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PAHUA  
Law Academy

## **Current Affairs - English**

### ***APRIL' 2024***



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# PAHUJA LAW ACADEMY

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# **PAHUJA LAW ACADEMY**

## **"CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**MONTH OF *APRIL* '2024"**

### **LAW AND AMENDMENT**

#### **The line between 'judicial activism' and 'judicial overreach' highlighted by former CJI Ranjan Gogoi**

- Former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi underscored the distinction between 'judicial activism' and 'judicial overreach' during his keynote address on the 76th Foundation Day of the Gauhati High Court.
- He emphasized the judiciary's duty to discern when to act as a catalyst for change and when to uphold the status quo.
- Gogoi highlighted the necessity for judicial systems to evolve with the evolving times, a trend recognized globally. He elucidated that while judicial activism serves as a peacemaker, judicial overreach acts as a trespasser.
- The former CJI cautioned that while 'bold' judicial activism may intend well, it carries the risk of unintended consequences, potentially complicating legal certainty.
- Gogoi noted the transformative impact of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on the legal landscape, converting the judiciary from a passive dispute resolver into an active agent for societal transformation. However, he acknowledged PIL as a double-edged sword.
- On one hand, PIL has catalyzed historic advancements in areas such as environmental conservation, human rights, and governmental accountability. On the other hand, the broad scope of PIL can sometimes be perceived as judicial overreach, encroaching on realms traditionally within the purview of the legislative and executive branches and undermining political morality.

#### **The Supreme Court has affirmed that the Right against climate change is a distinct fundamental and human right.**

- In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court acknowledged the right against the adverse impacts of climate change as a separate fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution.
- This ruling came in response to a case concerning the survival of the endangered Great Indian Bustard species.
- Chief Justice Chandrachud emphasized that the rights to life and equality cannot be fully realized without a clean and stable environment.
- Furthermore, the court recognized that the Right to health under Article 21 is significantly affected by factors such as air pollution, shifts in vector-borne diseases, rising temperatures, droughts, and food shortages due to crop failure.
- Additionally, the Supreme Court underscored the interconnectedness between climate change and various human rights, including indigenous rights, gender equality, and the right to development.
- The violation of the right to a healthy environment can have profound implications on rights such as the right to life, personal integrity, health, water, housing, as well as procedural rights.
- Moreover, the court highlighted India's immense potential for solar energy, noting that the country receives approximately 5,000 trillion kWh per year of solar energy.

#### **SC dismisses plea to transport mortal remains of Sufi saint from Bangladesh to India**

- The Supreme Court dismissed a plea seeking the transfer of the mortal remains of Sufi Saint Hazrat Shah Muhammad Abdul Muqtadir Shah Masood Ahmad from Bangladesh to India.
- The court ruled that as the Sufi saint was a citizen of Pakistan, there was no legally enforceable right to request the repatriation of his mortal remains.

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- The petitioner, Dargah Hazrat Mulla Syed, was represented by counsel, who asserted that the saint served as the spiritual leader, or Sajjada-nasheen, of the dargah in Uttar Pradesh.
- Born in Prayagraj (Allahabad), the saint migrated to Pakistan and acquired Pakistani citizenship in 1992. He was appointed as the Sajjada Nasheen of the shrine, Dargah Hazrat Mulla Syed Mohammad Shah, in Prayagraj in 2008.
- The three-judge Bench, headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, also included Justices J. B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

### **Uttar Pradesh Madarsa Education Act,**

- Allahabad High Court judgment declaring Uttar Pradesh Madarsa Education Act, unconstitutional, has been stayed by the Supreme Court.
- In its judgment of 22 March, Allahabad HC declared the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004 unconstitutional as well as a violation of secularism.
- The Supreme Court bench was headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud.
- It said the HC direction to accommodate Madrasa students in regular schools was unwarranted.
- The number of State-recognised madrasas in Uttar Pradesh is more than 16,000.
- The Supreme Court scheduled the case for further hearing in the second week of July.
- Under Article 136 of the Constitution, Supreme Court is authorized to grant special leave to appeal from any tribunal or court in the territory of India. It is a discretionary power of the Supreme Court.

### **A notice has been issued by the Supreme Court to the Election Commission (EC) on a writ petition.**

- The Supreme Court has issued a notice to the Election Commission following a writ petition advocating for mandatory cross-verification of electronic voting machine (EVM) counts with all Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips.
- The petitioner's advocate argued for a full count of VVPAT slips, contrasting with the current procedure of verifying only five randomly selected EVMs.
- The petition suggests simultaneous VVPAT verification, highlighting the government's substantial investment of nearly ₹5,000 crore in acquiring almost 24 lakh VVPATs.
- Despite this, only about 20,000 VVPAT slips were available for verification.
- The petitioner seeks direction for transparent glass on VVPAT machines to enhance transparency.
- VVPATs enable voters to confirm their votes, displaying candidate details for seven seconds through a transparent window upon casting a vote, as witnessed during the recent bye-election in Nagaland's 51-Noksen (ST) assembly constituency.

### **Candidates have a right to privacy from voters: Supreme Court**

- The Supreme Court has affirmed that candidates contesting elections maintain a right to privacy from voters.
- It ruled that candidates are not obligated to disclose every movable property owned by them or their dependents. Rather, they are required to divulge information about properties of substantial value or those indicative of a luxurious lifestyle.
- The Court emphasized that voters do not possess an absolute right to access every asset belonging to a candidate. It stressed the importance of distinguishing between substantial and insignificant matters when assessing the validity of a nomination.
- This ruling was delivered during a hearing on a case involving Independent MLA Karikho Kri from Arunachal Pradesh. The Court upheld Kri's election from Tezu constituency in the 2019 Arunachal Pradesh Assembly election.
- In response to a petition filed by Congress candidate Nuney Tayang, challenging the outcome of the 2019 Assembly election, the High Court had previously nullified Kri's election.

### **Supreme Court granted permission to a rape survivor for terminating 30-week pregnancy.**

- The Supreme Court has granted approval for the termination of a nearly 30-week pregnancy for a 14-year-old rape survivor.
- Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, leading the bench, directed the dean of the Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College and General Hospital (LTMGH) to conduct the procedure.
- This decision reverses the Bombay High Court's ruling, which initially denied the plea submitted by the minor's father seeking permission for the termination.

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- Enacted to regulate pregnancy termination by registered medical practitioners, the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act sets the maximum limit for termination at 24 weeks for married women and certain special categories.
- These special categories encompass rape survivors and other vulnerable individuals such as minors.
- Medical termination of pregnancy (MTP) has been legalized in India since 1971.

### **The Supreme Court said the government should take action against FMCG companies using 'misleading' advertisements.**

- On April 23, the Supreme Court said the Center should "activate itself" against fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies if they are making "misleading advertisements".
- The Supreme Court said FMCG companies are doing "misleading advertising" about their products, showing misleading advertisements to consumers, especially families with infants and school-going children.
- Misleading advertisements of FMCG deceive the public, especially families, affecting their health.
- Justice Hima Kohli said that the issue also concerns the health of infants and school children.
- The court expressed its concern amid recent reports alleging high sugar content in Nestle's baby food products sold in India as well as African and Latin American countries.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been asked by the Union Consumer Affairs Ministry to investigate the allegations against the leading FMCG.

### **Supreme Court expressed disappointment at inadequate implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act 2016 across states**

- RPwD Act was enacted to give effect to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- Act covers 21 disabilities including physical and intellectual disabilities, mental illness, blood disorders, neurological conditions etc.
- It was said by the apex court that:
  - All states should fulfil their obligations under RPwD act at the earliest including appointing state commissioners, creation of state funds etc.
  - State governments should frame appropriate rules for functioning of authorities under RPwD act.
  - MoSJ&E should establish robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms ensuring better compliance and implementation of the Act.

### **Denying Women Child Care Leave (CCL) is violation of Constitution:**

- Supreme Court observed that where the state is the employer of a working mother, it cannot be ignorant of her responsibilities at home while serving the state.
- It said that Participation of women in workforce is a constitutional entitlement protected by Article 15 of the Constitution.
- It further directed the government of Himachal Pradesh to review its policies on CCL concerning working mothers, especially mothers of children with special needs.

### **Supreme Court asked the Government to act on Fast-Moving Consumer Goods firms using misleading advertisements:**

- SC issued Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements and requested Union Ministries to detail the actions taken to combat deceptive advertising practices, which negatively impact public lives.
- Misleading advertising is an advertisement which gives a consumer an incorrect understanding of the product or service.
- Under Consumer Protection Act 2019, an advertisement is misleading if it, Falsely describes a product/service, Gives a false guarantee to nature, quantity or quality of product/service, Represents unfair trade practice, or Deliberately conceals important information.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **Odisha Foundation Day 2024 celebrated on April 1**

- Odisha Foundation Day, celebrated annually on April 1, marks the formation of the state of Odisha. Also known as Utkal Diwas.
- It commemorates the day when Odisha was created as a separate province on April 1, 1936 from the united Bihar and Orissa province.
- This day is significant for the people of Odisha as it symbolizes their cultural identity, historical heritage, and the progress made by the state since its inception.
- Various cultural events, ceremonies, and programs are organized across Odisha to celebrate its rich history and achievements on this day.
- 113th Amendment Bill 2011 changed the name of Orissa to Odisha.

### **World Autism Awareness Day 2024 observed on April 2**

- April 2 is observed as World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) by the United Nations General Assembly.
- The theme for World Autism Awareness Day 2024 is "Colour," intended to challenge stereotypes and highlight the dynamic lives of individuals with autism.
- Designated by the UN General Assembly on December 18, 2007, April 2 has been observed as World Autism Awareness Day since 2008.
- Autism is a developmental disability impacting brain functions, and this day serves to promote understanding and support for individuals, particularly children, affected by autism.

### **World Wildlife Day is observed on 3rd March**

- World Wildlife Day (WWD) is commemorated annually on March 3rd to raise awareness about the challenges facing the world's animals and plants.
- The World Wildlife Day 2024 Theme is Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation.
- Each year, we acknowledge the distinct roles and invaluable contributions of wildlife to both humanity and the planet.
- The main aim of this day is to celebrate and enhance our appreciation of the abundant diversity of wild animals and plants found worldwide.

### **International Day for Mine Awareness 2024 observed on 4 April**

- The International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action 2024, observed on April 4, highlights the critical importance of addressing the impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war.
- The theme for 2024 is "Witnessing a Way Forward: Protecting Lives. Building Peace."
- This year's campaign underscores the needs and rights of disabled survivors of explosive hazards, as well as all individuals with disabilities affected by conflicts.
- It commemorates the fifth anniversary of Security Council resolution 2475, which urges Member States to consider and protect persons with disabilities, ensure their access to assistance, and involve them in conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts.
- The day will be marked by a multimedia exhibition at the UNHQ in New York.

### **World Health Day 2024 celebrated on April 4**

- Each year, on April 7th, the world commemorates World Health Day, marking the establishment of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- In 2024, the theme is "My Health, My Right,".
- This theme spotlighting the inherent human entitlement to high-quality healthcare, education, and access to information.

### **National Handmade Day 2024 celebrated on 6 April**

- National Handmade Day is annually celebrated on the first Saturday of April. This year, it fell on April 6th.

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- The theme for National Handmade Day 2024 is 'Support Handmade: Buy Local'.
- The occasion is a tribute to the skill and dedication exhibited by individuals who craft handmade goods.
- It also serves as a reminder of the significance of small businesses and their contributions to the economy.
- This day is dedicated to encouraging people to purchase handmade products and support their local businesses.
- Founded by Amy Bierstadt in 2017, National Handmade Day was officially recognized by the government in 2018.
- It acknowledges the artistry and craftsmanship involved in handmade creations, spanning from baking and pottery to knitting and beyond.

### **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre**

- April 13 is remembered every year as Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Day.
- The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, one of the darkest moments of India's colonial past, remains etched in the nation's collective memory even after 105 years.
- On this day in 1919, the unarmed Indian public was killed in Jallianwala Bagh, located in Amritsar.
- On 9 April 1919, Indians raged over the arrest of two nationalist leaders, Saifuddin Kichlu and Dr. Satyapal, who protested on 10 April 1919 to show solidarity with their leaders.
- The protests soon turned violent, killing some protesters. The government enforced martial law to prevent any such protests in the future.
- On the day of Baisakhi on 13 April 1919, a large crowd of people unaware of martial law gathered in Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar.
- Brigadier General Dyer, arriving at the scene with his men, surrounded the assembly blocked the only gate to go out, and opened fire on the unarmed mob. More than 1000 unarmed men, women, and children were killed.
- Later, the Hunter Commission was set up by the government to investigate the massacre.

### **Ambedkar Jayanti 2024 celebrated on April 14**

- Ambedkar Jayanti 2024, celebrated on April 14, commemorates the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar.
- Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, also known as Babasaheb Ambedkar, is widely recognized as the visionary who drafted the Indian Constitution.
- He served as India's first Law Minister in the Cabinet of Jawaharlal Nehru.
- The first public celebration of Ambedkar's birthday was organized on April 14, 1928, in Pune by activist Janardan Sadashiv Ranapisay.
- After this, April 14 has been celebrated as Ambedkar Jayanti or Bhim Jayanti. Despite his humble origins, Dr. Ambedkar became one of the most respected legal minds in the country.
- On March 31, 2011, the Government of India declared April 14 a public holiday in the honor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's birthday.

### **World Quantum Day 2024 celebrated on April 14**

- India marked World Quantum Day on April 14, 2024, joining a global movement aimed at fostering understanding and admiration for quantum science and technology.
- As a nation striving to excel in diverse realms of Quantum Science and Technology, India's endeavors have surged notably following the inauguration of the National Quantum Mission (NQM) in 2023.
- The National Quantum Mission, approved by the Cabinet in April 2023, is a comprehensive eight-year program with a total outlay of Rs 6003.65 Crore.
- The mission aims to seed, nurture, and scale up scientific and industrial R&D, creating a vibrant and innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology (QT).

### **World Art Day 2024 celebrated on 15 April**

- Every year on April 15, World Art Day is celebrated.
- The genesis of this celebration stems from the 40th session of UNESCO's General Conference in 2019, where April 15th was designated as a day to honor artistic expression.

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- In 2012, the first World Art Day was celebrated.
- World Art Day coincides with the birthday of the illustrious Italian polymath, Leonardo da Vinci.
- UNESCO, in collaboration with the International Association of Art, spearheads festivities on this significant day, aiming to galvanize creative fervor across the globe.
- Embracing the diverse tapestry of human creativity, World Art Day recognizes seven esteemed categories of artistic expression: Architecture, Painting, Sculpture, Music, Literature, Cinema, and Dance.
- Through this celebration, the world unites to honor the profound impact of art on our lives and societies, fostering a culture that reveres and cherishes artistic endeavors in all their forms.

### **World Hemophilia Day 2024 observed on 17 April**

- On April 17, 2024, the global bleeding disorders community will come together to celebrate World Hemophilia Day.
- The theme of World Hemophilia Day is "Equal access for all: recognizing all bleeding disorders".
- The World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) vision of Treatment for All is for a world where all people with inherited bleeding disorders have access to care, regardless of their type of bleeding disorder, gender, age, or where they live.
- The day was first celebrated in 1989 and 17th April was selected to mark the birth anniversary of Frank Schnabel, the founder of WHF.

### **World Heritage Day 2024 celebrated on 18 April**

- April 18th marks World Heritage Day, an annual celebration aimed at raising awareness about the preservation and safeguarding of our diverse cultural heritage.
- This day also honors the endeavors of organizations committed to heritage conservation.
- The theme for World Heritage Day 2024 is "Discover and Experience Diversity." Proposed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites in 1982, it was officially adopted during the 22nd session of the UNESCO Conference in 1983.
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites encompass places, monuments, and areas of outstanding universal value.
- As of April 18, 2024, there are a total of 1,199 UNESCO World Heritage Sites worldwide, with India boasting 42 such sites within its borders.

### **National Civil Service Day 2024 observed on 21 April**

- National Civil Service Day, observed annually on April 21st, commemorates the dedicated efforts of civil servants across various departments and organizations, crucial for the efficient functioning of administrative processes.
- Following India's independence, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel famously hailed civil servants as the 'steel frame' of the nation.
- He instituted National Civil Service Day to acknowledge their invaluable service. The inaugural celebration took place on April 21, 2006.
- Charles Cornwallis, credited as the "Father of the Indian Civil Service," significantly contributed to the reform and modernization of India's civil services.
- His efforts left an enduring impact on the structure and ethos of the Indian bureaucracy.

### **World earth day 2024 celebrated on April 22**

- Earth Day is celebrated annually on April 22nd to support environmental conservation efforts.
- Theme: The theme for Earth Day 2024 is "Planet vs. Plastics ."
- This theme emphasizes the need for collective action to repair and heal the planet's ecosystems, combat climate change, and preserve biodiversity.
- World Earth Day, also known as International Mother Earth Day, is a globally recognised event dedicated to raising awareness and promoting the sustainability of our planet.
- Earth Day holds significance as a global initiative to raise awareness about environmental issues and inspire action.

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### **World Book and Copyright Day 2024 observed on 23 April**

- World Book and Copyright Day, observed annually on April 23rd, celebrates the joy of reading and acknowledges the significance of authors' contributions worldwide.
- This year's theme, 'Read Your Way,' underscores the importance of individualized reading experiences.
- Recognized in over 100 countries, World Book and Copyright Day pays tribute to authors' literary achievements and promotes reading, writing, translations, publishing, and copyright protection.
- The inception of World Book Day can be traced back to Vicente Clavel Andres, who proposed the idea to honor the esteemed author, Miguel de Cervantes.
- April 23rd holds additional significance as the death anniversary of renowned authors like William Shakespeare and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega.

### **National Panchayati Raj Day 2024**

- ➔ It is celebrated to commemorate the historic day when the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act came into force in 1993.
- ➔ This introduced three-tier system of local governance in India, with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) at the village, block, and district levels.
- ➔ This day showcases the success stories of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in various aspects like education, healthcare, infrastructure development, and rural livelihood creation.
- ➔ It empowers villagers by providing them with a platform to voice their concerns, needs, and aspirations directly to their elected representatives.
- ➔ This day motivates to actively work towards addressing local challenges like poverty, sanitation, and environmental degradation.

### **World Immunization Week 2024 (24-30 April)**

- ➔ The day also aims to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease.
- ➔ The global immunization community celebrates the lifesaving power of vaccines.
- ➔ The 2024 theme, Humanly Possible, celebrates 50 years of the World Health Organization's Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI).

### **World Malaria Day 2024 observed on 25 April**

- Every year on April 25, World Malaria Day is commemorated.
- It is observed to highlight the need for investment and sustained political commitment to the prevention and control of malaria.
- The theme of World Malaria Day 2024 is "Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world."
- African governments have been celebrating Africa Malaria Day since 2001.
- In 2007, the World Health Organization (WHO) adopted World Malaria Day at the 60th session of the World Health Assembly.
- Malaria:
- It is spread by the bite of an infected female anopheles mosquito. Infected mosquitoes spread the Plasmodium parasite.
- It is a preventable and treatable infectious disease.
- In 1897, Sir Ronald Ross found that malaria among humans is spread by female mosquitoes. Hydroxychloroquine is an anti-malarial drug.

### **International Dance Day 2024 celebrated on 29 April**

- On the 29th of April each year, people around the globe come together to celebrate International Dance Day, a vibrant occasion dedicated to the art of dance in all its diversity.
- This day serves as both a commemoration and an educational opportunity, shining a spotlight on the rich tapestry of dance forms that grace cultures worldwide.
- It is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre, the creator of modern ballet.
- Jean-Georges Noverre was a French dancer. He is recognized as the father of contemporary ballet.
- The Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) was founded on this day in 1982.
- International Theatre Institute:
- It is the main partner for the performing arts of UNESCO.

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- It was founded in 1948. It is headquartered in Paris, France.

### **World Intellectual Property Day 2024**

- Every year April 26 is celebrated as World Intellectual Property Day to learn about the role that intellectual property rights play in encouraging innovation and creativity.
- Theme: "IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity."
- World Intellectual Property Day 2024 recognizes the huge potential of young people to find new and better solutions that support the transition to a sustainable future.

### **International Jazz Day 2024 observed on April 30**

- April 30 marks the annual observance of "International Jazz Day," a global celebration of the genre's cultural significance.
- The unifying power of music is celebrated on this occasion. The day aims to raise awareness of the merits of jazz as an educational tool.
- The Moroccan city of Tangier has been chosen as the 2024 global host city of International Jazz Day.
- The 2024 edition of International Jazz Day was celebrated in more than 190 countries on 30 April.
- UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock have greeted the people on the occasion.
- Globally, International Jazz Day originated in 2011.
- In the same year, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared this day an opportunity to recognize jazz music and give it a voice by uniting people from all walks of life.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani Sworn in as Additional Judge of J&K and Ladakh High Court**

- Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani was sworn in as an Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh by Chief Justice Justice N. Kotiswar Singh in Srinagar.
- Oath administered by Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh in Srinagar.
- He has been entrusted with the charge of the office for a period of two years.
- Justice Wani has served in the judicial service since 1997.

### **Rakesh Mohan has been made a member of World Bank economic advisory panel.**

- Rakesh Mohan, currently holding the esteemed position of President Emeritus at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), has been appointed as a member of the World Bank's esteemed economic advisory panel.
- He also contributes his expertise as a part-time member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.
- With a rich background including serving as the former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, as well as holding positions such as Executive Director on the board of the International Monetary Fund, Economic Affairs Secretary, and Chief Economic Adviser in the Finance Ministry, Mohan brings a wealth of experience to the table.
- Lord Nicholas Stern, a respected figure in the field, will preside over the World Bank panel, with the co-chair position being held by World Bank Group Chief Economist Indermit Gill.
- Each esteemed panel member will dedicate two years of service to this crucial endeavor.

### **Manoj Panda named as a new finance commission member.**

- Manoj Panda has been appointed as a new full-time member of the Sixteenth Finance Commission by the government.
- Formerly the director of the Institute of Economic Growth, Panda brings a wealth of experience in economics to his new role. His appointment completes the finance panel, which previously operated with only three full-time members alongside Chairperson Arvind Panagariya.

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- Panda is widely recognized in the field of economics and has previously served as the RBI Chair Professor at the Institute of Economic Growth.
- The Sixteenth Finance Commission was established on December 31, 2023. Its full-time members include Ajay Narayan Jha, Annie George Mathew, Niranjan Rajadhyaksha, and Soumya Kanti Ghosh.
- Tasked with submitting its report by October 31, 2025, covering a period of five years starting from April 1, 2026, the commission held its inaugural meeting on February 14, 2024.

### **Delhi High Court appoints retired Justice Najmi Waziri as head of Delhi Forest Protection Committee The Delhi High Court has**

- Former judge Najmi Waziri has been appointed as the chairman to establish an internal departmental committee dedicated to safeguarding Delhi's forests.
- The primary objective of this committee is to implement effective measures for the protection, conservation, restoration, and improvement of forest areas.
- The committee has been tasked with taking proactive steps to safeguard both protected and deemed forests in the region.
- Additionally, the committee aims to facilitate coordination among various government departments involved in forest management and conservation efforts.
- The decision to form this committee, led by Justice Waziri, comes after previous efforts by other agencies faced challenges in gathering essential documents and records.
- The establishment of this committee underscores the government's commitment to enhancing its efforts towards forest protection and conservation.

### **Abdel Fattah al-Sisi takes oath as Egypt's President for 3rd term**

- Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi was inaugurated for his third term as the President of Egypt on April 2, 2024, at the Egyptian Parliament's headquarters in the New Administrative Capital.
- President Sisi secured victory in the presidential election held in December 2023 with a resounding majority.
- Having been in office for the past decade, Sisi is poised to continue serving as president until 2030, following his decisive win in the December election, where he garnered 89.6 percent of the vote against three relatively lesser-known contenders.

### **Democratic Republic Of Congo Appoints Judith Suminwa Tuluka As African Nation's First Woman Prime Minister**

- President Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of Congo appointed the nation's inaugural female Prime Minister.
- President Tshisekedi, taking a significant stride forward in the aftermath of last year's re-elections, made this appointment to initiate the establishment of a new government.
- His decision comes amid various challenges confronting Congo, such as escalating conflict and humanitarian emergencies in the eastern regions, as well as the effective management of the country's extensive mineral resources.

### **Love Kumar (IPS) appointed as Inspector General in SPG**

- Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Love Kumar has been appointed as the Inspector General (IG) in the Special Protection Group (SPG) for a period of two years.
- In according to an official notification issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved this proposal from the Office of the Secretary (Security), Cabinet Secretariat.

### **Peter Pellegrini is the winner of presidential elections in Slovakia.**

- Peter Pellegrini defeated opposition candidate Ivan Korcok.
- Peter Pellegrini is a close ally of Prime Minister Robert Fico.
- While Peter Pellegrini got 53% of the vote, Korcok received 47% votes.
- Peter Pellegrini currently serves as Parliament speaker.
- In September 2023, parliamentary elections were won by Fico's leftist Smer (Direction) party.
- Peter Pellegrini will succeed Zuzana Čaputová, who announced she would not seek re-election.

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- In Slovakia, President chooses the Prime Minister after parliamentary elections.
- President swears in the new government and appoints Constitutional Court judges.
- Slovakia is a landlocked country in Central Europe.
- Poland borders it to the north and Ukraine borders it to the east.
- Hungary borders it to the south, Austria borders it to the west and Czech Republic borders it to the North West.
- Its capital is Bratislava and type of government is unitary parliamentary republic.

### **Paris Olympics Bilquis Mir From J&K Makes History As India's First Female Jury Member**

- Bilquis Mir, hailing from Jammu and Kashmir, is poised to etch her name in history as the first woman from India to serve as a jury member at the upcoming Summer Olympics in Paris, slated to take place from July 26 to August 11, 2024.
- With a rich background in water sports promotion, development, and athleticism, Bilquis Mir has been selected as a jury member by the Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Association for the Paris Olympic Games' operational proceedings.
- This prestigious appointment marks a significant milestone, as she becomes the first individual from India to assume such a role on the international stage.
- Bilquis Mir's remarkable journey traces back to her beginnings as a canoeist in Kashmir back in 1998.
- Her path to success is a testament to her unwavering perseverance and determination, particularly amidst the challenges preceding the revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Despite obstacles, she pursued her passion for sports as a viable career choice, representing the nation with distinction at esteemed global platforms, including the Olympics and Asian Games.

### **Harendra Singh was appointed as coach of Indian women's hockey.**

- Following the resignation of Janneke Schopman as the head coach of the Indian women's hockey team, Harendra Singh has been appointed as the new coach.
- Harendra Singh, a recipient of the Dronacharya Award, brings a wealth of coaching experience to the role, having previously coached various Indian teams, including the senior men's hockey team.
- Prior to his appointment as the coach of the Indian women's hockey team, Harendra Singh was serving as the coach of the USA men's hockey team.
- He began his coaching career with the Indian men's hockey team in 1997.
- Under his leadership, India has achieved significant success, including winning 11 gold medals, such as the 2016 men's junior World Cup, 2017 women's Asia Cup, and 2018 Asian Champions Trophy (men).

### **Simon Harris became the new Prime Minister of Ireland.**

- Simon Harris assumed office as the new Prime Minister of Ireland, succeeding Leo Varadkar, who had resigned abruptly the previous month due to personal and political reasons.
- The Irish Parliament voted 88 to 69 in favor of Mr. Harris, who later received official appointment in a ceremony presided over by President Michael D. Higgins, thus becoming the youngest-ever Prime Minister in the country's history.
- Mr. Harris, a member of the center-right Fine Gael party, ascended to the position of Prime Minister after being elected as the party's leader without opposition.
- His appointment follows Mr. Varadkar's resignation and underscores the seamless transition within the ruling coalition, which comprises three parties.
- Ireland, situated in north-western Europe with Dublin as its capital, operates as a unitary, parliamentary republic. Its legislative body, known as the Oireachtas, comprises the lower house, Dail Eireann, and the upper house, Seanad Eireann.
- The ceremonial head of state is the elected President (Uachtarán), while the head of government, the Taoiseach (Prime Minister), is elected by the Dail and appointed by the President.

### **UK's cyber security chief Lindy Cameron to be next High Commissioner to India**

- Lindy Cameron's appointment as the new British High Commissioner to India marks a historic moment as she becomes the first woman to hold this position.

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- This landmark event underscores the UK's unwavering dedication to fostering gender diversity and inclusion within diplomatic leadership roles.
- Lindy Cameron's upcoming tenure follows the esteemed service of Alex Ellis, who is transitioning to a new assignment.
- Her appointment reflects a seamless succession plan aimed at ensuring continuity in diplomatic relations between the UK and India.

### **Sachidananda Mohanty has been appointed as a member of UGC.**

- Sachidananda Mohanty, the former Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Odisha, assumes a new role as a member of the University Grants Commission (UGC).
- This appointment, effective immediately and spanning three years, marks a significant milestone in his illustrious career spanning over four decades.
- Throughout his distinguished career, Mohanty has garnered numerous accolades in the realms of education and culture, both domestically and internationally.
- His contributions extend beyond academia, having previously served as a Professor and Head of the Department of English at the University of Hyderabad.
- Furthermore, Mohanty's involvement in India's Education Commission to UNESCO and his membership on the Governing Board of Auroville Foundation underscore his commitment to advancing education and cultural initiatives on a global scale.

### **Justice Aniruddha Bose Retires from Supreme Court, Appointed Head of National Judicial Academy**

- Justice Aniruddha Bose retired from the Supreme Court after a distinguished five-year tenure, known for his intellect and elegance.
- Praised by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and legal luminaries for his sense of justice, compassion, and gentlemanly demeanor.
- Graduated from St Xavier's College and Surendranath Law College, he began his legal career in 1985 and rose to become Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court in 2018.
- Appointed to head the National Judicial Academy in Bhopal post-retirement, showcasing his continued commitment to legal education and reform.
- His retirement marks one of four Supreme Court retirements this year, alongside Justice Ajikuttira Somaiah Bopanna, Justice Hima Kohli, and CJI Chandrachud.
- Justice Sanjiv Khanna is slated to become the 51st Chief Justice of India on November 11th, succeeding CJI Chandrachud.

### **India's Jagjit Pavadia re-elected to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for a third term.**

- Jagjit Pavadia of India has been re-elected to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for a third term. She secured the highest number of votes among the contestants, reaffirming her significant contributions and global recognition in the field of narcotics control.
- Pavadia's third five-year term will commence from March 2025 to 2030. This extended tenure reflects the confidence and trust placed in her capabilities to effectively address narcotics-related challenges at the international level.
- Since 2015, Mr. Pavadia has been a member of the International Narcotics Control Board.
- Founded in 1968, the INCB is the independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body for the implementation of the United Nations international drug control conventions.
- Elected by the Economic and Social Council, it consists of 13 members who serve in their personal capacity and not as government representatives.
- Three members with medical, medicinal or pharmaceutical experience are selected from a list of individuals nominated by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- While 10 members are selected from the list of persons nominated by the governments.

### **IMF reappointed Kristalina Georgieva as managing director for another five-year term.**

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

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- Georgieva is the second woman to head the IMF and the first person from an emerging market economy.
- This decision was unanimously approved by the board. She was the sole candidate for the position.
- She will continue to serve as managing director after the current term ends on 30 September 2024.
- She has led the IMF in a period of great turmoil in the global economy, from the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Traditionally, European countries recommend the managing director of the IMF.

### **Nalin Prabhat has been appointed as the NSG chief.**

- Nalin Prabhat has been appointed as the Director General of the country's counter-terrorism force, the National Security Guard (NSG).
- Currently, Prabhat is serving as Additional Director General in CRPF.
- His appointment, approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), extends until August 31, 2028, coinciding with his superannuation date.
- Previously, the NSG's helm was temporarily held by Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) chief Daljit Singh Chawdhary. However, Prabhat's appointment marks a definitive leadership transition for the NSG.
- In another significant move, the ACC has ratified the appointment of Intelligence Bureau Additional Director Sapna Tewari as the agency's Special Director. Tewari's tenure spans two years from assuming office or until April 30, 2026, whichever comes first.
- This appointment underscores the government's commitment to enhancing the operational efficiency and effectiveness of key national security institutions.

### **Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi appointed as the next Chief of the Naval Staff**

- Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi has been appointed as the next Chief of the Naval Staff, effective from April 30, 2024.
- Currently serving as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Tripathi was born on May 15, 1964.
- He was commissioned into the Indian Navy's Executive Branch on July 01, 1985.
- With an illustrious career, Vice Admiral Tripathi has previously held key positions, including Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command.
- He has also commanded Indian Naval Ships Vinash, Kirch, and Trishul.

### **Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Appointed As New PM of Kuwait**

- Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Meshal appointed Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al Ahmad Al Sabah as Prime Minister, replacing Sheikh Dr Mohammed Sabah Al Salem.
- Sheikh Ahmad, an economist, previously held various ministerial positions including oil, information, health, transport, planning, and finance.
- Kuwait is a sovereign state situated on the northern edge of the Arabian Peninsula, bordered by Iraq to the north and Saudi Arabia to the south.
- Key issues for Kuwait's parliament include raising the cost-of-living allowance, amending the election commission law, and extending judiciary power on citizenship issues.
- The capital city of Kuwait is also named Kuwait, and the official language spoken is Arabic, although English is widely spoken and used as the lingua franca.

### **Justice Dinesh Kumar Appoints as the SAT Presiding officer**

- Justice (retired) Dinesh Kumar took charge as the Presiding Officer of the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) on 29 April 2024.
- The government of India appointed Justice Dinesh Kumar for a four-year term.
- Before taking over as the presiding officer of SAT, Justice Dinesh Kumar was the chief justice of the Karnataka High Court.
- He retired from the post in February 2024.
- The Securities Appellate Tribunal is a statutory body established in 1992 under the provisions of the Securities Exchange Board of India Act 1992.

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### **Appointments of Multiple Officers to Joint Secretary/Equivalent Positions**

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointments of several officers for Joint Secretary / Joint Secretary equivalent-level posts.
- Muthukrishnan Sankaranarayanan (IAS) has been appointed as Joint Secretary in the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), replacing Richa Bagla (IAS).
- He will serve for a combined tenure of 7 years, up to October 24, 2026, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- Shobhit Gupta (IRSEE) has been appointed as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, replacing Satyendra Kumar Mishra (IRS).
- His tenure is up to March 1, 2025, or until further orders, for an overall tenure of 5 years.
- Vimal Anand (IRS) has been appointed as Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce, replacing Nidhi Mani Tripathi (IAS).
- Monalisa Dash (IFoS) has been appointed as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MoDNER), replacing Harpreet Singh (IPoS).
- Rahul Jain (IAS) has been appointed as Joint Secretary in the 16th Finance Commission.
- Ranjit Singh (IA&AS) has been appointed as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, replacing Sanoj Kumar Jha.
- Rajeev Kumar (IOFS) has been appointed as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, replacing Sumita Singh (CSS).
- Vrunda Manohar Desai (IRS) has been appointed as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, replacing Vikram Sahay (IRS).
- Navin Agarwal (IRPS) has been appointed as Joint Secretary in the Department of Investment & Public Asset Management, replacing Parama Sen (IA&AS).
- Mahendra Kumar (IRSEE) has been appointed as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- Vivek Kumar Bajpai (IRSME) has been appointed as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Mines, replacing UC Joshi (IRTS).
- Rajiv Manjhi (CSS) has been appointed as Director at Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM) under the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), replacing Sumita Singh (CSS).
- Jai Prakash Pandey (IRPS) has been appointed as Additional Secretary in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), replacing Pushpendra Rajput (IAS).
- Abhishek Bhagotia (IAS) has been appointed as Joint Secretary in Lokpal, replacing Navin Agarwal (IRPS).
- Lal Chhandama (CSS) has been appointed as Joint Secretary in the Department of Rural Development, replacing Abhishek Bhagotia (IAS).
- Debolina Thakur (IA&AS) has been appointed as Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser in the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, replacing Sanjay Pandey (ICAS).
- Rahul Kashyap (CSS) has been appointed as Secretary in the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) under the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, replacing RK Khandelwal (IAS).

### **SARAH: A Digital Health Promoter Prototype**

- World Health Organization has launched S.A.R.A.H.
- It is a digital health promoter prototype. It has enhanced empathetic response, which is powered by generative artificial intelligence (AI).
- S.A.R.A.H. is a Smart AI Resource Assistant for Health. It is also known as Sarah.
- It engages users 24 hours a day in 8 languages on many health topics, on any device.
- It is trained to offer information on major health topics, which include mental health and healthy habits.
- It is an additional tool for people to realize their right to health.
- It can help people in having better understanding of risk factors for some leading causes of death in the world.
- These include cancer, heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes.
- It has the ability to support people in having access to latest information on eating a healthy diet, quitting tobacco, and being active.
- During the COVID-19 epidemic, earlier versions of S.A.R.A.H. were utilized to spread important public health information under the name Florence.
- S.A.R.A.H. has been launched ahead of World Health Day 2024 (7 April). The theme of World Health Day 2024 is 'My Health, My Right'.

### **China surpasses India as world's largest crude oil importer**

- According to the report by energy cargo tracker 'Vortexa', China overtook India to become the leading importer of Russian crude with 1.82 million barrels per day (bpd) in March 2024 through sea routes.
- In March 2024, total crude oil imports for India rose to 4.89 million bpd, up from 4.41 million bpd the previous month.
- Apart from China, India also imports crude oil from other countries, such as Iraq and Saudi Arabia.
- The 'Vortexa' report pointed out that China removed India from importing major Russian crude in March 2024.
- India has imported crude oil from China and other countries as well as from other regions, which deals with different quality and delivery price.

### **Zimbabwe launches new gold-backed currency**

- Zimbabwe has introduced ZiG (Zimbabwe Gold), a new currency backed by gold, in a bid to stabilize its economy after decades of crisis.
- This move replaces the Zimbabwean dollar and RTGS, both of which suffered from significant devaluation and high inflation rates.
- ZiG banknotes, available in denominations from 1 to 200, aim to address currency shortages.
- Additionally, coins will be introduced to tackle the scarcity of US coins, which has led to unconventional practices like giving change in sweets and pens.
- The central bank governor has assured that ZiG will maintain its value through backing with precious minerals, particularly gold, or foreign exchange, aiming to avoid the devaluation issues faced by previous currencies.

### **Taliban To Restore Land Rights**

- India has expressed appreciation for the Taliban regime's announcement to reinstate land rights for Afghan Hindus and Sikh minorities, viewing it as a constructive step forward.
- The Taliban government has established a commission dedicated to facilitating the return of property rights to the Hindu and Sikh communities, which were unjustly seized by warlords during the prior administration in Kabul.
- India has not yet recognized the Taliban regime and has been advocating for a truly inclusive government in Afghanistan, while also emphasizing that Afghan soil should not be used for terrorist activities.

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- India has been pushing for unimpeded humanitarian aid to address the worsening humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan while re-establishing its diplomatic presence in Kabul in June 2022.
- India withdrew its officials from the embassy in August 2021 due to security concerns following the Taliban's takeover.

### **Congo Appoints First Female Prime Minister Amid Eastern Violence**

- The Democratic Republic of Congo has appointed Judith Suminwa Tuluka as the country's first female Prime Minister.
- This move by President Felix Tshisekedi fulfills a campaign promise and comes at a time of worsening violence in the mineral-rich eastern region bordering Rwanda.
- The long-running conflict in the east has displaced more than 7 million people, according to the United Nations, making it one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.
- The region is overrun by more than 120 armed groups seeking control over the area's gold and other resources, leading to mass killings.

### **India and Mauritius have signed a protocol to amend tax treaty**

- India and Mauritius inked a protocol to amend their tax treaty, specifically the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (Dother
- This amendment addresses gaps in the existing agreement, strengthening scrutiny on tax avoidance related to investments flowing into India.
- The protocol introduces a Principal Purpose Test (PPT), which determines the eligibility of foreign investors for treaty benefits and whether tax benefits are the primary motive for routing investments through Mauritius.
- The DTAA serves as a bilateral pact aimed at preventing double taxation of income earned in one country by residents of the other.

### **Nigeria has rolled out the world's first vaccine against meningitis.**

- Nigeria has become the first country to introduce a novel vaccine, Men5CV. It is endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- This vaccine will provide protection against five strains (A, C, W, Y, and X) of meningococcus bacteria.
- Meningitis is caused due to the meningococcus bacteria. It is a significant threat in Africa.
- Meningitis can be caused by viruses, bacteria, fungi, or parasites. It can impact brain and can cause hearing loss and learning disabilities.
- Fever, Headache, Neck stiffness, and Sensitivity to light are the Symptoms of meningitis.
- As per the World Health Organization (WHO), reported cases of meningitis across Africa increased by 50 percent last year.
- Nigeria encountered a meningitis outbreak between October 1, 2023, and March 11, 2024.

### **World's first 'Miss AI' beauty pageant announced**

- For the first time in the world, models and influencers that are solely created through artificial intelligence will be competing in a beauty pageant called "Miss AI".
- The inaugural "Miss AI" contest marks the first instance of AI-generated models competing for a \$20,000 prize pool, focusing on criteria such as beauty, social media presence, and technical creation skills.
- Future Plans and Partnerships: Organizers plan to expand the concept with additional contests centered on fashion, diversity, and computer-generated male models.
- Furthermore, the partnership with Fanvue, a subscription-based platform hosting virtual models, highlights the growing integration of technology and entertainment in the fashion industry.

### **The 8 Indians got place in the Time's 100 Most Influential List 2024.**

- Time magazine has released the list of 100 most influential personalities of the world.
- Eight Indians- Ali Bhatt, Ajay Banga, Sakshi Malik, Dev Patel, Priyamvada Natarajan, Ajay Banga, Satya Nadella, and Jigar Shah got place in the 100 most influential people of 2024.
- Leaders from various sectors, including finance, entertainment, technology, activism, and academia got place in the list.

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- The overall list contains four categories: Leaders, heroes, artists, and thinkers.
- Indian-born British chef Asma Khan, who runs 'Darjeeling Express' in Soho, London has also got place in the list.
- Priyamvada Natarajan is an astrophysicist and a Professor of Astronomy. Her research is based on studies of supermassive black holes.

### **Vedanta firm Hindustan Zinc has become the third-largest silver producer globally.**

- Hindustan Zinc Limited, a subsidiary of the Vedanta Group, has become the world's third-largest silver producer, according to the 2024 World Silver Survey by The Silver Institute.
- The company's Sindesar Khurd Mine in Rajasthan is the world's second-largest silver-producing mine.
- In 2023, Hindustan Zinc produced 45.9 million ounces of silver, an 8% increase from the previous year.
- Silver plays a key role in the global energy transition and Hindustan Zinc's 5% year-on-year growth in production is attributed to increased ore production and improved grades.
- This strengthens its position as a major player in the global silver market.
- Hindustan Zinc is a Vedanta Group company in the zinc, lead, and silver business.
- It is the world's second-largest integrated zinc producer and now the third-largest silver producer.
- Udaipur headquartered, Hindustan Zinc has a 75% market share in the growing zinc market in India with zinc, lead mines, and smelting complexes spread across Rajasthan.

### **Iraq's parliament passed a law criminalizing same-sex relationships.**

- Iraq's parliament recently approved a law that criminalizes same-sex relationships, introducing harsh penalties for individuals involved.
- The amended law allows courts to sentence those engaged in same-sex relations to imprisonment for 10 to 15 years.
- Individuals promoting homosexuality or prostitution face a minimum of seven years in prison under the new legislation.
- Penalties ranging from one to three years await individuals who undergo gender transition or present themselves in an effeminate manner.
- The law also targets organizations deemed to "promote" homosexuality, imposing prison sentences of 10 to 15 years.
- The primary objective of the law is framed around upholding religious values and safeguarding Iraqi society from perceived moral decline.
- The law garners support primarily from conservative Shi'ite Muslim parties, the largest coalition in Iraq's parliament.
- Past criticisms from Iraqi parties against LGBT rights underscore the broader political landscape's stance on this issue.
- Globally, while same-sex sexual acts are legal in over 130 countries, more than 60 nations have criminalized gay sex, highlighting ongoing challenges in LGBTQ+ rights advocacy.

### **First Ever Hindi Radio Broadcast Starts In Kuwait**

- Kuwait's Ministry of Information has initiated the first-ever Hindi radio broadcast, facilitated by the Indian Embassy in Kuwait.
- The Indian Embassy commended Kuwait for launching a Hindi program on Kuwait Radio, airing on FM 93.3 and AM 96.3 every Sunday.
- This significant development is expected to fortify the longstanding bonds between India and Kuwait.
- The historical ties between India and Kuwait extend back to a period when the Indian rupee was the official currency in Kuwait until 1961, underlining a deep-rooted history of trade and commerce.
- Celebrating the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2021-22, both nations highlight their enduring partnership characterized by mutual respect and collaboration across diverse sectors.

### **India will sign a trade deal with Oman to strengthen its ties with West Asia.**

- India is poised to strengthen its ties with West Asia through a forthcoming trade agreement with Oman.

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- The trade deal, expected to be finalized in the coming months, aims to bolster economic relations between India and countries in the West Asian region.
- Despite an existing annual trade volume of less than \$13 billion between India and Oman, this agreement holds the potential for substantial growth and collaboration.
- Oman's strategic location as the gateway to the crucial Strait of Hormuz, a key transit point for global oil shipments between Oman and Iran, adds significant geopolitical significance to this trade partnership.
- India's proactive approach includes seeking bilateral agreements with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member nations such as Oman and the United Arab Emirates to further enhance economic cooperation.
- As part of the agreement, Oman has committed to removing duties on a range of Indian export products, spanning agricultural goods, gems and jewellery, leather, automobiles, and more.
- In return, India has agreed to reduce duties on select petrochemical imports, including aluminium and copper sourced from Oman.
- The trade pact with Oman is poised to provide India with a competitive advantage, particularly as GCC nations engage in negotiations for trade agreements with other regional players like Pakistan and China.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Central government formed a panel on the issues of queer community.

- The central government has established a panel to address issues concerning the queer community.
- This committee, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, was created following a directive from the Supreme Court in October.
- Comprised of members from various ministries including Home Affairs, Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, Social Justice and Empowerment, and the Law Ministry, its mandate is to examine and determine the rights of queer couples in unions.
- Additionally, the committee will assess measures to ensure the safety and protection of the queer community from violence, harassment, or coercion.
- In 2023, a five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court declined to recognize the right to marry as a fundamental right for same-sex couples.

### Katchatheevu issue

- Katchatheevu Island issue emerged after PM Modi blamed the Congress Party for giving it to Sri Lanka in 1974.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched an attack against the Congress party for giving Katchatheevu Island to Sri Lanka in 1974.
- Katchatheevu Island is an uninhabited island spanning 285 acres in the Palk Strait between India and Sri Lanka. It is 1.6 km in length and more than 300 m wide.
- St. Anthony's Church is the only structure on Katchatheevu Island. It was built in the 20th century.
- When did the Katchatheevu controversy begin?
- Sri Lanka claimed sovereignty over Katchatheevu due to the Portuguese occupation of the island from 1505 to 1658.
- India claimed it due to possession by the Raja of Ramnad as part of its estate.
- Katchatheevu has been a disputed territory between India and Sri Lanka since the British era.
- The island was ceded to Sri Lanka by the government of India through an agreement in 1974.

### The world's first-ever Om-shaped temple has been inaugurated in Pali, Rajasthan

- The world's first-ever Om-shaped temple has been inaugurated in Pali, Rajasthan, marking a historic architectural achievement in the region.
- This temple, named 'Om Akar' Temple, is a huge structure spread over 250 acres in Jadan, Rajasthan. Which resembles the sacred symbol 'Om', which is an important spiritual symbol in Hinduism.

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- Designed in the distinctive Nagara style of North Indian architecture, the 'Om Aakar' temple not only celebrates the cultural and architectural heritage of the region, but also represents a pioneering effort in global temple architecture.

### **The Delhi High Court has ruled that Haldiram is a well-known trademark**

- The Delhi High Court has ruled that Haldiram is a well-known trademark, specifically in the context of eateries, restaurants, and food items.
- According to the court, Haldiram is recognized as a well-known trademark both within India and globally. The court noted that Haldiram's mark and logo have been in use in the food industry since the 1960s and have achieved the status of a well-known mark.
- The ruling came in response to a case filed by Haldiram India seeking protection for its mark, Haldiram, and its variations such as 'Haldiram Bhujawala' under the Trade Marks Act, 1999.
- The company requested the court to permanently prohibit an imitator from Ambala City, Haryana, who was selling products under the mark 'Haldiram Bhujawala'.
- In its judgment, the High Court imposed a fine of ₹50 lakhs as damages and an additional fine of ₹2 lakhs as costs to be paid to Haldiram India.
- A trademark serves as a distinctive sign or indicator used by a business organization to differentiate its products or services from those of other entities.

### **Paradip Port Emerges as India's Top Cargo-Handling Port in 2023-24**

- In the fiscal year 2023-24, Paradip Port Authority in Odisha outpaced Deendayal Port Authority in Kandla to emerge as India's top cargo-handling major port.
- Paradip Port Authority managed to handle 145.38 Million Metric Tons (MMT) of cargo, reflecting a notable growth of 7.4% compared to the preceding year.
- Paradip Port established by the Odisha government in 1962; taken over by the Indian government in 1965.
- Declared a major port by the Indian government on April 18, 1966, becoming the 8th major port of India.
- Operates as an autonomous body under the Major Port Trusts Act 1963, under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, administered by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Government of India.

### **The center will record the religion of the parents separately during the birth registration of the child.**

- According to the model rules prepared by the Union Home Ministry, now parents will have to enter the religion of both the father and mother of the child separately while registering the birth of the child.
- These rules have to be adopted and notified by the state governments before they can be implemented.
- Previously, only the religion of the family was recorded in the birth register.
- The column requiring tick mark selection for "Religion" of the child in the proposed "Form No. 1- Birth Report" will be expanded to now also state "Religion of Father" and "Religion of Mother".
- Similar changes have been made for parents of an adopted child.
- The births and deaths database will be maintained at the national level, as per the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, passed by Parliament on August 11, 2023.
- It can be used to update the National Population Register (NPR), voter list, Aadhaar numbers, ration cards, passports, driving licenses, property registration, and such other databases that may be notified.
- According to the law, which came into effect on October 1, 2023, all reported births and deaths in the country are to be registered digitally through the Centre's Civil Registration System (crsorgi.gov.in) portal.
- Under this system, the digital birth certificate issued will become a single document to prove the date of birth for various services including admission to educational institutions.

### **Ajit Doval Leads Indian Delegation at SCO Security Council Meeting**

- The 19th annual meeting of the secretaries of the security councils of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) took place in Astana, Kazakhstan, from April 2 to 3, 2024.
- Leading the Indian delegation was the National Security Advisor (NSA), Ajit Doval. During the meeting, NSA Doval held discussions with Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, who currently serves as the Chairman of SCO.
- President Tokayev proposed the adoption of a Cooperation Programme aimed at combating terrorism, separatism, and extremism for the period 2025-2027.
- Additionally, he highlighted the importance of implementing the SCO Anti-Drug Strategy for the years 2024-2029.
- President Tokayev underscored the significance of addressing the "three evil forces" – terrorism, separatism, and extremism – along with challenges related to transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, and cybersecurity during Kazakhstan's chairmanship in the SCO.

### **India to Establish First Privately Managed Strategic Petroleum Reserve by 2029-30**

- India is moving forward with its plans to establish its first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) by the fiscal year 2029-30.
- This initiative is aimed at granting the operator the flexibility to engage in trading all stored oil, mirroring models observed in countries like Japan and South Korea. India's existing SPR strategy involves partial commercialization, with intentions to further develop this approach through new SPR projects.
- The country intends to construct two additional SPRs, consisting of an 18.3 million barrels facility in Padur, Karnataka, and a 29.3 million barrels SPR in Odisha.
- These ventures will involve private partners who will be granted the authority to trade all stored oil domestically. However, the government will retain the primary right to the oil in the event of supply shortages.

### **Kathiya wheat from Uttar Pradesh's Bundelkhand gets Geographical Indication (GI) tag**

- Kathiya Gehu (wheat) from the Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh has received the first Geographical Indication (GI) tag for a farm produce in the area.
- Bundelkhand wheat variety gets GI tag.
- Kathiya wheat, also known as Durum wheat, is indigenous to the region and is rich in nutrition. Additionally, it is gluten-free, making it a healthier option for consumers.
- The GI tag will help in promoting Kathiya wheat as an indigenous brand. Its unique qualities, including its ability to thrive in harsh climatic conditions with minimal water requirement, will enhance its brand value and contribute to the prosperity of farmers in the region.

### **India to stop importing urea by end of 2025**

- As per the announcement by Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, India is poised to achieve self-sufficiency in urea production by the end of 2025, effectively eliminating the need for imports.
- Mandaviya highlighted the significant strides made in bolstering domestic manufacturing capabilities, which have played a pivotal role in narrowing the gap between urea supply and demand.
- The Indian government has set a bold target to completely halt urea imports by 2025, signaling a concerted effort to enhance domestic production and bridge the existing supply-demand disparity.
- To achieve this goal, the government has implemented measures to promote the adoption of alternative fertilizers, including Nano Liquid Urea and Nano Liquid Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), thereby encouraging a shift towards more sustainable agricultural practices.
- In line with this initiative, the government has introduced the 'PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nutrition, and Improvement of Mother Earth' (PM-PRANAM) scheme.
- This scheme aims to incentivize States and Union Territories (UTs) to embrace alternative fertilizers, thereby reducing reliance on traditional chemical fertilizers.
- By fostering the widespread adoption of environmentally friendly fertilizers, PM-PRANAM seeks to promote soil health and agricultural sustainability across the nation.

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### **President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated a two-day Homeopathic Symposium on 10 April 2024.**

- On April 10, 2024, President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated a two-day Homeopathic Symposium at the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre in Dwarka, New Delhi, coinciding with World Homeopathy Day 2024.
- World Homeopathy Day, observed annually on April 10th, carries the theme "Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family" for this year.
- The event, organized by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) under the Ministry of Ayush, revolves around the theme of 'Empowering Research, Enhancing Proficiency.'
- It aims to promote holistic health and wellness while advancing the utilization of cutting-edge techniques in homeopathic research.
- Following the inaugural ceremony, a session on 'Words of Wisdom' will be conducted.
- Additionally, seventeen CCRH publications will be released, and Padma Awardees will be honored during the event.

### **Sangeet Natak Akademi is organizing 'Shakti - Festival of Music and Dance'.**

- The Sangeet Natak Akademi is orchestrating the 'Shakti - Festival of Music and Dance,' a cultural extravaganza taking place at seven revered Shaktipeeths across India from April 9th to 17th.
- This festival serves as a homage to temple traditions in the country, aiming to revitalize and celebrate these age-old customs.
- Under the auspices of the Kala Pravah series, the Sangeet Natak Akademi has strategically scheduled the Shakti festival to coincide with Navaratri, a period of significance in Hindu culture.
- The festival commenced on April 9th at the Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati, Assam, and will continue its journey to various sacred sites, including the Mahalakshmi Temple in Kolhapur, Maharashtra; Jwalamukhi Temple in Kangada, Himachal Pradesh; Tripura Sundari Temple in Udaipur, Tripura; Ambaji Temple in Banaskantha, Gujarat; and Jai Durga Shaktipeeth in Deoghar, Jharkhand.
- The culmination of the Shakti festival is scheduled for April 17th, 2024, at the Shaktipeeth Maa Harsidhi Temple in Jaisinghpur, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh. This grand finale promises to be a fitting tribute to the divine feminine energy revered across the nation..

### **New Year Ugaadi festival celebrated in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.**

- On April 09, Telugu-speaking people across the world celebrated the festival of Ugadi with traditional enthusiasm and gaiety to mark the Telugu New Year.
- To mark the beginning of the Hindu Lunar calendar, this festival is celebrated across Telangana, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- Ugadi is celebrated on the first day of Chaitra, the first month of the Hindu calendar.
- People in rural and urban areas of Telangana celebrate Sri 'Shobhakrithu Nama Ugadi' according to the Telugu calendar.
- Gudi Padwa, also known as Samvatsar Padvo, is a Marathi new year celebrated by Maharashtrians and Konkanis people all over India.
- Gudi Padwa falls on the day Chaitra Navratri starts.
- This year, the festival has been celebrated on April 9 in Maharashtra. In Maharashtra, Gudi Padwa has a special significance.

### **NTPC launches new edition of Girl Empowerment Mission**

- NTPC Limited, India's foremost integrated power company, is gearing up to launch the latest installment of its flagship Corporate Social Responsibility initiative, the Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM).
- Aligned with the Government of India's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao initiative, the program is dedicated to addressing gender inequality by empowering girls to realize their full potential and explore opportunities.
- GEM achieves this objective through a month-long workshop designed to coincide with the summer holidays, providing young girls with a platform for holistic development and upliftment.
- Commencing from April 2024, the new edition of GEM will extend its reach to include nearly 3,000 deserving children from underprivileged backgrounds across 42 identified locations associated with the power sector PSU.

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- With this expansion, the total number of beneficiaries from the Mission is set to surpass 10,000, further cementing its impact on fostering a more inclusive and empowered society.

### **Gopi Thotakura to become the first Indian space tourist.**

- Gopi Thotakura is set to become first Indian to venture into space as a tourist.
- A dynamic entrepreneur and skilled pilot, Thotakura has been selected to join the NS-25 mission of Blue Origin, the aerospace company founded by Jeff Bezos.
- This groundbreaking mission will see Thotakura as one of six crew members embarking on an extraordinary journey into space.
- Thotakura would be the second Indian to go into space. Rakesh Sharma was the first Indian to go into space in 1984.
- Thotakura's selection highlights the growing interest in space tourism, with the space tourism market valued at \$848.28 million in 2023 and projected to reach \$27,861.99 million by 2032, according to media reports.
- Space tourism is an important section of the aviation sector. The NS-25 mission is a sub-orbital mission.

### **India's first 'hybrid pitch' made in Dharamshala**

- The cricket stadium in Dharamshala is set to make history as the first venue recognized by the BCCI to feature a state-of-the-art 'hybrid pitch.'
- In collaboration with the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association, the installation of this innovative pitch is made possible through a partnership with SISGrass.
- The hybrid pitch boasts advanced durability and consistency, offering players an optimal playing surface for top-tier performances.
- Leading the charge in this technological investment is SISGrass, a Netherlands-based company renowned for its expertise in cutting-edge sports turf solutions.

### **Indian team won four medals in the Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) 2024.**

- In the 13th European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) 2024 held in Tskaltubo, Georgia from April 11 – 17, 2024, the Indian team distinguished itself by clinching four medals. Among these, two were Silver and two were Bronze.
- Gunjan Agarwal of Gurgaon and Sanjana Philo Chacko of Thiruvananthapuram won Silver medals.
- Larissa from Hissar and Pune's Sae Patil won Bronze medals at the Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) 2024.
- The team was led by leader Sahil Mhaskar, Deputy Leader Aditi Muthkhod and Observer Ananya Ranade from the Chennai Mathematical Institute.
- This remarkable achievement marks the second instance where all four participants from India have secured medals at EGMO.

### **The studies show that only 13.5% of India's STEM faculty are women.**

- Studies reveal that only 13.5% of India's STEM faculty comprises women, despite notable contributions from Indian women in science throughout history.
- From botanist Janaki Ammal's pioneering work in developing sugarcane hybrids in the 1930s to Tessie Thomas leading the first test launch of the Agni-IV missile in 2011, Indian women have left a significant mark in the scientific arena.
- However, according to a study by BiasWatchIndia, only 13.5 percent of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) faculty members across 98 universities and institutes in the country are women.
- BiasWatchIndia tracks women's representation in science.
- On March 30, researchers published the study in the peer-reviewed journal Communications Biology: Nature.
- The study said that countries like America and Britain have also seen a trend of under-representation of women in STEM, but this number is not as low as India.
- The paper notes that not only are women under-represented in STEM streams, but the percentage of women in top-ranked institutes such as the IITs, the IISc, and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research has dropped even further.

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- For the study, the authors collected faculty data between June 2020 and December 2021 from the websites of 98 universities and institutes.
- Women's representation in engineering faculties was lowest, at 9.2%, according to the authors' survey. The faculty of biology had the largest representation (25.5%).
- After engineering, the proportion of women in chemistry, computer science, and physics faculties is extremely low, at 11.5%, 12.2% and 13% respectively.
- In comparison, the Earth Sciences and Mathematics faculty have more women, at 14.4% and 15.8% respectively.
- According to the study, women in the US are "16% in physics, 16.5% in engineering, and 25% in mathematics, while biology and chemistry saw better female representation at 46% and 40%, respectively."

## STATE NEWS

### **Madhya Pradesh leads in Tree Plantation Under the 'Green Credit' Plan with 954 Hectares.**

- Madhya Pradesh has taken the lead in tree plantation under the 'Green Credit' Plan by dedicating 954 hectares for this initiative. Over the past two months, Madhya Pradesh has spearheaded the implementation of the Centre's Green Credit Program (GCP) by approving more than 500 land parcels, covering a total area of 4,980 hectares across 10 states, for plantation.
- Together with three other states, these regions have identified over 10,000 hectares of land for participation in the program. Currently, Madhya Pradesh has the highest sanctioned degraded forest land for plantation and greening efforts, standing at 954 hectares. Following Madhya Pradesh are Telangana (845 hectares), Chhattisgarh (713 hectares), Gujarat (595 hectares), and Assam (454 hectares).
- The administrator, the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), has granted approval for five other states—Bihar, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Odisha—to utilize similar land parcels for plantation purposes.
- At least 14 public sector undertakings (PSUs) and other entities have been registered to plant trees on degraded forest land and ultimately earn green credits.
- Individuals, industries, and other public/private entities, including philanthropies and local bodies, can voluntarily participate in the GCP.
- Although the program was started six months ago to encourage environment-friendly practices by people.
- In February, the Environment Ministry notified the methods for calculating the credit generated instead of the tree plantation on degraded land parcels, including bushes, barren lands, and catchment areas of rivers in every state and union territory.

### **Three new archaeological sites have been discovered in Telangana.**

- Three previously unknown archaeological sites have recently come to light in Telangana, revealing fascinating insights into the region's history.
- A team of archaeologists unearthed an exceptional Iron Age megalithic site nestled in Ooragutta, near Bandala village, within the SS Tadvai mandal of Mulugu district.
- The site was discovered by a team comprising K P Rao and Ch Praveen Raju.
- The exact number of monuments could not be counted in the dense forest and slopes of the hill but it is likely to be more than 200 megalithic monuments.
- The site discovered at Ooragutta has unique features. The side slabs are arranged with slabs after the shape of the capstone.
- The researchers have also discovered two new rock art sites at Damaratogu in Gundala mandal of Bhadrachalam district.
- The first site is known as 'Devarlabanda Mula'. It has only depictions of animals.
- It is believed that the paintings are from between 8000 – 3000 BCE.

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### **Madhya Pradesh Takes the Front Seat in the Center's Green Credit Programme Initiatives**

- Madhya Pradesh takes the lead in the Centre's Green Credit Programme (GCP), with over 500 approved land parcels designated for tree plantation across 10 states
- A total of 10,000 hectares of land have been identified for the programme by participating states.
- MP reports the highest approved degraded forest land for plantation/greening exercises, totaling 954 hectares.
- Other states with approved land parcels include Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, and Assam, among others.
- Public sector undertakings and entities are registered to carry out plantations on degraded forest land and earn green credits.
- The programme aims to nurture ecosystem services and promote non-carbon environmental positive actions.

### **Fifteen products from Uttar Pradesh have been recently added to the list of Geographical Indication (GI) certified products.**

- Recent additions of fifteen products from Uttar Pradesh to the Geographical Indication (GI) certified list have elevated the state to the foremost position in India, boasting a total of 69 GI-tagged products.
- Uttar Pradesh has outpaced Tamil Nadu, currently holding 58 GI-tagged products, reflecting its rich cultural and artisanal heritage recognized at a national level.
- Varanasi stands out as the primary hub for GI-tagged goods production in Uttar Pradesh, contributing 30 certified products, the highest count from any single geographical area in the state.
- This significant achievement underscores the diversity and uniqueness of products originating from Uttar Pradesh, reinforcing its prominence in the realm of Geographical Indication recognition.
- Notable among the newly GI-tagged products from Uttar Pradesh are:- Banaras thandai, Banaras Tabla, Banaras Shehnai, Banaras Lal Bharwamirch, Chiraigaon Karonda (Varanasi), Banaras Lal Peda, Banaras Mural painting etc.

### **Seven members of the Shompen tribe voted for the first time in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**

- Seven members of the Shompen tribe exercised their voting rights for the very first time in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- This particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTGs), residing in the remote Great Nicobar Islands, participated in the electoral process to cast their ballots for the single Lok Sabha seat in the Union Territory.
- Not only did they fulfill their civic duty by voting, but they also enthusiastically engaged in capturing moments by posing for selfies at polling station 411, known as the 'Shompen Hut'.
- According to data from the 2011 Census, the Shompen population is estimated to be 229 individuals.
- Voting took place for the first time in 56 Bastar villages in Chhattisgarh at voting places that were built up in the villages themselves.
- Jyoti Amge, the shortest woman in the world, voted in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- Voting was conducted among the deaf and dumb residents of Dhadkahi, also referred to as the "silent village" in Jammu & Kashmir.

## AWARDS

### **Professor Meena Charanda to receive 'International Culture Award' in 2024**

- Professor Meena Charanda, the Principal of Kalindi College at Delhi University, was awarded the prestigious 'International Culture Award' in 2024 for her exceptional contributions to education and social service.
- The award ceremony took place on March 30, 2024, at the India International Center, where Prof. Charanda was presented with a memento, plaque, shield, and citation by the University in acknowledgment of her remarkable accomplishments.

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- With more than 20 years of experience teaching political science at Kalindi College, Prof. Charanda holds a PhD from Delhi University, specializing in Dalit assemblies in Uttar Pradesh.
- She has authored a book on Dalit MLAs in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly and has made significant contributions with over 50 published articles in various newspapers and magazines. Currently, she serves as a mentor to two PhD researchers.

### **Hardik Singh and Salima Tete win Balbir Singh Senior Award for Player of the Year 2023**

- Indian hockey team midfielders Hardik Singh and Salima Tete were honoured with the Balbir Singh Senior Award for Player of the Year 2023 in the men's and women's category respectively at the Hockey India Annual Awards.
- The sixth annual Hockey India Awards 2023 were announced on 31st March 2024 in New Delhi. At the ceremony, Salima Tete and Hardik Singh were selected as the female and male players of the year 2023.
- Hardik Singh as the vice-captain of the Indian hockey men's team was part of the bronze medal-winning Indian team and the Hangzhou Asian team at the Tokyo Olympics 2023.
- Salima Tete also won a bronze medal at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games by being a part of the Indian women's hockey team.
- Ashok Kumar was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award for the recognized achievements that were part of the 1975 World Cup triumph.

### **SJVN Limited has won two awards at the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2024.**

- SJVN Limited has once again demonstrated its commitment to excellence by clinching two prestigious awards at the esteemed 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2024.
- The company has been honored with the 'Achievement Award for Creating Social Development & Impact' and the 'CIDC Partners in Progress Trophy', marking its third consecutive year of recognition.
- These accolades underscore SJVN's noteworthy contributions to Corporate Social Responsibility, highlighting its dedication to making a meaningful difference in society.
- Instituted by the Construction Industry Development Council, these awards signify the industry's acknowledgment of SJVN's outstanding achievements.
- Originally known as Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam, SJVN Limited is a distinguished public sector undertaking engaged in hydroelectric power generation and transmission.
- As a joint venture between the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh, SJVN Limited continues to play a pivotal role in the nation's energy sector, embodying a legacy of excellence and innovation.

### **Miraj's Sitar and Tanpuras Awarded Geographical Indication Tags**

- The small town of Miraj in Maharashtra's Sangli district is known for its craftsmanship in making musical instruments, particularly sitars and tanpuras.
- These instruments have now been awarded the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tags, recognizing their unique origin and quality.
- The GI tag denotes the product comes from a particular geographical area, and often enhances its commercial value.
- 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.

### **15th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2024**

- SJVN Limited has won two prestigious awards at the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2024, instituted by the Construction Industry Development Council.
- SJVN has been conferred with 'Achievement Award for Creating Social Development & Impact' and 'CIDC Partners in Progress Trophy'.
- Smt. Geeta Kapur, Chairperson & Managing Director of SJVN, expresses gratitude for the recognition, highlighting the company's commitment to CSR.
- SJVN Foundation, the registered trust, manages all CSR initiatives of SJVN.
- Over Rs. 450 crores invested in diverse CSR activities, covering education, healthcare, infrastructure, disaster assistance, cultural preservation, and sports promotion.

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### **India's Chandrayaan-3 mission team has been given US space exploration award.**

- India's Chandrayaan-3 mission team has been honored with the US space exploration award for its exceptional contribution to raising space exploration standards.
- The 2024 Jack Swigert Jr. Award was bestowed upon the team in recognition of their remarkable achievement.
- Chandrayaan-3, developed by ISRO, marked India's historic landing on the South Pole of the Moon, making it the first country to achieve this feat.
- The award was received by India's Consul General in Houston, D C Manjunath, on behalf of ISRO during the opening ceremony of the annual Space Symposium in Colorado.
- Presented annually by the Space Foundation, the Jack Swigert Award acknowledges extraordinary accomplishments in space exploration and discovery by a company, space agency, or consortium of organizations.
- It pays tribute to the memory of astronaut John L. "Jack" Swigert Jr., known for his role in the Apollo 13 lunar mission.

### **15th "CIDC Vishwakarma Award" has been given to GAIL (India) Limited in the "Achievement Award for Best Construction Projects" category.**

- GAIL (India) Limited won the award for its Barauni – Guwahati Natural Gas Pipeline project (BGPL).
- On behalf of the company, GAIL's Director of Projects, Deepak Gupta, and Executive Director of Projects, AK Tripathi, accepted the award.
- The BGPL project has connected North-East India with the National Gas Grid for the first time.
- It is an integral part of Jagdishpur – Haldia & Bokaro – Dhamra Pipeline project.
- GAIL (India) Limited is India's leading natural gas company. It is a central PSU.
- It was founded in 1984. It was founded in New Delhi. Sandeep Kumar Gupta is its Chairman and MD.

### **Renowned Spiritual Leader Lokesh Muni Receives American President's Volunteer Award 2024**

- India's Jain spiritual leader Lokesh Muni has been honored with the US Presidential Gold Volunteer Service Award for his contribution to the welfare of people and humanity.
- The esteemed award was presented to Muni by Democratic Congressman Brad Sherman at the US Capitol.
- Muni, renowned as the founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharati and the World Peace Center in India, has tirelessly worked towards fostering peace and compassion on a global scale.
- Established in 2003 under President George Bush's tenure, the US President's Volunteer Service Award acknowledges individuals who have dedicated a minimum of 500 hours to volunteer service, leaving a positive impact on communities and inspiring others through their selfless acts.
- Muni's receipt of this award underscores his profound commitment to service and his remarkable influence in promoting peace and humanitarian values.

### **International literature prize awarded to Kannada poet Mamta G Sagar**

- The World Organization of Writers (WOW) conferred the esteemed World Literary Prize upon Kannada poet, playwright, and scholar Mamta G Sagar.
- This recognition was part of WOW's inaugural congress in Abuja, Nigeria.
- Over three days, the congress convened at the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) Writers Village, established by the esteemed Nigerian writer Chinua Achebe in 1981.
- The event was a collaborative effort involving ANA and the Pan African Writers Association (PAWA).
- Hailing from Bengaluru, Mamta G Sagar is known for her literary works addressing themes of gender, politics, and human rights violations, notably through anthologies such as 'Kaada Navilina Hejje' (1992) and 'Nadiya Neerina Teva' (1999).

### **Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award will be presented to Amitabh Bachchan.**

- The prestigious third Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award will be given to Bollywood veteran Amitabh Bachchan for his remarkable dedication towards the nation, its people, and society.

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- On February 6, 2022, the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award was instituted by the Deenanath Mangeshkar Smriti Pratisthan in the memory of late Bharat Ratna winner and legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar.
- Amitabh will be given this award on 24 April 2024 in Mumbai on the occasion of the 82nd death anniversary of Lata Mangeshkar's father Deenanath Mangeshkar.
- The ceremony will be organized on April 24 at Deenanath Mangeshkar Natyagraha, Vile Parle, Mumbai.
- Several other awards were also announced by the Trust and the Mangeshkar family. Under this, awards will be given to the following:
  - ✓ Indian music to composer AR Rahman
  - ✓ Actress Padmini Kolhapuri awarded for her services in the field of cinema
  - ✓ Roop Kumar Rathore awarded for his services in the field of music
  - ✓ Actor Randeep Hooda received a special award for Best Film Production and Actor.
  - ✓ Marathi actor Ashok Saraf
  - ✓ Actor Atul Parchure

### **Hardik Singh and Salima Tete named Player of the Year men and women at the Hockey India Awards 2024.**

- Hardik Singh and Salima Tete were named Player of the Year 2023 among men and women respectively at the sixth annual Hockey India Awards.
- Hardik, who was also the FIH Player of the Year, was awarded the Balbir Singh Senior Trophy and a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh.
- With a total prize money of Rs 7 crore 56 lakh, the awards honored teams and individuals for their achievements over the past year.
- The 2016 Junior World Cup-winning men's team was also honored at the event, eight years after their victory.
- The federation also announced the revival of the Hockey India League (HIL) in January 2025.
- Last held in 2017, the HIL will be a five-week competition with eight men's and six women's teams with auctions for the same likely to be held after the Paris Olympics.
- The Indian teams that won the Junior Asia Cup and the men's and women's Asian Champions Trophy were also rewarded along with the men's Asian Games winning team.

### **John Dirks Gairdner Global Health Award**

- Dr. Gagandeep Kang, a distinguished Indian researcher, has been honored with the 2024 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award for her outstanding contributions to global health research.
- The Gairdner Foundation unveiled the recipients of the 2024 Canada Gairdner Awards, acknowledging pioneers in biomedical and global health research and breakthroughs worldwide.
- The award, provided by the Gairdner Foundation of Canada, recognizes Dr. Kang's significant contributions to child health in India, highlighting the global recognition of her scientific achievements and dedication to improving healthcare outcomes.

### **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.
- The award underscores REC's dedication to sustainable financing, paving the way for a greener future and accelerating the transition to renewable energy.
- The SKOCH ESG Awards recognize organizations that demonstrate outstanding performance in Environmental, Social, and Governance practices.
- The SKOCH ESG Award and Assessment serve as an important benchmark for evaluating organizations' commitment to India 2047.
- REC is a 'Maharatna' Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and is registered with RBI as Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC), and Infrastructure Financing Company (IFC).
- REC Ltd. provides loans of various maturities to State, Central and Private Companies for creation of infrastructure assets in the country.

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- REC Ltd. continues to play a key strategic role in the flagship schemes of the Government for the power sector and has been a nodal agency for Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGAYA), DDUGJY, National Electricity Fund (NEF) Scheme which resulted in strengthening of last-mile distribution system, 100% village electrification and household electrification.

### **Padma Shri Award**

- Bangladeshi Singer Rezwana Choudhury received the Padma Shri Award.
- She received the award for her contribution to the field of Art. She is a practitioner of Rabindra Sangeet.
- She sang "Vaishnav Jan To" to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- She runs 'Shurer Dhara', a prestigious music school in Dhaka. She has also written many books on Rabindra Sangeet.

### **Deepika Soreng received the Asunta Lakra Award.**

- Deepika Soreng, an India Women's Hockey Team player, won the Asunta Lakra Award.
- She made her debut for India in the Women's Junior Asia Cup. She helped the Indian team to win the Gold medal by scoring 7 goals in 6 matches.
- She was also a key player for the Indian team that won the Silver medal in the FIH Women's Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024.
- She was also named the Young Player of the Tournament in Oman.
- She travelled with the team to the 2023 FIH Junior Women's World Cup.
- She received the Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player of the Year during the Hockey India 6th Annual Awards 2023.

### **Actor Ram Charan awarded honorary doctorate in literature from Vels University**

- In a prestigious ceremony, Vels University in Chennai conferred an honorary doctorate in literature upon renowned Indian actor Ram Charan.
- It highlights the importance of cinema as a medium for storytelling and the significant impact actors like Ram Charan have in shaping narratives and entertaining audiences worldwide.
- Bridge between Cinema and Academia: This prestigious recognition serves as a bridge between the realms of cinema and academia, showcasing the convergence of artistic excellence and scholarly appreciation.
- By conferring an honorary doctorate in literature, Vels University not only honors Charan's cinematic achievements but also acknowledges the literary and cultural dimensions embedded within his performances and the films he has been a part of.
- Inspiration for Aspiring Artists: Ram Charan's journey from his debut in "Chirutha" to receiving an honorary doctorate reflects a story of dedication, perseverance, and artistic growth.

### **Pt. Lacchu Maharaj Award**

- Renowned Hindi film stars Hema Malini and Saira Banu, alongside other distinguished figures from the realms of art and culture, are set to receive the esteemed Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award.
- The award ceremony is scheduled to take place on 31st August 2024 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, honoring their significant contributions to their respective fields.
- The decision to confer the awards was made during a meeting convened at Bhatkhande Sanskriti University, Lucknow, under the leadership of the university's vice-chancellor, Prof. Mandavi Singh.
- 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.

### **2024 Goldman Environmental Prize**

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

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- Hasdeo Arand forest area of Chhattisgarh is considered to be the lungs of Chhattisgarh.
- The area is rich in coal, and in 2010, the government auctioned two coal blocks to private companies for mining.
- To save the forest area and its ecosystem, Alok Shukla founded Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti.

### **Mohammed Salem wins the 2024 World Press Photo of the Year award**

- The esteemed 2024 World Press Photo of the Year award has been claimed by Reuters photographer Mohammed Salem for his powerful capture of a Palestinian woman tenderly cradling the lifeless form of her five-year-old niece in the heart of the Gaza Strip.
- This photograph was taken on 17 October 2023, at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis in southern Gaza.
- The jury said that this photograph is "composed with care and respect, offering at once a metaphorical and literal glimpse into unimaginable loss".
- The jury selected this photograph from 61,062 entries by 3,851 photographers from 130 countries.
- Mohammed Salem has been working for Reuters since 2003. He had also won an award in the 2010 World Press Photo competition.
- This award is presented by the Amsterdam-based World Press Photo Foundation.

## SPORTS

### **Arjun Erigaisi becomes India's no.1 chess player**

- India's 21 year old young chess player Arjun Erigasi has become India's number one chess player.
- Arjun Erigaysi is at number 9 in the world ranking list of the International Chess Federation.
- After which Arjun Erigasi has become the new number 1 chess player of the country, leaving behind Vishwanathan Anand.
- Arjun has also appeared in the top 10 of the FIDE rating list for the first time.
- Seasoned chess ace Vishwanathan Anand is far behind Erigaysi, demonstrating his enduring ability in the game and securing the second position among Indian players with a rating of 2751.

### **Mirabai Chanu becomes the only Indian Weightlifter to qualify for Paris Olympics**

- Mirabai Chanu, the Tokyo Olympics medalist, has secured her spot as the sole Indian weightlifter to qualify for the Paris Olympics this year. She achieved this milestone after a successful performance at the IWF World Cup in Phuket, Thailand today. Despite finishing third in Group B of the women's 49kg category (and 11th overall), the 29-year-old athlete secured her berth at the 2024 Paris Games.
- Returning to action after a six-month injury layoff, Chanu lifted a total of 184kg at the World Cup, which serves as the final and mandatory qualifier for Paris 2024.
- Having met the qualification criteria for the Paris Olympics, which includes participation in two compulsory events and three other qualifiers, the silver medalist from the Tokyo Olympics is currently ranked second in the women's 49kg Olympic Qualification Ranking (OQR), just behind China's Jiang Huihua.
- The official confirmation of her qualification will be announced after the conclusion of the World Cup. It is expected that the top 10 lifters from each weight class will qualify for the Paris Olympics.

### **Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden win Miami Masters doubles title**

- Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna, along with his Australian partner Matthew Ebden, clinched the Miami Open doubles title, marking their second significant victory of the year.
- The duo secured the championship by defeating Ivan Dodig and Austin Krajicek in an enthralling match that extended for over an hour and a half.
- Earlier this year, Bopanna and Ebden made history by winning the Australian Open.
- At 44 years old, Rohan Bopanna ascended to the top position in the men's doubles rankings.

### **Maharashtra clinch India's 56th National Kho-Kho Championship**

- Maharashtra emerged as the champions in both the men's and women's categories at the 56th National Kho Kho Championships, defeating Railways and AAI, respectively.
- The men's final witnessed a fiercely contested match, while the women's team secured victory with the crucial contributions of captain Sampada Maurya.
- The championships were held at the Indira Gandhi National Stadium in Delhi, showcasing the exceptional skills of Kho Kho players from across the country.

### **Verstappen secures victory at the F1 Japanese Grand Prix 2024**

- Max Verstappen's record-breaking dominance in Formula 1 resumed with his victory in the Japanese Grand Prix.
- The podium at the Japanese Grand Prix 2024 saw Sergio Perez from Red Bull Racing securing the second position, followed by Carlos Sainz Jr. from Ferrari in third place.
- Verstappen's victory in the Japanese GP marked his third win of the 2024 Formula 1 season, adding to his successes at the Saudi Arabian GP and the Bahrain GP, and bringing his career total to 57 victories and 101 podium finishes.

### **Asian Wrestling Championships 2024**

- Indian male wrestlers won three medals, one silver and two bronze medals, on the first day of the 20th Asian Wrestling Championship 2024 on 11 April 2024.
- The 20th Asian Wrestling Championship 2024 was held in the Kyrgyzstan capital, Bishkek, from 11 -16 April 2024.
- Indian wrestling wrestler Udit won the silver medal in the men's 57kg category at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2024.
- Abhimanyu (70kg) and Vicky (97kg) also won bronze medals in their respective weight categories, taking India's medal tally to three.
- U20 Asian champion Udit competed for the gold medal by defeating his competitors in the qualification, quarterfinals and semifinals. He illuminated India's name in this championship.

### **Rashmi Kumari Wins National Women's Carrom Title For The 12th time**

- World Champion Rashmi Kumari beat K Nagajothi in the women's final of the 51st National carrom championship.
- Rashmi works at the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) as the Chief Manager.
- The Madhya Pradesh Carrom Association hosted the 51st National Carrom Championship.
- The men's title was bagged by K Srinivas as he beat S Aditya 25-0, 19-6 in the final.
- It was the fourth national men's singles title for Srinivas who was brilliant in the tournament, executing seven white slams.
- The Petroleum Sports Promotion Board and the SYNCO carrom firm sponsored the championship.
- There were 174 ladies and 237 men that participated from 12 institutions and 27 States.

### **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.
- On Sunday, April 9, 2024, 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.
- Djokovic, considered one of the greatest players of all time, has proven his near-unrivalled longevity at the pinnacle of his sport even as he enters his fourth decade.
- Since turning 30 in 2017, the Serbian has won an impressive 31 tour-level titles, including 12 Grand Slams, 10 ATP Masters 1000 victories, and two ATP Finals triumphs.

### **Jonathan Christie wins men's singles title at 2024 Badminton Asia Championships**

- Jonatan Christie won his first Asian Badminton Championship by defeating Li Shi Feng in the 2024 Badminton Asia Championships final.
- The tournament was held in Ningbo, China, and was the 41st edition of the Badminton Asia Championships.

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- This championship is a BWF Super 1000 event, with the winner earning 1000 ranking points in both singles and doubles categories.
- It served as the final qualifying event before the Summer Paris Olympics, scheduled from July 26 to August 11, 2024.
- Jonatan Christie, the reigning All England Open champion, displayed excellent form, winning the final match in straight sets 21-15, 21-16.

### **Bayer Leverkusen for the first time won the Bundesliga title.**

- Bayer Leverkusen football club won its first Bundesliga title by defeating Werder Bremen football club 5-0.
- The Bayer Leverkusen club also ended Bayern Munich's grip on the Bundesliga title.
- Since 2012–2013, Bayern Munich has won 11 straight Bundesliga championships.
- It is the second major German trophy for the Bayer Leverkusen football team, which won the DFB-Pokal, or the German Cup, in 1993.
- The title is the first Bundesliga win for a club that had previously held the record for most second-place finishes without lifting the championship titles.
- Additionally, Bayern Leverkusen has earned qualified in the UEFA Champions League for 2024–25.

### **Sheetal wins silver at able-bodied event**

- Asian Para Games gold winner Sheetal Devi clinched a silver medal among able-bodied athletes in the Khelo India NTPC National Ranking Archery Championship.
- She finished second behind Haryana's Ekta Rani, who is a junior world champion.
- Sheetal previously won a silver medal at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games 2023, gaining recognition as the only international para-archery champion without arms.
- Despite narrowly missing out on the gold medal in the individual compound event final, Sheetal expressed optimism about her performance, citing confidence for future events and the Paralympics.

### **Scottie Scheffler wins the Golf Masters Tournament 2024**

- Scottie Scheffler secured his second Masters Tournament victory, joining an elite group of just 17 golfers to accomplish this milestone in the tournament's storied history.
- His triumph at the 88th Masters was marked by a remarkable performance, finishing at 11-under par and establishing a commanding four-stroke lead over his closest rivals.
- This impressive win adds notable achievements to Scheffler's career, including 100 world ranking points, 600 FedEx Cup points, his second coveted green jacket, and a substantial prize purse of \$3.6 million.
- As one of the four major men's golf championships held annually, Scheffler's triumph at Augusta National further solidifies his status as a formidable force in the world of professional golf.

### **Gukesh Etches Name in Chess History as Youngest Challenger**

- Dommaraju Gukesh, a 17-year-old Indian chess prodigy, has won the FIDE Candidates tournament, becoming the youngest-ever challenger in the history of the World Chess Championship.
- With an impressive score of 9/14, Gukesh secured the top spot, becoming the second Indian after Viswanathan Anand to win the tournament.
- This is a historic moment for chess. Gukesh's achievement shatters records and ushers in a new era of youthful talent.

### **Rohit Sharma becomes second player to complete 250 IPL appearances**

- Rohit Sharma became only the second player after MS Dhoni to play 250 Indian Premier League matches.
- Rohit got to the landmark after featuring in MI's XI for the game against Punjab Kings in Mullanpur, Chandigarh.
- Rohit also reaches 6500 runs in the IPL, becoming the fourth batsman to do so.

### **Bengaluru Badshahs won the 5th Deaf Indian Premier League title.**

- Bengaluru Badshahs became the champions of the fifth Deaf Indian Premier League title.

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- Deaf Bengaluru Badshahs and Deaf Hyderabad Eagles emerged as joint winners of the title. However, Bengaluru Badshahs were declared the winners with the toss of the coin.
- The 5th Deaf Indian Premier League was organised by the Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) at Maulana Azad Stadium, Jammu.
- Sudershan of Deaf Hyderabad Eagles was declared the player of the final match.
- Virender Singh of the Bengaluru Badshahs and Umar Ashraf Beigh of the Hyderabad Eagles have been awarded the best Wicketkeeper/best Fielder of the League.
- Suhail Ahmed from Hyderabad Eagles, Deepak Kumar from Punjab Warriors, and Sai Naresh from the Chennai Blasters received awards for Most Sixes, Most Wickets in a Match, and Fastest Fifty, respectively.
- The league was conducted under the supervision of Sumit Jain, President of IDCA.

### **V Senthilkumar wins Batch Open Squash Title**

- Velavan Senthilkumar, the reigning national men's Squash champion, clinched victory in the Batch Open Challenger Squash tournament by defeating Melvil Scianimanico of France.
- This triumph marks Senthilkumar's eighth Professional Squash Association (PSA) title, showcasing his prowess on the international stage.
- The Batch Open was hosted at Jeu de Paume, Paris, France, from 24th to 28th April 2024, organized by the Professional Squash Association in collaboration with the French Squash Federation.
- Senthilkumar's success underscores his remarkable performance and dedication to the sport, further solidifying his position as a formidable competitor in the global squash arena.
- Squash is a court game that is not very popular in India.
- The game of Squash is also not an Olympic sport. However, the International Olympic Committee has decided to introduce Squash in the Los Angeles Summer Olympics 2028 for the first time.

### **India won the gold medal in the Archery World Cup in the men's recurve event.**

- 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.
- Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai and Pravin Jadhav defeated Korea's World and Asian Games champion team of Lee Wooseok, Kim Je Deok and Kim Woojin.
- Deepika Kumari bagged silver in the women's individual recurve event.
- India also clinched the bronze medal in the mixed-team event.
- The achievement has increased confidence ahead of the last Olympic qualifier in Antalya in June.
- India total won eight medals: five golds, two silvers and one bronze.
- It is India's first World Cup men's team gold in the last 14 years.

## **GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES**

### **FSSAI launches awareness campaign on food safety aspects at prominent market**

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched awareness campaign on food safety aspects at major markets of Delhi.
- In collaboration with the Food Safety Department, Delhi, the campaign was launched from Khan Market and INA Market of Delhi.
- The primary focus of the campaign is on identifying and addressing issues related to pesticide residue and food product contaminants.
- During the programme, the owners of food businesses were sensitized on issues such as the value of organic farming and the need to test raw materials.
- The owners of food businesses were also sensitized on the dangers of pesticide residues, artificial ripening, and the use of banned chemicals for wax coating.
- The Food Safety on Wheel mobile lab project by FSSAI was introduced to the traders and market associations.

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- The Food Safety on Wheel mobile lab has a number of quick testing assays that can find up to 50 pesticide residues in a variety of food matrices.

### **Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) scheme**

- The Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) is a scheme under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in India. Under the new umbrella scheme of RAN, the threshold of monthly income for benefit is ₹1,571 for rural and ₹1,605 for urban areas.
- The Delhi High Court has instituted a case regarding the grant of financial assistance under the Centre's Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) scheme.
- The court observed that the threshold income to claim benefit under this scheme is prima facie "extremely low".

## **BANKING, ECONOMY AND FINANCE**

### **PM Modi addresses 90th anniversary celebrations of Reserve Bank of India**

- Prime Minister Modi delivered a keynote address at a prestigious event in Mumbai, commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- During the event, Prime Minister Modi unveiled a special commemorative coin worth Rs. 90, marking the significance of this milestone occasion.
- The event underscored the pivotal role played by the RBI in maintaining economic stability and overseeing the banking sector's operations.
- Manufactured at the Kolkata Mint, the Rs. 90 coin weighs 40 grams and serves as a symbolic representation of the enduring legacy and achievements of the Reserve Bank of India.

### **In the latest RBI Monetary Policy update, the repo rate remains steady at 6.5%.**

- On April 5, 2024, the Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI opted to maintain the repo rate at its current level.
- The Standing Deposit Facility rate remains unchanged at 6.25%, while both the Marginal Standing Facility rate and the Bank Rate stand firm at 6.75%.
- For the past six consecutive MPC meetings, the RBI has held the repo rate steady.
- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announced that India's foreign exchange reserves reached an unprecedented high of \$645.6 billion as of March 29, 2024.
- He noted that headline inflation had eased to 5.1% in both January and February.
- The projected CPI Inflation for FY25 stands at 4.5%. In February, CPI inflation was forecasted at 5.4% for 2023-24.
- The Committee has estimated real GDP growth for FY25 to be 7%.
- What is the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?
- The Monetary Policy Committee was established under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- It consists of a six-member committee, comprising three members from the RBI, including Governor Shaktikanta Das, and three members appointed by the Central government.

### **Adani Green Energy becomes first Indian company with 10,000 MW renewable energy capacity**

- According to a statement released by the company, they have successfully added 2,848 MW of renewable energy capacity in the fiscal year 2023-24.
- As a result, the company now boasts an operational portfolio totaling 10,934 MW, making it the largest in India.
- AGEL's operational portfolio comprises 7,393 MW of solar capacity, 1,401 MW of wind capacity, and 2,140 MW of wind-solar hybrid capacity.
- Looking ahead, the firm has set an ambitious target of achieving 45 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2030.

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### **Moody's revised Real GDP Growth Projection of India to 8%.**

- Moody's, the renowned rating agency, has revised its projection for India's Real GDP Growth to 8%, signaling a robust outlook for the nation's economy.
- This revision comes alongside a stable outlook for India, with Moody's anticipating a gradual improvement in the country's fiscal metrics.
- The government of India's long-term and short-term ratings have been reaffirmed at Baa3 and P-3, respectively, by Moody's.
- Anticipating a positive trajectory, Moody's forecasts India's real GDP growth to reach 8% for the fiscal year 2024-25, citing strong growth figures observed in the first three quarters of the ongoing financial year 2023-24. Furthermore, the agency predicts that economic growth will continue to exceed 6% over the next two fiscal years.
- In line with this optimistic outlook, Moody's projects that India's economic growth in 2024-25 will outpace that of its G20 peers and other emerging economies.
- Highlighting recent performance, India's GDP surged by an impressive 8.4% during the October-December quarter of the current financial year 2023-24. This follows a growth rate of 7.2% in 2022-23 and 8.7% in 2021-22, reflecting the nation's steadfast economic momentum.

### **Government sets coal production target at 170 million tonnes for FY25**

- The government has set a target of producing 170 million tonnes of coal from captive and commercial coal blocks in the country during the financial year 2024-25.
- This target is 26 percent more than the 116 metric tons produced in 2023-24.
- Regarding Coal India Limited, the objective for coal production from its mines in 2024-25 has been set at one billion tonnes.
- The coal sector in India underwent nationalization through the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act of 1973.
- Initially, the Indian government-owned Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries held a monopoly on coal production in the country, but subsequently permitted private sector involvement.

### **HDFC becomes first private bank to open branch in Lakshadweep**

- HDFC Bank becomes the first private sector bank to establish a branch in Lakshadweep, setting a milestone in banking accessibility for the Union Territory.
- The branch at Kavaratti Island will offer a comprehensive range of services, including personal banking and digital solutions tailored to the needs of the local population.
- As of December 31, 2023, the HDFC Bank's distribution network was at 8,091 branches.
- With a distribution network spanning over 8,000 branches and 20,000 ATMs across numerous cities, HDFC Bank aims to serve the financial needs of individuals, families, and businesses in Lakshadweep while contributing to the overall development of the island.

### **India's growth forecast for 2024 was increased by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from 6.5% to 6.8%.**

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised India's growth forecast for 2024 from 6.5% to 6.8%.
- India maintained its position as the emerging market and developing economy with the fastest growth rate.
- The IMF predicted India's growth to reach 6.5% in 2025, supported by robust domestic demand and a growing working-age population.
- According to the IMF's latest World Economic Outlook report, approximately two-thirds of new workers globally during the medium term will come from sub-Saharan Africa and India.
- Over the past two decades, the Group of Twenty (G20)'s ten emerging countries consistently outpaced advanced economies in economic growth.
- Since 2000, the G20 emerging markets, including Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and Turkey, have more than doubled their share of global GDP.
- India's official statistics revealed that during the October–December quarter of the fiscal year 2023–2024, the country's GDP expanded by 8.4%.
- In the preceding quarters of April–June and July–September in 2023–2024, India's GDP grew by 7.8% and 7.6%, respectively.

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- In the fiscal years 2022–2023 and 2021–2022, India's GDP expanded by 7.2% and 8.7%, respectively.
- Overall, the IMF projected global growth rates of 3.2% for both 2024 and 2025.

### **India's overall export (Merchandise and Services combined) in March 2024 is estimated to be USD 70.21 Billion.**

- In March 2024, India's overall export (Merchandise and Services combined) shows a negative growth of (-) 3.01 per cent over March 2023.
- Overall import in March 2024 is estimated to be USD 73.12 Billion. It shows a negative growth of (-) 6.11 per cent over March 2023.
- India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in FY 2023-24 (April-March) are estimated to be USD 776.68 Billion. It exhibits a positive growth of 0.04 per cent over FY 2022-23 (April-March).
- Overall imports in FY 2023-24 (April-March) are estimated to be USD 854.80 Billion. It shows a negative growth of (-) 4.81 per cent over FY 2022-23 (April-March).
- Merchandise exports in March 2024 were USD 41.68 Billion, as compared to USD 41.96 Billion in March 2023.
- As compared to USD 60.92 Billion in March 2023, Merchandise imports in March 2024 were USD 57.28 Billion.

### **India's outward FDI declined 39% to \$28.64 billion in FY24.**

- India's overseas direct investment declined by 39 per cent to \$28.64 billion in the year ending March 2024.
- According to the RBI data, outward FDI is represented by total financial commitment. It was \$46.96 billion in the year ended March 2023.
- Out of the total overseas direct investment, \$9.62 billion was made through the equity route.
- The equity contributed around 34 per cent of the total financial commitment made in FY2024.
- The loan commitments stood at \$5.24 billion as against \$7.73 billion in FY2024.
- The overseas guarantees issued by the Indian companies were around \$14 billion as compared to \$20.09 billion in FY2023.
- In FY2024, the highest outward FDI was witnessed in March.

### **India imported 58 million tonnes (mt) of coking coal in FY24, the highest amount in ten years.**

- In the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24), India imported 58 million tonnes (mt) of coking coal, marking the highest import volume in a decade.
- Over the span of ten years, coking coal imports surged by over 20%, with a yearly increase of 7%, compared to 54.3 million tonnes in FY23.
- Russia's coking coal supply hit multi-year highs, reaching 6.4 million tonnes in FY24, marking a staggering 200% year-on-year increase from 2.3 mt in FY23 and a remarkable 300% surge over a six-year period from 1.6 mt in FY19.
- India remains among the world's leading importers of coking coal, with import volumes fluctuating between 47 to 54 million tonnes over the past decade.
- Australia retained its position as the primary coking coal supplier for FY24, accounting for 34.2 mt or 59% of all shipments.
- Six years ago, Australia contributed 18% of coal exports, while Russia and the United States accounted for 3% and 8%, respectively.
- Russia's increased supply propelled it to become the third-largest coking coal supplier, surpassing countries like Canada and Mozambique.
- In FY24, India's sponge iron production reached 52 mt, witnessing a notable 20% year-on-year growth from 43 mt in FY23.
- The production of crude steel in India during the previous fiscal year (FY23) soared to 143 mt, marking a substantial 14% increase from 127 million tonnes produced in the preceding year.

### **China now accounts for 30% of India's imports of industrial goods.**

- China's presence in India's industrial goods imports has surged to 30%, up from 21% over the past 15 years, as reported by GTRI.

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- A recent study released by the economic think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) sheds light on India's increasing reliance on Chinese industrial products, including electronics, machinery, and telecommunications.
- Despite India's consistent annual exports to China, hovering around USD 16 billion from 2019 to 2024, China's imports have surged from USD 70.3 billion in 2018–19 to over USD 101 billion in 2023–24.
- This upward trend has contributed to a cumulative trade deficit surpassing USD 387 billion over five years, raising concerns about economic stability and national security.
- The widening trade deficit with China is particularly concerning, with India's imports from all other nations growing at a rate 2.3 times slower than China's exports to India.
- China's substantial contribution to India's total merchandise imports in the fiscal year 2023–24 amounted to USD 101.8 billion, representing 15% of India's total imports.
- China's dominance is evident in specific sectors, such as machinery, where it contributes USD 19 billion, representing 39.6% of India's imports in this category.

### **ADB raises India's GDP growth forecast to 7% for FY25**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY25 upwards to 7% from the previous estimate of 6.7%, citing robust investment in both public and private sectors.
- According to the ADB report the Indian economy grew by 7.6% in 2023-24, and in 2025-26 its growth rate is expected to be 7.2%.
- The Reserve Bank of India, in its recent bi-monthly monetary policy, also forecasted a 7% growth rate for the Indian economy in FY25(2024-25).
- According to the ADB, despite global economic problems, India is expected to be the fastest-growing major economy in the world in FY 2025 due to its strong domestic demand and supportive government policies.
- The ADB report expects India to be a major growth engine within Asia, driven by strong investment, recovering consumption, and gains in electronics and services exports.

### **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.
- According to Invest India, India has the world's second-largest internet user base, with a whopping 881 million users. India is in a good position to become the third-largest online retail market by 2030.
- 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.

## **BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

### **Sam Pitroda's New Book 'The Idea of Democracy'**

- Prominent author Sam Pitroda has penned a new book titled "The Idea of Democracy," delving into the contemporary landscape of democracy and its potential hurdles in nations like India and the United States.
- The book launch saw the presence of Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal and other distinguished figures from the literary realm.
- Pitroda's work navigates the paradox of democratic achievement juxtaposed with its dwindling liberalism.
- It offers a comprehensive examination of democracy's essence, its mechanisms, the fundamental values it must embody, and the influences and safeguards crucial for upholding liberal democracy.

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- The objective of the book is to initiate dialogues, especially among the younger generation, regarding the significance of democracy and the role they can undertake in ensuring its sustenance and flourishing in the forthcoming era.

### **'Planning for India's Urbanisation'; Book Launch by CEPT Press**

- CEPT University Press recently introduced "Planning for India's Urbanisation" by the esteemed Vidyadhar K. Phatak. Drawing from a wealth of experience spanning over 50 years in urban planning, consulting, and academia, this book presents invaluable insights.
- At its core, the book delves into four pivotal themes: grappling with urbanization challenges, understanding the critical role of land in development and financing, addressing urban housing concerns, and navigating the intricacies of metropolis planning.

### **Renowned Indian Technocrat Sam Pitroda Launches Insightful Book 'The Idea of Democracy' Addressing Global Concerns**

- Sam Pitroda, a distinguished Indian engineer and entrepreneur, recently unveiled his latest publication titled "The Idea of Democracy," delving into the challenges confronting democratic systems, notably in nations like India and the United States of America (USA).
- Published by Penguin Business, the book meticulously examines the hurdles faced by democratic governance, while also highlighting pivotal areas requiring attention and enhancement for the fortification of democracy.
- Sam Pitroda, also recognized as Satyanarayan Gangaram Pitroda, has held influential roles such as the founding Chairman of India's Telecom Commission, the inaugural Chairman of the Worldtel Initiative of the International Telecommunication Union (1995), and the establishment of the Center for the Development of Telematics (C-DOT) in 1984, among others.
- His significant contributions to various technology missions spanning water, literacy, immunization, oil seeds, telecom, and dairy have garnered widespread acclaim, including the prestigious Padma Bhushan award bestowed upon him in 2009.

### **British-American author Salman Rushdie releases his memoir "Knife".**

- Booker Prize-winning author Salman Rushdie's memoir "Knife" has been released.
- In 'Knife', the Salman Rushdie has an imaginary conversation with his attacker.
- On this occasion, has spoken in detail about the moment he was attacked by a man with a knife on a stage in New York in 2022.
- In this attack, Rushdie's damaged liver and hands and nerves in his right eye.
- After the 1988 publication of the controversial 'The Satanic Verses', Rushdie had spent several years in hiding.
- Rushdie's second novel, Midnight's Children (1981), won the Booker Prize in 1981.
- "Knife" emerges not only as a memoir of survival but also as a testament to the enduring power of storytelling in the face of adversity.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### **China Successfully Launches Satellite for Atmospheric and Space Environment Monitoring**

- China extends its covert meteorological satellite network with the triumphant deployment of Yunhai-3 (02) from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Shanxi Province.
- The freshly launched satellite is set to prioritize environmental surveillance duties, encompassing atmospheric and marine environment detection, alongside space environment monitoring.
- Its key objectives also span disaster prevention and reduction initiatives, underscoring China's commitment to enhancing resilience and preparedness through advanced satellite technology.

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### **India aims to achieve debris-free space missions by 2030.**

- India has set ambitious goals to ensure debris-free space missions by the year 2030, as announced by ISRO chairman S. Somanath.
- With a clearly defined plan for space exploration, ISRO is steadfast in its commitment to achieving this objective. Currently, India maintains 54 spacecraft in orbit, alongside numerous non-functional objects, necessitating a focused effort to mitigate space debris.
- ISRO has undertaken proactive measures to address this challenge, including the deorbiting of several old satellites and the fourth stage of PSLV rockets.
- These initiatives are integral to ISRO's mission to minimize orbital debris and ensure the sustainability of space activities.
- In addition to these efforts, India is actively planning to establish its own space station, named 'Bharatiya Antriksh Station', by the year 2035.
- This forward-looking initiative underscores India's commitment to advancing its capabilities in space exploration and research, while also contributing to international efforts to safeguard the space environment for future generations.

### **Sweden becomes the 38th country to join the Artemis Accords.**

- Sweden signed the Artemis Accords, which is a series of non-binding arrangements for outer space.
- Sweden has affirmed its dedication to the sustainable use of space NASA welcomes Sweden to the Artemis Accords family.
- NASA and the US Department of State in 2020 announced the Artemis Accords. It has 38 signatories, including India and Japan.
- The Artemis Accords are a set of principles for cooperation in space exploration and the use of the moon, mars, comets, and asteroids for peaceful purposes.
- Artemis program is also aiming to land the first astronauts on Mars and other planets and celestial bodies.
- By endorsing the Artemis Accords, nations commit to upholding key obligations outlined in the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, ensuring the responsible and sustainable utilization of outer space.
- India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, joined the accords on June 22, 2023, reinforcing its status as a global space power.
- In 2022, several nations including Israel, Romania, Bahrain, Singapore, Colombia, France, Saudi Arabia, Rwanda, Nigeria, and the Czech Republic, also joined the Artemis Accords, demonstrating a growing international consensus on the peaceful exploration and utilization of outer space.

## **INDEX AND RANKING**

### **Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024**

- As per the Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024, the momentum of unicorn startups in India has tapered since 2017. Nevertheless, India maintains its position as the third-largest hub for unicorns worldwide.
- The Hurun Global Unicorn Index, a longstanding publication initiated in 2000, exclusively showcases startups with a valuation surpassing USD 1 billion that remain unlisted on stock exchanges.
- According to Hurun Research, there exist a total of 1,453 unicorns scattered across 291 cities within 53 countries globally. Remarkably, a unicorn emerges every two minutes across the globe, as per the report's findings.
- The San Francisco Bay Area, nestled in California, United States, stands tall as the unrivaled epicenter of unicorn activity globally.
- India boasted 67 unicorns in 2022, witnessing a slight decline by one in 2023.

### **India ranks 10th in Cybercrime Index**

- India has secured the 10th position in cybercrime rankings, with Russia leading the list followed closely by Ukraine. The findings stem from a recent study conducted by an international team of

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cybercrime experts, shedding light on prevalent trends in the digital landscape.

- The study, which introduces the 'World Cyber Crime Index,' scrutinizes nearly 100 countries, pinpointing major hotspots across various cybercrime categories such as ransomware, credit card theft, and fraudulent schemes.
- The researchers identified distinct categories of cybercrime, encompassing technology-related infractions like malware and compromised systems, as well as extortion tactics including ransomware. Additionally, scams ranging from hacking and compromised accounts to data and identity theft, including credit card fraud and advance fee schemes, were examined.
- Russia tops the list, followed by Ukraine, China, the USA, Nigeria, and Romania. The UK comes in at number eight. Brazil is at the ninth position, according to the research published in the journal PLoS ONE.
- Russia and Ukraine emerged as prominent hubs for sophisticated cybercrime activities, whereas Nigerian cybercriminals predominantly engage in less technologically advanced schemes.
- India's expertise, according to the study, lies in the domain of scams. Moreover, while Romania and the US exhibit proficiency in both high-tech and low-tech cybercrimes, India is depicted as a "balanced hub," specializing primarily in mid-tech criminal activities.

### **Forbes World's Billionaires List 2024**

- According to the Forbes 38th Annual World's Billionaires List 2024, Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), is the only Indian to make it to the list of the top 10 billionaires in the world.
- Ambani was ranked 9th on the list, which was topped by Bernard Arnault & family, owner of the French luxury giant LVMH.
- Nikhil Kamath At the age of 37 years, Nikhil Kamath, co-founder of Zerodha, is the youngest Indian billionaire in the Forbes list.
- Top 10 Billionaires in the World
  - ✓ Bernard Arnault & family (France): \$233 billion
  - ✓ Elon Musk (USA): \$195 billion
  - ✓ Jeff Bezos (USA): \$194 billion
  - ✓ Mark Zuckerberg (USA): \$177 billion
  - ✓ Larry Ellison (USA): \$114 billion
  - ✓ Warren Buffett (USA): \$133 billion
  - ✓ Bill Gates (USA): \$128 billion
  - ✓ Steve Ballmer (USA): \$121 billion
  - ✓ Mukesh Ambani (India): \$116 billion
  - ✓ Larry Page (USA): \$114 billion

### **In 2021, COVID-19 became the second leading cause of death globally, according to a Lancet study**

- According to a recent study published in The Lancet journal, COVID-19 emerged as the second most prevalent cause of death globally in 2021, displacing stroke from its previous position.
- The research revealed a staggering mortality rate of 94 deaths per 100,000 population, resulting in a reduction of life expectancy by 1.6 years.
- Comparatively, the study noted a 7.5% increase in deaths worldwide in 2021 compared to the previous year, following a 10.8% rise observed in 2020 over 2019.
- This upward trajectory in mortality rates, indicating an 8.1% increase in 2020 and a subsequent 5.2% rise in 2021, underscores the profound impact of the pandemic on global health outcomes.
- India experienced a significant decline in life expectancy by 1.9 years due to COVID-19, despite a net gain of 7.9 years between 1990 and 2021.
- Meanwhile, ischemic heart disease maintained its status as the leading cause of death worldwide, persisting from 2019 to 2021 and even as far back as 1990.
- This condition, characterized by reduced blood flow due to vessel narrowing or clotting, continues to pose a significant health challenge.
- Stroke followed closely as the third leading cause of death, with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and other pandemic-related mortality rounding out the top five causes.

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### **The WHO report states that India is second only to China in the cases of Hepatitis B and C.**

- According to a World Health Organization (WHO) report, India had the second highest number of hepatitis B and C cases after China with 35 million infections in 2022.
- Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver that can cause a variety of health problems and can be fatal.
- Globally, 254 million people were infected with hepatitis B, and 50 million were infected with hepatitis C in 2022, according to WHO's 2024 Global Hepatitis Report released on 9 April.
- In terms of viral hepatitis, India was second only to China, with 29.8 million hepatitis B cases in 2022 and 5.5 million hepatitis C infections.
- China has recorded 83 million cases of hepatitis B and C, accounting for 27.5% of the total disease burden.
- According to the report, India accounted for 11.6% of the total disease burden globally that year with a total of 35 million cases.
- There are five main types of hepatitis viruses, called types A, B, C, D, and E.
- Although they all cause liver disease, they differ in important ways, including methods of transmission, severity of disease, geographic distribution, and methods of prevention.
- The report released at the World Hepatitis Summit said that 3,500 people are dying globally due to hepatitis B and C infection every day.

### **India Ranks Fourth in Digital Services Exports**

- In 2023, India rose to prominence as a leading exporter of digital services, surpassing China, according to a report by the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- The report underscores substantial growth in digitally provided services worldwide, with India's exports reaching \$257 billion, reflecting a 17 percent surge from the previous year.
- This expansion exceeded that of Germany and China, both of which only saw a 4 percent increase.
- The report underscores a robust growth trajectory for digitally delivered services, despite a decline in global goods trade. Notably, in Europe and Asia, exports surged by 11 percent and 9 percent, respectively.
- Overall, digitally delivered services accounted for \$4.25 trillion in global exports, representing 13.8 percent of world exports of goods and services.

### **India's population is estimated to reach 144 crore**

- India's population is projected to reach 1.44 billion, as per the latest findings from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in its State of World Population – 2024 report.
- Within this vast demographic, 24 percent fall within the 0-14 age bracket, indicative of a significant youth population.
- The report highlights a staggering estimate: India's population is expected to double within 77 years, underscoring the country's demographic trends.
- Among the population segments, 17 percent fall within the 10-19 age range, while 26 percent belong to the 10-24 age bracket, reflecting the substantial youth presence shaping India's demographic landscape.
- A notable demographic aspect revealed by the report is that 7 percent of India's population is aged 65 years and above, with men exhibiting a life expectancy of 71 years and women slightly higher at 74 years.
- In terms of global population ranking, China follows closely behind India with a population of 1.425 billion, securing the second position.
- The demographic portrait presented by the UNFPA report contrasts with the figures from India's last census in 2011, which recorded a population of 1.21 billion.
- Recent research conducted across India's 640 districts has shown promising progress, with nearly one-third of them achieving the sustainable development goal of reducing maternal mortality ratio, signaling positive strides in healthcare and development initiatives.

### **Delhi airport has been named among the world's top 10 busiest airports for 2023: Airports Council International (ACI).**

- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport has secured a position among the world's top 10 busiest airports for the year 2023, as recognized by the Airports Council International (ACI).
- It clinched the tenth spot on the esteemed list.

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- Topping the charts is Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, which boasted a staggering 10.46 crore passengers passing through its gates in 2023.
- Following closely behind are Dubai International Airport and Dallas Airport, securing the second and third positions respectively, with impressive passenger volumes.
- London's Heathrow Airport, Tokyo's Haneda Airport, Denver International Airport, and Istanbul Airport also earned spots on this illustrious list, capturing the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh positions respectively.
- The collective global passenger forecast for 2023 stood at a remarkable 8.5 billion, representing a notable surge of 27.2% compared to the previous year.
- Delhi airport, with a commendable tally of over 7.22 crore passengers, showcased significant growth and retained its position among the world's busiest airports, despite stiff competition. It's worth noting that in 2022, Delhi airport held the ninth spot.
- These top 10 airports collectively catered to approximately 10% of global air traffic, serving a staggering 806 million passengers, underscoring their pivotal role in facilitating global connectivity and mobility.

### **As per Global Forest Watch, India lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000.**

- According to the latest data from the Global Forest Watch monitoring project, India has witnessed the loss of 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000, marking a six percent decline in tree cover during this timeframe.
- The data reveals that 95 percent of the tree cover loss in India from 2013 to 2023 occurred within natural forests.
- Over the period from 2002 to 2023, India experienced the loss of 414,000 hectares of humid primary forest, which accounts for 4.1 percent of its total tree cover loss during the same period, constituting 18 percent of the overall loss.
- Global Forest Watch employs satellite data and other resources to track forest changes in real-time.
- Between 2001 and 2022, forests in India emitted 51 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent annually, while also sequestering 141 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year, resulting in a net carbon sink of 89.9 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent annually.
- The loss of tree cover in India has led to the release of an average of 51.0 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year into the atmosphere.
- It's important to note that tree cover loss encompasses not only deforestation but also human-induced loss, natural disturbances, and both permanent and temporary loss.

## DEFENCE

### **IAF's biggest exercise 'Gagan Shakti' begins at Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer district**

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is presently engaged in its most extensive exercise, named 'Gagan Shakti,' being conducted at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in the Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan.
- 'Gagan Shakti' commenced recently and is slated to continue until April 10, featuring a display of the combat capabilities of major fighter aircraft and modern helicopters.
- This exercise receives support from the Indian Army, which facilitates logistical operations to ensure the seamless movement of approximately 10,000 IAF personnel and ammunition across India.
- Participating in 'Gagan Shakti' are various fighter planes and helicopters including Tejas, Rafale, Sukhoi 30, Jaguar, Globemaster, Chinook, Apache, and Prachanda. This showcases the operational readiness and effectiveness of the Indian Air Force.

### **DRDO successfully test fires Agni Prime missile**

- In a significant advancement in aerospace technology, India has successfully conducted the test-firing of the new generation nuclear-capable missile Agni Prime off the coast of Odisha.
- Developed by DRDO, this missile boasts a range of 2000 km and is set to be swiftly integrated into the armed forces. It represents a modern, lethal, and accurate addition to the Agni series of medium-

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range nuclear ballistic missiles.

- This Indian nuclear missile possesses the capability to simultaneously target multiple enemy sites. This latest test marks the second pre-induction night launch following three successful developmental trials of the Agni Prime missile, further bolstering its precision and reliability.
- The first pre-induction night launch of the Agni Prime nuclear missile took place on the night of June 7-8, 2023.

### **Fifth edition of the 'Dustlik' Joint Military Exercise will start in Termez District, Uzbekistan.**

- The fifth edition of the 'Dustlik' Joint Military Exercise is set to commence in the Termez District of Uzbekistan. Scheduled from April 15 to 28, 2024, this exercise marks another milestone in the collaborative efforts between India and Uzbekistan.
- Contingents from both the Indian Armed Forces and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan will converge in Termez District to partake in this joint military exercise, fostering enhanced collaboration and facilitating future military interactions. Each side will be represented by 45 soldiers, symbolizing the commitment to bolstering positive relations between the armies of both nations.
- The exercise will encompass a series of comprehensive joint training sessions conducted by the Indian Armed Forces and the Armed Forces of Uzbekistan. This initiative aims to strengthen the tactical prowess and strategic coordination between the participating forces.
- The fourth edition of the 'Dustlik' joint military exercise took place on February 20, 2023, at the Foreign Training Node in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. The inaugural edition was held in Uzbekistan in November 2019.

### **Sagar Kavach 2024**

- A comprehensive coastal security drill, dubbed Sagar Kavach 01/24, was executed spanning two days amidst the Lakshadweep Islands, from April 1 to 2, 2024.
- This collaborative effort saw the active involvement of numerous maritime security entities, including the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Marine Police, Fisheries department, Customs officials, and other pertinent security agencies.
- The principal aim of this exercise was to assess and affirm the efficiency of the coastal security apparatus in countering asymmetric threats originating from the maritime domain.
- Throughout the exercise, there was a notable enhancement in readiness levels, responsiveness, surveillance capabilities, and seamless coordination among the diverse stakeholders responsible for safeguarding coastal regions.

### **A new version of a medium-range ballistic missile has been successfully launched by India.**

- A new version of a Medium-Range Ballistic Missile capable of striking targets at distances exceeding 250 km has been launched by India.
- The performance of the missile was monitored by several Range Sensors like Radar, Electro-Optical Tracking System (EOTS) and Telemetry deployed by ITR
- This new variant of a Medium-Range Ballistic Missile was carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command on April 23, 2024.
- This launch has approved the operational capability of the Command and validated new technologies.
- This new version of Medium-Range Ballistic Missile is not from the 'Agni' family of weapons systems.

## SUMMIT AND CONFERENCE

### **Parivartan Chintan, a Tri-Service Conference held in New Delhi**

- On April 8, 2024, New Delhi hosted the Parivartan Chintan, a Tri-Service Conference with the objective of fostering innovation and reforms to enhance jointness and integration efforts. General Anil Chauhan, the Chief of Defence Staff, led the day-long deliberations.

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- This historic conference marked the first-ever gathering of Heads from all Tri-Services Institutions, the Department of Military Affairs, Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff, and the three Services.
- Officers representing diverse service backgrounds proposed strategic measures aimed at expediting the attainment of a "Joint and Integrated" operational framework.

### **Clean Economy Investor Forum will be organized by Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) in Singapore.**

- Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) will host its first clean economy investor forum in Singapore on June 5-6.
- India will also showcase selected 'investible sustainable infrastructure projects' at the forum. It is focused on energy transition, sustainable aviation fuel, battery storage hydrogen, green data centres, etc.
- This forum will bring together the region's largest investors, innovative startup entrepreneurs, and cutting-edge project proponents and government agencies to boost investment.
- The main aim of the forum is to mobilise investments into sustainable infrastructure, climate technology, and renewable energy projects.
- Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF):
- It was launched in May 2022.
- It provides a platform for countries in the region to collaborate on advancing resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth.
- 14 countries are members of this Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity.
- Trade, Supply Chain, Clean Economy and Fair Economy are the four pillars of IPEF.

### **16th World Future Energy Summit hosted by Masdar in Abu Dhabi**

- The 16th World Future Energy Summit convened in Abu Dhabi with a central focus on sustainable energy, climate initiatives, and addressing global warming.
- The Chairman of UAE Independent Climate Change Accelerators presided over the inauguration ceremony, underscoring the urgency of the issues at hand.
- Renowned for fostering dialogue on renewable energy, the conference stressed the imperative of expanding renewable energy capacity.
- Organised by Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, the conference boosted partnerships and stimulated new investments for sustainable energy and climate initiatives.
- During the event, speakers underscored the critical role of financial investments in mitigating global warming and striving to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C, in alignment with international targets.

### **Russia successfully launched first Angara-A5 space rocket.**

- Russia has achieved a significant milestone with the successful launch of its inaugural Angara-A5 space rocket from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in the Far East.
- This achievement follows a series of technical challenges that necessitated the cancellation of two previous launch attempts.
- The Angara-A5 space rocket represents a leap forward in Russia's space exploration capabilities, specifically designed to transport substantial payloads into low Earth orbit.
- With a capacity exceeding 20 tonnes, it promises to facilitate a wide array of missions and scientific endeavors.
- In recent years, Russia's space programme has been hit by a number of high-profile setbacks.
- The Angara family of rockets has been developed to replace the Soviet-designed Proton rockets.

### **GUJCOST designated as Nodal Centre for ISRO's START programme**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has appointed the Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST) as the Nodal Centre for its 'Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) programme.
- This initiative, conceived by ISRO, aims to provide introductory-level online training.
- Under the START programme, GUJCOST will conduct live classes, serving as the central platform for disseminating knowledge.

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- Furthermore, four Regional Science Centres situated in Rajkot, Patan, Bhavnagar, and Bhuj will play a crucial role in coordinating and facilitating the programme, thus enhancing its outreach across the region.

### **First Rainbow International Tourism Conference held in Kathmandu, Nepal**

- The inaugural Rainbow International Tourism Conference took place in Kathmandu, Nepal, marking a significant milestone in global tourism.
- Organized by the civil society organization, Mayako Pahichan, in collaboration with the Nepal Tourism Board, the event aimed to promote inclusivity and diversity within the tourism sector.
- Bhagawati Chaudhary, Minister of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and inaugurated the event alongside Sunil Babu Pant, the first openly gay Member of Parliament in Asia.
- LGBTQ participants and experts engaged in discussions on "pink tourism" and emphasized the importance of making the tourism industry inclusive to enhance the economy of any nation.
- Globally, LGBTQ travelers contribute a substantial USD 202 billion to the tourism sector, presenting a significant opportunity for countries to tap into this market by making their tourism industries LGBTQ-friendly.
- In a historic ruling in 2007, the Supreme Court of Nepal ordered the government to repeal all laws that discriminated against the third gender and create legislation that acknowledged their status.
- An interim order from June 2023 made it possible for same-sex marriages to be legally registered in Nepal.
- EU Ambassador in Nepal Veronique Lorenzo said that Nepal being LGBTQ friendly country can attract more tourists.

### **Ministry of Mines is organising critical minerals summit in New Delhi from 30 April 2024.**

- The Ministry of Mines is set to host a pivotal event, the Critical Minerals Summit, in New Delhi starting from 30th April 2024.
- Themed "Enhancing Beneficiation and Processing Capabilities," this two-day summit aims to foster collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and innovation in critical mineral beneficiation and processing.
- Collaborating partners for this significant gathering include the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (Shakti), Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), and the Indian Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD).
- Against the backdrop of India's ambitious clean energy objectives and rapid economic expansion, the summit takes on added importance, emphasizing the need for a domestic supply of critical raw materials.
- The event will convene a diverse array of stakeholders, including industry leaders, startups, government officials, scientists, academics, and policy experts, both from India and abroad.
- Through dynamic discussions and strategic exchanges, the summit aims to catalyze action and drive progress in the vital realm of critical mineral beneficiation and processing, aligning with India's sustainable development goals and energy security objectives.

### **Retail Summit (TRS) 2024**

- Retail Summit (TRS) 2024 held in Dubai, with its agenda built around eight key themes.
- It is a leading global event focused on the future of retail.
- The aim of these themes is to address the key challenges and opportunities facing retailers around the world.
- TRS 2024 focused on areas including Artificial Intelligence, Brick and Mortar Stores, Data, Digital Transformation, Macroeconomics, Supply Chain Management, Sustainability & Ethics, and Talent Acquisition.
- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is an industry partner of the Retail Summit 2024.
- The Retail Summit is the world's only event, with over 900 participants from over 30 countries that discusses the convergence of retail with technology, experience, and hospitality.
- Some of the world's leading brands participated, including Indian giants like Reliance Group and Myntra.

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- This partnership focuses on giving Indian brands in the retail and e-commerce sector a platform for B2B engagement with international brands to showcase their products and services.
- The two-day event concluded on April 24, which was organized in partnership with Dubai Chambers.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **WHO launched a global laboratory to monitor emerging coronaviruses.**

- 'CoViNet', a global laboratory for monitoring emerging coronavirus, has been launched by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Besides SARS-CoV-2, the new WHO Coronavirus Network, called CoViNet, will assess other coronaviruses.
- CoViNet has 36 laboratories from 21 countries in all six WHO regions, including three Indian laboratories.
- WHO COVID-19 reference laboratory network was set during the pandemic in January 2020. It will now have animal health and environmental surveillance and timely risk assessment to feed WHO policies and protective measures.
- CoViNet will support in creation of more laboratories to monitor MERS-CoV and coronaviruses of public health importance.
- On March 26-27, 2024, representatives of the laboratories from different countries have finalised an action plan for 2024-2025.
- The festival symbolizes the enduring friendship between India and Bhutan and highlights the cultural richness of the region.
- The local community organized the festival with the cooperation of civil authorities and the Indian Army.

### **Reliance Jio became the world's largest mobile operator in data traffic.**

- Reliance Jio has become the world's largest mobile operator in terms of data traffic by surpassing China Mobile.
- The total traffic on the Jio network has reached 40.9 exabytes, with a 35.2% year-on-year increase.
- Jio has a very strong and wide subscriber base of 481.8 million. It is transforming India with 108 million True 5G customers.
- The monthly per capita data usage has increased from 13.3 GB three years ago to 28.7 GB.
- Jio has also become the first Indian company to cross ₹100,000-crore in pre-tax profits.

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## Current Affairs MCQs

1. When did the Reserve Bank of India commence its operations?
  - (a) April 1, 1935
  - (b) April 1, 1947
  - (c) January 26, 1950
  - (d) August 15, 1947
2. When is World Health Day celebrated annually?
  - (a) March 8th
  - (b) April 7th
  - (c) May 1st
  - (d) June 15th
3. Which commission's recommendations led to the establishment of the Reserve Bank of India?
  - (a) Simon Commission
  - (b) Butler Commission
  - (c) Hilton Young Commission
  - (d) Hunter Commission
4. When can taxpayers file their Income Tax Returns (ITRs) for Assessment Year 2024-25 according to the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)?
  - (a) From January 1, 2024
  - (b) From April 1, 2024
  - (c) From July 1, 2024
  - (d) From October 1, 2024
5. What does UPI stand for?
  - (a) Unified Payment Interface
  - (b) Unified Payments Integration
  - (c) United Payment Interface
  - (d) Ultrafast Payment Integration
6. What is the name of India's first home-grown gene therapy for cancer?
  - (a) NexCAR19
  - (b) Immuno ACT
  - (c) Tata Memorial Hospital
  - (d) IIT Bombay
7. Who is set to create history as the first woman from India to serve as a jury member at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris?
  - (a) P T Usha
  - (b) Bilquis Mir
  - (c) Marroy Kom
  - (d) Saniya Mirza
8. What is the theme for World Health Day 2024?
  - (a) "Healthy Living, Happy Life"
  - (b) "My Health, My Right"
  - (c) "Global Wellness Awareness"
  - (d) "Healthcare for All"
9. What does CAR-T therapy stand for?
  - (a) Cellular Antigen Receptor Treatment
  - (b) Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell therapy

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- (c) Cancer Antigen Response Technique  
(d) Cellular Antibody Recognition Therapy
10. Who became Ireland's youngest prime minister on April 9, 2024?  
(a) Leo Varadkar  
(b) Simon Harris  
(c) Micheal Martin  
(d) Michael McGrath
11. What is the Chinese name for Arunachal Pradesh?  
(a) Zangnan  
(b) Xizang  
(c) Beijing  
(d) Shanghai
12. What is the name of the weightlifter who qualified for the Paris Olympics after competing at the IWF World Cup in Phuket, Thailand?  
(a) P. V. Sindhu  
(b) Mirabai Chanu  
(c) Saina Nehwal  
(d) Mary Kom
13. What was the date of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre?  
(a) April 13, 1919  
(b) May 15, 1920  
(c) March 10, 1918  
(d) June 5, 1921
14. Which event marks the beginning of Vikram Samvat 2081?  
(a) Ugadi  
(b) Gudi Padwa  
(c) Chaitra Sukladi  
(d) Cheti Chand
15. What is the name of disputed Island situated in the Palk Strait, between India and Sri Lanka?  
(a) Andaman Islands  
(b) Katchatheevu Island  
(c) Lakshadweep  
(d) Maldives
16. What position did JNU secure globally in the field of development studies according to the QS World University Rankings?  
(a) 10th  
(b) 20th  
(c) 30th  
(d) 40th
17. In which states is Ugadi celebrated as the New Year's Day?  
(a) Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka  
(b) Maharashtra  
(c) Punjab  
(d) Manipur
18. Which community celebrates Cheti Chand as their New Year?  
(a) Bengali  
(b) Sindhi

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- (c) Punjabi
  - (d) Gujarati
19. 'INTERACT project', recently seen in news, is funded by which organization?
- (a) European Union
  - (b) International Labour Organization
  - (c) United Nations Development Programme
  - (d) World Bank
20. Who was honored with the 2024 John L 'Jack' Swigert Jr. award for space exploration?
- (a) NASA
  - (b) ISRO Chandrayaan-3 mission team
  - (c) University of Arizona OSIRIS-REx team
  - (d) Russian Space Agency
21. What significant role did Dr. B. R. Ambedkar play in Indian history?
- (a) Architect of the Indian Constitution
  - (b) Prime Minister of India
  - (c) Leader of the Quit India Movement
  - (d) Founder of the Indian National Congress
22. Who became the first-ever Indian to win a main draw match at the Monte Carlo Masters?
- (a) Vijay Amritraj
  - (b) Ramesh Krishnan
  - (c) Sumit Nagal
  - (d) Leander Paes
23. The fifth edition of which Joint Military Exercise held between India and Uzbekistan from 15 April to 28 April 2024 in Termez District, Uzbekistan?
- (a) Dustlik Joint Military Exercise
  - (b) Surya Kiran Joint Military Exercise
  - (c) Varuna Joint Military Exercise
  - (d) Malabar Joint Military Exercise
24. What was the birth date of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar?
- (a) April 14, 1891
  - (b) May 15, 1920
  - (c) March 10, 1918
  - (d) June 5, 1921
25. Which party secured a landslide win in the parliamentary elections held in Maldives on April 21, 2024?
- (a) Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP)
  - (b) People's National Congress (PNC)
  - (c) Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM)
  - (d) Maldives Reform Movement (MRM)
26. In which city were the Asian Wrestling Championships 2024 held?
- (a) New Delhi, India
  - (b) Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
  - (c) Beijing, China
  - (d) Tokyo, Japan
27. Which government proposed a landmark smoking ban in April 2024 to prevent young people from starting to smoke?

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- (a) Australian government
  - (b) Canadian government
  - (c) British government
  - (d) New Zealand government
28. Which country is facing a severe population decline, potentially becoming the first country to experience a "population collapse"?
- (a) Italy
  - (b) Greece
  - (c) Japan
  - (d) South Korea
29. Who is the chairman of DRDO?
- (a) Rajnath Singh
  - (b) Samir V Kamat
  - (c) Narendra Modi
  - (d) Bipin Rawat
30. Which day is celebrated as World Earth Day?
- (a) 21 August
  - (b) 22 April
  - (c) 21 December
  - (d) 22 May
31. Who secured a quota for the Paris Olympics 2024 in wrestling?
- (a) Vinesh Phogat
  - (b) Anshu Malik
  - (c) Reetika Hooda
  - (d) All of the above
32. Which date do we celebrate World Book and Copyright Day?
- (a) April 15
  - (b) April 23
  - (c) April 24
  - (d) June 8
33. Who has been appointed as the next Chief of the Indian Navy in April 2024?
- (a) Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi
  - (b) Admiral R Hari Kumar
  - (c) Vice Admiral Vinod Kumar Singh
  - (d) Rear Admiral Anil Chawla
34. What is the primary focus of the General Elections 2024 in India?
- (a) Electing the President
  - (b) Voting for the Lok Sabha members
  - (c) Selecting state governors
  - (d) Choosing municipal representatives
35. Which state has the highest number of constituencies in the second phase of Lok Sabha Elections 2024 held on 26 April 2024?
- (a) Kerala
  - (b) Maharashtra
  - (c) Karnataka
  - (d) Rajasthan

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36. Which award was conferred posthumously to Bindeshwar Pathak?
- (a) Padma Bhushan
  - (b) Padma Shri
  - (c) Padma Vibhushan
  - (d) None of the above
37. Which city holds the title of World Book Capital for 2024?
- (a) Paris
  - (b) Tokyo
  - (c) Strasbourg
  - (d) New York
38. Which date is World Intellectual Property Day celebrated annually?
- (a) April 22
  - (b) April 26
  - (c) May 25
  - (d) June 10
39. Which amendment act established the Panchayati Raj System in India?
- (a) 42nd Amendment Act
  - (b) 73rd Amendment Act
  - (c) 86th Amendment Act
  - (d) 91st Amendment Act
40. Who secured a Paris 2024 quota for India in Women's skeet with a Silver medal in the shotgun Olympic qualification championship at Doha, Qatar?
- (a) Maheshwari Chauhan
  - (b) Sunita Bhore
  - (c) Nirmala Roy
  - (d) Rajani Biswas
41. Who will represent India in the women single category in Badminton at the 2024 Paris Olympics?
- (a) Saina Nehwal
  - (b) Neha Pandit
  - (c) PV Sindhu
  - (d) Tanvi Lad
42. Judith Suminwa Tuluka, recently seen in news, became the first woman Prime Minister of which country?
- (a) Angola
  - (b) Zambia
  - (c) Congo
  - (d) Rwanda
43. Which Indian film has been selected for the Cannes Film Festival in the 'La Cinef' category?
- (a) "The Rooster's Prophecy"
  - (b) "Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Bloom"
  - (c) "Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know"
  - (d) "The Elderly Woman's Tale"
44. Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX), recently seen in news, is a joint mission between which two space agencies?
- (a) ISRO & JAXA
  - (b) NASA & ISRO
  - (c) CNSA & ROCOSMOS
  - (d) ESA & NASA

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45. Who is regarded as the "father" of modern ballet, and his birthday is celebrated as International Dance Day?  
 (a) Jean-Georges Noverre  
 (b) Rudolf Nureyev  
 (c) Mikhail Baryshnikov  
 (d) George Balanchine
46. Recently, Yoga Mahotsav has been organized at which place?  
 (a) Indore, Madhya Pradesh  
 (b) Pune, Maharashtra  
 (c) Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh  
 (d) Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
47. Hormuz Strait, recently seen in news, is a strategically important waterway located between which two countries?  
 (a) Iran and Oman  
 (b) Iraq and Italy  
 (c) Belgium and Greece  
 (d) Italy and UAE
48. Who is the Defence Secretary of India?  
 (a) Ajit Doval  
 (b) Giridhar Aramane  
 (c) Rajnath Singh  
 (d) General Anil Chauhan
49. Recently, who has become the first Indian monk to be honoured with the American President's Gold Volunteer Service award?  
 (a) Acharya Lokesh Muni  
 (b) Raghaveshwara Bharathi  
 (c) Vijayendra Saraswati  
 (d) Bharathi Tirtha
50. Who secured a Paris Olympics quota in Sailing in Hyeres, France?  
 (a) Vishnu Saravanan  
 (b) Nethra Kumanan  
 (c) Arvind Singh  
 (d) R Sukumaran

## ANSWER – KEY

1	A	6	A	11	A	16	B	21	A	26	B	31	D	36	C	41	C	46	B
2	B	7	B	12	B	17	A	22	C	27	C	32	B	37	C	42	C	47	A
3	C	8	B	13	A	18	B	23	A	28	B	33	A	38	B	43	C	48	B
4	B	9	B	14	C	19	A	24	A	29	B	34	B	39	B	44	A	49	A
5	A	10	B	15	B	20	B	25	B	30	B	35	A	40	A	45	A	50	B



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