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# National

## Adani Group's Kutch Copper Limited Commences Phase-1 Operations in Mundra

**Kutch Copper** Limited, a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL) led by Gautam Adani, commissioned the first unit of its **greenfield copper refinery** project at Mundra, Gujarat, by dispatching the maiden batch of cathodes to customers.



- This significant venture marks the Adani Group's entry into the metal industry.
- This move marks a significant step towards reducing India's reliance on copper imports and facilitating the energy transition.

**Note:** The increasing demand for copper is driven by renewable energy, electric vehicles (EVs), charging infrastructure, and the development of power transmission and distribution networks.

### Investment and Capacity:

i. Adani Enterprises invested nearly USD 1.2 billion to set up a 0.5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) copper smelter in the first phase.

## NHAI's One Vehicle, One FASTag Rules Come into Force on 1 April 2024

The National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' norm to discourage the practice of using a single FASTag for multiple vehicles or linking multiple FASTags to one vehicle has come into force from **1 April 2024**.

**Note:** Users with multiple FASTags for one vehicle are unable to utilise them all.

### One Vehicle, One FASTag:

NHAI has introduced One Vehicle, One FASTag to streamline the electronic toll-collection process, enhance the efficiency of the electronic toll-collection system, and alleviate congestion at toll plazas.

### Role of FASTag in Toll Collection:

i. FASTag, an electronic toll collection system operated by NHAI, utilises Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology.

ii. Over 8 crore users with a penetration rate of approximately 98% have revolutionised FASTag in India.

iii. It enables toll payments directly from prepaid or savings accounts linked to it or directly from the toll owner.

## Bajaj Auto, Tata Motors and Coal India among Top 5 Index Performers in FY24

Indian financial markets finished the Financial year 2023-24 (FY24) on a positive note with domestic equity indices: Nifty50 and Sensex achieving their most robust performance in three fiscal years.



- Bajaj Auto, Tata Motors and Coal India Limited emerged as the Top 3 Index Performers in FY24.

#### **Top 5 Index Performers in FY24:**

**i. Bajaj Group** emerged as the top-performing large cap on the Nifty50 in FY24. It shows an exceptional return of **142.52%** on investments made over the last 12 months. Its **market cap surged by 120%** which amounts to **Rs 2,54,000 crore** as of 1st April, 2024.

**ii. Tata Motors** secured the **2nd spot** among top performing index in FY24. It generated a return of **136.67%** on investments over the last one year.

- Jaguar, Land Rover (wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Motors) and expansion in sectors like: Electric Vehicle (EV), attributed growth of market cap by 139.60% in FY24.

**iii. Indian Public Sector Unit (PSU) Coal India Limited (CIL)** emerged as the **3rd** best-performing large cap on Nifty50 in FY24. It delivered a return of **118.73%** on investments made over the past one year. The growth was driven by increasing power demand and increasing electrification initiatives.

**iv. Adani's Group** flagship port company has secured the 4th spot among top performing indexes with a return of 113.76% on investments generated over last 12 months.

#### **PM Modi addresses RBI@90 Programme; RBI marks 90 years**

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi addressed the opening ceremony of **RBI@90**, as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) marked its 90th year on April 1, 2024. The ceremony took place at National Centre for the Performing Arts in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

**i. A special Rs 90 coin** was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to commemorate 90 years of RBI.

**ii. RBI** was established on **1st April, 1935**, based on the recommendation of **Hilton Young Commission** (formed in 1926).

#### **About Reserve Bank of India (RBI):**

**Governor:** Shaktikanta Das

**Headquarters :** Mumbai, Maharashtra ,      **Established:** 1 April, 1935

#### **Adani Green Energy Becomes India's First Company to Surpass 10,000 MW of Renewable Energy**

Adani Green Energy Limited (**AGEL**) has become the country's first company to surpass 10,000 megawatts (**MW**), or 10 gigawatts (**GW**), of renewable energy capacity in its operational portfolio.

- AGEL has achieved this feat after it commissioned 2,000 MW of solar capacity at Khavda in Kutch, Gujarat.

#### **Key Points:**

**i. AGEL** added 2,848 MW to its operational portfolio in Financial Year 2023-24 (FY24) .

**ii. AGEL's** 10,934 MW operational portfolio comprises 7,393 MW of solar, 1,401 MW of



wind, and 2,140 MW of wind-solar hybrid capacity.

iii. As per AGEL's statement, its 10,934 MW operational portfolio will power more than 5.8 million homes and avoid about 21 million tonnes of CO2 emissions annually.

iv. With the aim of building a 45 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030, AGEL is building a 30,000 MW solar plant, the world's largest renewable energy plant in Khavda, Gujarat.

### **MEA Approves Taking Over the Operations of Sittwe Port in Myanmar**

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has approved a proposal for India Ports Global Limited (IPGL) to take over the operations of the Sittwe port located on the Kaladan River estuary in Rakhine, Myanmar.

- It was the second foreign port operated by India, following the Chabahar Port in Iran.
- Sittwe Port has been developed as part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, built under Indian financial assistance.
- The Sittwe port connects to Paletwa in Myanmar through an inland waterway and from Paletwa to Zorinpui in Mizoram through a road.

**Note:** IPGL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sagarmala Development Company Limited (SDCL) under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW).

### **MoRTH Constructed 12,349 km of National Highways in FY24, the 2nd highest so far**

According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), a total of **12,349 km** of National Highways (NHs) were constructed in the Financial Year 2023–24 (FY24). This is the **2nd** highest figure in the history of the construction of national highways.

- The Ministry also revealed that it has awarded 8,851 NH projects in FY24.
- **FY21** stands in first place with a length of **13,327 km** of national highways.



### **Pilot Program for Cashless Treatment of Road Accident Victims**

The Government of India (GoI) launched a pilot program in March 2024 to provide **cashless treatment** to the victims of road accidents due to the use of motor vehicles.

**Significance:** It aims to reduce fatalities due to road accidents by providing timely medical care including golden hour. It provides legal mandate under section 162 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

#### **Key Features of the Pilot Program:**

- i. The program was developed by MoRTH and for initial phase, it will be introduced in Chandigarh.
- ii. Victims entitled to get cashless treatment up to maximum of **Rs1.5 lakhs per person** for a maximum **period of 7 days** from date of accident.

### **Sam Pitroda launched a new book titled “The Idea of Democracy”**

Padma Bhushan awardee, **Satyanarayan Gangaram Pitroda**, aka **Sam Pitroda**, an Indian engineer and entrepreneur, virtually launched his new book titled “**The Idea of Democracy**”. The book was published by Penguin Business, an imprint of Penguin Random House India.

- The book shares the author’s concern about the state of democracy and the potential challenges in countries like India and the United States of America(USA).

### **About Sam Pitroda:**

i.Sam Pitroda, hailing from Odisha, served the founding Chairman of India’s Telecom Commission and also the 1st Chairman of Worldtel Initiative of the International Telecommunication Union(1995)

ii.Pitroda launched the Center For The Development Of Telematics (**C-DOT**) as an autonomous telecom R&D organisation in 1984.

iii.He also served as Advisor to Prime Minister (PM) on Technology Missions Related to Water, Literacy, Immunization, Oil Seeds, Telecom, and Dairy

iv.He was honoured with **Padma Bhushan** in **2009** for Science and Engineering.

### **105th Anniversary of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre – 13 April 2024**

**13th April 2024** marks the **105th Anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre** (also known as the **Amritsar Massacre**), held on **13 April 1919** in Amritsar, Punjab, British India (now in Punjab).

- The Day aims to honour the victims of the massacre and this tragic event also served as a pivotal moment in India’s fight for independence.

### **About the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre:**

i.On 13 April 1919, on the day of Baisakhi, thousands of people gathered at the

Jallianwala Bagh Garden in Amritsar for a political meeting to protest against the Rowlatt Act; and the arrest of pro-independence activists Dr. Satyapal and Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew.

ii.In response, the acting Brigadier-General, Colonel Reginald Edward Harry Dyer deployed his 50 troopers, blocked the exits, and opened fire on unarmed civilians attending a peaceful gathering.

It killed an estimated 379 people including men, women, and children, and injured over a thousand more.



### **Rowlatt Act:**

i.The British colonial government passed the Rowlatt Act, officially known as the Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act of 1919, based on the recommendations of the Sedition Committee, under Mr Justice Rowlatt.

- The Act was passed to suppress the increasing nationalist movement in India.
- ii. It was a highly controversial piece of legislation that granted the government the power to arrest and detain Indian citizens without trial for 2 years.

#### **Formation of the Hunters Commission:**

i. On 14 October 1919, the Government of India established the Disorders Inquiry Committee, commonly known as the Hunter Commission.

- It was established after orders issued by the Secretary of State for India, Edwin Montagu.
- ii. Named after its chairman, Lord William Hunter, former Solicitor-General for Scotland, the commission was tasked to investigate the Jallianwala Bagh shootings.

#### **Gopi Thotakura Named Among 6 Crew Members to fly on Blue Origin's NS-25 Mission**

Gopi Thotakura, an entrepreneur and seasoned pilot from Andhra Pradesh has been selected among 6 crew members for Blue Origin's New Shepard-25 (NS-25) **space tourism** mission.

#### **About the Mission:**

- i. This mission will be the 7th human flight for the New Shepard program and the 25th in its history.
- ii. The NS-25 mission will lift off from Blue Origin's West Texas site, United States of America (USA).

#### **Other 5 Crew members include:**

i. Mason Angel (USA); Sylvain Chiron (France); Kenneth L. Hess (USA); Carol Schaller (USA); and former USA Air Force Captain Ed Dwight.

- Ed Dwight was selected by then USA President John F. Kennedy in 1961 as America's first Black astronaut candidate.
- ii. During the flight, each astronaut will carry a postcard to space on behalf of Blue Origin's foundation, Club for the Future.

#### **About Gopi Thotakura:**

- i. He is now the **1st** Indian space tourist and **2nd** Indian to travel into space, following Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma of the Indian Army in 1984.
- ii. He is the co-founder of Preserve Life Corp, a global center for holistic wellness and applied health located near Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, USA.

#### **About New Shepard:**

- i. New Shepard, which is named after Mercury astronaut Alan Shepard, the first American to go to space, in a reusable suborbital rocket system.
- ii. It is designed to take astronauts and research payloads past the Kármán line, the internationally recognized boundary of space.
- iii. Blue Origin was founded by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos.

#### **Salman Rushdie Releases New Memoir 'Knife' Recounting Stabbing**

Salman Rushdie, Indian-born British-American author, released his new memoir "**Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder**".

- The memoir was published by Penguin Random House, which describes how he survived the terrifying experience of being 12 times stabbed during an Arts gathering in **New York**, United States of America (**USA**) in August **2022**.
- The attack left the author with permanent damage, including the loss of sight in right eye.

#### **About Salman Rushdie**

##### **Notable works and awards:**

- i. Rushdie was best known for his novel '**The Satanic Verses**' which was published in 1988.
- ii. He also received the **Booker Prize** for **Midnight's Children** in 1981. The novel subsequently won the Booker of Bookers (1993) and the Best of the Booker (2008).
- iii. He has been awarded **The Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for 2023** (the most prestigious in Germany) for his indomitable spirit, for his affirmation of life and for enriching our world with his love of storytelling.

#### **DPE granted Navratna status to National Fertilizers Limited**

The Department of Public Enterprise (DPE) under the Ministry of Finance has granted the Navratna status to National Fertilizers Limited (NFL).

- The upgradation of NFL from Miniratna-I to Navratna status was done under Regulation 30 read with schedule III of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) (LODR) Regulations, 2015.

#### **About National Fertilizers Limited (NFL):**

**Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)**- U Saravanan

**Headquarters**- Noida, Uttar Pradesh

**Incorporated in** August 1974

# International

## WHO's unveils S.A.R.A.H, its 1st AI-Powered Digital Health Promoter

On 2nd April 2024, The World Health Organization (WHO) unveiled **S.A.R.A.H.** (Smart AI Resource Assistant for Health), its first **digital health promoter** prototype with enhanced empathetic response powered by generative artificial intelligence (AI).



- The digital health promoter was launched ahead of World Health Day 2024 (7th April 2024) observance focused on 'My Health, My Right'.

### Key Points:

- i. S.A.R.A.H., also known as Sarah, is supported by Biological AI technology of Soul Machines Limited.
- ii. Sarah utilizes Gen-AI for enhanced empathetic responses and real-time accuracy, offering dynamic personalized conversations 24 hours a day in 8 languages across multiple health topics on any device.
- iii. It aims to empower users to optimize their health and well-being journey, providing nuanced, empathetic responses in a judgment-free environment.
- iv. Trained to cover major health topics, including healthy habits and mental health, S.A.R.A.H. assists users in understanding risk factors for leading causes of death worldwide, offering up-to-date information on topics such as quitting tobacco, physical activity, and healthy diet.

**Note:** Previously, WHO used a digital health worker named Florence during the COVID-19 pandemic to disseminate critical public health messages on the virus, vaccines, tobacco use, healthy eating and physical activity.

### About World Health Organization (WHO):

**Director-General**– Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

**Headquarters**– Geneva, Switzerland

**Establishment**– 1948

## Bernard Arnault Tops Forbes World's Billionaires List 2024, Mukesh Ambani Tops in India

On April 2, 2024, Forbes released its 38th annual World's Billionaires list – 'Forbes World's Billionaires List: The Richest in 2024' in partnership with **J.P. Morgan Bank**. **Bernard Arnault** (France), Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton (LVMH) **topped** the list with a net worth of USD 233 Billion.

- He is followed by **Elon Musk**, CEO of Tesla Motors with a net worth of USD 195 Billion and **Jeff Bezos**, founder & Former CEO of Amazon with USD 194 Billion at 3rd place.

**Mukesh Ambani**, Chairman And Managing Director(CMD) of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), ranked **9th globally** with a net worth of USD 116 Billion, becomes the **richest man in India**. He is the **only Indian** to feature among the **top 10**.

- He also became the **first Asian** to break into the USD 100 billion club.
- Gautam Adani became the 2nd richest Indian with a net worth of USD 84 billion followed by Shiv Nadar as 3rd richest with a net worth of USD 36.9 billion.

**Note:** Forbes used stock prices and exchange rates from 8th March 2024, to calculate net worth.

#### **About Forbes:**

Forbes is a global media company, focusing on business, investing, technology, entrepreneurship, leadership, and lifestyle.

**Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**– Mike Federle

**Headquarters**– New Jersey, the United States of America (USA)

**Establishment**– 1917

#### **Romania & Bulgaria Partially Join Europe's Schengen Travel Zone**

As of 31st March 2024, **Romania** and **Bulgaria** became the newest **Member States** to partially join the **Schengen area**, the Europe's ID-check-free travel zone. With this any person crossing the internal air and sea borders will no longer be subject to checks.

- With this, the Schengen area now has **29 members**.



#### **Background:**

i. Bulgaria and Romania have successfully accomplished the Schengen evaluation process set out in their **Treaties of Accession**, taking all the necessary measures to ensure application of all relevant parts of the **Schengen acquis**.

ii. In 2011, the European Commission (EC) confirmed that Romania and Bulgaria have met the technical criteria for full accession.

iii. In 2022, Austria vetoed the full accession of Romania and Bulgaria to Schengen, but allowed Croatia full accession. Croatia joined as a 27th Schengen member in January 2023.

#### **Schengen Area:**

i. The Schengen Area is a free travel area that includes most of the European Union(EU) members (27 European countries) except Ireland and Cyprus, and the European Free Trade Association (**EFTA**) member states of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.

ii. The Schengen Area was created by the **Schengen Agreement**, a treaty signed by Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands , the member states of the European Economic Community (EC) in the town of Schengen, Luxembourg on **June 14, 1985**.

## Singapore, Denmark and U.S. are the Best Places in the world to Conduct Business: EIU' BER 2024

The **Economist Intelligence Unit** (EIU) released its Business Environment Rankings (BER) 2024, assessing 82 countries across 91 crucial indicators across 11 categories to determine the best places for conducting business.



- Singapore retains its top position for the **16th consecutive year**, followed by Denmark and the United States (US) at 2nd and 3rd place respectively in the world to conduct business.
- India ranked 51 in the list with a score of 1.08.

### Assessment:

The report ranked the improvement in the business environment for the period from 2019-2023 to 2024-28.

### List of Top 5 Countries to Conduct Business

Rank	Country	Score
1	Singapore	8.56
2	Denmark	8.41
3	US	8.40
4	Germany	8.35
5	Switzerland	8.33
<b>51</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>1.08</b>

### Big Improvers:

**i.** Greece, Qatar, and **India** have made significant strides in providing favorable business environments globally.

- **India ranks third** among the most improved business environments globally, projecting strong economic growth and heightened foreign investment.

ii. Vietnam, Thailand, Belgium, Sweden, India, and Costa Rica are notable improvers.

**Biggest Deterioration:**

i. China, Bahrain, Chile, and Slovakia have experienced notable declines in their business environments.

ii. China's substantial drop by 11 spots marks it as the biggest loser globally, reflecting challenges in its business landscape compared to the previous year.

**India ranks 3rd in Hurun's Global Unicorn Index 2024**

According to the 6th edition of "Global Unicorn Index 2024" report published by Hurun Institute, India is ranked at 3rd position in the index with 67 unicorns (down to 1 compared to 2023).

i. While, Indian Ed-tech giant Byju's and PharmEasy were dropped out from the index.

ii. United States of America (U.S.A.) continued to be at top position with 703 unicorns which accounted for 48% of world total number of unicorns.

iii. India was ranked 3rd with 67 unicorns led by on-demand food delivery start-up Swiggy (USD8 billion) followed by Dream11 (USD8 billion) and Razorpay (USD7.5 billion).

**About Global Unicorn Index:**

i. It is compiled by Hurun Research Institute and includes companies founded in the 2000s with a current valuation of USD1 billion, not yet listed on public exchange.

ii. The data is for January 2023 to January 2024, compared with January 2022 to January 2023.

iii. Hurun Research has been tracking unicorns since 2017.

**Zimbabwe Launches New Gold-Backed Currency "ZiG"; Replaces Zimbabwe dollars**

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has launched the new currency "Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG)" backed by gold and foreign currencies to replace its local currency Zimbabwe dollars (ZW\$) – Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) dollar.

**Key Points:**

i. RBZ has notified that the banks should convert the current Zimbabwe dollar balances into the ZiG with effect from 5th April 2024.

ii. The ZiG notes and coins will start circulating in the economy on 30th April 2024.

iii. The banks will continue to accept ZW\$ deposits for a period of 21 days after 5 April 2024.

**About Zimbabwe Gold:**

i. ZiG is backed by a composite basket of foreign currency and precious metals, mainly gold.

ii. The initial exchange rate of ZiG is set at 13.56 ZiG per US dollar (USD).

iii. The new ZiG notes and coins will be issued in the denomination of 1 ZiG, 2 ZiG, 5 ZiG, 10 ZiG, 20 ZiG, 50 ZiG, 100 ZiG, and 200 ZiG.

**About Zimbabwe:**

**President-** Emmerson Mnangagwa

**Capital-** Harare

**Currency-** Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG)

## **WHO Global Hepatitis Report 2024; Hepatitis is 2nd Leading Infectious cause of Death Globally**

i. On April 9, 2024, the World Health Organisation (WHO) in its 'Global Hepatitis Report 2024 -Action for access in low- and middle-income countries' during the World Hepatitis Summit (WHS) 2024, organized by World Hepatitis Alliance with the support of the Ministry of Health of Portugal, in **Lisbon**, from April 9–11, 2024, on the theme '**Integrate, Accelerate, Eliminate**'.

ii. As per it, there is alarming increase in deaths caused by viral hepatitis, making it the second leading infectious cause of death globally, after **Tuberculosis (TB)**.

iii. This is the **first consolidated WHO report** on viral hepatitis epidemiology, service coverage and product access, with improved data for action.

iv. Viral hepatitis claims 1.3 million lives annually, with 83% attributed to hepatitis B and 17% to hepatitis C.

v. It was developed by the **WHO Department of Global HIV, Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Programmes** (HHS) jointly with the Department of Health Product Policy and Standards (HPS), Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals and Department of Regulation and Prequalification.

### **About World Health Organization (WHO):**

**Director-General**– Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

**Headquarters**– Geneva, Switzerland

**Establishment**– 1948.

## **QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024: JNU ranked as India's Top University for Development Studies**

i. On April 10, 2024, the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) released the **14th edition** of QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024 which marked Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, Delhi as India's highest-ranked in Development Studies (20th globally).

ii. Music is the one new subject to be added to 2024 rankings.

iii. The edition featured 55 individual subjects across five broad subject areas viz. Arts & Humanities, Engineering & Technology, Life Sciences & Medicine, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences & Management.

iv. **Harvard University** of United States (US) topped the 4 broad subjects.

v. 69 Indian universities featured in the 2024 QS World University Rankings by Subject, with 424 entries, marking a **19.4%** increase from 2023.

### **About Quacquarelli Symonds (QS):**

**CEO**– Jessica Turner

**Headquarter**– London, United Kingdom (UK).

## **Israel Deploys C-Dome Defence System for First time**

Israel has deployed its ship-mounted defence system 'C-Dome' for the first time in Eilat, the southernmost city of Israel.

- The C-Dome is a naval version of the Iron Dome air defence system used to shield against rocket and missile attacks.

- On 8th April 2024, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) successfully intercepted the suspicious aerial target crossing into Israeli territory using the C-Dome defence system.

Note: The C-Dome Defence System was developed by the state-owned defence company Rafael Advanced Defence Systems.

### **Delhi airport Ranked 10th among World's Top 10 Busiest Airports in 2023: ACI**

i. The Airports Council International (ACI) World released its report on the 'Top 10 Busiest Airports Worldwide for 2023' with **Delhi Airport** (Indira Gandhi International Airport – IGIA) securing the 10th spot in 2023.

ii. Handling over **7.22 crore passengers** in 2023, IGIA experienced a slight drop from its 9th position in 2022, with Chicago O'Hare Airport surpassing it.

iii. Despite this, the airport exhibited a steady Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) growth of 20.36% from 2022, showcasing the robust recovery of the Indian aviation sector.

iv. It was ranked 9th in 2022, 13th in 2021, and as the 17th busiest airport in 2019, before the coronavirus pandemic.

v. **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL), United States (US)** regains title as world's busiest with 104.65 million passengers in 2023, yet remains 5% below 2019 levels due to pandemic recovery.

### **Skytrax World Airport Awards 2024: Hamad International Airport of Doha (Qatar) Named World's Best Airport**

**Doha's (Qatar) Hamad International Airport (HIA)** has been named the **World's Best Airport 2024** in the **2024 Skytrax World Airport Awards**, held at Passenger Terminal EXPO in Frankfurt, Germany on 17th April 2024.

- The 2023 Airport of the Year and 12-times previous winner, **Singapore Changi Airport** (Singapore) secured **2nd** place, winning Best Airport in Asia and the World's Best Airport Immigration Service.
- **Incheon Airport** (Seoul, South Korea) ranked **3rd**, winning the World's Most Family Friendly Airport for 2024.

#### **Note:**

Skytrax is the London, United Kingdom (UK)- based international aviation research organisation.

**About Skytrax:**

**Headquarters**– London, UK.

### **8 Indian Origins Featured in the Annual TIME100: Most Influential People in the World 2024**

**TIME**, the 101-year-old global media brand has revealed the 21st edition of annual "TIME 100 most influential people 2024" in the world. The list features a total of **8 people of Indian Origins** namely Alia Bhatt, Dev Patel, Sakshi Malik, Satya Nadella, Ajaypal Singh Banga, Jigar Shah, Asma Khan, and Priyamvada Natarajan.

- The TIME100 list, compiled by the American magazine TIME, recognises the impact, innovation, and achievement of the world's most influential individuals.

#### **About TIME magazine:**

**CEO**– Jessica Sibley

**Headquarters**– New York, USA.

#### **ACC Approves Appointment Nalin Prabhat as DG of NSG & Sapna Tiwari as Special Director of IB**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Nalin Prabhat as the Director-General (D-G) of National Security Guard (NSG) till the date of his superannuation (31st August 2028).

- ACC has also approved the appointment of Sapna Tiwari as the Special Director in Intelligence Bureau (IB) for 2 years from the date of assumption of charge or up to the date of her superannuation (30th April 2026).

#### **Nalin Prabhat appointed as DG of NSG:**

- He is a 1992 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre.
- He is currently serving as Additional Director General (ADG) in Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).
- He will succeed Daljit Singh Chaudhary, who has been serving as DG (additional charge) of NSG since February 2024 upon superannuation of M A Ganapathy.

- Chaudhary is serving as the DG of Sashatra Seema Bal (SSB).

#### **Sapna Tiwari appointed as Special Director in IB:**

- Sapna Tiwari is a 1992 batch IPS officer of Odisha cadre.
- She is currently serving as Additional Director General (ADG) of the IB.
- She was appointed as Special Director of IB (Level-16 in pay matrix) on an 'in-situ' basis by temporarily upgrading the post of Additional Director

#### **National Security Guard (NSG):**

NSG is a counter-terrorism agency of India and also, known as **Black Cats**. It is under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs. It is formed under **National Security**

#### **Global Military Expenditure recorded All-Time High of USD 2443bn in 2023, US Tops & India 4th: SIPRI Report**

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its report titled 'Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2023'. According to the report, the total global military expenditure increased for the 9th consecutive year to an all-time high of USD 2443 billion in 2023, an increase of 6.8% in real terms from 2022. This is the steepest year-on-year increase since 2009.

- The top 5 military spenders in 2023 are the United States of America (USA) (1st), China (2nd), Russia (3rd), **India** (4th) and Saudi Arabia (5th), which together accounted for 61% of world military spending.
- With a military expenditure of USD 83.6 billion in 2023, India was the 4th largest spender

globally. India's military spending has increased by 4.2% from 2022 and 44% from 2014.  
**iii.**In 2023, **North Atlantic Treaty Organization** (NATO) members, including the USA, collectively spent USD 1341 billion. This accounts for around 55% of global military spending.

**About SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute):**

It is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.

**Chair of the SIPRI Governing Board** – Stefan Löfven

**Director**– Dan Smith

**Headquarters** – Solna, Sweden

**Establishment** – 1966

**Former Australian cricketer Shane Watson launches a new book, 'The Winner's Mindset'**

Former Australian cricketer **Shane Robert Watson** launched his new book titled '**The Winner's Mindset**', published by HarperCollins Publishers.

- In this self-help book, he shares his mental journey, the lessons he has learned during his career, and the lessons that he is now passing on to the next generation as a highly sought-after coach.

**About Shane Robert Watson :**

**i.**He scored 10,950 runs and took 291 wickets for Australia across formats between 2002 and 2016. He retired from all forms of cricket in 2020.

**ii.**He was also part of the Australian team that won the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's One Day International (ODI) Cricket World in 2007 and 2015.

# Defence

## Indian Air Force Begins 10-Day War Exercise “Gagan Shakti 2024” in Pokhran

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has launched a 10-day war exercise named ‘Gagan Shakti-2024’ from April 1 to April 10, 2024, to display its prowess in executing high-intensity operations across India.



- The Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan; Bhuj in Gujarat; Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh; and other locations nationwide will host the exercise.

### Key Points:

- i. Gagan Shakti involves all air force bases and assets nationwide.
- ii. Fighter planes and helicopters will engage pseudo targets at Pokhran Field Firing Ranges.
- iii. It is the biggest IAF war exercise since ‘Vayu Shakti’.
- iv. The exercise evaluates the IAF’s readiness for intense operations.

The Indian Army is providing logistical support, including passenger trains named **Sanyukta Express**.

- It has facilitated a comprehensive pan-India movement of approximately 10,000 IAF personnel and ammunition in order to validate the Operational Rail Mobilisation Plan (**ORMP**) aspects of the IAF
- v. Over 11,000 sorties were completed during the previous ‘Gagan Shakti’ in 2018.

## SFC & DRDO Successfully Flight-Tests New Generation Ballistic Missile “Agni-Prime”

On 3rd April 2024, Strategic Forces Command (SFC) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the flight test of the New Generation Ballistic missile Agni-Prime (Agni-P) from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.



- The flight test achieved all the trial objectives validating its reliable performance.

### About Agni-Prime (Agni-P):

- i. It is a two-stage surface-to-surface, canisterised solid propellant ballistic missile.
- ii. It is equipped with dual redundant navigation and guidance system.
- iii. It has a range between **1000km to 2000km**.
- iv. It is the **6th** variant of Agni series missiles developed under Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (**IGMDP**).

**Note:** Other 5 missiles developed under IGMDP: Prithvi, Trishul, Nag, Agni, and Akash.  
v. The Agni-Prime missile is 10.5 metre (m) tall with diameter of 1.2 metre and can carry warheads up to 1.5 tonnes.

**Additional Information:**

In March 2024, DRDO successfully conducted flight test of **Agni-5** missile with **MIRV** (Multiple Independently-targetable Reentry Vehicle) technology under mission **Divyastra**.

**About Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):**

It is the Research and Development (R&D) wing of Ministry of Defence (MoD).

**Chairman:** Dr. Samir Vankatpati Kamat

**Headquarter:** New Delhi, Delhi

**Bandwagon-1: SpaceX Launches First Rideshare Mission**

On April 7 2024, Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (**SpaceX**) has launched the '**Bandwagon-1**', the first rideshare mission to low-Earth orbit at inclinations of about 45 degrees with a **Falcon 9** rocket from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) Kennedy Space Center, **Florida**, United States of America(**USA**).

**Key Points**

- Bandwagon-1 carries **11 satellites**, including KOREA's 425Sat, HawkEye 360's Clusters 8 & 9, Tyvak International's CENTAURI-6, iQPS's QPS-Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)-7 TSUKUYOMI-II, Capella Space's Capella-14 and Tata Advanced Systems Limited's TSAT-1A.
- A '**425 Project**' satellite for the military of **South Korea** was probably the largest of the 11 satellites carried by Bandwagon-1.

**Note:** The first 425 Project satellite, the one optical/infrared spacecraft was launched with Falcon 9 rocket in December 2023.

**About Falcon 9 rocket**

- It is the **World's First Orbital-class reusable rocket**, designed and manufactured by SpaceX which helps in safe transport and reduction of costs for space programs.

**Note:** India has listed the building of reusable rockets as one of its targets of Decade (2021-30).

**India gets 24 Igla-S Anti-Aircraft Missiles from Russia**

The Indian Army has acquired the first batch of **24 Russia-made Igla-S** Man Portable Air Defence Systems (**MANPADS**) along with 100 missiles, as part of an agreement involving domestic production in India.



- This will bolster the Indian Army's Very Short Range Air Defence (**VSHORAD**) capabilities.

#### **About Igla-S:**

- It is a hand-held defence system designed to bring down low-flying aircraft, identify and neutralise air targets such as cruise missiles and drones.
- The system comprising the 9M342 missile, 9P522 launching mechanism, 9V866-2 mobile test station, and 9F719-2 test set, it offers comprehensive air defence capabilities.
- Igla-S include a firing range of 500-6000 m, target altitude from 10-3500m, and capability to engage various types of targets.
- Its Target speed is- head-on: up to 400 m/s, and pursuit: up to 400 m/s

#### **Exercise "DUSTLIK 2024": India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise To Strengthen Bilateral Relations**

The **5th edition** of the **India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise 'DUSTLIK 2024'**, is being conducted from 15th to 28th April 2024 in Termez District, the Republic of Uzbekistan.

#### **Note:**

- Exercise DUSTLIK 2023, 4th edition of the exercise between India and Uzbekistan was held from 20th February to 5th March 2023 at the Foreign Training Node, Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand (India).
- The first edition of Exercise DUSTLIK was held in Uzbekistan in November 2019.



#### **Exercise DUSTLIK 2024:**

##### **Participants:**

- The Indian Armed Forces contingent of 60 personnel is being represented by **45 personnel** from the Indian Army (IA), majorly from a Battalion of the JAT Regiment, and **15 personnel** from the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- The Uzbekistan contingent comprising approximately 100 personnel, from the Uzbekistan Army and Air Force, will be represented by personnel from Southern Operational Command, part of South-West Military District.

##### **Objective:**

- To improve combined capabilities and promote military cooperation in order to carry out joint operations in semi-urban and hilly terrain.
- The exercise will focus on high degree of physical fitness, joint planning, joint tactical drills and basics of special arms skills.

# Appointments or Resign/Retired

## Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi sworn in as Egypt's President for the 3rd Term

**Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi** has taken oath as the President of Egypt for the third term in the New Administrative Capital of the country. The 69-year-old former army chief will continue with his presidential powers **until 2030** that followed constitutional amendments that extended presidential terms to six years allowing him to stand for a third election.



- He has won the election in December 2023 with 89.6% of the votes and with no major challengers.

**Note:** The \$58 billion **New Administrative Capital** is located in the desert east of Cairo and is the largest of the mega projects, which also include an expansion of the Suez Canal, extensive road building, and other new cities.

### Key Points:

- i. The presidency of Al-Sisi first came into power after the country's first popularly elected president, Mohamed Morsi was overthrown in 2013. He was then re-elected in 2018 with 97 percent votes in both the previous elections.
- ii. He extended the presidential tenure from four to six years and revised the constitution to increase the cap on consecutive terms in office from two to three.

### About Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi

- i. Sisi graduated from the Egyptian Military Academy in 1977 and then he served in the infantry. In 2010 he was appointed to the post of director of military intelligence.
- ii. Sisi became the youngest member of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) in 2011, a body of senior military officers that took over the governing of Egypt.
- iii. He was then promoted to the positions of defense minister and commander of the armed forces in August 2012.

### About Egypt:

**President** – Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi

**Capital** – Cairo

**Currency** – Egyptian Pound

## Sorin Investment Fund Chairman Sanjay Nayar takes over as ASSOCHAM President for 2024-25

**Sanjay Nayar**, the Founder and Chairman of Sorin Investment Fund has taken over as **President** of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (**ASSOCHAM**), India's oldest apex Industry chamber, for **2024-25**. Previously, he served as the Vice President of ASSOCHAM.

- Sanjay Nayar replaced Ajay Singh, Chairman & Managing Director(CMD) of Spicejet, who served as ASSOCHAM's President for 2023-24.

### **About Sanjay Nayar:**

- i. Sanjay Nayar has previously served as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Citigroup's Indian and South Asian operations and was a member of Citigroup's Global Management Committee and Asia Executive Operating Committee.
- ii. He established KKR India operations in 2009 after leaving Citigroup.
- iii. After serving as the CEO, Chairman, and Senior Advisor of KKR, he retired in April 2023.
- iv. He also served on the Asian investment and portfolio management committees of KKR.
- v. He also serves as Non-Executive Director at NYKAA, an Indian e-commerce company.

### **Affiliations:**

- i. A non-official member of the Board of Trade, a key advisory body to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) representing the private sector.
- ii. Advisor to the Board of the USA-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).

### **About Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM):**

**President**– Sanjay Nayar

**Headquarters**– New Delhi, Delhi

**Established in**– 1920

### **Shiny Wilson Nominated as a Member of Athletic Commission of Asian Athletics Association**

Former Indian track and field athlete **Shiny Kurisingal Abraham Wilson** was nominated as a member of the Athletic Commission of the Asian Athletics Association (AAA) for four years (2024–2028).

- She was nominated as a member in a virtual meeting led by the Chairman of the Athletic Commission, Mohammad Suleiman (Qatar).



### **About Shiny Wilson:**

i. Shiny Wilson won a silver medal in the women's 400m race event at the 1986 Asian Games in Seoul, South Korea.

- In the same tournament, she won the gold medal in the women's 4x400m relay event, along with P.T. Usha, M. D. Valsamma, and Vandana Rao.

ii. She clinched the silver medal in the women's 4x400m relay event along with P.T. Usha, G. V. Dhanalakshmi, and Kutty Saramma at the 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima, Japan.

- In the same tournament, Shiny also won a bronze medal in the women's 800m race event.

iii. Shiny represented India at the four Olympic Games, including 1984 Los Angeles (United States of America – USA), 1988 Seoul (South Korea), 1992 Barcelona (Spain) and 1996 Atlanta (USA).

iv. She became the first Indian woman to be the flagbearer for the Indian contingent at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

### **Awards:**

- i. Shiny Wilson was awarded the Padma Shri in 1998 in the field of sports.
- ii. She also received the Arjuna Award in 1985.

### **About Asian Athletics Association:**

**President** – Gen. Dahlan Jaman B. Al-Hamad (Qatar)

**Headquarters** – Bangkok, Thailand

**Established** – 1973

### **Fin Min appoints Justice PS Dinesh Kumar as Presiding Officer of SAT; Dheeraj Bhatnagar as Technical Member**

The Ministry of Finance has appointed Justice Pratidin Srinivasacharya (PS) **Dinesh Kumar**, former Chief Justice (CJ) of Karnataka High Court (HC) as the **Presiding Officer** of the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) for 4 years, or until he attains the age of 70 years.

- PS Dinesh Kumar succeeds Justice Tarun Agarwala, Who served as the Presiding Officer of SAT from December 2018 to December 2023.

**Dheeraj Bhatnagar**, former Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax (Delhi), was appointed as a **Technical Member** of SAT for 4 years, or until he attains the age of 60 years.

- Dheeraj Bhatnagar succeeds Justice MT Joshi, who served as member of SAT from March 2019 to February 2023.

**Note:** Since December 2023, SAT has been functioning with just one technical member, Meera Swarup, who joined SAT in 2022.

### **About Justice PS Dinesh Kumar:**

- i. He started Practice in the High Court of Karnataka in 1990.
- ii. He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Karnataka HC in January 2015 and as Permanent Judge in December 2016.
- iii. He served as the chief justice of the Karnataka HC from 3rd to 24th February 2024.

### **About Dheeraj Bhatnagar:**

- i. In 2022, he was appointed as Chief Commissioner of Income Tax (CCIT) (OSD) in the office of Principal CCIT Delhi Region.
- ii. He also served as Additional Secretary to the Government of India at the Ministry of Finance.

### **About SAT:**

- i. SAT is a statutory body established under the provisions of Section 15K of the SEBI Act, 1992.
- ii. SAT hears and disposes of appeals against orders passed by regulatory bodies like SEBI, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

### **Composition of SAT:**

As per section 15 (L) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Act, a SAT Bench is supposed to consist of 3 members:

- A presiding officer, who will be a retired/sitting judge of the Supreme Court or High Court; and
- 2 members – one judicial and one technical.

**Note:** The Presiding Officer of SAT shall be appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India or his nominee.

### **Wipro Appoints Srini Pallia as CEO & Managing Director**

**Srinivas (Srini) Pallia** was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of Wipro Limited, effective from 7th April 2024.

Srinivas Pallia succeeds **Thierry Delaporte**, who served as the CEO and MD from June 2020 to April 2024.

- He has been working at Wipro for 32 years since he joined as a product manager in 1992.
- He also worked as the CEO of Americas 1, one of the strategic units of Wipro.
- He is also a member of the Wipro Executive Board (WEB).

### **Simon Harris elected as New Prime Minister of Ireland**

**Simon Harris** (37 years old), leader of Fine Gael party, was elected as the New Taoiseach (Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland) by the member of the Dáil (Irish parliament).

- He received the seal of office from President of Ireland Michael D Higgins and was officially installed as Taoiseach on 9th April 2024.
- He succeeded **Leo Varadkar**, who resigned as Fine Gael leader and Taoiseach in March 2024.

#### **Note:**

i. With this, Harris becomes the **youngest PM** of the **Republic of Ireland**.

ii. He is set to hold the post till general election which is set to be held in **March 2025**.

#### **Points to note:**

i. The members of Dáil, the Parliament of Ireland, voted 88 to 69 in favour of Simon Harris becoming Taoiseach.

ii. The 3 party-coalition government (Fine Gael party, Fianna Fáil and the Green Party) has been in power since 2020.

iii. This is the 3rd time the coalition government has changed the Taoiseach in less than 4 years.

#### **About Simon Harris**

i. He became the youngest Teachta Dála (TD), a member of Dáil Éireann (the lower house of the Irish parliament) in 2011, at the age of 24.

ii. He served as the Minister in the government of Ireland since 2016.

iii. He served as Minister for Health (2016 to 2020) and Minister of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science from 2020 to April 2024.

### **India's Jagjit Pavadia Re-elected for a third term to the International Narcotics Control Board**

India's **Jagjit Pavadia** was re-elected as a member of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for the third term from 2025 to 2030.

- She previously served as a member of INCB for two terms: 2015–2020 and 2020–2025. She also served as President of the INCB for 2021–2022.
- INCB is the independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body for the implementation of the **United Nations (UN)** international drug control conventions.
- India was also elected as a member of the key UN bodies including the Commission on the Status of Women for the term 2025-2029; Executive Board of the UNICEF/UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS/ UN Women/ WFP for the term 2025-2027.



### **About UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):**

**President** – Paula Narváez

**Members** – 54 (including India)

**Established** – 1945

### **USISPF appoints Former Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj as Chair of US-India Tax Forum**

Tarun Bajaj, Former Revenue and Economic Affairs Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, was appointed as the Chair of the United States (US)-India Tax Forum of the United States-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).

i. Tarun Bajaj, a 1988 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, who retired from service in November 2022.

ii. He is also serving as Independent Director on the board of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) since December 2023.

iii. He joined as an adviser to the Board of Directors of USISPF in January 2024.

#### **Note:**

i. USISPF is a not-for-profit institution dedicated to strengthening partnerships between the United States of America (USA) and India.

ii. The US-India Tax Forum acts as a platform for firms doing business in the US-India corridor to engage with relevant government officials on tax issues and others.

### **SC Judge Anirudhha Bose Retired; Appointed as Director of NJA**

On 10th April 2024, Justice **Anirudhha Bose** retired from the Supreme Court (SC) of India. He has been serving as the SC Judge since 2019.

- He was appointed as **Director** of the National Judicial Academy (NJA) which offers training programmes to aid the judges in their judging role and in performance of court administration work.

#### **About Justice Anirudhha Bose:**

- i. He enrolled with the Bar Council of West Bengal as an advocate in October 1985.
- ii. After serving as an advocate for about 19 years in the Calcutta High Court (HC), he was elevated to the High Court Bench as a Permanent Judge in 2004.
- iii. In 2018, he was appointed as the Chief Justice (CJ) of Jharkhand HC.
- iv. He was appointed as a judge of the SC in May 2019.

#### **Additional info:**

- i. The Director of NJA is appointed by the Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India (CJI) and Chairman of NJA.
- ii. The CJI is the Chairman of the General Body, Governing Council, the Executive Committee, and the Academic Council of NJA.

#### **About National Judicial Academy (NJA):**

NJA is an independent society, established in 1993 under the Societies Registration Act of 1860.

NJA is fully funded by the Government of India (GoI) and works under the directions of the Supreme Court of India.

**Chairperson**– D Y Chandrachud

**Location**– Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

#### **Vo Thi Anh Xuan Appointed as Interim President of Vietnam**

Vietnam's Vice-President **Vo Thi Anh Xuan** (54 years old) was appointed **Interim President of Vietnam** on 21st March 2024.

- Vo Thi Anh Xuan succeeds **Vo Van Thuong**, who resigned from the post of President on 20th March 2024. He has been serving as the President of Vietnam since **March 2023**.
- She will serve as the acting president until Vietnamese National Assembly (NA) elects a new president.

**Note:** Previously in 2021-2026 term, Vo Thi Anh Xuan held the post of Interim president of Vietnam in January 2023, before Vo Van Thuong was elected as President replacing **Nguyen Xuan Phuc** who resigned from the post on 17th January 2023.

#### **About Vo Thi Anh Xuan :**

- i. Vo Thi Anh Xuan hails from Tinh Bien District, An Giang Province, Vietnam.
- ii. She is an alternate member of the 11th Party Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), a member of the 12th and 13th Party Central Committee, and a delegate to the 14th and 15th National Assembly.
- ii. In April 2021, she was elected as Vice President of Vietnam. At the age of 51 becoming the **youngest Vice President** of Vietnam.



### **IMF Reappoints Kristalina Georgieva as MD of IMF for 2nd Term**

The International Monetary Fund(IMF) Executive Board reappointed Bulgarian Economist **Kristalina Georgieva** as Managing Director(MD) of IMF for a 2nd five-year term starting on **1st October 2024**.

- She has been serving as the 12th MD of IMF since 2019. Her current tenure is set to end on **30th September 2024**.

#### **About Kristalina Georgieva:**

i.Kristalina Georgieva worked as an Assistant Professor at the University of National and World Economy(UNWE) between 1977 and 1993.

ii.In 1993, she joined the World Bank (**WB**) as an environmental economist.

iii.She served as the Vice-President of the European Commission from November 2014 to December 2016.

- She also served as Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response at the European Commission and as Vice-President for Budget and Human Resources.

iv. She served as the Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of the World Bank from January 2017 to September 2019.

- She also served as the interim President of WB from February 2019 to April 2019.
- v.In September 2019 she was appointed as the MD of the IMF and became the 2nd woman to head the IMF after Christine Lagarde, who served as MD of the IMF from 2011 to 2019.

#### **About International Monetary Fund(IMF):**

**Managing Director-** Kristalina Georgieva

**Headquarters:** Washington D.C., the United States of America (USA)

**Established in** 1944, formed after the Bretton Woods Conference held in 1944 in USA

**Member nations-** 190

### **MoL & J Forms 6-Member Committee to Examine Issues of Queer Community**

The Ministry of Law and Justice (**MoL&J**) has constituted a **6-member committee** to examine various issues relating to the queer (LGBTQIA+ – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer/Questioning, and Asexual) community. The Committee is headed by the Cabinet Secretary, **Rajiv Gauba**.

#### **Background:**

In October 2023, the Supreme Court of India directed the formation of a six-member committee to examine issues related to the queer community in the case of *Supriyo v Union of India*.

#### **Members:**

i.Secretary of the Department of Home, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) – Ajay Kumar Bhalla

ii.Secretary of Ministry of Women and Child Development – Anil Malik

iii.Secretary of Department of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family

Development (MoHFW) – Apurva Chandra

iv. Secretary of Legislative Department, MoL&J – Dr. Rajiv Mani

v. Secretary of Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) – Saurabh Garg

**Mandate of the committee:**

i. The committee will formulate measures to ensure that the queer community does not face discrimination in accessing goods, services, and social welfare schemes.

ii. The committee will also examine ways to prevent violence, harassment, or coercion; involuntary medical treatments/surgeries for the queer community.

iii. This will also retain the flexibility to address pertinent issues as deemed necessary

**Additional info:**

i. The 5-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud refused legal recognition for same-sex marriages, deferring to Parliament for decision-making.

ii. The Court refused to strike down the Special Marriage Act 1954 for not allowing registration of same-sex marriages.

iii. The court also emphasised the need to protect LGBTQIA+ couples from harassment.

**Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi appointed as 26th Chief of Naval Staff**

Government of India (GoI) has announced the appointment of Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar (DK) Tripathi as the **26th** Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) of the Indian Navy. He is currently serving as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff.

- He will take charge from Admiral Radhakrishnan Hari Kumar, the present CNS who is set to retire **on 30th April 2024**.

**Note:** R. Hari was appointed as 25th CNS on 9th November 2021.

**About Dinesh Kumar Tripathi:**

i. Vice Admiral DK Tripathi was born on 15th May 1964 and joined the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy on 1st July 1985.

ii. Vice Admiral DK Tripathi, a communication and electronic war specialist, has had a long distinguished career in Indian Navy spanning over almost 4 decades.

iii. He has served as the Fleet Operations officer of the Western Fleet, Director of Naval Operations and as Principal Director, Network Centre Operations and Principal Director, Naval Plans in New Delhi, Delhi.

- He has commanded Indian Naval Ships (INS): **Trishul, Vinash and Kirch**.

vi. As the Rear Admiral of Indian Navy, he served as the Assistant Chief of Navy Staff (Policy and Plans) and the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet.

- He was Director General (DG) of Naval Operations from July 2020 to May 2021.

vii. He also served as Commandant of the Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala, Kerala.

### **Amitabh Chaudhry re-appointed as MD and CEO of Axis Bank**

The board of **Axis Bank Limited** has approved the re-appointment of **Amitabh Singh Chaudhry** as its Managing Director(**MD**) and Chief Executive Officer(**CEO**) for further period of **3 years** with effect from 1st January 2025 up to 31st December 2027.

- This marks his 2nd extension of 3 years. His previous extension came into effect from 1st January 2022.
- He has been serving as the MD & CEO of Axis Bank since January 2019.

**Note:** The re-appointment is subject to approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and approval of the members, in terms of applicable laws.

### **About Amitabh Singh Chaudhry:**

i. Amitabh Chaudhry started his career with Bank of America in 1987 and later joined Credit Lyonnais Securities in 2001.

ii. Before joining Axis bank in 2019, He served as the MD & CEO of HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company (HDFC Life) from 2010 to 2019.

iii. He has also served as MD and CEO of Infosys BPO from 2006 to 2010.

### **Other Appointments:**

The board of Axis Bank has also approved the re-appointment of **Meena Ganesh** and **Gopalaraman Padmanabhan** as its Independent Directors for a 2nd term of 4 years with effect from 1st August 2024 up to 31st July 2028 and 28th October, 2024 up to 27th October 2028 respectively.

### **About Axis Bank Limited:**

**MD & CEO**– Amitabh Singh Chaudhry

**Headquarters**- Mumbai, Maharashtra

**Established in** 1993

**Tagline**- Badhti ka Naam Zindagi

### **Usain Bolt named as an Ambassador of ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024**

On April 24, 2024, the International Cricket Council (ICC) named Jamaican sprinter **Usain Bolt**, an eight-time Olympic gold medallist, as the ambassador of the **9th** edition of ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 which will be played in **West Indies** and the **United States of America (USA)** from June 1 to 29, 2024.

- As an ambassador he will play a key role in promoting the event.
- Usain Bolt currently holds world records in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m with times of 9.58 secs, 19.19 secs and 36.84 secs.

**Note:** The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 will feature 20 teams competing across 55 games.

### **Former Wrestler Narsingh Pancham Yadav Elected Chairman of WFI's 7-member Athletes' Commission**

Former Indian Wrestler **Narsingh Pancham Yadav** was elected Chairman of the 7 member **Athletes' Commission** of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), the governing body of wrestling in India.

#### **Other Elected Members of Athletes Commission:**

- i. Sahil (Delhi)
- ii. Smitha AS (Kerala)
- iii. Bharti Bhaghei (Uttar Pradesh)
- iv. Khushboo S Pawar (Gujarat)
- v. Sweta Dubey (West Bengal).
- vi. Nikki (Haryana) will be the convener of the Athletes commission.



#### **Election of Athletes Commission:**

- i. A total of eight candidates contested for the 7 positions in the commission.
- ii. The 7 elected members of the commission chose Narsingh Yadav as Chairman of the commission.
- iii. The commission members were elected for a term of 2 years.

#### **Background:**

- i. In August 2023, United World Wrestling, international governing body for Wrestling, suspended the membership of UWW due to lack of elections.
- ii. In February 2024, UWW lifted the suspension on the WFI and mandated WFI to conduct elections of its athletes' commission before 1st July 2024 comprising active or retired athletes of no more than 4 years standing.

#### **About Narsingh Pancham Yadav:**

- i. He secured the gold medal in the men's freestyle 74 kg category at the 2010 Commonwealth Games hosted in New Delhi (India).
- ii. He won the silver medal in the 74 kg category at the 2011 Commonwealth Championship held in Melbourne, Australia.

### **Former Indian Cricketer Yuvraj Singh Named ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador**

International Cricket Council (ICC) has named former Indian Cricketer **Yuvraj Singh** as the **ambassador** of the **ICC Men's Twenty20 International (T20I) World Cup 2024** which is set to be hosted by the United States of America (USA) and the West Indies from 1st to 29th June 2024.

- Yuvraj Singh joins West Indies cricketer **Chris Gayle**, and Jamaican Athlete **Usain Bolt** (8-time Olympic Gold Medallist) as the first ambassadors of the 2024 T20 World Cup.

**Sana Mir**, Former Pakistan women's cricketer, has been named the ambassador of the **ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier 2024**, being held in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 25th April to 7th May 2024.

#### **About International Cricket Council (ICC):**

**Chairman**– Greg Barclay

**Headquarters**– Dubai, United Arab Emirates(UAE).

**Pakistan's Foreign Minister Mohammed Ishaq Dar appointed as Deputy PM**

Mohammed Ishaq Dar, who is presently serving as the minister of foreign affairs, was appointed as the **deputy Prime Minister** (PM). He was appointed by Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif with immediate effect.

He becomes the first Deputy PM of Pakistan since Pervaiz Elahi, who served as Deputy PM from 2012 to 2013. The post has been vacant since 2013 to 2024.

- He is a chartered accountant by profession and belongs to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (**PML-N**) party.
- He served as finance minister from 1998 to 1999, 2013 to 2017, and then from 2022 to 2023.

## Honours/ Awards

### Hockey India 6th Annual Awards: Hardik Singh & Salima Tete Wins Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of Year 2023

Indian Field Hockey Player & Vice- captain of the Indian Hockey men's team, **Hardik Singh** was honored with the Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of the Year 2023 (Men) at the Hockey India 6th Annual Awards 2023 event held in New Delhi, Delhi.

- Indian field hockey player **Salima Tete** was honoured with Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for the Player of the year 2023 ( women).
- The Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of the year (both men and women) carries a cash prize of **Rs 25,00,000**.

**Note:** This marks Hardik Singh 2nd Hockey India Player of Year award and he previously won the award in 2022.

#### About Hardik Singh

i.Hardik is the recipient of (Fédération Internationale de Hockey) International Hockey Federation (FIH) Player of the year Award Men 2023.

ii.He also won **Arjuna Award** in 2021 for his contribution in the field of Hockey.

#### About Salima Tete

i.Salima Tete was appointed as **the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) Athletes Ambassador** from India for a term of two years between 25th March 2023, to 25th March 2025.

#### Winners of Hockey India 6th Annual Awards:

Awards	Winner	Cash Prize
Hockey India Balbir Singh Senior Award for the Player of the Year (Men)	Hardik Singh	Rs 25 lakhs
Hockey India Balbir Singh Senior Award for the Player of the	Salima Tete	Rs 25 lakhs
Hockey India Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year	PR Sreejesh	Rs 5 lakhs

### Renowned Kannada Poet Mamta G. Sagar Won WOW World Literature Prize

A renowned **Kannada poet**, writer, and an activist **Mamta G. Sagar** won the **WOW World Literary Prize** from the World Organization of Writers (**WOW**) for her contributions to the world of literature. She is a facilitator at the Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design, and Technology, Bengaluru (Karnataka).

- The award ceremony was held as part of the VII World Literary Festival “**WOW-LIFFT-2024**” held in Nigeria, Abuja from April 4-6, 2024.
- The award includes a gold medal, a cash prize, and a book publishing agreement.

### About Mamta G. Sagar:

i. Before joining as a Professor at Srishti Manipal Institute of Arts, Design and Technology in 2016, she taught at Hyderabad University and Bangalore University.

ii. Her poems and research have been published internationally, and her poems have been translated into many Indian and foreign languages.

### Notable Works:

i. She has 4 collections of poems to her credit.

- Kaada Navilina Hejje (Footsteps of the Wild Peacock, 1992);
- Nadiya Neerina Teva (Dampness of the River Water, 1999);
- Hiige HaaLeya Maile HaaDu (Like This on the Page the Song, 2007);
- Hide & Seek (2014).

ii. Her noted works include Chukki Chukki Chandakki (1999), musical play for children; The Swing of Desire, the translation of Kannada play Mayye Bhaara Manave Bhaara (2004), etc.,

### Awards/Honours:

Sanchi Honnamma Kavya Prashasti (2019); Bhashabharathi Translation Award (2019); and Charles Wallace India Trust fellowship (2015) at the British Centre for Literary Translation, University of East Anglia, United Kingdom (UK).

### About WOW World Literature Prize:

i. “WOW World Literary Prize” was established by the WOW as the successor to the literary prize “Golden LiffT” (presented from 2016 to 2023).

### INS Sharda Awarded ‘On The Spot Unit Citation 23-24’ For Anti Piracy Operations

On April 8 2024, during his visit to Southern Naval Command(SNC), Kochi(Kerala), Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff (**CNS**), awarded ‘**On the Spot Unit Citation 23-24**’ to Indian Naval Ships (**INS**) **Sharda** for successful conduct of antipiracy operations.

- The ship was involved in the safe release of all 19 crew members (11 Iranian and 08 Pakistani) of Iranian fishing vessel **Omari** which was held hostage by pirates off the East coast of Somalia on 2nd February 2024.



**Ten countries including India shoulder two-thirds of the global Hepatitis burden, WHO report**

**Note:** INS Sharda (P55) is a Sukanya class patrol vessel of the Indian Navy which was commissioned on 27 October 1991.

### **Harvard Honored Avantika Vandanapu ‘South Asian Person of the Year’**

On 9th April 2024, The Indian-American actress **Avantika Vandanapu** was honored the ‘**South Asian Person of the Year**’ by the South Asian Association (SAA) at **Harvard University**, Cambridge, Massachusetts, **USA** (United States of America).

- She was recognised for her achievements and significant impact in both the international and Indian entertainment industries.

### **About Avantika Vandanapu**

- i. Avantika was born on 25th January 2005 in California, USA, to an Indian family hailing from Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ii. She made her debut as child artist and starred in Telugu films like Brahmotsavam and Manamantha.
- iii. She has first lead role Disney original movie ‘Spin’ (2021) and later starred in Netflix’s ‘Senior Year’ (2022).
- iii. She also made her debut in Indian OTT(Over-the-top) series ‘**Big Girls Don’t Cry**’ (2024).

### **Indian Microbiologist Gagandeep Kang Honoured with John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award 2024**

On 11th April 2024, The Toronto (Canada) based Gairdner Foundation honoured Indian microbiologist and virologist **Gagandeep Kang** with the **John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award 2024** for her achievements in global health research. She is the **first Indian woman** to get this award.

**Reason for Award:** She was honoured for her extensive cohort-based epidemiological, environmental and clinical trial research on enteric diseases in children and their effects on life course, with a significant impact on vaccine development and health policy in India and internationally

**Note:** This was a part of the **2024 Canada Gairdner Awards** which celebrates the world’s best biomedical and global health researchers.

### **About Gagandeep Kang:**

- i. Gagandeep Kang is an adjunct professor at Christian Medical College(CMC), Vellore, Tamil Nadu.
- ii. She is also the Director of enteric, diagnostics, genomics and epidemiology at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- iii. She has contributed to the development and introduction of two Indian rotavirus vaccines: **Rotavac and Rotasiil**, into the National Immunisation Program.

### **About John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award:**

The John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award is annually awarded to the researchers who used rational, scientifically based research which has improved the health and well-being of people who face health inequities across the globe.

### **25th Laureus World Sports Awards 2024: Novak Djokovic & Aitana Bonmati Win Top Honours**

**Novak Djokovic**, the World No.1 tennis player (as of 22 April 2024) from Serbia, was honoured with the **Laureus World Sportsman of the Year 2024** award at the Laureus World Sports Awards 2024.

- **Aitana Bonmatí**, a Spanish professional footballer who plays for Barcelona Football club (FC) and Spain women's national team won the **Laureus Sportswoman of the Year 2024** award.

#### **Award Ceremony:**

- i. The 2024 Laureus World Sports Awards winners were honoured in a ceremony held at the Palacio de Cibeles, in the centre of Madrid, Spain on 22 April 2024.
- ii. The 2024 award honours the greatest sportsmen, sportswomen and teams from 2023.

### **World Energy Leadership Awards 2024: Dr Sultan Al Jaber**

On 22nd April 2024, **Dr Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber**, President of 28th Conference of the Parties (**COP28**) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**) won the **Global Energy Transition Impact Award** for his leadership in advancing energy transition.

- The awards was presented as a part of the **inaugural World Energy Leadership Awards** (2024) presented by the World Energy Council (**WEC**).
- The inaugural Awards were presented ahead of the **26th World Energy Congress (WEC 2024)** which is scheduled to be held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands from 22nd to 25th April 2024 under the theme 'Redesigning energy for people and planet'.

**Note:** Dr Al-Jaber is also the United Arab Emirates (UAE)'s Special Envoy for Climate Change, and Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology.

#### **Global Energy Transition Impact Award:**

- i. The inaugural 'Global Energy Transition Impact Award' recognizes visionary leadership in advancing the energy transition and in uniting the world around the historic UAE Consensus
- ii. Global Energy Transition Impact Award is one of the 4 inaugural World Energy Leadership Awards
- iii. The award was given to Dr Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber in honor of his work on the UAE Consensus, and for launching Net Zero energy transition alliances across multiple energy sectors.

### **Ratan Tata Honoured with KISS Humanitarian Award 2021**

**Ratan Tata**, Chairman Emeritus of the Tata Group, received the esteemed Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (**KISS**) **Humanitarian Award for 2021** at his residence in Mumbai, Maharashtra. This recognition underscores his dedication to social progress and exemplary

corporate leadership.

**Key People:**

The award was presented to Ratan Tata by Dr. Achyuta Samanta, the Founder of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), and KISS in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, in the presence of Tata Group Chairman N. Chandrasekaran and three-time Grammy Award-winning Indian musician Ricky Kej.

**About KISS Humanitarian Award:**

i. KISS Humanitarian Award, initiated in 2008 by Dr. Achyuta Samanta, is the highest honour of KIIT and KISS.

ii. The award acknowledges individuals and organizations worldwide for their humanitarian contributions, with past recipients including global leaders and Nobel laureates.

**Note:**

i. Tata was unable to receive the award in 2021 due to COVID pandemic.

ii. The 2022 award was presented to **Rachel Ruto**, the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya and the 2023 award was presented to **Bill Gates**, Former CEO of Microsoft.

# Sports

## Badminton: India's Anupama Upadhyaya Wins Women's Singles Title at Orlen Polish Open 2024

India's **Anupama Upadhyaya** defeats Tanya Hemanth (India) to win the women's singles title of the Orlen Polish Open 2024, held from 20th to 24 March 2024 in Wilanow Sports Centre, Warsaw, Poland.



- It was Anupama's fifth international women's singles title.
- The Indian pair **M.R. Arjun and Dhruv Kapila** won the men's doubles title by defeating Denmark's William Kryger Boe and Christian Faust Kjær in the finals.

### Other Winners:

i. Denmark's Victor Ørding Kauffmann won the men's singles title by defeating Jia Heng Jason Teh (Singapore) in the finals.

- India's Darshan Pujari lost in the semifinals against Jia Heng Jason Teh.
- ii. Yin-Hui Hsu and Jhih Yun Lin (Chinese Taipei) clinched the women's doubles title by defeating Denmark's Amalie Cecilie Kudsk and Signe Schulz in the finals.
- iii. Ty Alexander Lindeman and Josephine Wu of Canada won the mixed doubles title by defeating Callum Hemming and Estelle Van Leeuwen of England.

### About Polish Open 2024:

- i. The 46th edition of the Polish Open, an International Challenge event was organized by the Polish Badminton Association with sanctions from Badminton Europe and the Badminton World Federation (BWF).
- ii. It offered a total prize money of USD 15,000.

## Tennis: Italy's Jannik Sinner won the Men's Singles title at Miami Open 2024

Italian tennis player **Jannik Sinner** won the **Men's Singles title** at the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) **Miami Open 2024** by defeating Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria in the finals held at the Hard Rock Stadium, Miami Gardens, Florida, the United States of America (USA).



- He became the **first Italian** to win the Miami Open.
- This is his 1st trophy at the **hard-court** event and his 2nd ATP Masters 1000 title overall.

### About Miami Open 2024:

i. The 2024 Miami Open (Aka Miami Masters 2024), presented by Itaú, was held from 17th to 31st March 2024 at Hard Rock Stadium, Miami, Florida, USA.

- ii. Miami Open 2024 is the **39th edition** of the combined men's and women's tournament.
- iii. The Miami Open is classified as an ATP Masters 1000 event on the 2024 ATP tour and a Women's Tennis Association (WTA) 1000 event on the 2024 WTA tour.

#### **Points to note:**

- i. This marks his 3rd title of 2024 after the Australian Open 2024 (January 2024) and Rotterdam Open 2024 (February 2024).
- ii. He has won a total of 13 ATP singles titles, including a Grand Slam title at the 2024 Australian Open.
- iii. At present, Jannik Sinner is **ranked 2nd** in the Men's Tennis ATP ranking 2024.
- iv. Previously, he finished runner-up at the Miami Open 2021 and 2023.

#### **Women's Singles:**

**Daniel Collins** of the USA won the **Miami Open 2024 Women's singles title** by defeating World No. 4 Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan. This marks her first career WTA 1000 title and 3rd WTA Tour Singles title.

- In January 2024, Collins announced that she would retire at the end of the 2024 season.

#### **India's Bopanna & Australia's Ebden won Men's Doubles Title:**

India's Rohan Bopanna and Australia's Matthew Ebden won the 2024 Miami Open **men's doubles title** defeating Croatia's Ivan Dodig and USA's Austin Krajicek.

- This marks the pair's 2nd title in 2024 after winning the 2024 Australian Open.
- Currently, Bopanna & Ebden are ranked 1st and 2nd in the ATP Men's doubles ranking.

#### **Note:**

- i. Bopanna (44 years old) surpassed his record & became the oldest ATP Masters 1000 champion.
- ii. At the age of 43 he became the oldest ATP Masters 1000 champion by winning the Indian Wells title in 2023.

#### **Women's Doubles:**

USA's Sofia Kennin and Bethanie Mattek-Sands won the women's doubles title by defeating Canada's Gabriela Dabrowski and New Zealand's Erin Routliffe in the Women's Doubles finals.

- This marks Bethanie's 30th WTA Doubles title and Sofia's 4th WTA title.
- This is also the duo's 2nd win in the 2024 season, after Mubadala Abu Dhabi Open 2024, and the 3rd as a team, after Beijing 2019.

#### **Winners & Runner-ups of Miami Open 2024:**

Category	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Singles	Jannik Sinner (Italy)	Grigor Dimitrov (Bulgaria)
Women's Singles	Danielle Collins (USA)	Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)
Men's Doubles	Rohan Machanda Bopanna (India) and Mathew Ebden(Australia)	Ivan Dodic (Croatia) and Austin Krajcik (USA)
Women's Doubles	Sofian Kennis (USA) and Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA)	Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) and Erin Routliffe (New Zealand)

### **Mirabai Chanu Becomes the Only Indian Weightlifter to Qualify for Paris Olympics**

Saikhom Mirabai Chanu became the only Indian weightlifter to qualify for the Paris Olympics 2024 after finishing third in Group B of the women's 49kg division and 12th overall with a total lift of 184kg (81kg snatch + 103kg clean and jerk) at the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Cup 2024.

- The 2024 IWF World Cup is being held from 31st March to 11th April 2024 in Phuket, Thailand.
- The 2024 IWF World Cup is one of the two compulsory competitions to qualify for the Paris Olympics, another is the IWF World Weightlifting Championships 2023 that was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 4th to 17th September 2023.

#### **Key Points:**

- She has fulfilled the criteria for the Paris Olympics, which includes participating in two mandatory events and three other qualifiers.
- Mirabai is ranked second in the IWF women's 49kg Olympic Qualification Ranking (OQR). Only the top 10 players from each weight class in OQR will qualify for the Paris Olympics.

#### **About Mirabai Chanu:**

- Mirabai Chanu won the silver medal in the 2020 Tokyo(Japan) Olympics in the women's 49kg category.

- She was the second Indian weightlifter after Karnam Malleswari to win an Olympic medal.

ii. She was awarded the **Padma Sri** in 2018 in the field of sports.

iii. She was also honoured with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in 2018.

**Note:** The 2024 Paris Olympics is set to be the third Olympic games for Mirabai Chanu after she participated in Rio 2016 (Brazil) and Tokyo 2020 (Japan).

### **Mitchell Starc, Usman Khawaja, Harry Brook Among Five Wisden Cricketers of the Year 2024**

The 2024 edition of the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack has revealed its Five Wisden Cricketers of the Year, highlighting exceptional performances in the world of cricket. They are Australia's **Mitchell Starc**, **Usman Khawaja**, and **Ash Gardner**, and, England's, **Harry Brook** and **Mark Wood**.

i. Australian Cricketer Travis Head clinched the 2023 Wisden Trophy for his outstanding 163 against India in the World Test Championship (WTC) final at the Oval in London, UK.

ii. Arjun Singh's photo of players Sanju Samson, Shimron Hetmyer and Dhruv Jurel all competing to take a catch during an Indian Premier League (IPL) match.

### **About United Kingdom (UK):**

**Prime Minister**– Rishi Sunak

**Capital**– London

**Currency**– Pound sterling.

### **Red Bull's Max Verstappen Wins Japanese Grand Prix 2024**

Belgian-Dutch driver **Max Verstappen** of Red Bull won the Formula 1 (F1) Japanese Grand Prix (GP) 2024 held at the Suzuka International Racing Course in Suzuka, Japan from 5th to 7th April 2024.

- Red Bull's Sergio Perez (Mexico) and Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. (Spain) won the second and third positions, respectively.



### **Winners of Japanese GP 2024:**

Position	Driver	Team
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull
2	Sergio Perez	Red Bull
3	Carlos Sainz Jr.	Ferrari

### **Highlights of Japanese GP:**

- i. This victory marks Max Verstappen's third Japanese GP title after winning it in 2022 and 2023.
- ii. He was also the second person to win three consecutive Japanese GP titles after Germany's Michael Schumacher (retired with Ferrari), who won them in 2000, 2001, and 2002.
- iii. The Japanese GP 2024 title marks Verstappen's third title of the 2024 season. He previously won the Saudi Arabian GP 2024 and the Bahrain GP 2024.

### **Badminton: India's Anupama and Tharun Win Singles Titles at Kazakhstan International Challenge 2024**

India's Anupama Upadhyaya and Tharun Manneppalli won the women's and men's singles titles, respectively, at the Kazakhstan International Challenge 2024 Badminton tournament in Uralsk, Kazakhstan, from 2nd to 6th April 2024.

#### **Indian Winners:**

- i. Tharun Manneppalli of Telangana defeated Soong Joo Ven (Malaysia) in the men's singles final.

- It marks Tharun's first title on the senior circuit.
- He was the runner-up in the Badminton national championship in 2023.

- ii. Former Junior World No. 1 Anupama Upadhyaya (Uttarakhand) defeated Isharani Baruah in the all-Indian women's singles finals.

- It marks her second international title in 2024 after winning the Polish Open (Poland).
- She has previously won the India International Challenge 2021, the Tajikistan International Series 2023, and the Polish Open (2022 and 2024).

- iii. The Indian pair Sanjai Srivatsa Dhanraj and Maneesha K clinched second place in the mixed doubles after they lost to Malaysia's Wong Tien Ci and Lim Chiew Sien.

#### **About Kazakhstan International Challenge:**

- i. The Kazakhstan International Challenge 2024 (officially known as Condensate Kazakhstan International Challenge) is the Continental Level (Grade 3) event of the Badminton World Federation (BWF).

- ii. It was organised by the Kazakhstan National Badminton Federation with sanction from the BWF.

**Note:** BWF major events come under Grade 1 while BWF world tour events come under Grade 2.



### **Former Tennis World No. 1 Garbine Muguruza of Spain Announces Retirement**

Spanish women's tennis player **Garbiñe** Muguruza Blanco, a **2-time** Grand Slam champion in singles and former **world No. 1** (in 2017), has announced her retirement from professional tennis at the age of 30.

- She became the 1st Spanish woman to win a Grand Slam singles title since Arantxa Sánchez Vicario (Spain) won the 1989 French Open in Paris.

#### **Notable Victories:**

**i.**Defeated Serena Williams (United States of America (USA)) at the 2016 French Open held in Paris, France;

**ii.**Defeated Venus Williams (USA) at the 2017 Wimbledon held in London, United Kingdom (UK).

- She remains the only player to beat both Venus and Serena in the finals to win a major title.

**iii.**3 Women's Tennis Association (WTA) 1000 titles (2015 Beijing (China), 2017 Cincinnati (USA), 2021 Dubai (United Arab Emirates (UAE)));

**iv.**She also won the 2021 WTA Finals by defeating Anett Kontaveit (Estonia) held in Guadalajara, Mexico.

## Obituaries

### Nobel Prize Winning Physicist Peter Higgs Passed Away

Nobel prize-winning **British Physicist Peter Higgs** passed away at the age of 94 in Edinburgh, United Kingdom (UK). He was born on 29 May 1929 in the Elswick district of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.

#### Awards/Honours:

i. In **2015**, he won the world's oldest scientific prize, the Royal Society's **Copley Medal** for his work on the theory of the Higgs boson or "The god particle".

ii. In **2013**, he was jointly awarded the **Nobel Prize in Physics** with Belgian Physicist François Englert.

- The award was "for the theoretical discovery of a mechanism that contributes to our understanding of the origin of the mass of subatomic particles".

iii. In recognition of his contributions to science, he was appointed as Companion of Honour in the 2013 New Year Honours List.

iv. In **2013**, he received the **Edinburgh Medal** of the Edinburgh International Science Festival (with European Organization for Nuclear Research (**CERN**)); and the **Nonino 'Man of Our Time' Prize**.

vi. In **2004**, he was jointly awarded the **Wolf Prize in Physics** with Robert Brout and François Englert.

vii. In **1997**, he was jointly awarded the **High Energy and Particle Physics Prize** from the European Physical Society with Robert Brout and François Englert.

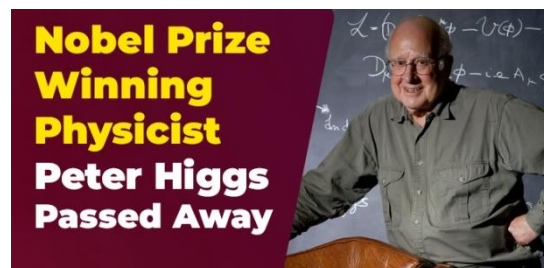
#### About Peter Higgs:

i. Higgs began his teaching career as a Temporary Lecturer in Mathematics at University College London, UK.

ii. He returned to Edinburgh in 1960, joining the Tait Institute as a Lecturer in Mathematical Physics.

iii. Over the years, he advanced through the ranks, eventually attaining a Personal Chair of Theoretical Physics in 1980.

iv. He retired in 1996, becoming Professor Emeritus at the University of Edinburgh.



## Important Days with theme

### World Autism Awareness Day 2024 – April 2

The United Nations (UN) **World Autism Awareness Day** (WAAD) is annually observed across the globe on **2 April** to raise awareness about Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and promote the realisation of human rights and basic freedoms for autistic individuals on an equal basis with others.



- **2 April 2024** marks the observance of the **17th** annual World Autism Awareness Day.
- The **2024 theme** of WAAD is, “**Empowering Autistic Voices**”
- WAAD 2024 event was organised by the United Nations Department of Global Communications (**DGC**), in collaboration with the Switzerland-based Institute of Neurodiversity (ION).

### Background:

- On 18 December 2007, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/62/139 and proclaimed the 2 April of every year as World Autism Awareness Day.
- The **first-ever** World Autism Awareness Day was observed on **2 April 2008**.

### 61st National Maritime Day – April 5 2024

**National Maritime Day** (NMD) is annually observed across India on **5 April** to highlight the significance of the national maritime sector in the development of the Indian economy, global trade, and economic exchange across countries.



- The day also commemorates the maiden voyage of SS Loyalty, India’s first Swadeshi Ship(owned by Scindia Steam Navigation Company) from Mumbai (Maharashtra) to London (United Kingdom) on 5th April 1919.

**5 April 2024** marks the observance of the **61st** National Maritime Day.

- **Merchant Navy Week 2024** (National Maritime Week) is celebrated alongside National Maritime Day 2024 from 30th March 2024 to 5th April 2024.

**Theme:** The **theme** of National Maritime Day/Merchant Navy Week 2024 is “**Sustainable Shipping: Challenges and Opportunities.**”

### Background:

- National Maritime Day was initiated by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW), Government of India
- The **1st ever** National Maritime Day was observed on **5 April 1964**.

### World Health Day 2024 – April 7

The United Nations (UN) **World Health Day** is a global health awareness day annually observed across the globe on **7 April** to draw attention to a specific health topic of concern to people worldwide.

- The World Health Day celebration has aimed to create awareness of a specific health theme to highlight a priority area of concern for the World Health Organization (WHO).
  - **7 April 2024** marks the **76th anniversary** of the **founding** of **WHO** in 1948.
- i. The **theme** for World Health Day 2024 is ‘**My health, my right**’.
- ii. NMC & NTF Launches “My Health, My Rights” Initiative for Medical Students and Professionals.

### World Homeopathy Day 2024 – April 10

**World Homeopathy Day (WHD)** is annually observed across the globe on **10 April** to raise awareness about homeopathy, a therapeutic system of Medicine, its principles, and its contributions to global healthcare.

- WHD also commemorates the **birth anniversary** of **Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann**, a German physician and chemist, who is regarded as the founder of homeopathy.
- **10th April 2024** marks the **269th** birth anniversary of Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann.
- The **theme** for World Homeopathy Day **2024** is “**Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family.**”



### 40th Siachen Day – 13 April 2024

**Siachen Day** is annually observed by the Indian Army on **13 April** to commemorate **Operation Meghdoot** launched by the Indian Army on 13 April 1984.

- The Day honours the bravery and sacrifice of the Indian Army soldiers serving at the highest and coldest battlefield in the world, the **Siachen Glacier**, a part of the Union Territory (UT) Ladakh, located in the eastern Karakoram range in the Himalayas.

**13th April 2024** marks the **40th year** of Indian Army’s presence at Siachen Glacier.

### Operation Meghdoot:



- i. Operation Meghdoot was an Indian military operation launched to secure control of the entire Siachen Glacier in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) (now in the northern Ladakh region).
- ii. It marked the first assault on the world's highest battlefield, resulting in Indian troops gaining control of the entire Siachen Glacier.
- iii. The escalation of Pakistan's activities in Ladakh prompted India to take action to safeguard its interests.
- iv. The Indian Air Force (IAF) played a pivotal role in this operation.

- The operation involved airlifting Indian Army soldiers, with IAF helicopters operating in the area.

#### **Points to note:**

- i. Both India and Pakistan maintain a permanent military presence in the region at a height of over 6,000 meters (20,000 feet).
- ii. IAF helicopters have been operating in the Siachen Glacier since 1978, flying the Chetak helicopters, the 1st IAF helicopter to land in the Glacier in October 1978.

#### **International Day For Monuments and Sites 2024 – April 18**

International Day For Monuments and Sites (IDMS) also known as World Heritage Day is annually observed across the globe on **18 April** to encourage local communities and individuals across the world to recognise the significance of cultural heritage in their lives, identities, and communities.

The **theme** for International Day for Monuments and Sites 2024 is “**Disasters & Conflicts Through the Lens of the Venice Charter.**”

#### **Background:**

- i. The International Day for Monuments and Sites (**IDMS**) was first established in 1982 by the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).
- ii. ICOMOS' establishment of IDMS was approved by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) at its 22nd General Conference in 1983.
- iii. IDMS was first observed in 1983 by UNESCO.

#### **About International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS):**

ICOMOS, a non-governmental organisation, was founded in 1965 after the adoption of the Charter of Venice.

**President**– Teresa Patricio (Belgium)

**Secretary General**– Jurn Buisman (Netherlands)

**Treasurer General**– Cyrill von Planta (Austria)

**Headquarters**– Paris, France

#### **National Civil Services Day 2024 – April 21**

National Civil Services Day is annually observed across India on 21 April to recognise and acknowledge the crucial role that civil servants play in the nation's development.

- National Civil Services Day is an occasion for civil servants to recommit themselves to serving the nation excellently.

- **21 April 2024** marks the observance of the **17th** National Civil Services Day.

#### **Background:**

i. In 2006, India's then Prime Minister (PM), Dr. Manmohan Singh inaugurated an event to mark the 'Civil Service Day.'

- All 61 All India and Central Civil Services, including 15 non-technical and 20 technical services, were collectively observing the day.

ii. The **1st** National Civil Services Day celebrations were held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi (Delhi) on **21 April 2006**.

#### **International Mother Earth Day 2024 – April 22**

The United Nations (UN) **International Mother Earth Day (or Earth Day)** is annually observed across the globe on **22nd April** to recognise the relationship between humans and nature in the ecosystems.

- The day highlights the need to protect and enhance people's livelihoods, counteract climate change, and stop the collapse of biodiversity.

According to Earthday.org, the **theme** of Earth Day 2024 is **Planet vs. Plastics**.

#### **Background:**

i. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/63/278 on 22nd April 2009 and proclaimed the 22nd April of every year as International Mother Earth Day.

- This proposal was initiated by the 'Plurinational State of Bolivia'.

ii. The first-ever International Mother Earth Day was observed on 22nd April 2009.

#### **World Book And Copyright Day 2024 – April 23**

**World Book And Copyright Day** is annually observed across the globe on **23 April** to promote the love of reading and the significance of books.

- The Day serves as a reminder of the importance of literature in connecting the past, present, and future generations across diverse cultures.
- The annual observance of the Day is led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

According to the various news sites, the theme of World Book and Copyright Day 2024 is **"Read Your Way"**.

#### **Background:**

i. UNESCO during the 28th session of its General Conference held in Paris, France from 25 October to 16 November 1995, unanimously declared 23 April to be World Book and Copyright Day.

#### **Why April 23rd?**

i. April 23rd marks the death anniversary of renowned authors such as English Poet **William**

**Shakespeare**, Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes, and Peru-born Spanish Inca Garcilaso de la Vega.

ii. UNESCO chose the date to honour the contributions of these literary figures and promote global access to books.

### **World Book Capital:**

Following the evaluation of the World Book Capital (**WBC**) Advisory Committee, the Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay has designated **Strasbourg (France)** as the **World Book Capital for 2024**.

### **15th National Panchayati Raj Day – April 24, 2024**

**National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD)**, (also known as National Local Self-Government Day) is annually observed across India on **24 April** to recognise and honour the establishment of the Panchayati Raj System and its pivotal role in decentralised governance at the grassroots.

- **24 April 2024** marks the observance of the **15th** National Panchayati Raj Day. The observance of NPRD is led by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR).

### **Background:**

- i. In consultation with the States, the Government of India (GoI) has decided to celebrate 24th April as National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD).
- ii. In 2010, then Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh declared the 24th April of every year as National Panchayati Raj Day.
- iii. The first ever NPRD was observed on 24th April 2010.

### **Why April 24?**

- i. The day commemorates the institutionalisation of the Panchayati Raj in India through the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992, which came into force on 24 April 1993.

### **World Intellectual Property Day 2024 – April 26**

**World Intellectual Property Day (World IP Day)** is annually observed across the globe on **26 April** to raise awareness and understanding of intellectual property (IP) and the significance of IP in fostering innovation and creativity globally.

The day also marks the anniversary of the establishment of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

- The **theme** of **World IP Day 2024** is, “**IP and the SDGs: building our common future with innovation and creativity**”.

### **Background:**

- i. In 2000, WIPO's member states designated April 26 of every year as World IP Day, to increase general awareness and understanding of IP.
- ii. The **1st ever** World IP Day was observed on **26 April 2001**.



### **Why April 26?**

i.26 April marks the day on which the WIPO Convention came into force in 1970.

### **About World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO):**

**Director General**– Daren Tang (Singapore)

**Headquarters**– Geneva, Switzerland.

### **International Dance Day 2024 – April 29**

**International Dance Day** or World Dance Day is annually observed across the globe on **29 April** to celebrate the art of dance, and its universal appeal, transcending political, cultural, and ethnic boundaries, and uniting people through the universal language of dance.

- The Day also commemorates the **birth anniversary** of the French dancer, and ballet master **Jean-Georges Noverre** (1727-1810). He is considered the inventor of ballet d'action or dramatic ballet.

The annual observance of World Dance Day is led by the International Theatre Institute (ITI), the world's largest organisation for the performing arts.

### **Background:**

In 1982, the International Dance Committee (IDC) of ITI established International Dance Day to be celebrated every year on 29 April, the birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre.

- The Dance Committee of ITI is the main partner for the performing arts of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

**Note:** Jean-Georges Noverre is also known as “the Grandfather of the Ballet” and “the pioneer of modern ballet”.