
CURRENT AFFAIRS

APRIL 2023



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NATIONAL NEWS

Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre inaugurated in Mumbai

- Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) was inaugurated on 31st March 2023 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- It is India's first-of-its-kind, multi-disciplinary cultural space as it showcases India's finest offerings in music, theatre, fine arts and crafts.
- It is home to three performing arts spaces: the majestic 2,000-seat Grand Theatre, the technologically advanced 250-seat Studio Theatre and the dynamic 12S-seat Cube.
- It has been designed by Richard Gluckman who is best known for designing the Musée Picasso, the Andy Warhol Museum and the Mori Art Museum.

Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal Launched 'SAGAR-SETU' Mobile App of National Logistics Portal Marine

- Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launched the 'Sagar-Setu' on 31st March, which is a mobile application of National Logistics Portal (Marine).
- It will provide real-time information of activities that are generally not in reach of the importer, exporter and customs broker including vessel-related information, gate, container freight stations and transactions on fingertips.
- It also enables digital transactions for payments required for the clearance process of import and export, like container freight station charges, shipping line charges, transportation charges, etc.

Rajya Sabha Passed Competition Amendment Bill, 2023

- The Rajya Sabha passed the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2023 which seeks to amend the Competition Act, 2002.
- It proposes to revamp the competition law and bring it in sync with new economic practices and issues.
- It will empower the CCI to impose stiff penalties based on global turnover of an entity for anti-competitive practices by an additional amendment that was moved by the ministry of corporate affairs.
- The rate of penalty for any abuse of dominant position would now be imposed up to 10% of the global

turnover of the entity or three times the profits of the companies for the last three preceding financial years.

- The turnover was earlier for the relevant domestic entity and this amendment can potentially impact multinational companies in India as well as Indian firms with a global presence.
- All deal values involving acquisitions, mergers and amalgamations exceeding ₹ 2000 crore having target enterprise in India shall be notified to the CCI for approval before their consummation.
- It has also introduced a Green Channel route for certain combinations which shall be eligible for deemed approval in a trust-based framework, upon filing a combination notice.

Key Points

Rajya Sabha Chairman	- Jagdeep Dhankhar (Vice President of India)
Total Seats	- 250

First in world India develops model for Tuberculosis (TB) cases in country

- India has become the first country in the world to have developed a country-level mathematical model to estimate the prevalence of TB cases.
- Using this model, TB incidence and mortality estimate data for India will be available by March every year, months before the annual WHO estimates are released in October.

Election Commission Grants National Party Status to Aam Aadmi Party

- In a boost for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ahead of the Lok Sabha elections next year, the Election Commission (EC) recognised it as a national party.
- The EC's decision was based on a review of the parties' poll performances — the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls and 21 state assembly polls since 2014. Besides other benefits, the status of a national party ensures that the party's symbol is reserved for its candidates across the country, and it gets land for an office in the national capital.
- The Trinamool Congress (TMC), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Communist Party of India (CPI), however, lost their national party status.

- The country now has six national parties — BJP, Congress, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), CPI(M), National People's Party (NPP) and AAP.
- This status was granted under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 which stipulates the criteria for recognition as a national or state party.

Key Points

- Chief Election Commissioner of India - Rajiv Kumar (25th CEC)
- National Voter's Day - 25 January

Amit Shah Launches "Vibrant Village" Programme at Kibithoo border village in Arunachal Pradesh.

- Home minister Amit Shah launched the 'Vibrant Villages' programme in the border village of Kibithoo in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The scheme has a central component of ₹4,800 crore, including ₹2,500 crore exclusively for road connectivity, for financial years 2022–23 to 2025–26.
- The 'vibrant villages programme' was earlier approved by the Centre under which 2,967 villages in 46 blocks of 19 districts abutting the northern border in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and Union Territory of Ladakh have been identified for comprehensive development.
- In the first phase, 662 villages have been identified for priority on coverage, which includes 455 villages in Arunachal Pradesh.

Key Points

- Capital of Arunachal Pradesh - Itanagar

India Releases First Edition of Dogri Version of Indian Constitution

- Union Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Kiren Rijiju released the first edition of the Dogri version of the Constitution of India at University of Jammu.
- Dogri language was included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India in 2003.

Key Points

- Dogri Language Spoke State/UT - Jammu and Kashmir

India's First 3D-Printed Post Office to come up in Bengaluru

- Bengaluru is all set to have India's first 3D-printed post office, for which construction is currently underprocess. The new post office building is being constructed in Cambridge Layout in Halasuru by L&T Construction.
- The project is to design and build the 1,000 square feet Halasuru Post Office using 3D Concrete Printing Technology within 45 days.

The Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train tour on Ambedkar Circuit Flagged Off from New Delhi

- The Bharat Gaurav Tourist train tour on Ambedkar circuit was flagged off by Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Minister of Tourism, Culture and DONER, and Dr. Virendra Kumar, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment from Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station.
- The Bharat Gaurav Tourist train aims to give glimpses of life of Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Ambedkar to all the passengers.
- It also aims to promote domestic tourism and the spirit of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat.
- IRCTC in association with Ministry of Tourism is operating its first tour on the Ambedkar circuit on an 8 days special tour from Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station starting April 14, 2023.
- IRCTC's Bharat Gaurav Tourist train has a mixed composition of Sleeper (Non-AC), AC III tier and AC II tier coaches.
- The Yatra will include visit to prominent places associated with the life of Baba Saheb Ambedkar like New Delhi, Mhow, Nagpur and sacred Buddhist sites like Sanchi, Sarnath, Gaya and Rajgir and Nalanda in the tour itinerary.

Union Cabinet approves National Quantum Mission to scale-up scientific and industrial R&D for quantum technologies

- The Union Cabinet approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM) at a total cost of ₹6,003.65 crore from 2023–24 to 2030–31.
- The mission aims to seed, nurture and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology (QT) up to 2000 km range within India.
- This will accelerate QT led economic growth, nurture the ecosystem in the country and make India one of the leading nations in the development of Quantum Technologies and Applications (QTA).

Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 notified by Central Government

- The Central Government has notified the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 under Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960 and after superseding the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2001.
- The Supreme Court has in various orders specifically mentioned that relocation of dogs cannot be permitted.
- As per the extant rules, Animal Birth Control programme for the sterilisation and immunisation of the stray dogs is to be carried out by the respective local bodies/municipalities/Municipal Corporations and Panchayats. Also, the cruelty involved for carrying out of ABC programme needs to be addressed.
- The Municipal Corporations need to implement the ABC and Anti Rabies Programme jointly.
- The rules also provide the guidelines how to deal with the human and stray dog conflicts without relocating the dogs in an area.

Union Cabinet approves the policy for the Medical Devices Sector

- The Union Cabinet approved the National Medical Devices Policy, 2023.
- It is expected to facilitate an orderly growth of the medical device sector to meet the public health objectives of access, affordability, quality and innovation.

PM Modi inaugurates 'NAMO Medical Education and Research Institute'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'NAMO Medical Education and Research Institute' located in Silvassa town, in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
- The medical college has been developed under the Ministry of Health and spread over a sprawling, lush green campus of 14.48 acres built at a cost of ₹203 crore, for which the foundation stone was laid in January 2019.
- The hospital is associated with Shree Vinoba Bhave Civil Hospital in Silvassa and established in the year 1952. It was earlier known as the Cottage Hospital.

Key Points

- Capital of Dadra and Nagar Haveli - Silvassa
- Lt. Governors & Administrators - Praful Patel

Three New Conservation Reserves Declared in Rajasthan

- Rajasthan government has declared three areas — Sorsan in Baran, Khichan in Jodhpur and Hamirgarh in Bhilwara — as conservation reserves.
- Now, Rajasthan has total 26 reserves.
- The new reserves are expected to protect rare and endangered species and provide a safe haven for migratory birds.
- Sorsan will protect the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) and Blackbucks.
- Khichan will become a winter home for migratory birds such as demoiselle cranes.

Key Points

- Rajasthan's Capital - Jaipur
- Governor - Kalraj Mishra
- Chief Minister - Ashok Gehlot

Bandipur Completes 50 Years as a Project Tiger Reserve

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Karnataka and released the latest tiger census data marking the completion of 50 years of 'Project Tiger'. India's tiger population as of 2022 is 3,167.
- The Bandipur Tiger Reserve is located amidst Western Ghats on the Mysuru–Ooty highway in Karnataka and is an important part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve that constitutes Karnataka's Rajiv Gandhi National Park (Nagarahole) to its Northwest, Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary to its South and Kerala's Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary to its Southwest.
- Project Tiger is an ongoing Central Government Sponsored Scheme that was launched by the Government of India on 1st April 1973 in nine reserves.
- These nine reserves are located in the States of Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal over an area of approximately 14,000 sq. km.

World's First Asian King Vulture Conservation and Breeding Centre in Uttar Pradesh

- The world's first conservation and breeding centre for the critically endangered Asian king vulture will be opened in Maharajganj district, Uttar Pradesh.
- The centre is called Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre (JCBC), which has been built and designed exclusively for the conservation of Asian king vulture.

- The red-headed vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*), also known as the Asian king vulture, is found primarily in northern India. In 2004, the species was listed as 'near threatened', whereas in 2007, it was listed as 'critically endangered' in the IUCN Red List and protected under the Wildlife Protection Act.

Maharashtra: Savarkar's Birth Anniversary to be Celebrated as 'Swatantra Veer Gaurav Din'

- The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Eknath Shinde, has declared that May 28, the birth anniversary of freedom fighter Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, will be celebrated as 'Swatantra Veer Gaurav Din'.
- The state government will commemorate the occasion by conducting various programmes to spread the message of Swatantra Veer Savarkar.

MP's Gond Painting of Acquires GI Tag

- The famed Gond's painting of Madhya Pradesh has received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The main source of Gond painting is Dindori. Getting the GI tag means that the authority has accepted that its original source is Dindori district.
- A Geographical Indication tag is a sign used on products which have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- It is used for industrial products, foodstuffs, agricultural products, spirit drinks and handicrafts. GI tag ensures that no one other than the registered authorised user is allowed to use the name of the popular product.

Kolkata Metro Becomes India's First Metro Train to Run Under River

- Kolkata Metro created history when it run through a tunnel under a river for the first time. Trial runs between Howrah Maidan and Esplanade station will be conducted for the next five to seven months, following which regular services on this stretch will begin.
- After this stretch becomes operational, Howrah Maidan will be the deepest Metro station-33 metres below the surface-of the country.
- The Metro is expected to cover the 520-metre stretch under the river Hooghly in 45 seconds.

Bihu Performance in Guwahati Creates Guinness World Record

- Assam created history and marked its entry in the Guinness Book of World Records with more than 11,000 dancers and drummers performing 'Bihu' dance and playing 'dhol' at the Sarusajai Stadium.
- During the event, the performers included singers, along with those playing the state's traditional instruments, such as Taal, Dhol, Gogona, Pepa, Toka, and Xutuli and more.
- To make this event a huge hit, practice sessions were held across the state to bring in the best performers, and with the aim to put Assam's cultural heritage on the world map.

Key Points

Assam's Capital	- Dispur
Assam's Chief Minister	- Himanta Biswa Sarma
Governor	- Gulab Chand Kataria

Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu Inaugurates Shar Nyima Tsho Sum Namyig Lhakhang

- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated the Shar Nyima Tsho Sum Namyig Lhakhang (Gonpa) at Gyangkhar village.
- Gyangkhar village is located at Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Gonpa has a great historical importance for the well-being and betterment of humans, particularly for the people of Shar Nyima Tsho Sum and all Buddhists in general.
- The sacred place has been restored with new structure, other requisites, performing all rituals and blessings for the well-being and betterment of all sentient beings.

Mangrove Pitta Bird Found in Odisha

- In a first-ever census of mangrove pitta birds carried out in two coastal districts of Odisha, 179 such birds were sighted.
- Mangrove pitta birds are a nearly threatened species found in few pockets of eastern India, including Odisha's Bhitarkanika and West Bengal's Sundarbans.
- The first census of mangrove pitta (*Pitta megharens*) birds was mainly focused on the mangrove patches all along the coasts of Kendrapara and Jagatsingpur districts.

Key Points

Odisha's Capital	- Bhubaneswar
Governor	- Ganeshi Lal
Chief Minister	- Naveen Patnaik

Tamil Nadu's Cumbum Grapes get Geographical Indication Tag

- Cumbum Panneer Thratchai from Tamil Nadu, commonly known as Cumbum grapes received the GI tag.
- The Cumbum valley, located in Tamil Nadu's Western Ghats, is regarded as the "Grapes City of South India" and grows the Panneer Thratchai. This variety, sometimes known as Muscat Hamburg, accounts for over 85% of the grape-growing areas in Tamil Nadu.
- Theni district is one of Panneer Thratchai's highest grape-producing locations. However, the 'Panneer' type is most closely linked with Cumbum Valley, where the agricultural area spans over 2,000 acres across 10 villages. The Cumbum region's agroclimate and soil conditions are ideal for the cultivation of the Muscat varietal.
- Additionally, Malai Poondur from Kodaikanal, Srivilliputhur Palkot and Palani Panchamirtham have also been awarded the GI tag.

Uttar Pradesh on Track to be First Indian State with 100% EVs in Govt. Departments

- In a major push to promote sales and usage of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in the state of Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's government has set a target and has flung into action to convert vehicles used in all government departments into EVs in a phased manner by 2030.
- For this, instructions have been given that all the government departments can purchase EVs on the basis of nomination even without tender, while the purchase of EVs can be spent more than the maximum limit as per the requirement.

BRO puts up Signboard Describing Mana as 'First Indian Village'

- Uttarakhand's Mana village, which was earlier known as the last Indian village, will now be known as the 'first Indian village'.
- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) placed a signboard at the threshold of the border village proclaiming Mana's revamped status.

India Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime Exercise SLINEX-2023 Begin

- The 10th edition of IN-SLN bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-23 was held at Colombo.
- The exercise was conducted in two phases: the Harbour Phase, followed by a Sea Phase.
- SLINEX aims at enhancing interoperability, improving mutual understanding and exchanging best practices while jointly undertaking multi-faceted maritime operations. Professional, cultural and sporting events, as also social exchanges are planned during the harbour phase to further bolster the bonds of friendship and camaraderie between both the navies.

US and Indian Air Force to Engage in 'Cope India' Fighter Training Exercise

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the United States Air Force (USAF) kicked off the first phase of Exercise Cope India 23. The joint military exercise is being held at Air Force Stations Arjan Singh (Panagarh), Kalaikunda and Agra.
- The exercise aims to enhance mutual understanding between the IAF and the USAF and share their best practices.
- The war games between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the United States Air Force (USAF) are being held after a gap of four years since it had been postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The last edition was held in 2019.

KSINC Launches India's First Solar-Powered Tourist Boat

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

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Operation Kaveri launched to evacuate Indians from Sudan

- 'Operation Kaveri' is a rescue operation launched by the Government of India to evacuate Indian citizens who are stranded in Sudan. It was launched on April 24, 2023, in response to the crisis in Sudan.
- During the evacuation, Indians were transferred from Sudan to the capital city of Khartoum, where they will be flown back to India.
- Sudan has been facing a conflict between the country's army and a paramilitary group (Rapid Support Forces) in which claimed lives and injured civilians in large numbers.

Key Points

Sudan Capital	- Khartoum
Sudan Official Languages	- Arabic and English
Sudan General	- Abdel Fattah al-Burhan

PM Modi to attend Bastille Day Parade in Paris as guest of honour

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend this year's Bastille Day Parade in Paris as the guest of honour on July 14.
- An Indian armed forces "contingent" will also participate in the parade along with their French counterparts.
- On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership, Prime Minister Modi has accepted French President Emmanuel Macron's invitation to attend this year's Bastille Day Parade as the guest of honour.
- The visit is expected to herald the next phase of the India-France strategic partnership by setting new and ambitious goals for strategic, cultural, scientific, academic and economic cooperation, including in a wide range of industries.

Key Points

France's Capital	- Paris
France's Official Language	- French

Pakistan Becomes Largest Recipient of ADB Funded Projects

- Owing to the economic crisis led by political and geopolitical uncertainties, Pakistan has become the largest recipient of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)-funded programmes/projects in the year 2022.
- Out of total disbursement of over \$31.8 billion to 40 countries, Pakistan received loans of \$5.58 billion, Geo News reported.
- Out of the total lending of \$5.58 billion, Pakistan received concessional funding of \$2.67 billion from the bank in last year.

Key Points

Pakistan's Capital	- Islamabad
President	- Arif Alvi
Prime Minister	- Shehbaz Sharif

Georgia Assembly Passes Resolution Condemning Hinduphobia

- The Georgia Assembly passed a resolution condemning Hinduphobia making it the first American State to take such a legislative measure.
- The resolution was sponsored by Republican representatives Lauren McDonald, Todd Jones, Rick Jasperse, David Clark and Brent Cox. It was introduced by representatives McDonald and Jones, from Forsyth County in the suburbs of Atlanta, home to one of the largest Indian-American diaspora communities in the state of Georgia.
- The passing of the resolution comes in the wake of Seattle's recent anti-caste discrimination legislation and reflects a growing divide within the Hindu community of the US.

China Renames 11 Places in Arunachal Pradesh

- China has renamed 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh, which it claims as South Tibet, in a move that's set to further deepen mistrust between New Delhi and Beijing at a time when both are in the middle of their worst bilateral chill in decades.
- The changed names include that of mountain peaks, rivers and residential areas.

- This is the third time China has unilaterally renamed places in Arunachal Pradesh, having done it in April, 2017, and in December 2021.
- The renaming in the past too was promptly rejected by India, with New Delhi reiterating that the northeastern state will always remain an integral and “inseparable” part of India.
- India and China have been locked in a standoff in Ladakh sector approaching three years, since early May 2020, sending bilateral ties plummeting to their worst in decades.

Key Points

China's Capital	- Beijing
President	- Xi Jinping

Israel Launches Ofek-13 Spy Satellite into Orbit

- Israel successfully launched a new spy satellite, named Ofek-13, into orbit from the Palmachim Airbase in central Israel.
- It is intended to provide advanced intelligence capabilities to the Israeli military and intelligence agencies.
- The Ofek-13 satellite is the latest addition to Israel's Ofek series of spy satellites, which have been in operation since 1988.

China Records World's First Human Death from H3N8 Bird Flu

- A Chinese woman has become the first person to die from a type of bird flu that is rare in humans, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said, but the strain does not appear to spread between people.
- The 56-year-old woman from the southern province of Guangdong was the third person known to have been infected with the H3N8 subtype of avian influenza.

Ghana Becomes First Country to Approve Oxford Malaria Vaccine for Children

- Ghana has become the first country in the world to approve a new malaria vaccine from Oxford University, with children under the age of three in line to benefit.
- Malaria is a mosquito-borne disease and kills more than 6,00,000 people each year, most of them are children in Africa.
- Childhood vaccines in Africa are typically paid for by international organisations such as Gavi and UNICEF

after they have been backed by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which is still assessing the vaccine's safety and effectiveness.

Key Points

Ghana's Capital	- Accra
President	- Nana Akufo Addo

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

- Turkey launched its first aircraft carrier aiming to extend its drone capabilities from land-based to naval operations amid increased regional tensions as war rages in Ukraine on the other side of the Black Sea.
- The amphibious assault ship was built in Istanbul's Sedef Shipyard by a Turkish-Spanish consortium, based on the design of Spanish light aircraft carrier Juan Carlos I.

Key Points

Turkey's President	- Tayyip Erdogan
Capital	- Ankara
Language	- Turkish

Nepal Becomes Founding Member of International Big Cats Alliance

- Nepal has become a founding member of the International Big Cats Alliance.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the alliance aimed at the conservation of seven big cats namely tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma.
- India has assured support over five years with guaranteed funding of \$100 million for the alliance.
- Nepal successfully achieved its goal of doubling the tiger population by 2022 as per its commitment made during the first tiger summit in 2010 in St Petersburg.

Key Points

President	- Ram Chandra Paudel
Capital	- Kathmandu
Currency	- Nepalese Rupee
Language	- Nepali

Mongolia Refinery to be Built by India by 2025

- Mongolia's first oil refinery, built and funded with Indian assistance, will be completed by 2025.

- The first stage of Mongol Oil Refinery, built with a \$1.2 billion Indian soft loan, will be completed at the end of this year.
- Mongolia is completely dependent on Russia for its energy imports.
- The refinery will enable Mongolia to satisfy 70% of its domestic demand.
- Mongolia also hopes to attract Indian investment in its mining and metals, with plans to start shipping coking coal to India by 2024.

India Elected as Member of UN Statistical Commission Narcotic Drugs

- India has been elected as a member of the UN Statistical Commission, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) by the Economic and Social Council ECOSOC of the United Nations. These are important subsidiary bodies of the ECOSOC.
- The Statistical Commission is the highest body dealing with international statistical activities and is responsible for standards setting in the field of statistics. India was a member of the Statistical Commission last in 2004 and it is returning to the Commission after a gap of two decades.

- The Commission on Narcotic Drugs supervises the application of international drug control treaties, while the Programme Coordinating Board of UNAIDS supports and provides strategic direction for an international response to HIV/AIDS.

Kenya Launched its First Operational Earth Observation Satellite "Taifa-1"

- Kenya launched its first operational Earth observation satellite onboard a SpaceX rocket, Falcon 9 from the United States.
- The satellite, developed by nine Kenyan engineers, will collect agricultural and environmental data, including on floods, drought and wildfires, that authorities plan to use for disaster management and to combat food insecurity.

'MF Hydra': World's First Liquid Hydrogen-Powered Ferry Gets Operational

- The world's first liquid hydrogen-powered ferry launched by the Norwegian business Norled is operational now.
- The ferry will travel in Norway on a triangular route between Hjelmeland, Skipavik, and Nesvik.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Ministry of Health Plans to Launch 100 Food Streets Nationwide

- The Health Ministry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs scheme under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAYNULM), has asked States and Union Territories to develop 100 food streets in 100 districts across the country.
- The aim of this project is to encourage safe and healthy practices to reduce food-borne illnesses and improve overall health outcomes.
- To address significant gaps, financial support in the amount of ₹1 crore per food street/district will be provided to the States/Union Territories. 100 such food streets will be established in 100 districts throughout the country, with a standardised branding of the food streets in compliance with FSSAI guidelines.

Key Points

Union Health Minister - Mansukh L. Mandaviya
(Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

India Releases Space Policy Detailing Public And Private Cooperation Guidelines

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) released the final version of its "Indian Space Policy 2023".
- The policy emphasises the Indian government's aim to "augment space capabilities" and brings "regulatory certainty" to the space sector reforms that were announced in 2020.
- It also sketches out the role and responsibilities of the newly formed Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), which works with

private players, including space tech startups in the country to develop solutions and services for the space sector.

- In addition to private participants, IN-SPACe will collaborate with academia as well as national and global industry players to boost space developments in the country. The policy also defines that the centre should “issue guidelines for meeting safety and security requirements for space objects.”
- The policy allows startups to “undertake end-to-end activities in space sector through establishment and operations of space objects, ground-based assets and related services, such as communication, remote sensing, navigation, etc.

Kerala Launches ‘One Panchayat, One Playground’ to Revive Sports Culture

- The ‘One Panchayat, One Playground’ project was inaugurated by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at Kallikkad where he said that a good sports culture was essential for building a healthy and happy society.
- The playgrounds would serve as a hub of local gatherings and social interactions. Each playground would cost around ₹ 1 crore, half of which would be footed by the Sports department and the rest would be raised from the MLA and local body funds, through CSR, public private partnerships, etc.

Key Points

Chief Minister of Kerala -	Pinarayi Vijayan
Governor	- Arif Mohammad Khan
Capital	- Thiruvananthapuram

Meghalaya CM Conrad K Sangma Launched ‘Rural Backyard Piggery Scheme’

- Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma launched the ambitious flagship programme for the farmers - "Rural Backyard Piggery Scheme" under National Livestock Mission at Byrnihat in Ri-Bhoi district.
- Under Rural Backyard Piggery Scheme-phase 1, the government has earmarked ₹ 15.18 crore under which four high-yielding improved varieties will be distributed to 6,000 families.
- Under this mission, zero interest loan is provided for setting up fattening and pig breeding. So far 250 piggery cooperative societies have availed loans amounting to ₹ 43.67 crore.

- Meghalaya acquires 18,000 MT of pork from different States and there is a huge shortfall in supply and demand, through the piggery scheme the state envisions addressing the shortage of pork supply.

Himachal Pradesh (HP) has Become the First Indian State to Develop a DNA Database for Unidentified Bodies

- Himachal Pradesh has become the “first state” to create a DNA database of unidentified bodies.
- The process was started in April last year and so far the records of 150 DNA samples of unidentified bodies had been stored in the database. The database would help in the identification of bodies, giving a big relief to families searching for their loved ones.

National Medical Devices Policy Approved by Union Cabinet

- The Union Cabinet approved the medical devices policy to promote industry in a “holistic manner” from the current size of \$11 billion to \$50 billion over the next five years.
- It aims to increase India’s share in the global market from the current 1.5% to 12% over the next 25 years.
- The policy also plans to create a single-window approval process for medical device manufacturers to ensure quick approvals and an accountable system.
- The policy not only envisions medical device parks but also clusters equipped with world-class common infrastructure for smaller manufacturers.
- It aims to promote research through establishment of centres of excellence in academic and research institutes, create innovation hubs, and develop “plug and play” infrastructure for start-ups.
- The policy also talks about attracting investment in the sector through government schemes such as Make in India, Ayushman Bharat, Heal in India, as well as private investments from venture capitalists and the public-private partnership model.

Rural Development Ministry Introduces Captive Employer Scheme for Rural Youth

- Union Minister for Rural Development Sh. Giriraj Singh on boarded 19 Captive Employers, a unique initiative under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) in New Delhi.
- Captive employers will train rural poor youth and provide employment to trained youth in their company or subsidiary.

Government Approves Kirit Parikh Panel Recommendations on Natural Gas Pricing

- The government amended the domestic pricing model of natural gas in line with the recommendations of the Kirit Parikh committee on gas pricing.
- Prices of domestic natural gas will now be announced every month, and be pegged at 10 per cent of the international price of the Indian crude basket. The move is expected to reduce by 10 per cent the prices of Piped Natural Gas (PNG), supplied to households, and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), used as auto fuel and by various industries.
- Accepting all the major recommendations of the Parikh panel, the government has approved a floor price of \$4 per mmBtu (metric million British thermal units) for the next two years to cover the cost of gas production by state-run firms Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd.
- The ceiling price will be set at \$6.5 per mmBtu .

Government Launches 'Sangathan se Samridhhi' Scheme to Bring Marginalised Rural Women into SHGs

Network

- Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh launched 'Sangathan Se Samridhhi' campaign. It will empower marginalised rural households by bringing all eligible rural women into the fold of Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- The government is targeting to bring 10 crore women under the purview of SHGs from the existing nine crore.

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar Launches SATHI Portal and Mobile App

- Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched the SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication and Holistic Inventory) Portal and Mobile App.
- It is a centralized online system for seed traceability, authentication and inventory designed to deal with the challenges of seed production, quality seed identification and seed certification.
- It has been developed by the NIC in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on the theme of 'Uttam Beej – Samridh Kisan'.

ECONOMY AND BUSINESS

Airtel-IPPB-WhatsApp Banking Services

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) launched 'WhatsApp Banking Services' in collaboration with Airtel, which will allow the IPPB customers to access banking services on their mobile phones.
- The move is aligned with the government's objective of promoting digital and financial inclusion among citizens in their language.

Key Points

CEO (Bharti Airtel)	- Sunil Bharti Mittal
Headquarters	- New Delhi

of payments problem, attain medium-term external viability, and restore debt sustainability, the fund said in a statement.

- The new extended fund facility would allow the immediate disbursement of around \$2.7 billion to Ukraine.

Key Points

IMF Managing Director - Kristalina Georgieva
IMF HQ - Washington DC, US

IMF's \$15.6 Billion Loan for Ukraine

- The International Monetary Fund's executive board approved a four-year \$15.6 billion financing package for Ukraine as part of a \$115 billion total international support package, as Russia's invasion stretched into a second year.
- The decision is expected to mobilise large-scale concessional financing from Ukraine's international donors and partners to help resolve Ukraine's balance

Public Sector Banks Transfer ₹ 35,012 Crore Unclaimed Deposits to RBI

- Public sector banks (PSBs) have transferred unclaimed deposits of ₹35,012 crore as of February 2023 to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad informed the Lok Sabha.
- SBI tops the list with an unclaimed amount of ₹8,086 crore, while Punjab National Bank has ₹5,340 crore and Canara Bank has ₹4,558 crore. These unclaimed deposits belong to 10.24 crore accounts transferred to the RBI.

India's Economic Growth to Slow Down to 6.4% in 2023–24: ADB Report

- The Asian Development Bank said India's economic growth is expected to moderate to 6.4% in the current financial year due to tight monetary conditions and elevated oil prices as compared to 6.8% expansion for the financial year ended March 2023.
- However, ADB expects the country's economic growth to accelerate to 6.7% in FY25 driven by private consumption and private investment on the back of government policies to improve transport infrastructure, logistics, and the business ecosystem.
- The projections are part of the latest edition of ADB's flagship economic publication, Asian Development Outlook (ADO) April 2023.

Key Points

ABD Headquarters	- Mandaluyong, Philippines
President	- Masatsugu Asakawa

RBI to Launch Centralised Portal PRAVAAH for Licensing, Approval Applications

- Reserve Bank of India will launch a secured web-based centralised portal named 'PRAVAAH' (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation and AuthOrisation) to simplify and streamline application processes.
- The portal will show time limits for deciding on the applications/approvals sought.
- This measure will bring greater efficiencies into regulatory processes and facilitate ease of doing business for the regulated entities of RBI.
- The step has also been taken to comply with the Union Budget 2023–24 announcements regarding the need to simplify, ease and reduce cost of compliance by financial sector regulators within laid down time limits to decide the applications under various regulations.

Key Points

RBI established	- 1 April 1935
RBI HQ	- Mumbai, Maharashtra
RBI Governor	- Shaktikanta Das

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

- City Union Bank Limited (CUB) has launched a facility through which customers can now use Voice Biometric

authentication for logging into the mobile banking app.

- The bank mentioned in its exchange filing that the feature has been introduced for better security purposes.

SEBI Introduces ASBA-like Facility for Secondary Market Trading in India

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approved a framework for Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) like facility being made available to investors for secondary market trading.
- ASBA is an application containing an authorisation to block the application money in the bank account, for subscribing to an initial public offering (IPO).
- The facility is based on blocking of funds for trading in the secondary market through UPI (Unified Payments Interface) and will be optional for investors as well as stock brokers.
- The SEBI board introduced an alternative route to enable a diverse set of entities to become sponsors of mutual fund (MF).

RBI Harmonises Provisioning Norms for Urban Cooperative Banks

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unified the provisioning norms for standard assets across all categories of urban cooperative banks (UCBs).
- In December 2020, the RBI had classified UCBs into four tiers, namely tier 1, 2, 3, and 4, for regulatory purposes. On review, it has been decided to harmonise the provisioning norms for standard assets applicable to all categories of UCBs, irrespective of their tier in the revised framework.

Neobank Jupiter Secures NBFC Licence

- Neobanking platform Jupiter has secured a non-banking financial company (NBFC) licence from the Reserve Bank of India to enter into the lending business.
- The startup will be offering the loan under Amica Financial Technologies, the private entity which operates Jupiter
- The licence will help in addressing the many uncertainties and overcome regulatory hurdles.

India GDP Growth Likely to Moderate to 6.3% in FY24: World Bank

- India GDP growth is expected to moderate to 6.3% in FY24 due to shrinkage in consumption on back of slower income, said World Bank in its report.

- The World Bank has lowered its forecast for India's economic growth in the current fiscal year from 6.6%.
- To tame inflation, the Reserve Bank of India has raised interest rates by 250 basis points since May 2022.
- The World Bank estimated last fiscal year's growth at 6.9%.

IMF Cuts India's FY24 GDP Forecast to 5.9%

- Days after the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) raised its growth forecast, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cut its GDP growth forecast for India for the financial year 2023–24 by 20 basis points to 5.9%.
- The fresh revision in the growth forecast by IMF in its latest bi-annual World Economic Outlook is broadly in line with what other multilateral agencies and economists have projected and is sharply lower than the RBI projection of 6.5%

UPI Processes 8.7 billion Transactions in March, Highest Ever Since Inception

- India's flagship digital payment platform – Unified Payments Interface (UPI) – ended the financial year (FY23) on a high, with March seeing 8.7 billion transactions being processed on the platform, the highest ever since its inception, amounting to ₹ 14.05 trillion. This is another record high for the platform.
- According to National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) data, UPI transactions in March 2023 were over 60 per cent and 46 per cent higher in volume and value terms from the year-ago period. Last year in March, UPI had processed 5.4 billion transactions, amounting to ₹ 9.6 trillion.

Solar Energy Corporation of India Gets 'Miniratna Category-I' Status

- Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) has been accorded the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).
- Incorporated in the year 2011, SECI is the primary implementing agency of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India for renewable energy schemes/projects towards fulfilment of India's international commitments.
- Till date, SECI has awarded Renewable Energy (RE) project capacities of over 56 GW.
- SECI is also active in setting up of projects through its own investments as well as for other public sector entities as Project Management Consultant (PMC). SECI enjoys highest credit rating of AAA by ICRA.

US Emerges as India's Biggest Trading Partner in FY23 at \$128.55 billion; China at Second Position

- According to provisional data from the commerce ministry, the bilateral trade between India and the United States has risen by 7.65% to reach \$128.55 billion in the fiscal year 2022–23, making the United States India's largest trading partner. This represents an increase from \$119.5 billion in the previous year and \$80.51 billion in 2020–21, indicating a growing economic relationship between the two countries.
- Meanwhile, India's bilateral trade with China decreased by approximately 1.5%, reaching \$113.83 billion in 2022–23, down from \$115.42 billion in the previous year.

UAE India's Second Largest Export Destination and Third Largest Source of Imports

- The UAE continues to be the second most important export destination for India, according to annual trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce, the government of India.
- The US and the UAE retained the first and second places respectively in this category during the financial year 2022–23.
- The Netherlands rose to third place in this category during the same period, replacing China. The importance of The Netherlands was owed to a high level of refined petroleum products through the maritime nation last year.

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited now a Navratana

- Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), a central public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Railways, has been granted Navratna Status.
- RVNL was incorporated in 2003 with the objective of implementing rail infrastructure projects on a fast track basis and raising extra budgetary resources for SPV projects. The company began operations in 2005 after the appointment of its board of directors. It was granted Mini-Ratna status in 2013.
- With the grant of Navratna status, RVNL will enjoy enhanced delegation of powers, more operational freedom and financial autonomy, which will give a huge impetus to the company's progress, particularly as it expands its footprint beyond the railways sector and into international projects.

Reliance General Becomes First Insurer to Accept CBDC in Tie-up with YES Bank

- Reliance General Insurance has become a forerunner general insurance company in the country to accept the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Central Bank Digital Currency e-Rupee for premium payments.
- The company has tied up with Yes Bank to facilitate the collection of premiums in the digital mode using the bank's eRupee platform.
- Customers who have an active e-wallet with any bank can scan Reliance General Insurance's eRupee QR code to make immediate payment.

Vande Metro' to be Rolled Out by December 2023, Says Ashwini Vaishnaw

- Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the government is planning to launch 'Vande Metro' by the end of 2023.
- The announcement came after the successful launch of the Vande Bharat Express, a semi-high-speed train, in several parts of the country.

- The Chennai-based Integral Coach Factory (ICF) and the Lucknow-based Research Design and Standard Organisation (RDSO) have been directed by the Railways Ministry to begin production of the rakes for the Vande Metro trains at the earliest.

PM Modi to Flag off India's First Water Metro in Kochi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off India's first Water Metro that connects 10 islands around Kochi through battery-operated electric hybrid boats for seamless connectivity with the city.
- Water Metro is a unique urban mass transit system with the same experience and ease of travel as that of the conventional metro system. It is very useful in cities like Kochi.

Apple's First Store in India Opens in Mumbai

- Apple opened its first official store in Mumbai, India.
- It is located at the Jio World Drive mall in the Bandra Kurla Complex area and the store is the first of the two outlets Apple to open in India.

PEOPLE IN NEWS/APPOINTMENTS

Name	Designation
Neeraj Nigam	Executive Director of RBI
Bhavesh Zaveri	Executive Director of HDFC
Kaizad Bharucha	Deputy Managing Director of HDFC
Miguel Díaz-Canel	Cuba's President
Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu	22nd President of Bangladesh
Sanjay Jasjit Singh	Vice-Chief of Naval Staff (VCNS)
Ratnakar Patnaik	Chief Investment Officer of LIC
Dr. Randhir Thakur	CEO & MD of Tata Electronics
Rowan Wilson	First Black Chief Judge of New York
Anant Maheshwari	Chairman of NASSCOM
Siddhartha Mohanty	Chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation of India
Rohit Sharma	Brand Ambassador of Jio Cinemas
Pankaj Singh	President of Cycling Federation of India
Shantanu Roy	CMD of BEML Limited
Rishabh Pant	Brand Ambassador of Star Sports
A Madhavarao	CMD of Bharat Dynamics Ltd
Virat Kohli	Brand Influencer of HSBC

Name	Designation
Arun Sinha	Chairman of National Technical Research Organisation
Rajib K Mishra	CMD of PTC India Ltd.
Ajay Singh	President of ASSOCHAM
Aleksander Ceferin	UEFA President

DAYS AND THEMES

Date	Day	Theme
2 April	World Autism Awareness Day	Transforming the narrative: Contributions at home, at work, in the arts and in policymaking
4 April	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	Mine Action Cannot wait
5 April	International Day of Conscience	
6 April	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP)	Scoring for People and Planet
7 April	World Health Day	Health For All
10 April	World Homeopathy Day	Homoeoparivar – Sarvajan Swasthya is "One Health, One Family."
11 April	National Safe Motherhood Day	
12 April	International Day of Human Space Flight	
14 April	Ambedkar Jayanti	
14 April	World Chagas Disease	Time to integrate Chagas disease into primary health care.
15 April	World Art Day	Art is good for the health
16 April	Save the Elephant Day	Safeguarding Elephant Habitats for a Sustainable Tomorrow
16 April	World Voice Day	Your Voice Matters
17 April	World Hemophilia Day	Access for All: Prevention of bleeds as the global standard of care
18 April	World Heritage Day	Heritage Changes
19 April	World Liver Day	Be Vigilant, Do Regular Liver Check-Up, Fatty Liver Can Affect Anyone
21 April	National Civil Service Day	Viksit Bharat: Empowering Citizens and Reaching the Last Mile
21 April	World Creativity and Innovation Day	Step out and innovate
22 April	International Mother Earth Day	Invest in our planet
23 April	World Book and Copyright Day	Indigenous languages
24 April	International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy	
24 April-30 April	World Immunisation Week	The Big Catch up
24 April	World Day for Laboratory Animals	

Date	Day	Theme
25 April	World Malaria Day	Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement
25 April	International Delegate's Day	
26 April	International Chornobyl Disaster Remembrance Day	
26 April	World Intellectual Property Day	Women and IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity
27 April	International Girls in ICT day	
28 April	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	
29 April	World Veterinary Day	Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness in the veterinary profession
30 April	Ayushmann Bharat Diwas	

OBITUARIES (NATIONAL)

Name	Occupation/ Field	Place
Prakash Singh Badal	Former Chief Minister of Punjab	Lamba
Trilochan Kanungo	Politician	Odisha
Chandan Ram Das	Politician	Uttarakhand
Uttara Baokar	Actress	Pune
Salim Durani	Cricketer	Jamnagar
Keshub Mahindra	Chairman Emeritus of the Mahindra Group	Mumbai

OBITUARIES (INTERNATIONAL)

Name	Occupation/Field	Place
Tarek Fatah	Journalist	Canada
Dr. Zafrullah Chowdhury	Public Health Activist	Bangladesh

RANKS, INDICES AND REPORTS

New York City Tops the List of World's Wealthiest Cities 2023

- New York City topped a new list of the world's wealthiest cities in 2023, with Japan's Tokyo and Silicon Valley's Bay Area claiming the second and third spots.
- Mumbai featured at 21st place while Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata and Hyderabad too found a mention. Bengaluru got a special mention as one of the fastest-growing cities in the Asia Pacific
- The list, compiled by London-based consultancy Henley & Partners, ranked the cities by taking into

account the number of resident millionaires as of December 31, 2022.

- The report covered 97 cities across the world, using data from wealth intelligence firm, New World Wealth.

India Ranked 38th in World Bank's Logistics Performance Index 2023

- The World Bank report has ranked India at 38th, up from 44 in 2018, among 139 countries.
- India's ranking in the World Bank's Logistic Performance Index 2023 has improved by six places due to significant investments in soft and hard

infrastructure, as well as technology, which have led to an improvement in the country's port performance.

- In terms of international shipments, India's ranking improved significantly moving up from 44 in 2018 to 22 in 2023. The country also climbed four places to rank 48 in logistics competence and equality.
- In terms of timelines, India saw a significant improvement, moving up 17 places in the rankings. Additionally, India improved three places in tracking and tracing now ranking at 38.

Global Unicorn Index 2023

- India continues to be the world's third-largest country with the highest number of unicorns, following the US and China.
- India has a total of 138 unicorns, out of which 70 were established by Indian co-founders but have their headquarters located outside India, while 68 are based in India.

- According to the Global Unicorn Index 2023 by Hurun, Swiggy, a foodtech platform, Dream11, a fantasy gaming company, and BYJU'S, an ed-tech decacorn are India's top unicorns.

First-ever Waterbody Census: West Bengal Tops List Among States, Sikkim at the Bottom

- India has 24.24 lakh water bodies like ponds, tanks and lakes, with West Bengal accounting for the most (7.47 lakh) and Sikkim the least (134), according to the report of the first census of waterbodies released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti recently.
- The census was conducted under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme – "Irrigation Census".
- Top five states in terms of number of water bodies in rural areas are West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Assam. These states constitute around 63% of the total water bodies in the country.

SPORTS NEWS

New Zealand's Kim Cotton Becomes First Female Umpire to Officiate Men's T20I Match

- Kim Cotton accomplished a historic feat by becoming the first female umpire to officiate in a Men's T20 International (T20I) cricket match involving two ICC full-member nations.
- She stood as an umpire in the second T20I held between New Zealand and Sri Lanka in Dunedin, which the hosts won by nine wickets.

IOA Sets up Ad-hoc Committee to Manage Wrestling Federation of India

- A two member ad-hoc committee will run the office of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).
- The committee will comprise Bhupender Singh Bajwa, IOA executive council member and Suma Shirur, sportsperson of outstanding merit of IOA.
- The committee will be responsible to manage the affairs of the federation including selection and participation of sportspersons in international events.

Russian Superstar Daniil Medvedev Wins Maiden Miami Opens Title 2023

- Daniil Medvedev won his 5th Masters 1000 title, beating Jannik Sinner in straight sets in the Miami final.

- The win marked his first-ever title win at the Miami Open.

Indian Men, Women Bag 4th Asian Kho Kho Titles

- Indian men and women team clinched titles in the 4th Asian Kho Kho Championships that concluded at Tamulpur, Assam.
- In the finals, Indian men defeated Nepal by 6 points and an innings while in the women category, Indian Eves defeated Nepal by an inning and 33 points.
- A total of nine countries participated in the event.

Peru Removed as Host of 2023 FIFA Under-17 World Cup

- Peru was stripped of hosting the men's Under-17 World Cup because FIFA said the country was not ready to stage the tournament.
- FIFA picked both Peru and Indonesia in 2019 to host the respective 2021 editions of the tournaments. Both have been delayed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

FIFA: Argentina to Replace Indonesia as Under-20 World Cup Host

- FIFA has selected Argentina to host the under-20 soccer World Cup after revoking the hosting rights from Indonesia.
- This decision was made after Indonesia's football

association cancelled the draw scheduled to take place in Bali due to the governor's refusal to host Israel's team.

Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara Named Gates Unveiled at Iconic SCG

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

Arthur Morris.

Sharjah Stadium Stand Named After Sachin Tendulkar on his 50th Birthday

- An iconic Sharjah cricket stadium stand has been renamed after Sachin Tendulkar in a special ceremony in the UAE.
- The West Stand at the iconic stadium has been renamed the 'Sachin Tendulkar Stand.'
- Not only does it coincide with the Indian batting legend's birthday, but also with the 25th anniversary of his 'Desert Storm' back-to-back centuries against Australia in 1998 to a packed stadium.
- The 143 he scored on April 22 and 134 two days later in the final of the Coca-Cola Cup, a triangular series between India, Australia and New Zealand, has been recorded in the books as a veritable 'Desert Storm'.

EVENTS

India Will Host SCO Summit

- India will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in New Delhi On July 3-4, which will be Russian President Vladimir Putin's first visit to the country since the conflict in Ukraine.
- India has assumed the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) Chair for 2023.
- The eight member countries of SCO represent around 42% of the world population and 25% of the global GDP. There is an immense tourism potential in the region which can be promoted by increasing awareness about SCO countries.
- "Kashi" (Varanasi) has been designated as the first cultural capital of the SCO under this initiative.
- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is an intergovernmental organisation founded in Shanghai

on 15 June 2001. The SCO currently comprises eight Member States (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), four Observer States interested in acceding to full membership (Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia) and six "Dialogue Partners" (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Turkey).

Thawe Festival Organised in Bihar

- The Thawe Festival is an annual event that takes place in Gopalganj, Bihar.
- The festival's objective is to promote tourism in the region and encourage visitors to explore the Thawe Durga Temple, which is a prominent attraction in the area.
- It has been organised annually since 2012.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

68th Filmfare Awards 2023

CATEGORY	WINNER
Best Film	Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Film (Critics)	Badhaai Do
Best Actor (Male)	Rajkumar Rao for Badhaai Do
Best Actor (Female)	Alia Bhatt for Gangubai Kathiawadi

CATEGORY	WINNER
Best Actor (Critics)	Sanjay Mishra for Vadh
Best Actress (Critics)	Bhumi Pednekar for Badhaai Do and Tabu for Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2
Best Director	Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male)	Anil Kapoor for Jug Jug Jeeyo
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female)	Sheeba Chaddha for Badhaai Do
Best Music Album	Pritam for Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva
Lifetime Achievement Award	Prem Chopra
Best Story	Akshat Ghildial and Suman Adhikary for Badhaai Do
Best Playback Singer (Male)	Arijit Singh for Kesariya from Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva
Best Playback Singer (Female)	Kavita Seth for Rangisari from Jug Jugg Jeeyo

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

- Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader was presented the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award at his residence personally after 64 years.
- It was the first international award given to "His Holiness for Community Leadership in recognition of his leadership of the Tibetan community's gallant struggle in defense of the sacred religion that is the inspiration of their life and culture".
- The Ramon Magsaysay Award, often called the "Nobel Prize of Asia", is an annual award established to perpetuate former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay's example of integrity in governance, courageous service to the people, and pragmatic idealism within a democratic society, the Dalai Lama's office said.
- The prize was established in April 1957 by the trustees of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund based in New York City with the concurrence of the Philippine government.

Ukrainian President Decorated With Poland's Top Award

- Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has been awarded the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest distinction, for his services to security, resilience and the defense of human rights.

C.R. Rao Wins International Prize In Statistics 2023

- Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao, a prominent Indian-American mathematician and statistician, will receive the 2023 International Prize in Statistics, the equivalent to the Nobel Prize in the field, for his monumental work 75 years ago that revolutionised statistical thinking.

- Rao, who is now 102, will receive the prize, which comes with \$80,000 award, this July at the biennial International Statistical Institute World Statistics Congress in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Bharat Biotech Wins Award at World Vaccine Congress 2023

- Bharat Biotech has won the 'Best Production/Process Development' award as part of the Vaccine Industry Excellence (ViE) awards at the World Vaccine Congress 2023.
- The Congress was held during April 3–6 in Washington, USA.
- Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech was the only Indian company in the list of ViE awards in various categories, including best clinical trial company, best clinical trial network, best central/specialty laboratory award, best contract research organisation, best production/process development award, among others.
- Bharat Biotech is the world's first producer of intranasal Covid-19 vaccine, iNcovacc. Its intramuscular vaccine, Covaxin, is part of India's public vaccination programme and was also exported.
- The World Vaccine Congress is the largest global meeting dedicated to vaccines. From basic research to commercial manufacture, it covers the whole vaccine value chain. Apart from uniting vaccine experts, it was instrumental in sharing groundbreaking knowledge in tackling the pandemic.

Utsa Patnaik selected for Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023

- Utsa Patnaik, a renowned economist and author, has been selected as the recipient of the award for

the year 2023. She has authored several books and papers. The award is given by the Madras Institute of Development Studies and the Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust.

- The Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust bestow the prize yearly to an exceptional social scientist chosen from nominations by a specially formed national panel.
- The award consists of a citation and a cash prize of ₹ 2 lakh.
- It is granted for outstanding contributions to Development Studies.

Sonam Wangchuk conferred with Prestigious Santokbaa Humanitarian Award

- Sonam Wangchuk, Founder-Director of Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL) was conferred with the prestigious Santokbaa Humanitarian Award.
- The award is an initiative of Shree Ramkrishna Exports (SRK) a leading diamond crafting and Exports Company, and its philanthropic arm Shree Ramkrishna Knowledge Foundation (SRKKF).

- Sonam Wangchuk is a notable engineer, innovator, educationist and sustainable development reformist.
- The award carries a cash prize of ₹ 1 crore, has been instituted in memory of SRK and SRKKF's Founder Chairman Govind Dholakia's mother Late Santokbaa Dholakia.

Wing Commander Deepika Misra is First IAF Woman Officer to Receive Gallantry Award

- Wing Commander Deepika Misra was conferred the Vayu Sena medal by Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief Air Marshal VR Chaudhari, making her the first woman Air Force officer to receive a gallantry award.
- On August 2, 2021, Deepika Misra was tasked to undertake humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in response to flash floods in northern Madhya Pradesh. Despite the odds of deteriorating weather, strong winds and the nearing sunset time, Deepika Misra negotiated the challenging weather and was the first and only respondent to reach the affected area the same evening.

