and around Kochi with the mainland.

Centre-state company Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) made the proposal for this watercraft and it received the final environment clearance in October 2019. While the cost of this innovative metro has been Rs 1,136.83 crore, this is going to accelerate living across the Greater Kochi region.

EU's Markets in Crypto Act India, Iran and Armenia forms new trilateral to deepen regional relations

The **European Union's legislature** has granted final approval to the **Markets in Crypto Assets (MiCA)** regulations, which are the new common rules for the crypto space in Europe. The MiCA will regulate the supervision, consumer protection, and environmental safeguards of digital assets, including cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin.

MiCA aims to reduce the carbon footprint of cryptocurrencies and counter the risks of market manipulation, money laundering, and terrorist financing. Larger service providers are obliged to disclose their energy consumption, and licensing for crypto service providers operating in the bloc is introduced. A register for non-compliant companies will also be established.

India's First Apple Store Opens Today at Mumbai, Fans Queue Up & Greets CEO

Apple Stores finally reached Indian land as the company opened its first-ever retail store in the country at **Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex**. The store opening was scheduled for today i.e. April 18, 2023, and fans have been joyfully present since morning.

At Jio World Drive Mall, **Apple BKC** is seen crowded with customers while they exchange wishes and pictures with **Tim Cook, Apple's CEO since 2011**. There was a huge crowd of fans who gathered around the store spread over an **area of 22,000 square ft**.



Celebrating the Silver Jubilee of iPhone Creators!

With the inauguration of the Apple BKC store, the company's makers have also **completed 25 years** so it is a call for a double celebration. Social media bloggers and technoids took a tour of the store that began today with its latest collection of Apple products.

Trinamool Congress, CPI and NCP lose national party status; Aam Aadmi Party now a National party

The Election Commission of India has granted national party status to **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)**. The Commission, however, withdrew the national party status of All India Trinamool Congress (AITC), Communist Party of India and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

In an order yesterday, the Election Commission said, after its recognition as a State party in Gujarat, the AAP has become a recognized state party in four states, namely **Delhi, Punjab, Goa and Gujarat**. It said, the party has fulfilled the eligibility conditions for granting recognition as a national party.

Minister Rupala to launch “Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI)”

On April 14th, 2023, **Shri Parshottam Rupala**, the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, launched two significant initiatives: **the Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI)** and the **Animal Health System Support for One Health (AHSSOH)** project, which is funded by the World Bank.

The launch event will take place at the India Habitat Center in **New Delhi** and will be held under the National One Health Mission.

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has partnered with the World Bank on a collaborative project called the Animal Health System Support for One Health (**AHSSOH**), which aims to establish an ecosystem for better animal health management through the One Health approach.

NHAI Enables FASTag Based Payments at Forest Entry Points

The authorities of the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve, which spans across **Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**, and the NHAI's subsidiary, Indian Highways Management Company, signed an agreement aimed at streamlining the entry process for vehicles into the forest area.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the memorandum of understanding (MoU) will enable the implementation of a FASTag-based payment system at forest entry points.

Namami Gange: 8 Projects Worth Rs 638 Crores Approved

The **Executive Committee** of the National Mission for **Clean Ganga (NMCG)** chaired by Director General G Asok Kumar, approved eight projects worth approximately Rs 638 crore.



The focus of these projects is to reduce pollution in River Hindon, which is a tributary of **River Yamuna**.

As part of the comprehensive ‘Hindon Rejuvenation Plan’, four projects costing **Rs 407.39 crore** were approved for pollution reduction in the Shamli district. These projects aim to prevent the flow of contaminated water into the Krishna River.

India Approves National Quantum Mission

On April 19, the **Union Cabinet** approved the **National Quantum Mission**, aimed at propelling India into a leading position in the quantum technology sector and promoting economic growth through its development.

The mission seeks to expedite progress in the field and cement India’s position as a major player in the industry.

Prime Minister’s Awards for Excellence in Public Administration

The **Prime Minister’s Awards for Excellence in Public Administration** is a recognition program for extraordinary and innovative work done by districts and organizations of central and state governments for the welfare of the people.

The awards aim to motivate public servants to enhance accountability, transparency, and innovation in their work by recognizing their efforts towards providing better governance. They were recently conferred at the National Civil Services Day event in New Delhi.

Anakapalli District and Swasth Bharat

Anakapalli district in Andhra Pradesh received the Prime Minister’s Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2022 for promoting Swasth Bharat (Healthy Bharat) through Health and Wellness Centres.

Changlang District’s New Age Learning Centre (NALC)

Changlang district in Arunachal Pradesh received the Prime Minister’s Award for Excellence in Public Administration for its innovative New Age Learning Centre (NALC).

Latur District’s ‘Arogyavardhni’ Centres

Latur district in Maharashtra received the Prime Minister’s Award for Excellence in Public Administration in recognition of its innovative scheme, ‘Sanjivani Abhiyan,’ implemented for cancer diagnosis.

State related Affairs

Himachal Pradesh’s Kangra tea gets European GI tag



The **European Commission (EC)** has awarded protected geographical indication (PGI) status to Kangra tea, a unique variety of tea grown in the **Kangra district of India's Himachal Pradesh**.

The PGI will be effective from April 11, 2023, as per the notification issued by the EC on March 22.

This move comes at a time when the EC has been delaying granting a similar status to **Basmati rice**, for which India applied in 2018. However, the EU wants India and Pakistan to hold discussions so that Basmati rice from Pakistan can also be recognized, but Pakistan is currently not meeting the necessary requirements for the recognition.

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

In March 2023, the railway network in the state of **Haryana** in India was completely electrified by Indian Railways, making it the first state in the country to achieve 100% electrification of its railway network.

As per the latest updates, the Broad Gauge routes of seven zonal railways in India have achieved the **100% electrification target**.

These railways are East Coast Railway (ECoR), North Central Railway (NCR), North Eastern Railway (NER), Eastern Railway (ER), South Eastern Railway (SER), West Central Railway (WCR), and Central Railway (CR).

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

The **government of Uttar Pradesh**, led by Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath**, has launched an ambitious plan to promote the **adoption of electric vehicles (EVs)** in the state.

As part of this initiative, the government has set a target to convert all vehicles used by government departments into EVs by 2030, in a phased manner.

Banarasi Paan, three other Varanasi-based goods receive GI tag

On April 3, 2022, the **Benarasi Paan**, which was featured in Amitabh Bachchan's famous song "Khaike Paan Benaras Wala," was granted the Geographical **Indication (GI) tag**. This means that these products have unique qualities specific to their respective regions.

The Benarasi Paan, known for its distinct taste and unique blend of ingredients, has been awarded the GI tag along with three other Varanasi-based products: **Banarasi Langda Mango, Ramnagar Bhanta (Brinjal), and Adamchini Rice**. The expert Rajinikant, who is a Padma Awardee in GI, has confirmed the designation of these products.

KSINC launches India's first solar-powered tourist boat

Kerala State Inland Navigation Corporation (KSINC) has launched a solar-powered tourist boat called **Sooryamshu that can produce 27 KW of energy**. The boat also comes equipped with generators, which will help power passenger lift systems and air-conditioners.



The solar panels will provide about **75% of the vessel's energy needs**, while the rest will be met by the generators. The boat was built in Sri Lanka for Rs. 3.95 crores.

KSINC plans to use the Sooryamshu for two tour packages. The first one, named the **Kadamakkudy package**, will offer tourists sightseeing and kayaking for Rs. 799. Kadamakkudy is a group of 14 islands situated within 10 kilometers of Kochi city.

The second package will take tourists to the Matsyafed farm in the Ernakulam district, where they can enjoy kayaking, paddling, fishing, and savoring exclusive seafood offered by the farm.

Thawe Festival organised in Bihar

The Department of Tourism and the Department of Art and Culture jointly organized the **Thawe Festival** on April 15th and 16th in Gopalganj, Bihar. The festival aimed to promote tourism in Gopalganj and attract visitors to the Thawe Durga Temple.

About Thawe Festival:

The Thawe Festival is an annual event that takes place in **Gopalganj, Bihar**. The festival's objective is to promote tourism in the region and encourage visitors to explore the Thawe Durga Temple, which is a prominent attraction in the area.

Kerala launches 'One Panchayat, One Playground' to revive sports culture

The **Kerala government** initiated a project aimed at reinvigorating the sports culture in the state by establishing high-quality playgrounds in every panchayat.

The **'One Panchayat, One Playground'** project was launched by Kerala's Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan, at Kallikkad. During the inauguration, he emphasized the significance of a strong sports culture in fostering a robust and contented community.

More About The 'One Panchayat, One Playground':

The Chief Minister announced that the playgrounds will be constructed within three years, with a list of **113 panchayats** identified for the initial phase of the project. Each playground is expected to cost around Rs. one crore.

MGNREGA: Rajasthan tops in persondays generation for 4th year

For the fourth year in a row, **Rajasthan** topped the country in terms of **persondays generation under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme**. In 2022-23, Rajasthan generated 35.61 crore persondays at a total cost of Rs 10,175 crore under the scheme.

Rajasthan is followed by Tamil Nadu (33.45 crore), Uttar Pradesh (31.18 crore), Andhra Pradesh (23.96 crore) and Bihar (23.69 crore) in terms of persondays generation, according to MGNREGA MIS report.



Tamil Nadu's Cumbum grapes get GI tag

The famous **Cumbum Panneer Thratchai or Cumbum grapes** from Tamil Nadu have recently been granted the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.

The Cumbum valley in Tamil Nadu is popularly known as the '**Grapes City of South India**' and is known for cultivating the Panneer Thratchai or Muscat Hamburg variety, which constitutes around 85% of the grape-growing regions in Tamil Nadu.

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

Tripura's recent award as the best-performing state in the **North Eastern region for e-Procurement** is a significant achievement for the state.

The award was presented at a National Workshop on e-Procurement organized by the Union Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology in March 2023, held at the India Habitat Center in New Delhi.

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

Kolkata Metro has achieved a significant milestone as it became the **first metro rail in India** to complete an under-river journey. The metro rakes passed through an underwater tunnel beneath the **Hooghly river**, with the general manager, P Uday Kumar Reddy, traveling from Mahakaran to Howrah Maidan station in rake No. MR-612 at 11:55 am.

Senior officers, including the Additional General Manager and MD of **Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Limited (KMRCL)**, H N Jaiswal, also accompanied him during the historic journey.

After reaching the Howrah station, Reddy performed a puja, and rake No MR- 613 was also taken to the Howrah Maidan station. Flowers were sprinkled and coconuts were broken to celebrate this achievement.

About the metro:

The **Kolkata Metro** is set to cover the **520-meter** distance under the Hooghly river in just **45 seconds**. The tunnel, which is 32 meters beneath the water level, is expected to begin trial runs on the 4.8-km underground section from Howrah Maidan to Esplanade soon. The four stations on this stretch include Esplanade, Mahakaran, Howrah, and Howrah Maidan.

In a first, Kerala adopts Water Budget to tackle problem of summer water shortage

An abundance of rivers, streams, backwaters and a good amount of rainfall contribute to the lush greenery in Kerala, many parts of **which yet face acute water scarcity when it comes to the summers**.

And this has led to the state adopting a Water Budget — **the first of its kind in the country**. The details of the first phase of the Water Budget in the state covering 94 grama panchayats in 15 block panchayats were unveiled by **Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan**.



Himachal Pradesh (HP) has become the first Indian state to develop a DNA database for unidentified bodies

Himachal Pradesh has made history by becoming the **first Indian state** to establish a **DNA database** specifically for unidentified bodies. This groundbreaking initiative commenced in April 2022, and the database currently contains 150 DNA samples of unknown individuals, according to recent news reports.

More About The DNA database:

In 2022, the Directorate of Forensics Services in Junga obtained DNA profile databasing and matching technology from the United States called **Smallpond TM** software at a cost of **Rs. 55 lakh**. The database is currently being populated and organized and has a capacity of around 20,000 DNA profiles, which can be expanded as needed.

International Affairs

IMF's \$15.6 Billion Loan For Ukraine

The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has approved a loan program worth **\$15.6 billion for Ukraine** as part of a larger \$115 billion package to aid its war-torn economy.

With one-third of Ukraine's population displaced, the IMF's support comes as a crucial aid in reconstructing the country's economy. Ukrainian **President Volodymyr Zelenskyy** expressed gratitude to the IMF for the support and called it an essential help in the fight against Russian aggression.

Two-Phase Loan Program for Ukraine

The IMF's loan program for Ukraine will span four years and run in two phases. The first phase aims to close Ukraine's massive budget deficit and stabilize disinflation.

The IMF's support will ease the pressure on government spending by providing immediate financial assistance of **\$2.7 billion**. Ukraine is required to focus on financial stability and undertake ambitious structural reforms, particularly in the energy sector.

Finland Becomes 31st NATO Member After Turkey's Approval

Jens Stoltenberg, the Secretary General of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**, has announced that Finland has become the 31st member of the alliance, thanks to Turkey's unanimous vote.

Despite Russia's opposition to Finland's membership, Turkey's approval has allowed the extension of **NATO**. Finland shares a long border of over 1,300 kilometers with Russia, and its decision to join NATO was prompted by security concerns following Russia's invasion of



Ukraine in 2022. However, Sweden's application to join NATO has been declined by Turkey and Hungary.

What is NATO and its History?

NATO, or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is an intergovernmental military alliance established in **1949**.

The founding members of NATO were the **United States, Canada, and ten European** nations including Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and the United Kingdom. Since then, the alliance has expanded to include 31 member countries.

Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara named gates unveiled at iconic SCG

Master blaster **Sachin Tendulkar** has **turned 50 this year on 24 April** and to honour him the iconic **Sydney Cricket Ground in Australia** has unveiled a set of gates named after him.

Along with him, the SCG also added the name of another cricketing legend Brian Lara, who will be sharing the honour with Sachin Tendulkar. The gates were unveiled to mark Tendulkar's 50th birthday and the 30th anniversary of Lara's 277 at the SCG, in which he scored a century in the test played in January 1993.

With this new honour, both the legends will join the league of great Donald Bradman, Alan Davidson and Arthur Morris.

Turkey's First Aircraft Carrier to Host World's First Mainly Unmanned Air Wing

The Turkish Navy has received the **TCG Anadolu**, its first aircraft carrier, which is expected to house the world's first air wing made primarily of unmanned aircraft.

Turkish President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** said the vessel would host many **manned and unmanned aerial vehicles**, with the TB3 from the Bayraktar family being the latest prototype tested on the carrier's flight deck.

The TB3 is a naval drone with **foldable wings** designed for ship decks and short runways, while its line-of-sight and beyond-line-of-sight communications capabilities allow it to be operated from far away locations. The **TCG Anadolu** is based on Spain's flagship, the Juan Carlos I, with a displacement of **27,436 tons and a top speed of about 21 knots**.

China launched Fengyun-3 satellite

China has achieved a significant milestone on April 16, 2023, by successfully launching the **Fengyun-3 meteorological satellite**. The satellite was launched using the Chang Zheng-4B carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Cosmodrome, located in Gansu Province.

The Fengyun-3 satellite has been primarily designed to monitor and provide crucial information on severe weather conditions, including heavy rainfall that can result in natural calamities like landslides and floods.



This successful mission marked the 471st launch for the **Chang Zheng rocket family**, cementing their reputation as one of the most reliable and consistent rocket families globally.

US State Pennsylvania Recognizes Diwali as an Official State Holiday

Senator Nikil Saval tweeted that the state of Pennsylvania in the United States has declared Diwali, the Hindu festival, as a national holiday.

The legislation to make Diwali an official state holiday was introduced by State Senators Greg Rothman and Nikil Saval in February of this year.

The bill was passed unanimously by the Senate. According to My Twin Tiers, there are almost 200,000 South Asian residents in Pennsylvania, many of whom celebrate Diwali as a time for gathering and reflection.

Pakistan becomes largest recipient of ADB funded programmes in 2022

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB) Annual Report 2022** revealed that Pakistan received loans of **\$5.58 billion**, making it the largest recipient of ADB-funded programs/projects in the year 2022.

Out of the total lending, Pakistan received concessional funding of \$2.67 billion from the bank, highlighting the dire economic situation in the country. This significant lending reflects the severity of the economic crisis in Pakistan, which has been compounded by political and geopolitical uncertainties.

Ghana becomes first country to approve Oxford malaria vaccine for children

Ghana has made history by becoming the **first country** to approve a **highly effective malaria vaccine** developed by scientists at the **University of Oxford** in the UK. The vaccine, called **R21/Matrix-M**, has exceeded the World Health Organization's target of **75% efficacy**, making it a significant milestone in the fight against malaria.

UK becomes 1st nation in Europe to approve hands-free driving tech

Ford's BlueCruise technology which allows drivers to take their hands off the wheel while driving has **received approval in the UK**. With this, Britain has become the first nation in Europe to approve of this kind of technology. Currently available in Ford's 2023 Mustang Mach-E, the technology can control the car but will also ensure that the driver remains alert.

Elon Musk Reveals 'TruthGPT' in Competition with ChatGPT

Global Industrialist Elon Musk publicly asserted that **'TruthGPT'** will be initiated to beat his adversary OpenAI. He is taking time to design a platform that would be different to what is available so far.

As the name suggests, TruthGPT will be a truth seeker and will give truthful answers to its users as opposed to the versions of ChatGPT. Elon Musk put forward this option after he held a meeting with **AI (Artificial Intelligence)** experts and discussed the upcoming plans.



Calls for Efficient System

During the announcement, Elon Musk also charged **Google's' Co-Founder Larry Page** with not paying attention to the safety measures of AI systems while building these bots. He will now create an effective system which will ensure transparency and truth to its users.

Syria Becomes the Largest Producer of Captagon

Syria, a Western Asian Country has been announced as the **biggest narco-state in the world**. The nation is reported to manufacture and even deal in an illegal drug called Captagon. Many countries have banned these hazardous pills owing to global smuggling.

This **Captagon** substance is a hard and addicting drug used as a replacement for amphetamine which is a **synthetic illegal stimulant**. Moreover, this drug is typically notorious for its fillers and elements that it consists of. It is also known as “**poor man's coke**”.

However, it recently came to headlines that the country has been highly dependent on this drug as the economy's sustenance is due to its use on a large scale.

Balikatan Drills between the US and the Philippines

The **Balikatan drills** are annual military exercises conducted between the United States and the Philippines. The name “**Balikatan**” is derived from the Tagalog word “**shoulder-to-shoulder**,” reflecting the strong partnership between the two countries.

Involvement and Types of Exercises

More than 17,600 military personnel are involved in the Balikatan drills, with about **12,200 from the US and 5,400 from the Philippines**. The drills involve various exercises, including live-fire exercises and a boat-sinking rocket assault. The drills are aimed at enhancing the interoperability and readiness of the US and Philippine armed forces.

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

FIFA announced that it had withdrawn Peru's hosting rights to the **FIFA U-17 World Cup 2023**. The decision was made following extensive discussions between FIFA and the Peruvian Football Federation (FPF).

The reasons for the withdrawal of Peru's hosting rights were not immediately clear, but **FIFA** officials cited concerns over the country's ability to meet the requirements for hosting such a major tournament.

Paris' Ban on e-Scooter

Paris, the city of love, is known for its beauty and charm. The city's streets are filled with tourists and locals alike, with many of them relying on rental e-scooters to navigate the city. However, with the recent Paris e-scooter referendum, the city has decided to ban rental e-scooters **by the end of August 2023**.



Referendum Results and Ban Details

The Paris e-scooter referendum revealed that **89% of voters supported the ban**, with a turnout of **7.46% of registered voters**. The ban will only affect rental e-scooters, and private owners of e-scooters will not be impacted. The ban will come into effect by the end of August 2023, with authorities urging companies to remove their vehicles from the streets as soon as possible.

scooter Bans in Other Cities

Paris isn't the first to impose ban on e-scooters. In 2016, Barcelona partially banned e-scooters in historic parts of the city. In London, privately owned e-scooters are not legal for use on public roads. In Rome, an American tourist caused €25,000 worth of damage to the Spanish Steps with an e-scooter in May.

Nepal becomes founding member of International Big Cats Alliance

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

Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the alliance aimed at the conservation of seven big cats namely tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma. India has assured support over five years with guaranteed funding of \$100 million for the alliance.

The **tiger population in Nepal reached 335 in 2022 from 121 in 2010** as a result of the government working in partnership with local communities, security agencies and conservation partners.

Foreign Relations

Partnership Opportunities in the Lithium Value Chain between India and Chile

Lithium has become an essential component of modern technology, powering everything from smartphones to electric vehicles.

As the world seeks to reduce its carbon footprint, the demand for lithium has skyrocketed, with countries vying for a slice of the lucrative market. Chile is currently looking to partner with India to tap into the potential of lithium value chain.

Chile: The World's Largest Lithium Producer

Chile is the world's largest producer of lithium, accounting for nearly **48%** of the world's total lithium reserves. The country's vast reserves are located in the Salar de Atacama, a large salt flat located in Chile's north.



India's Efforts to Reduce Dependence on Chinese Imports

India is looking to reduce its dependence on Chinese imports, which includes both the raw material and cells for lithium-ion batteries.

Russia now the biggest Oil Supplier to India

Official data revealed that **Russia remained the biggest supplier of crude oil to India** in terms of value in February, even though there was a cap on western prices at \$60 per barrel. In February, India imported crude oil worth \$3.35 billion from Russia, with Saudi Arabia coming second at **\$2.30 billion** and Iraq at \$2.03 billion.

During the period from April to February, India's imports of Russian oil surged to **\$27 billion**, placing Russia as the second-largest crude oil exporter to India in FY23, following imports from Iraq which totaled \$30 billion.

Other significant exporters included Saudi Arabia at \$26.8 billion, followed by the **UAE at \$15.6 billion, the US at \$10.05 billion, and Kuwait at \$7.59 billion.**

India, Iran and Armenia forms new trilateral to deepen regional relations

The first trilateral consultations between the **Foreign Affairs Ministry of India, Armenia, and Iran** took place in Yerevan.

Mnatsakan Safaryan, the deputy **foreign minister of Armenia**, **Sayed Rasoul Mousavi**, the assistant of the foreign minister of Iran, and **JP Singh**, the joint secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, led their respective delegations at the meeting.

Operation Kaveri launched to evacuate Indians from Sudan

India initiated Operation Kaveri to evacuate its citizens from the unrest-stricken Sudan. As per **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's tweet**, the operation is currently in progress, and roughly 500 Indians have already arrived at Port Sudan.

Sudan is currently experiencing a violent power struggle between the army and the paramilitary **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)** across the country.

This conflict arose due to a dispute over an internationally supported plan to establish a new civilian government, four years after the overthrow of authoritarian leader Omar al-Bashir and two years after a military coup.

Indian Rafale to participate in French Military exercise with NATO allies

The Indian **Air Force's Rafale fighter jets** will be participating in a military exercise in France that involves thousands of **NATO troops.**



The jets are expected to arrive in **France in mid-April to participate in Orion 23**, a large-scale war game that includes multiple dimensions, such as ground troops, warships, aircraft carriers, and combat aircraft.

The exercise, which began in February and is scheduled to end in early May, is aimed at enhancing military cooperation and interoperability among participating nations.

India, Bangladesh, Japan to hold connectivity meet in Tripura

Bangladesh, India, and Japan are set to hold a connectivity event in **Tripura**, India on April 11-12. The event is aimed at exploring connectivity initiatives and leveraging the commercial potential of the region.

Who Will Participate:

The **Asian Confluence**, a think tank from Northeast India, will organize the event in collaboration with **India's Ministry of External Affairs**. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam will represent Bangladesh, while India's deputy foreign minister and the Japanese ambassador to India will also attend.

What are the gaps in developing Northeast India:

A recent study conducted by the Asian Confluence recommended scaling up multi-modal connectivity between **Northeast India and Bangladesh** to enhance competitiveness and narrow the development gaps in the region.

5th INDIA-UK HOME AFFAIRS DIALOGUE

The 5th **India-UK Home Affairs Dialogue (HAD)** was held in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Union Home Secretary, **Ajay Kumar Bhalla**, and the UK delegation was led by Permanent Secretary, of Home Office, **Sir Matthew Rycroft**. The meeting was also attended by other senior officials of both countries.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed the ongoing cooperation and identified further steps that can be taken to explore opportunities and synergies in advancing cooperation in counter-terrorism, cyber security & global supply chains, drug trafficking, migration, extradition, anti-India activities in the **UK including Pro-Khalistan Extremism** among other issues.

Nepal and India to Sign Agreement for Cross-Border Digital Payments

Nepal and India are preparing to sign an agreement to allow **cross-border digital payments** through e-wallets, a move that is expected to boost trade and tourism between the two countries by eliminating currency exchange issues.

The accord, expected to be signed during **Nepali Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal's** visit to India, will allow Indian tourists in Nepal to make digital payments through Indian e-wallets like BharatPe, PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm.



Last year, the National Payment Corporation of India and its international arm International Payments collaborated with Gateway Payment Service and Manam Infotech to deploy a unified payment interface in Nepal, providing a cross-border payment system for the first time in Nepal based on inter-operable and mobile-first technology.

Business News

Akash Weapon System and ₹8,161 Crore BDL Contract

Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) signed a contract worth **₹8,161 crore** with the Ministry of Defence for the production and supply of **Akash Weapon System (AWS)** for two regiments of the Indian Army. This **Hyderabad-based defence public sector unit** is gearing up to meet the production demands of the weapon system, which will be completed within three years.

The Akash Weapon System

The Akash Weapon System (AWS) is a mobile, surface-to-air missile system designed and developed by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**. The missile can target aircraft up to 30 km away and engage targets at an **altitude of up to 18 km**.

ITC Overtakes Infosys to become India's Sixth Most Valuable Company

ITC, one of India's largest **FMCG conglomerates**, has surpassed IT major Infosys to become the **country's sixth most valuable company** on the stock exchanges.

With a market capitalization of Rs 5.11 lakh crore, ITC overtook Infosys after overtaking HDFC Ltd. This achievement comes after ITC's share price rose 59% over the past year and 24% so far in 2023, making it the best performer in the benchmark Nifty50.

Ranks

PM Modi's approval ratings remain highest among 22 world leaders, list released

PM Narendra Modi's approval ratings continue to be the highest amongst 22 world leaders at 76%, as per the latest rankings by approval tracker Morning Consult.

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and Australian PM Anthony Albanese were in the second and third spots. Swiss Confederation President Alain Berset and Italian PM Giorgia Meloni are also among the top five.

Forbes billionaire 2023 list: Mukesh Ambani become richest sports owner



Mukesh Ambani has been named the **richest sports owner** in the **Forbes billionaire 2023 list**, with a net worth of **\$83.4 billion**, surpassing Steve Ballmer, the owner of the Los Angeles Clippers, whose net worth is \$80.7 billion.

It's interesting to note that despite a 3% fall in Reliance Industries' share value over the past year, Ambani's net worth has still increased, indicating the strength and diversity of his business interests.

India Justice Report 2022: Karnataka tops among 18 large States

According to the **India Justice Report (IJR) 2022**, which assesses the performance of states in terms of justice delivery, the **state of Karnataka** has achieved the top rank among the **18 large and mid-sized states** with populations over one crore.

The report considers several parameters such as police, judiciary, prisons, and legal aid to assess the overall performance of each state.

State Energy Efficiency Index 2021-22

The **State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2021-22** report was released on April 12 this year during the RPM meeting of States and State Utilities in New Delhi.

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and Alliance for an **Energy-Efficient Economy (AEEE)** developed the SEEI index. SEEI 2021-22 assesses the annual progress of states and union territories in energy efficiency implementation for FY 2020-21 and 2021-22. The updated framework of SEEI 2021-22 has 50 indicators aligned with national priorities.

Front Runner and Achiever Categories

Five states – **Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, and Telangana** – are in the Front Runner category, while four states – Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Punjab – are in the Achiever category.

Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, and Chandigarh are the top-performing states in their respective state groups. Telangana and Andhra Pradesh showed the most improvement since the last index.

Index of Economic Freedom Significance, Methodology and Rank of India

The **Index of Economic Freedom** is an annual report that measures the level of economic freedom in countries around the world.

The index is published by The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank based in Washington D.C., in partnership with The Wall Street Journal. The index uses a combination of qualitative and quantitative data to rank countries on a scale of 0 to 100, with 100 representing the highest level of economic freedom.



- According to the 2021 Index of Economic Freedom, **Hong Kong topped the rankings for the 27th consecutive year**, followed by Singapore, New Zealand, Australia, and Switzerland.
- The **United States ranked 20th**, while **China ranked 107th** out of 180 countries.
- In the Index, **India is placed at the 121st spot** out of 184 nations. India still struggles in areas such as government honesty, freedom for labor, and financial stability, which are significant factors that impact its total score and position on the Index.

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

World of Statistics has shared the ranking of the world's "most criminal countries". On the list, Venezuela has been ranked top, followed by **Papua New Guinea (2), Afghanistan (3), South Africa (4), Honduras (5), Trinidad (6), Guyana (7), Syria (8), Somalia (9) and Jamaica (10)**, respectively.

India stood at 77 spots while the US and UK were ahead of India in the criminal ranking country. The **USA was at 55th** number and the **UK at 65th rank**, according to the World of Statistics. Turkey, Germany, and Japan were among the least criminal countries, ranking at 92nd, 100th, and 135th ranks.

India jumps 6 places on World Bank's Logistic Performance Index, ranks 38

India has made a significant leap on the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index, moving up six places to **38th out of 139 countries in the 2023 ranking**.

This improvement is the result of the country's substantial investments in both hard and soft infrastructure, as well as technology. In 2018, **India was ranked 44th on the index**, and its current position marks a considerable improvement from its 54th rank in 2014.

- India has climbed five places in infrastructure score, moving from 52nd in 2018 to 47th in 2023.
- The country has also improved its rank in international shipments, moving up from 44th in 2018 to 22nd in 2023.
- India's logistics competence and equality has also improved, with a climb of four places to the 48th spot in 2023.
- In timelines, India has made significant progress, moving up 17 places in rankings.

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

Shah Rukh Khan and 'RRR' director **SS Rajamouli** are included in **Time Magazine's annual 100 Most Influential People of 2023**, becoming the only two Indians on the list.

Both SRK and Rajamouli's last big screen ventures, Pathaan and RRR, earned over Rs 1000 crore worldwide. The esteemed list by Time magazine includes the likes of US President **Joe Biden**, **King Charles**, **billionaire CEO Elon Musk**, **Bella Hadid**, and **Beyonce**, among others.



Joe Biden is on the list for the 6th time, more than any other person on the list this year. Other repeats include: **Elon Musk (5), Janet Yellen (4), Lionel Messi (3), Beyoncé (3), Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (3), Mitch McConnell (3)** and more.

Delhi Airport is world's 9th busiest airport, only Airport to figure in the list from South and South East Asia

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has become the **9th busiest airport** worldwide for 2022, making it the only airport from South and South East Asia in the prestigious list of top 10 busiest airports globally, as announced by Airports Council International (ACI).

Delhi Airport has bettered its ranking from **13th in 2021 and 17th in 2019**. Delhi Airport witnessed a collective footfall of passenger traffic of over 5.94 crores in 2022 as per the ACI report.

Kerala tops GI tag list in FY 2022-23

According to data shared by the GI Registry, **Kerala** has secured the highest number of **Geographical Indication (GI) tags** for products among all states in India in FY23.

Several products from Kerala, including **Attappady Aattukombu Avara (beans), Attappady Thuvvara (red gram), Onattukara Ellu (sesame), Kanthalloor Vattavada Veluthuli (garlic), and Kodungallur Pottuvellari (snap melon)** have been recognized with the GI tag.

India Ranks Fourth in Global Military Expenditure: SIPRI Report

According to the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**, global military expenditure has reached a new record **high of \$2240 billion**, increasing by 3.7% in real terms in 2022.

Europe witnessed its most substantial year-on-year increase in military spending in at least 30 years. The United States, China, and Russia, which are the three largest military spenders, contributed 56% of the total global military expenditure in 2022. These findings were released by SIPRI in its latest report on global military spending.

About India :

India's military expenditure in 2022 amounted to **\$81.4 billion**, which is the fourth-highest in the world. This represents a 6% increase compared to the previous year's spending.

Top 5 ranks:-

- **United States**
- **China**
- **Russia**
- **India**
- **Saudi Arabia**



FIFA Rankings: India's Football Team Rises to 101

According to the latest **FIFA rankings**, the **Indian men's football team** has climbed up five spots and is now **ranked at 101**. The team's upward movement in the rankings can be attributed to their recent wins against Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan during the Tri-nation tournament, which helped them secure **8.57 rating points**.

The victories were achieved in matches held last month in Imphal, with scores of 1-0 and 2-0 against Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan, respectively. The current ranking chart is the first of the year, with the previous one being published on December 22.

Shah Rukh Khan tops 2023 TIME100 Reader Poll

Bollywood superstar **Shah Rukh Khan**, who is basking in the glory of the success of the blockbuster 'Pathaan', has proved he is the ultimate king.

The actor won the **2023 TIME100 Reader Poll**, beating the likes of royal-couple **Prince Harry and Meghan Markle**, Argentinian player **Lionel Messi**, and Meta founder Mark Zuckerberg. It is the readers of the magazine who voted for the world-renowned personalities they believe deserve a spot on **TIME's annual list of the most influential people**.

Forbes 2023 Report Reveals 25 Richest People in the World

International Company Forbes recently published a list of the **top 25 richest people** in the world. Businessman from France Bernard Arnault managed to remain on the top this year. Also, India's Mukesh Ambani comes again in the newly launched list.

Almost a month ago, Ambani was seen in the **M3M Hurun Global Rich List 2023**. For 2023, Forbes grants him the **number 9 position**. Being Asia's richest person, Reliance Industries Chairperson Ambani surpasses his competitor Gautam Adani.

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

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

Mauritius down; Norway, Singapore gain as FPI destinations in FY23: Report

Data provided by the National Securities Depository indicates that in the fiscal year **2022-23**, overseas capital flows into Indian capital markets originating from Mauritius experienced the sharpest decline, while Norway and Singapore gained popularity.

Assets under custody (AUC): Recent Situation:

The assets under custody (AUC) from Mauritius decreased by almost **42% to Rs 6.66 trillion** by the end of March 2023, down from Rs 10.88 trillion the previous year.



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

According to a report by the **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)**, out of the **28 state chief ministers** and two union territories, 29 of them are millionaires in India.

Jagan Mohan Reddy from Andhra Pradesh is the richest among them with assets worth **₹510 crore**, while Mamata Banerjee, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, has the lowest assets worth **around ₹15 lakh**.

The top three chief ministers in terms of assets are **Andhra Pradesh's Jagan Mohan Reddy (over ₹510 crore)**, Arunachal Pradesh's Pema Khandu (over ₹163 crore), and Odisha's Naveen Patnaik (over ₹63 crore), according to the ADR.

The three CMs with the lowest declared assets are – **West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee (over ₹15 lakh)**, Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan (over ₹1 crore), and Haryana's Manohar Lal (over ₹1 crore), the ADR said.

Both Bihar Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** and **Delhi's Arvind Kejriwal** own assets worth **over ₹3 crore**, the report added.

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

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

According to a new UNFPA report, 25 per cent of India's population is in the age group of **0-14 years**, **18 per cent in the 10 to 19 age group**, **26 per cent in the age bracket of 10 to 24 years**, **68 per cent in 15 to 64 years age group**, and **7 per cent above 65 years**.

Top 10 wealthiest cities in the world Complete List

The top 10 wealthiest cities in the world are listed by global wealth tracker Henley and Partners. **Bengaluru** has emerged as one of the **world's wealthiest cities** with the greatest growth rates, despite the fact that no Indian city could make the top 10 list. Two nations—China and the United States—have the most cities on the list.

Top 10 wealthiest cities in the world

1. **New York City**
2. **Tokyo**
3. **The Bay Area**
4. **London**
5. **Singapore**
6. **Los Angeles**
7. **Hong Kong**
8. **Beijing**
9. **Shanghai**
10. **Sydney**



Chennai ranks among top 5 in digital payment transactions in 2022: Report

According to a report by payment services firm Worldline India, **Chennai** has become one of the **leading cities for digital payment transactions** in 2022 in the country. As per the report, the capital city has made 14.3 million transactions with a total value of **USD 35.5 billion**.

Bengaluru topped the list with 29 million transactions worth **USD 65 billion**, followed by New Delhi with **19.6 million transactions** worth USD 50 billion, Mumbai with 18.7 million transactions worth **USD 49.5 billion**, and **Pune with 15 million** transactions valued at USD 32.8 billion.

India retains third spot as a unicorn hub, shows Hurun report

After the **United States and China**, **India has retained the third-highest** number of unicorns in the world. India trails behind China and the US, which have 316 and 666 unicorns, respectively. Since the start of the pandemic, India has gained 14 new unicorns.

The report claims that **BYJU'S is the most valuable unicorn in India**, with a valuation of **US\$ 22 billion**, followed by Swiggy and Dream11, each with a projected value of US\$ 8 billion. BYJU'S is also one of the top ten unicorns with the largest valuation rise since pre-Covid.

The research also noted that China and India are the two nations that produce the most unicorns outside. Founders from India co-founded 70 unicorns outside of China, whereas China co-founded 32 outside of China, compared to 316 in China.

Defence News

Defence Ministry's Rs 5,400 crore Defence Contract

The **Ministry of Defence** of India has recently signed three defence contracts with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** and **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)** on March 29, 2023. The total cost of these three contracts is nearly **Rs 5,400 crore**. This decision was taken to support the modernization of India's armed forces and make them more self-sufficient.

Project Akashteer

The first project contracted with BEL is Project Akashteer, which costs Rs 1,982 crore. This project's goal is to empower the Indian Army's Air Defence units with indigenous, state-of-the-art capabilities. The Indian Army will be the primary beneficiary of this project

GSAT 7B



The third project contracted by the Ministry of Defence is an advanced Communication Satellite, named GSAT 7B. NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) has been contracted for this project, which costs Rs 2,963 crore.

INDIA –SRILANKA ANNUAL BILATERAL MARITIME EXERCISE (SLINEX-23)

The 10th edition of **IN-SLN bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-23** is scheduled at Colombo from 03 – 08 April 2023. The exercise is being conducted in two phases: the Harbour Phase from 03-05 April 2023, followed by a Sea Phase from **06-08 April 2023**.

Indian Navy is being represented by **INS Kiltan**, an indigenous Kamorta class ASW corvette and **INS Savitri**, an Offshore Patrol Vessel. The Sri Lanka Navy is being represented by **SLNS Gajabahu and SLNS Sagara**.

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

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

About the Cope India

Cope India is a series of wargames that originated in 2004 as a fighter training exercise held at Gwalior air station. Over the years, the exercise has expanded to include a variety of training activities, including subject matter expert exchanges, air mobility training, airdrop training, and large-force exercises, in addition to fighter-training exercises. The previous edition of the exercise was held in 2019.

Andaman & Nicobar command conducts large scale joint military exercise ‘KAVACH’

On April 5, 2023, the **Andaman & Nicobar command**, which is **India’s sole tri-services** unit, held a collaborative military drill named Exercise **‘KAVACH.’** The soldiers performed multiple exercises such as amphibious landing, air landing operations, heliborne operations, and swift insertion of special forces commandos.

The weaponry and equipment of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard were utilized by the soldiers participating in **‘EX-KAVACH.’** The primary objective of this joint service exercise was to enhance the coordination and joint warfighting capabilities of the various services.

Participation of Indian Air Force in EXERCISE INIOCHOS-23

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will be participating in **Exercise INIOCHOS-23**, a multi-national air exercise hosted by the Hellenic Air Force. The exercise will be conducted at the **Andravidia Air Base in Greece** from 24 Apr 2023 to 04 May 2023. The Indian Air Force will be participating with **four Su-30 MKI and two C-17 aircraft**.



The objective of the exercise is to enhance international cooperation, synergy and interoperability amongst the participating Air Forces.

It will also enable the participating contingents to engage in professional interactions, providing valuable insight into each other's best practices.

INDO-UK JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE “AJEYA WARRIOR – 2023”

The 7th edition of joint military exercise “AJEYA WARRIOR-23” between India and the United Kingdom is being conducted at Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom from 27 April to 11 May 2023.

Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR is a biennial training event with the United Kingdom which is conducted alternatively in the United Kingdom and India, the last edition was held at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand in October 2021.

The scope of this exercise involves a Command Post Exercise (CPX) at the Battalion level and Company level Field Training Exercise (FTX).

Exercise COPE INDIA 2023

Exercise Cope India 23, a bilateral Air Exercise between the **Indian Air Force (IAF) and the United States Air Force (USAF)** is being held at Air Force Stations Arjan Singh (Panagarh), Kalaikunda and Agra. The exercise aims to enhance mutual understanding between the two Air Forces and share their best practices.

The first phase of exercise has commenced today. This phase of the exercise will focus on air mobility and will involve transport aircraft and Special Forces assets from both the Air Forces.

Both sides will field the **C-130J and C-17 aircraft**, with the USAF operating an MC-130J, as well. The exercise also includes the presence of Japanese Air Self Defence Force aircrew, who will participate in the capacity of observers.

INS Vikrant gets back its ‘original’ 1961 bell

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

The INS Vikrant is expected to **exhibit the original bell at the carrier** to motivate current and future officers and sailors about the warship's significant history.

In 1961, the bell was installed on the first **INS Vikrant carrier** after India acquired a **British aircraft carrier, HMS Hercules, and renamed it**. The original bell was then transferred from the decommissioned carrier, INS Vikrant, to the designated residence of Indian Navy Vice Chief located at Motilal Nehru Marg.



Science related Affairs

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

Norwegian company Norled has successfully launched the world’s first ferry that runs on liquid hydrogen. The vessel, called MF Hydra, is a hybrid that uses both batteries and liquid hydrogen fuel cells. It underwent sea trials for two weeks after initial testing at Hjelmeland quay earlier this year.

NASA appoints Four Astronauts for Second Artemis Program, Lunar Expedition to Begin by 2024

NASA released 4 names who will be sent for **Artemis II Program**. These astronauts will be heading towards Lunar Expedition by next year. The crew members include Jeremy Hansen, Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, and Christina Hammock Koch respectively.

What is Artemis II Program?

NASA’s Artemis II Program is the second space exploration mission to be scheduled for the **year 2024**. Also, it is the first crewed mission aligned with the space agency NASA’s aim to set up a long-term presence on the Earth’s natural satellite called Moon.

Closest Black Hole to Earth Discovered in Our Cosmic Backyard

Scientists have made a noteworthy discovery in astronomy by identifying the **nearest black hole to our planet**, which is located nearby in space. This remarkable discovery presents new prospects for studying these mysterious entities and comprehending their impact on the structure of the cosmos.

Discovery of the black hole BH1:

Astronomers have utilized the Gaia satellite of the **European Space Agency** to detect a black hole called BH1. The black hole has been located within a distance of only 1,000 light-years from Earth, which is the closest proximity that any black hole has ever been found. The Gaia satellite has been created to accurately measure the movements and positions of stars present in the Milky Way galaxy.

NASA Successfully Extracts Oxygen from Lunar Soil Simulant

NASA scientists have successfully extracted oxygen from simulated lunar soil in a vacuum environment, which could pave the way for future human colonies on the Moon. The ability to **extract oxygen from lunar soil** is crucial for providing breathable air for astronauts and can also be used as propellant for transportation and space exploration.

Combined Commanders Conference



The **Combined Commanders' Conference (CCC)** is an annual event where India's top military commanders come together to discuss and brainstorm on military matters and national security. The conference serves as a platform for the country's military leaders to exchange ideas, review the preparedness of the Armed Forces, and discuss the way forward.

This year, the theme of the CCC was **'Ready, Resurgent, Relevant.'** The objective was to assess the progress made by the Armed Forces in meeting the challenges of modern warfare and ensuring that they remain prepared, resilient, and capable of fulfilling their mandate.

Theaterisation in the Armed Forces

One of the topics that were discussed during the CCC was theaterisation in the Armed Forces. This refers to the process of organizing military forces into functional commands or theaters. The objective is to **improve the effectiveness and efficiency of military operations** by ensuring better coordination and integration between the various arms and services.

Chinese Company Space Pioneer Successfully Launches Tianlong-2 Rocket into Orbit

Chinese company **Space Pioneer** has achieved a historic milestone in space exploration, launching its Tianlong-2 rocket into orbit from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Inner Mongolia on April 2.**

This marks the first time a liquid-fueled rocket has been launched into orbit by a Chinese aerospace firm, and the first time a startup has successfully reached orbit on its initial attempt.

The Tianlong-2 rocket, also known as **"Sky Dragon-2,"** has enabled Beijing Tianbing Technology to launch a small satellite named **"Love Space Science"** to a polar orbit around Earth. The satellite will test its remote sensing capabilities from this sun-synchronous orbit.

Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) Mission

The JUperiter ICy moons Explorer (JUICE) is a mission by the **European Space Agency (ESA)** set to launch on April 13, 2023, from the European Spaceport in Kourou, **French Guiana.**

Science Goals of JUICE

The primary focus of **JUICE's** science goals is the Jupiter system, with a particular emphasis on Ganymede as a planetary body and potential habitat.

The mission objectives for Ganymede include the characterization of the ocean layers and detection of putative subsurface water reservoirs, topographical, geological, and compositional mapping of the surface, studying the physical properties of the icy crusts, characterizing the internal mass distribution, dynamics, and evolution of the interiors, investigating the exosphere, and studying Ganymede's intrinsic magnetic field and its interactions with the Jovian magnetosphere.

Mission Profile and Launch Details



After launch, JUICE will take **7 to 8** years to reach **Jupiter**, utilizing Earth and Venus gravity assists. During the journey, the spacecraft will undergo multiple tests to ensure it can withstand the harsh conditions of space.

IIT-Kanpur partners with defence PSU to focus on innovation

The **Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) at IIT Kanpur** has entered into a **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** agreement with Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited.

Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited is one of the seven new **Defence Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)** that were created by converting the Ordnance Factory Board into fully government-owned enterprises.

European Space Agency successfully launches its mission to Jupiter's moons

The **European Space Agency** has successfully launched its mission to Jupiter's moons after weather conditions halted yesterday's lift-off. The Ariane 5 rocket was launched from the **ESA's spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana** as scheduled. The **Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE)** project aims to send a satellite on an eight-year journey to reach the icy moons of the gas giant.

The spacecraft will use a gravitational sling-shot technique around Earth and Venus to give it enough energy to reach Jupiter. The probe worth **1.6 billion Euros**, could tell us whether Jupiter's major moons – Ganymede, Callisto and Europa- have the conditions to support simple life. Jupiter's three are thought to harbor big liquid-water oceans beneath their icy shells.

IIT Madras to set up its first international campus in Tanzania

IIT Madras is set to establish the first **Indian Institute of Technology** in Africa in Tanzania, with classes scheduled to begin in October. The new campus will be located in Zanzibar, and marks IIT Madras' first international campus.

V Kamakoti, the institute's director, announced the plans during his address at **IIT Madras' 64th Institute Day**. A team of five IIT Madras professors visited Tanzania in February to hold discussions with officials about setting up the new campus.

IIT Bombay's SHUNYA Takes Second Place in Solar Decathlon Build Challenge in the US

The **SHUNYA team** from the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay** earned the second position in the Solar Decathlon Build Challenge held in the US. They designed a zero-energy house to tackle air pollution issues in Mumbai's hot and humid climate.

SHUNYA is a group of students from **IIT Bombay** who are committed to creating a sustainable future.

Emirates introduces first robotic check-in assistant in the world



Sara, the **world's first robotic check-in assistant**, has been unveiled by Dubai-based airline Emirates. Sara is part of a new City Check-in and Travel Store which recently opened in Dubai's financial district.

The robot uses facial recognition technology to match customer's faces with scanned passports, check them in, and guide them to the luggage drop area.

Book News

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

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

In 1589, Richard Hakluyt printed a seminal collection of all the English travel writings of his times, titled *The Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffiques And Discoveries Of The English Nation*. He had done so, he confessed, to counter the insulting notion in Europe that the English were inferior and laggardly naval explorers.

A new book titled “Gandhi: Siyasat aur Sampradaiykta” written by Piyush Babele

A new book in Hindi titled **Gandhi: Siyasat aur Sampradaiykta** (**Gandhi: Politics and Communalism**) written by journalist-turned-author **Piyush Babele**, who currently heads the Madhya Pradesh Congress' media department.

He cites extracts from Dr. Ambedkar's book *Pakistan or the Partition of India* and other sources, and claims to “contextualise the developments leading up to India's Partition in 1947 to bust the illusion spread by the Hindu right wing that Mahatma Gandhi was responsible for the Partition”.

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

On July 15th, HarperCollins' Fourth Estate will publish a book titled “Smoke and Ashes: A Writer's Journey Through Opium's Hidden Histories” by Amitav Ghosh.

The book is a combination of a memoir, a travelogue, and a deep dive into the economic and cultural history of opium.

Ghosh explains that the book is based on the vast amount of research he conducted while writing his trilogy of novels between 2005 and 2015. Overall, “Smoke and Ashes” explores the hidden and often overlooked aspects of opium's impact on history and society.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi revealed the book ‘Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamprashastih’

At the end of the ‘Saurashtra Tamil Sangam’ event, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, revealed a book called ‘Saurashtra Tamil Sangam Prashasti,’ authored by **Somnath Sanskrit University**.

The Sangam celebrates the cultural and historical bond between Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, as many people migrated from the Saurashtra region to Tamil Nadu several centuries ago. According to a statement from the Prime Minister’s Office, the Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam event allowed Saurashtrian Tamils to reconnect with their ancestral roots.

Sports News

Name	Tournament & Title name	Extra Information
Max Verstappen	F1 race - wild Australian GP	Red Bull’s Max Verstappen has claimed his first Australian Grand Prix 2023. Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton, who drove superbly in his Mercedes, finished second, while Aston Martin’s Fernando Alonso filled third spot on the podium.
Daniil Medvedev	Maiden Miami Opens Title 2023	Russian tennis star Daniil Medvedev claimed his fourth title of the year by defeating Jannik Sinner in a closely-contested final match in Miami Opens 2023.
India Men & Womens team	4th Asian Kho Kho titles	India emerged as the winners in both men’s and women’s categories at the 4th Asian Kho Kho Championships held in Tamulpur, located in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) of north-central Assam’s Baksa district.
D Gukesh	World Chess Armageddon Asia And Oceania Event	In the World Chess Armageddon Asia & Oceania event, Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh, who is a teenager, pulled off a major upset by defeating former world rapid champion Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in the final.



CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

Aman Sehrawat	gold medal at Asian Wrestling Championships	Aman Sehrawat's victory in Astana ensured the men's freestyle 57kg gold medal stayed with India for the fourth year running.
Kagiso Rabada	Becomes the fastest player to take 100 wickets in IPL	Rabada, who is a right-arm pacer, surpassed Lasith Malinga, who reached the 100-wicket mark in his 70th match. The wicket that led to Rabada's achievement was that of Wriddhiman Saha.

Obituary News

Name	Associated Field
Sarah Thomas	Novelist and short story writer
Salim Durani	Former cricketer
Jalabala Vaidya	Legendary theatre actor
Keshub Mahindra	India's oldest billionaire & chairman of Mahindra and Mahindra
Allu Ramesh	Telugu actor and comedian
Chandan Ram Dass	Uttarakhand minister

Important Days

Days	Date	Themes
World Autism Awareness Day	April 02	Transformation: Toward a Neuro-Inclusive World for All
Prevention of Blindness Week	April 01-07	
International Day for Mine Awareness	April 04	Mine Action Cannot Wait
National Maritime Day	April 05	
International Day of Conscience	April 05	
International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	April 06	Scoring for People and the Planet
World Health Day	April 07	Health for All
World Homoeopathy Day	April 10	Homoeoparivar – Sarvajan Swasthya, One Health, One Family
National Safe Motherhood Day	April 11	



CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2023

International Day of Human Space Flight	April 12	
World Chagas Disease Day	April 14	
World Art Day	April 15	
Save the Elephant Day	April 16	Safeguarding Elephant Habitats for a Sustainable Tomorrow
World Hemophilia Day	April 17	Access for All: Prevention of Bleeds as the Global Standard of Care
World Heritage Day	April 18	Heritage Changes
World Liver Day	April 19	Be alert, get regular liver tests done, fatty liver can affect anyone
Chinese Language Day	April 20	
National Civil Services Day	April 21	Empowering Citizens and Reaching the Last Mile
Earth Day	April 22	Invest in our Planet
International Mother Earth Day	April 22	
World Immunization Week	April 24 to April 30	The Big Catch-Up
International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace	April 24	
World Book and Copyright Day	April 23	Indigenous Languages
World Day for Laboratory Animals	April 24	
World English Day	April 25	English as a global language: bridging cultures, connecting the world
International Delegate's Day	April 25	
World Malaria Day	April 25	
World Intellectual Property Day	April 26	
International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day	April 26	
International Girls in ICT Day	April 27	
World Day for Safety and Health at Work	April 28	A safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle and right at work
World Veterinary Day	April 29	Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness in the Veterinary Profession

