

Weekly Current Affairs PDF April 22 to April 16, 2023

Current Affairs PDF- April 22, 2023

NATIONAL

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches India's first heavy lift logistics drone

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the first of its kind heavy lift logistics drone, made by Odisha-based start-up 'BonV Aero', which has the capacity to transport 50kg over 10kms.

BonV Aero is an IIT Mandi, AIC CV Raman Global University Odisha and NITI Aayog-backed venture building Electric Aerial Vehicles for Cargo transportation.

The Chief Minister was present at the opening day of 'Odisha Skill Conclave 2023', where he also took a trial of the drone.

Start-up has successfully done a trial of this 'RM001' Electric Aerial Vehicle carrying 50-kilogram cargo at the altitude of 8000 to 10,000 feet in the Tawang of Eastern Command of the Indian Army forward post in Arunachal Pradesh and next a high altitude trial on 14,000 to 16,000 feet will be done," informed Co-founder and CEO of BonV Aero Satyabrata Satapathy.

And, In its next phase, the startup aims to develop its flagship platform 'RM002' that can transport 200 kilograms of freight over 40 kilometres,

These multi-utility Air vehicles are beneficial in the disaster response and the movement of any kind of cargo/ goods where surface logistics are either unfavourable or time-consuming consuming, if we talk about Odisha which is highly disaster-prone see the Cyclone and Flood on regular bases, it can be useful in that situation, it is also many times cheaper the current alternatives, so it will help to improve accessibility and efficiency of logistics solutions, especially in the remote and Hilly terrains, - Satyabrata Satapathy, the co-founder and CEO of BonV Aero said.

SPORTS

Star Sports signs Rishabh Pant as brand ambassador

Star Sports, the official television broadcaster of IPL 2023, has signed India cricketer Rishabh Pant as its latest 'Believe Ambassador'. The Network said it also has other current cricketers as its 'Believe Ambassadors' like Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, KL Rahul, and Shreyas Iyer.

With this, Star Sports has expanded its roster from two ambassadors in 2017 to six now with Virat Kohli continuing his association. The company said that the ambassadors represent different parts of the country as well as different IPL teams and it will work closely with them to grow the popularity of the sport

About: Rishabh Pant - Rishabh Rajendra Pant is an Indian international cricketer who plays for the Indian cricket team as a wicket-keeper batter. Having played all formats for India, he is best known for his consistency to score runs in Test cricket.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISRO Launches PSLV-C55 With 2 Singaporean Satellites For Earth Observation From Sriharikota

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launches its PSLV-C55 with two Singaporean satellites for Earth observation, from Sriharikota. The PSLV-C55/TeLEOS-2 Mission - the PSLV has placed both satellites in the intended orbit. As per ISRO chief S Somanath. The PSLV-C55 mission is a dedicated commercial mission through NSIL, with TeLEOS-2 as the primary satellite and Lumelite-4 as a co-passenger satellite. The TeLEOS-2 is a synthetic aperture radar satellite developed by the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) and ST Engineering for the Government of Singapore. It carries a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload, providing all-weather day and night coverage and capable of imaging at 1 metre full polarimetric resolution for Singapore. Lumelite-4 is an advanced 12U satellite developed for the technological demonstration of the High-Performance Space-borne VHF data Exchange System (VDES) by the Institute for Infocomm Research and Satellite Technology and Research Centre of the National University of Singapore. In December 2015, ISRO successfully placed the TeLEOS-1 satellite in the PSLV-C29 mission along with five other satellites of Singapore into a 550 km circular orbit

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

A Madhavarao set to be next CMD of Bharat Dynamics Ltd

A Madhavarao is set to be next Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), a PSU under the Ministry of Defence. He has been recommended for the post by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel on Monday. Presently, he is serving as Director (Technical) in the same organisation.

Madhavarao has been recommended for the post of CMD of BDL from a list of five candidates, who were interviewed by the PESB selection panel. Out of five candidates, two candidates were from Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and one each from BDL, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force.

Madhavarao is an alumnus of various educational institutes and universities. He has a B. Tech in Electrical Engineering, an ME in Electronics & Telecommunication, an MSc in Defence Studies, an MBA in Finance with a Master's degree in Management Studies

Shantanu Roy to become new CMD of BEML Limited

Public enterprises selection board (PESB) has recommended Mr Shantanu Roy for the post of Chairman and Managing Director of 'Schedule 'A' Company under the Ministry of Defence, BEML Limited. Currently, he is serving as the Director (Mining & Construction Business) in the same company.

PESB interviewed two others in the selection meeting including Anil Jerath, Director (Finance), BEML Limited, and Sanjay Som, Executive Director, BEML Limited.

Mr, Roy is an Electrical Engineering graduate from NIT Raipur. and an MBA in Financial Management, He has served as Executive Director of BEML Limited, responsible for the international business division, strategy & new initiatives, coordination, and northern region operations, before assuming his current position in February 2023. As a six sigma black belt certified professional, he is well-versed in various models of project financing,

mechanisms and processes for financial closure of large projects, international laws, arbitration rules, international legal & arbitration cases, and statutory & legal compliances.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Mother Earth Day

On April 22, people unite to celebrate International Mother Earth Day. The day is to focus on the responsibility to rebuild our troubled relationship with nature. It recognizes that “the Earth and its ecosystems are our home” and that “it is necessary to promote harmony with nature and the Earth.

The term Mother Earth is used because it “reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet we all inhabit.

The day is named International Mother Earth Day because Mother Earth, as it says in the resolution, is “A common expression for planet earth in a number of countries and regions, which reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet we all inhabit.”

History: International Mother Earth Day was established in 2009, by the United Nations General Assembly under Resolution A/RES/63/278. The Resolution was introduced by The Plurinational State of Bolivia and endorsed by over 50 member states.

This Day also recognizes a collective responsibility, as called for in the 1992 Rio Declaration, to promote harmony with nature and the Earth to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations of humanity.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Wing Commander Deepika Misra is first IAF woman officer to receive gallantry award

Wing Commander Deepika Misra was conferred the Vayu Sena medal by Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Marshal VR Chaudhari, making her the first woman Air Force officer to receive a Gallantry award. She was among 58 personnel who received the gallantry award during the investiture ceremony held in the national capital.

Wing Commander Deepika Misra is a trained helicopter pilot, qualified flying instructor and an instrument-rated instructor and examiner.

On August 2, 2021, Deepika Misra was tasked to undertake humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in response to flash floods in northern Madhya Pradesh. Despite the odds of deteriorating weather, strong winds and the nearing sunset time, Deepika Misra negotiated the challenging weather and was the first and only respondent to reach the affected area the same evening.

RANKING

Union Bank of India secures 1st Rank in EASE reforms index for Q3 FY-23

Union Bank of India, for the first time, secures 1st rank as per the report on EASE Reforms Index for Q3 FY 2022-23 published by Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

Enhanced Access & Service Excellence (EASE) is an initiative by the DFS (GOI) as part of the PSB Reforms Agenda and is currently under its fifth iteration which focuses on Enhanced Digital experience, Data - driven, Integrated and Inclusive Banking.

Union Bank of India has been doing well in areas related to building analytics capabilities for retaining and deepening relationships, effective credit monitoring, comprehensive digital collection management system, fraud resilience and cyber security, adopting modern technology capabilities for integrated banking experience, customer centric digital offerings, employee development and better governance measures which resulted the Bank to continue its momentum and for the first time Bank secures 1st position among all PSBs for adopting various reforms prescribed for Public Sector Banks.

The performance of PSBs is measured on five themes under EASE 5.0, in which, Union Bank of India has set the benchmark under the four themes i.e., "Digitally - enabled customer offerings", 'Big data and analytics', 'Modern Technology Capabilities' and "Employee development and Governance" by securing 1st rank amongst PSBs.

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NATIONAL

West Bengal tops list of States with most ponds and reservoirs: First-ever water-body census

India has 24.24 lakh water-bodies like ponds, and lakes, with West Bengal accounting for the most (7.47 lakh) and Sikkim the least (134), water-bodies according to the report of the first census of waterbodies released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti recently.

The report states, "24,24,540 waterbodies have been enumerated in the country, out of which 97.1% (23,55,055) are in rural areas and only 2.9% (69,485) in urban areas

The census defines a waterbody as "all natural or man-made units bounded on all sides with some or no masonry work used for storing water for irrigation or other purposes (example industrial, pisciculture, domestic/drinking, recreation, religious, ground water recharge etc)"

Waterbodies are usually of various types known by different names like reservoirs, ponds and bundhies etc. A structure where water from ice-melt, streams, springs, rain or drainage of water from residential or other areas is accumulated or water is stored by diversion from a stream, nala or river will also be treated as water-body, state the report. The waterbodies census was conducted along with the 6th Minor Irrigation Census for 2017-18. The results of the census have been released recently.

Andhra CM Lays Foundation Stone For Rs 4,362 Crore Mulapeta Port In Srikakulam

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy laid the foundation stone for the Rs 4,362 crore Mulapeta greenfield port in Srikakulam district, which is expected to completed within two years.

Besides the port, the Chief Minister also laid the foundations for a fishing harbour at Budagatlapalem, life irrigation project from Gotta barrage to Hira Mandalam reservoir and taking forward the works of Mahendra Tanaya river.

"I am proud to say that these four projects will change the face of Srikakulam district in the coming days," Reddy said addressing a public meeting at Naupada village, adding that the district is endowed with a 193 kilometre long coastline out of the southern state's total 974 km coastline.

Assam and Arunachal Pradesh sign agreement to settle boundary dispute

The governments of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh have signed an agreement for the settlement of an inter-state boundary dispute between the two States.

This important agreement was signed by the Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma and Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu in presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on 20th April 2023,

Today's agreement between the two States will end the dispute relating to 123 villages along the border and it has been done keeping in view the historical perspective, demographic profile, administrative convenience, proximity to the border, and the aspirations of the residents. Both the state governments have agreed that this agreement will be final with regard to these disputed villages and neither of the States will make any new claim related to any area or village in the future. After the agreement, a detailed survey will be carried out by the Survey of India to determine the boundaries of both states.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Vodafone Idea reappoints Kumar Mangalam Birla non-executive director

Kumar Mangalam Birla has rejoined the board of Vodafone Idea (Vi) as an additional non-executive director. The company's board of directors approved his appointment, which took effect on April 20. It also accepted the resignation of non-executive director K K Maheshwari from the board.

Birla had stepped down from the post of non-executive chairman of the company in August 2021 barely two months after offering his entire stake to a public sector or a domestic finance company. Birla handed over the reign to group veteran Himanshu Kapania.

Ravinder Takkar took charge as non-executive chairman replacing Kapania last August. Birla's appointment on the board signals the group's commitment to the company as it continues its efforts to find an investor. The company which is yet to clear vendor dues has also been in talks with banks for raising fresh capital. Raising funds is crucial for the company to make fresh network investments and arrest subscriber loss. The company also continues to bleed and in Q3 FY 2023 posted a net loss of Rs 7,990 crore.

RBI approves appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as deputy MD of HDFC Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as the deputy managing director of HDFC Bank for three years from April 19, 2023,

The RBI also approved Bhavesh Zaveri's appointment as HDFC Bank's executive director for a period of three years, with effect from April 19.

HDFC Bank, which is India's largest private sector lender, had recommended the two appointments to the central bank back in November 2022. It is appointing a deputy managing director five years after Paresh Sukthankar resigned.

Bharucha has more than 35 years of experience in banking and he has been associated with HDFC Bank since 1995. Before his new assignment, Bharucha was executive director responsible for wholesale banking. He previously worked at SBI Commercial and International Bank.

Zaveri, before being appointed as executive director, was group head—operations, cash management & ATM product. He joined HDFC Bank in 1998 in an operations function and moved up the ladder. Zaveri worked for Oman International Bank and Barclays Bank before that.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Civil Services Day

National Civil Services Day 2023: It is observed on April 21 every year to acknowledge the work of officers who are engaged in various public service departments in the country. This day is also a reminder for civil servants to run the administrative machinery of the country collectively and with a dedication to serving the citizens. And there is no official theme to celebrate this day. As we know Civil Service is the service that is responsible for the public administration of the government of the country.

Why is 21 April celebrated as National Civil Services Day: Its origin is related to the year 1947 when on 21st April Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, Home Minister of Independent India addressed the probationary officers at the All India Administrative Service Training School at Metcalfe House, Delhi. He delivered a powerful speech and empowered the Civil Servants to adopt the true role of national service leaving behind the past experience. In his speech he referred to civil servants as the 'steel frame of India'. The first such function was held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 21 April 2006. And from then April 21 has been celebrated as National Civil Service Day.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

13th Joint Trade Committee meeting of India and Thailand

India and Thailand held their 13th Joint Trade Committee meeting in New Delhi, co-chaired by the Director General of the Department of Trade Negotiations from Thailand, Auramon Supthaweethum and the Joint Secretary of the Department of Commerce from India, Indu C. Nair. This physical meeting marked the revival of the JTC after a 17-year hiatus.

Thailand is an important trading partner of India in ASEAN, with a total trade value of USD 16.89 billion in 2022-23, accounting for 13.6% of India's total trade with ASEAN. India's gems and jewelry, mechanical machinery, auto and auto components, and agricultural products, especially marine products, are crucial to Thailand.

During the meeting, the co-chairs reviewed the current status of bilateral trade and highlighted the need for identifying new potential products and priority sectors to expand trade between the two countries. They also discussed various market access issues and technical barriers faced by their exporters and agreed to address them through sustained bilateral discussions. India raised the restrictions it faced in exporting marine, poultry, and meat products to Thailand.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

PFC approves 633 crores loan for 5000 passenger EVs and 1000 cargo EVs

Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), a Maharatna company and the leading NBFC in Indian power sector, has sanctioned a loan of ₹633 crores to Gensol Engineering Ltd (GEL) for purchase of 5000 passenger Electric Vehicles (EVs) and 1000 cargo EVs. The passenger EVs will be leased to Blusmart Mobility Pvt. Ltd (BMPL) to expand its fleet of ride-hailing cabs.

The first tranche of the loan has been disbursed, and the first lot of EV cabs has hit the roads of Delhi.

The cabs were flagged off by Shri Ajay Tewari, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power and Shri Ravinder Singh Dhillon, CMD, PFC at a function yesterday. Rajiv Ranjan Jha, Director (Projects), Shri Manoj Sharma, Director (Commercial), Smt. Simmi R. Nakra, CVO and Shri Anmol Singh Jaggi (CEO and co-founder, Blusmart Mobility) and other Senior Officers were present on the occasion.

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NATIONAL

EC first time introduces Vote from Home option in Karnataka Assembly election

In Bengaluru, the Vote from Home option has been chosen by around 8900 persons who are above 80 years old or people with disability. The Election Commission has introduced this option for the first time in the Karnataka Assembly election to encourage electoral participation in Urban areas.

AIR correspondent reports, this is a first of its kind initiative by the Election Commission to introduce the Vote from Home option for those who cannot visit the polling booth due to age factor or due to disability. Such citizens had to submit a 12D form before April 17th at the booth-level office to avail the option. Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike will create a temporary polling booth at the residences of such voters opting to vote from home.

The officials will visit such homes four or five days in advance before the polling day of May 10. A Presiding officer, booth level officer, police personnel, and a videographer will visit such homes under intimation to the candidates contesting the election in such constituencies in Bengaluru. An envelope with the ballot paper will be given to the voter who votes in secrecy and puts it in the envelope. The envelope is sealed with the videographer recording the entire exercise. There are over two lakh voters in Bengaluru above the age of 80 or with a disability but not all have opted to vote from home.

Two-day Millet Mahotsav to begin in Jodhpur, Rajasthan

In Rajasthan, a two-day Millet Mahotsav will begin at Jodhpur today, April 20. During this period there will be interactive sessions between industry experts and micro food processing enterprises, SHGs, and FPOs engaged in food processing. Agri-food processing business opportunities, various schemes, incentives, and millets will also be discussed at the event.

An exhibition is also being set up at the Millets Fair being organized by the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries at CAZRI in which various millet-based products besides processing machinery will be displayed. Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Prahlad Singh Patel, and Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Kailash Chaudhary will be present at the closing ceremony tomorrow.

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches SATHI Portal & Mobile App

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has launched the SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication and Holistic Inventory) Portal and Mobile App to deal with the challenges of seed production, quality seed identification, and seed certification. It has been developed on the theme of Uttam Beej - Samriddh Kisan.

On this occasion, Mr. Tomar said that the government is constantly trying to overcome the challenges and difficulties faced by agriculture sector through various schemes and programmes and SATHI portal is a revolutionary step. Mr. Tomar said that seeds, pesticides, fertilizers and irrigation play a major role in agriculture. Inferior quality or spurious seeds affect the growth of agriculture and it also affects production.

SPORTS

Gary Ballance Retires from All Forms of International Cricket

The former England Test batter Gary Ballance has announced his retirement from cricket, just three months after resuming his international career with Zimbabwe.

Ballance, 33, played 23 Tests and 16 one-day internationals for England but last featured for the team in 2017 as he battled loss of form and struggles with mental health.

He was also caught up in the Yorkshire racism scandal, apologising last year to Pakistan-born Azeem Rafiq for "racist" language he had used towards his former team-mate at the county club.

He initially made his debut for Zimbabwe and played for them under a two-year contract. He later went on to play for England and appeared in 23 Test matches. Additionally, he played one Test, one T20I, and five ODIs for Zimbabwe, during which he scored five Test hundreds, including a score of 137 against the West Indies.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Chinese Language Day

Chinese Language Day is observed annually on April 20. The event was established by the UN Department of Public Information in 2010, seeking "to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six of its official working languages throughout the organization"

Language Days at the United Nations seek to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization. Under the initiative, UN duty stations around the world celebrate six separate days, each dedicated to one of the Organization's six official languages.

Why 20th April: The date for the Chinese day was selected from Guyu ("Rain of Millet"), which is the 6th of 24 solar terms in the traditional East Asian calendars, to pay tribute to Cangjie.

Facts –

- Chinese is one of the oldest languages still in use
- Chinese is the most commonly used mother tongue
- It's the only modern pictographic language
- It's considered one of the hardest languages to learn
- Chinese has different calligraphy styles

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

PM Modi inaugurated The first Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi today, April 20. The Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation will host the two-day Summit. The theme of the Summit is Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis. This global Summit will mark the significance and importance of India in Buddhism, as Buddhism was born in India. The prime vision of the Summit is to look into the teachings of the Shakyamuni Buddha that have been continuously enriched over the centuries with the practice of Buddha Dhamma. Delegates from about 30 countries will participate in the event and around 171 delegates from foreign countries and 150 delegates from Indian Buddhist organizations will take part. Eminent scholars, Sangha leaders, and Dharma practitioners from all over the world will attend the Conference. For the first time, prominent Buddhist monks from various countries will visit India and take part in the Summit. The discussions will be held on how to deal with contemporary challenges, with the help of Buddhist philosophy and thought. The summit will also be a medium to enhance the cultural and diplomatic relationships with other countries.

Prime Minister highlighted that in this Amrit Kaal, India has taken new initiatives on many subjects and the biggest inspiration for this is Lord Buddha. He said India has given Buddha to the world, and not war. He further stated that Buddha had given the solution centuries ago to the war and unrest that the world is suffering from today. He said Lord Buddha's way is the way for the future.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

RBL Bank launches digital fixed deposit for New- to-Bank customer

RBL Bank has launched an innovative Digital Fixed Deposit (FD) scheme available to new-to-bank customers. Now customers can book the Digital FD within minutes, without visiting the bank branch or opening a savings account with the bank. The digital FD offers investors an interest rate of up to 7.8% and a duration of 15 months to 725 days,

Benefits of the digital FD:

- The ability to track and administer FD digitally is just one of the many advantages of the online FD, which also includes inbuilt insurance coverage and a simple method for starting a savings account.
- The investor of FD may choose to purchase insurance protection through a Hospital Daily Cash Benefit policy, which provides daily cash benefits for medical costs.
- To access their fixed deposit receipts online, customers should download the RBL Bank MoBank App.

South Indian Bank introduces 2 flexible savings accounts for NRIs

For NRI customers, South Indian Bank has introduced SIB SEAFARER and SIB PULSE, two flexible saving accounts. With these products, NRIs now have the option to keep either deposits or the required minimum amount in their savings accounts. Healthcare personnel and mariners both now have access to flexible savings accounts, which proves that South

Indian Bank has been working to streamline banking requirements and offer top-notch customer service.

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Murali Ramakrishnan, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), South Indian Bank, said, "It has been our constant endeavour to provide our customers with banking products that fulfil their needs. Accordingly, our flexible savings products will offer targeted NRI segments with convenient avenues to park their savings. We are confident that SIB SEAFARER & SIB PULSE will lay the foundation for more such products in the banking domain. I'm sure these products will create a new & universal template for the way NRI depositors transact with banks."

About: SIB - leading private sector bank South Indian Bank is located in Kerala and has a presence across the country. There are 932 branches, 1154 ATMs, 121 CDMs/CRMs, and a representative office for South Indian Bank in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. A leader in technology-based banking, South Indian Bank provides a wide range of digital products and services.

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INTERNATIONAL

New York City tops the list of world's wealthiest cities 2023. Henley & Partners Report

New York has taken the crown of being the world's richest city, yet again, with the most millionaires in 2023, according to a report. The city has 3,40,000 millionaires, according to global wealth tracker Henley & Partners.

The city is followed by Tokyo and San Francisco Bay Area with resident millionaire populations of 290,300 and 285,000, respectively.

The report covers 97 cities across nine regions worldwide (Africa, Australasia, CIS, East Asia, Europe, the Middle East, North America, South Asia, and Southeast Asia) and includes most of the world's top wealth hubs.

The US dominated the list with four of its cities - New York, The Bay Area, Los Angeles and Chicago - making it to the list. China has two of its cities (Beijing and Shanghai) in the list. London has dropped to fourth place on this year's list with 258,000 resident high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs), followed by city-state Singapore with 240,100. In 2000, London was the top city in the world for millionaires, but it has slipped down the list over the past 20 years.

Note: From Delhi To Bengaluru: 5 Indian Cities also Make It To The List Of World's Wealthiest Cities 2023.

SPORTS

Harmanpreet Kaur becomes first Indian woman to be named Wisden Cricketer of the Year

The Indian cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur created history, as she became the first-ever woman from the country to be named among the Wisden Cricketers of the Year - a tradition dating back as far as 1889. Harmanpreet Kaur is the only woman in the list which comprises of England's Matthew Potts and Ben Foakes, New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell and Tom Blundell for their exploits in the English summer. Harmanpreet made her way into the list, thanks to her century at the Canterbury which led the India to their first ODI series win

in the English soil since the year 1999. The Indian captain smashed a stunning 111-ball-143, in the second ODI of the series where the women in blue whitewashed the hosts.

The 34-year-old followed this up by leading India to a silver medal in cricket's return to the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham where they lost to Australia in the final despite her fighting half-century.

Suryakumar Yadav named the Wisden Leading T20 Cricketer of the Year

Team India's explosive batter Suryakumar Yadav received a special honor. Surya has been included in the 2023 edition of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack as the Leading T20 Cricketer of the Year.

Suryakumar Yadav made his T20 International debut for India in 2021 at the age of 30. He hit the first ball of his international cricket career for a six, bouncer bowled by England star Jofra Archer

Last year, He was in tremendous form in T20 Internationals, hitting a total of 68 sixes, He scored the maximum 1164 runs in 31 innings of T20 International matches, with help of 2 centuries and 9 half-centuries. That includes a 48-ball T20 ton against England at Nottingham and a 49-ball T20 ton against New Zealand at Mount Maunganui.

At present, Suryakumar Yadav remains at number one position in the ICC T20 men's rankings with 906 rating points. Suryakumar's cricket journey has not been very easy. He made his debut for the national team after playing domestic cricket for 10 years.

OBITURY

Lucknow's Famous Nawab Jafar Mir Abdullah Passes Away

A well-known personality and Lucknow's famous Nawab Jafar Mir Abdullah passed away on Tuesday at the age of 73. He breathed his last at the city's Vivekananda Hospital. According to reports, Nawab Mir Jafar was suffering from a prolonged illness and was being treated at the hospital. - He was undergoing dialysis here.

He is survived by his brother Nawab Masood Abdullah and three daughters: Shirin, Nishat and Manrukh. Nawab Masood announced his death on social media after which condolences poured in from across the globe.

Abdullah acted in several movies, including Umrao Jaan, Gadar, Gulabo Sitabo, Ishaqzade and Madam Chief Minister, etc.

Born in 1951, Abdullah had worked as a medical representative for about two decades when he left his job to continue his father's business of selling antiquities. He was also awarded with the Yash Bharti Award in 2016,

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Tata appoints Randhir Thakur as CEO and MD of TEPL

Former Intel Foundry Services President Randhir Thakur has been appointed Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd.

Randhir Thakur has worked with Intel for more than 5 years and has been a global innovator in the semiconductor industry. According to the company, he has over 40 years' experience in global manufacturing and research and development.

He has previously held leadership and technical positions at Applied Materials Inc., SanDisk Corp, as well as STEAG Electronic Systems and Micron Technology Inc.

About: Tata Electronics - Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd (TEPL) was founded in 2020 as a greenfield venture of the Tata group with expertise in manufacturing precision components and has a roadmap that extends to semiconductor fabrication and packaging segments.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Liver Day

World Liver Day (WLD) is a global healthcare event commemorated every year on the 19th of April with the intent to raise awareness about liver disease in the general public. The activities conducted on this health awareness day are organised with the associations of various international and local governing groups. World Liver Day focuses on activities pertaining to educating people about the severity, early detection and prevention of liver diseases.

Being the second largest and most vital organ in the human body, the liver plays several functions that include but are not limited to metabolism, digestion, immunity, filtration of toxins, and storage of vitamins, minerals, glucose etc. Although the liver has the unique characteristic of self-healing, where it can regrow or regenerate after being damaged up to 60 to 70%, any abnormalities in the liver might lead to serious health complications.

World Liver Day 2023 Theme - This year, 2023, the World Liver Day theme is "Be Vigilant, Do Regular Liver Check-Up, Fatty Liver Can Affect Anyone." The theme focuses to emphasise the practise of regular liver check-ups, as fatty liver can affect anyone, irrespective of the risk factors such as obesity (overweight), insulin resistance (diabetes), and excess consumption of alcohol. Recent studies in India have shown 75% of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD; liver disease caused in patients who drink little or no alcohol) is observed in patients with low body mass index (<25 kg/m²).

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Union Minister of Steel Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia to inaugurate India Steel 2023 in Mumbai

The Union Ministry of Steel, in association with the Department of Commerce, Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and industry chamber FICCI is organising India Steel 2023, a conference and International Exhibition on the steel industry, from April 19-21, 2023, at the Mumbai Exhibition Centre in Goregaon, Mumbai. The event aims to bring together industry leaders, policymakers, and experts to discuss the latest developments, challenges, and opportunities in the steel industry.

The inaugural session of India Steel 2023 on April 19th 2023 will be addressed by Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel, Government of India, Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste, Minister of State for Steel & Rural Development, Government of India, Shri Nagendra Nath Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Steel, senior Government officials and distinguished speakers including, Mr Subhrakant Panda (President, FICCI), and Ms Soma Mondal (Chairperson, SAIL and Chair, FICCI Steel Committee), among others. During the event, an exhibition showcasing the latest products and innovations in the steel sector will also be held concurrently.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Utsa Patnaik selected for Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023

Utsa Patnaik, a renowned economist of national and international repute, has been selected for the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023.

The award is given every year by the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust. The prestigious national award honours outstanding social scientists selected by a national-level jury specially constituted for this purpose, from the nominations received.

This year, the jury unanimously selected Prof. Utsa Patnaik, according to a press release. The award will be given with a citation and a prize money of ₹2 lakh at a function to be held in Chennai. The date of this event will be announced shortly by the Trust.

About: Utsa Patnaik - She is a renowned economist of national and international repute who has made seminal contributions to the fields of agrarian studies, political economy, history of economic thought, and colonialism and imperialism.

She has authored several books and articles on various topics related to development economics, such as agrarian relations, peasant movements, food security, poverty alleviation, fiscal policy, trade policy, debt crisis, globalization, neoliberalism, capitalism, socialism, Marxism-Leninism-Maoism (MLM), Indian economic history, and world economic history.

Current Affairs PDF- April 18, 2023

INTERNATIONAL

Syria becomes world's largest 'narco-state'

Syria has witnessed a troubling transformation into the world's foremost narco-state, as its economic survival now depends heavily on the production and export of Captagon, also known as the "poor man's coke".

As per a report by ANI, This highly addictive amphetamine has become the primary lifeline of the country's economy, generating more than 90% of its foreign currency. The pervasive presence and profitability of Captagon in Syria have raised concerns about the devastating impact of drug trafficking on the country's social fabric, health, and security. Collins Dictionary provides a definition of a "narco-state" as a nation where a significant portion of the economy is reliant on the illicit trade of narcotic drugs,

Note - Captagon, a banned illicit drug recognized by the UNODC (2021), is a synthetic stimulant that combines amphetamine and caffeine. Originally introduced by a German pharmaceutical company in 1961 for medical purposes such as treating conditions like attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, narcolepsy, and depression, Captagon was later found to be highly addictive and detrimental to mental and physical health, leading to its prohibition.

NATIONAL

Kerala adopts Water Budget to tackle problem of summer water shortage, - The first of its kind in the country.

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

comes to the summers. And this has led to the state adopting a Water Budget — the first of its kind in the country.

The details of the first phase of the Water Budget in the state covering 94 grama panchayats in 15 block panchayats were unveiled on Monday by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

At the event, Vijayan said that the state was witnessing a reduction in water availability and therefore a water budget would be helpful in properly utilising the resource and preventing wastage.

Water experts welcomed the initiative and said it would help the state ascertain the demand and supply of the precious liquid resource and apportion it accordingly, as the problem was not one of availability, but of management.

The usage of water, so has to be regulated in accordance with its availability in an area. That is where the water budget comes in. It would lead to awareness among the public against unnecessary wastage of water and through that we can achieve water conservation.

DRDO Industry Academia Centre Of Excellence Inaugurated At IIT Hyderabad

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Industry Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) has been inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Technology - Hyderabad. This is the biggest such facility in the country. DRDO Chairman Dr Samir V Kamat inaugurated the facility at the campus of the IIT-Hyderabad at Sangareddy in Telangana. Speaking on the occasion, he said the centre will take up futuristic projects towards long-term directed research needed for DRDO. He said the DIA CoE IITH is the largest centre among all 15 CoEs in the country and DRDO team will work with IIT-H to identify the target projects in each of these domains and execute to complete in a period of 3-5 years.

The research cell, which marked the beginning of the collaboration between DRDO and IITH three years ago, has now been transformed into a Centre of Excellence. The CoE will have seven verticals of technology projects that will be undertaken at DIA-CoE at IITH. IITH director.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

CRED launches P2P UPI payments on its app

Fintech major CRED has launched peer-to-peer UPI payments on its app, allowing CRED members to transact with CRED members or non-members by searching their contact list and adding phone numbers, or UPI ids.

The service will be limited to CRED members. To become a CRED member, one needs to have 750 or above credit score. "While UPI has created a revolution in digital payments with a focus on utility, CRED seeks to move beyond being transactional- creating an elevated UPI experience for members. This experience hinges on making payments instant, secure, and rewarding.

The new payment experience has been introduced after the launch of Scan & Pay in October 2022. As scan and pay gain traction, CRED expects the number of merchants to grow. Now with the launch of P2P UPI payments, CRED members will have multiple payment options including offline payments (UPI P2P, Scan & Pay, Tap to Pay), online merchant payments (CRED Pay, CRED flash) and bill payments.

Himachal Pradesh creates India's first DNA database for unidentified bodies

Himachal Pradesh has become the first Indian state to develop a DNA database for unidentified bodies, according to media reports. The process of creating this database had started in April 2022. So far, the database holds records of 150 DNA samples of unidentified bodies.

The database comes as a relief to those families which keep running from pillar to post with photographs and other details in a hope to find bodies of their loved ones. The database with DNA details will help massively in such cases, Assistant Director (DNA), Directorate of Forensics Services, Junga, Vivek Sahajpal told media.

It would be easy to match DNA details stored in database with DNA samples of relatives. This will lead to the right identification of bodies within seconds, he added. The database would also assist in criminal investigation of heinous crimes, identification of disaster victims, missing persons, repeated offenders, etc.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Karnataka Bank appoints Sekhar Rao as interim MD and CEO

Karnataka Bank said that it has appointed Sekhar Rao as interim managing director and CEO following the completion of the term of the incumbent CEO.

Mahabaleshwara M S, the incumbent managing director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of Karnataka Bank, demitted the office on April 14, after successful completion of his second term of three years, the bank said in a regulatory filing.

Rao, Executive Director, assumed charge as an interim MD and CEO with effect from April 15, 2023, in terms of RBI approval dated April 12, 2023, it said.

He has been appointed for a period of three months or till the appointment of regular MD and CEO whichever is earlier.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Heritage Day / International Day For Monuments and Sites

The International Day for Monuments and Sites also known as World Heritage Day is an international observance held on 18 April each year around the world with different types of activities, including visits to monuments and heritage sites, conferences, round tables and newspaper articles.

The International Day for Monuments and Sites was proposed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) on 18 April 1982 and approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983. The aim is to promote awareness about the diversity of cultural heritage of humanity, their vulnerability and the efforts required for their protection and conservation.

World Heritage Day highlights a different theme each year that centers around a specific aspect of cultural heritage. The 2022 theme was "Heritage and Climate," while the 2023 theme is "Heritage Changes." The latter theme provides an opportunity to address issues related to understanding traditional knowledge and knowledge systems in the context of climate action. It also emphasizes the role of cultural heritage in supporting fair protection for vulnerable communities in climate action and responding to the UN Decade of Action.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Raj Subramaniam presented with Pravasi Bharatiya Samman

Raj Subramaniam, the Indian-American CEO of global transportation giant FedEx, has been presented with the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, the highest civilian award given by India to persons of Indian origin and Indian diaspora.

Subramanian, 55, was presented with the award by India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu at a ceremony at the India House on Saturday since he could not travel to India early this year to receive the award.

About : Raj Subramaniam – Raj Subramanian is the president and CEO of FedEx Corporation, one of the world's largest transportation companies. His international leadership experience and keen business insights have contributed immensely to the success of FedEx.

About : Pravasi Bharatiya Samman - The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman is an award presented by the Government of India to individuals of Indian origin and diaspora who have made significant contributions in their respective fields and have enhanced India's image in the international community.

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INTERNATIONAL

China's first satellite offering high-precision rainfall monitoring launched

China's first satellite allowing scientists to monitor the Earth's precipitation from space, Fengyun-3G (FY-3G), was sent into space on April 16. It is one of only three such satellites in the world. The satellite, which is dedicated to measure precipitation on Earth, will help Chinese scientists to predict precipitation more accurately.

With a lifespan of six years, the FY-3G is developed by an institute of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, and its ground system will be built and operated by the China Meteorological Administration.

The 20th member of the Fengyun series, the FY-3G will highlight the strength of China's low-orbit meteorological satellite constellation and significantly improve the early warning capability for global rainstorms, said Chen Zhenlin, head of the central meteorological observatory.

Qian Bin, the chief designer of the FY-3G, said the satellite adopts a low-inclination orbit, with an inclination of 50 degrees. It will provide precipitation data mainly within the range of 50 degrees north latitude to 50 degrees south latitude.

In the next six months, FY-3G will undergo in-orbit tests and meet the challenges of meteorological disasters such as rainstorms and typhoons in the upcoming flood season, according to the meteorological administration.

China currently has eight Fengyun meteorological satellites in orbit, providing data and services to 126 countries and regions.

NATIONAL

Bihu makes it to the Guinness Book of World Record

Assam's Bihu dance on Thursday made it to the Guinness World Records with a performance by 11,304 dancers and drummers performing the traditional 'Bihu' dance and playing the 'dhol' at a single venue, the Sarusajai Stadium in Guwahati. The Guinness World Records adjudicator handed over both certificates to the chief minister in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday evening, when the dance performance was repeated at the same venue. Sarma's office tweeted with the hashtag ModijiCelebratesBihu, "A sight to behold! Hon PM Shri @narendramodi Ji joins the beautiful cultural extravaganza as many dance together on the beats of #Bihu in #Assam. LARGEST BIHU DANCE IN A SINGLE VENUE."

Bihu is a vibrant folk dance form and symbolises Assam's culture and identity. The attempt to enter the record book for the largest Bihu at one venue was initially scheduled for April 14 with the Prime Minister in attendance but since the Guinness certificate would be handed over a day later, the mega dance performance was organised on Thursday,

President Murmu inaugurated the National Panchayat Awards Week

As India advances towards National Panchayati Raj Day 2023, which is celebrated on April 24, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is celebrating National Panchayat Awards Week during April 17- 21, 2023, as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav 2.0.

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated 'National Conference on Incentivization of Panchayats-cum-Award Ceremony' on April 17 and flagged off the National Panchayat Awards Week. The five-day event is expected to witness the participation of more than 1,500 delegates from across the country.

The Awardee Panchayats will be felicitated, and the award money will be transferred digitally to the Awardee Panchayats on this occasion. The various categories of National Panchayat Awards-2023 are as followed:

- Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSVP) for the performance under individual LSDG themes
- Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (NDSPSVP) for the aggregate performance under all 9 LSDG themes and green initiative related Special Categories
- Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar
- (iv) Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar

A booklet on 'Best Practices on Works of Awardee Panchayats' would be released by Union Minister Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and the first copy of the booklet will be presented to the President.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Hemophilia Day

World Hemophilia Day is a global healthcare event celebrated on the 17th of April every year, started by the World Federation of Haemophilia (WHF) with the intention to raise a

call for the government authorities and local policymakers for the provision of a better treatment and care in addition to promote better control and prevention with haemophilia. A rare severe, inherited haemorrhagic disorder, haemophilia is caused by malfunction of factor VIII and factor IX protein (factors required for blood clotting/ coagulation), leading to an abnormality in blood coagulation. Although people of all races and ethnicities can be diagnosed with haemophilia, men are more likely to be affected because the ailment is connected to the X chromosome. There is a 50% probability that a boy whose mother carries the haemophilia gene will also be affected by haemophilia, and her daughter being 50% risk of being carrier. Hence, haemophilia is more common in males, despite the fact that it can affect females causing difficulties with menstruation and childbirth. This year 2023, World Hemophilia Day 2023 Theme is "Access for All: Prevention of bleeds as the global standard of care", a call to local authorities and healthcare policymakers to emphasise the prevention, protection and availability of effective treatment care to all the persons affected with haemophilia.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

2nd Health Working Group meeting commence in Goa

The second Health Working Group meeting under the Indian G20 presidency begin today in Goa. The three-day meeting will be concluded on Wednesday.

More than 180 delegates from 19 G20 member countries, 10 invited states, and 22 International Organizations are participating in the meeting.

Shri Lav Agarwal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, briefed the media ahead of the 2nd Health Working Group Meeting. He highlighted health priorities and India's leadership role in the Global South. The 2nd Health Working Group meeting of G20 will have discussions on the Priorities which include Health Emergencies Prevention, Preparedness and Response, Strengthening Cooperation in Pharmaceutical Sector with a focus on Access and Availability to safe, effective, quality, and Affordable Medical Countermeasures and Digital Health Innovations and Solutions to Aid Universal Health Coverage and Improve Healthcare Service Delivery.

Several cultural programmes infused with flavours of Goan culture have been planned for the event to showcase India's rich diversity and culture based on the Indian philosophy of 'Atithi Devo Bhava'.

In a significant milestone, India assumed the presidency of the G20 on 1st December 2022. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled the theme 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', based on India's philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and reiterated that G20 India Presidency will be inclusive, action-oriented and decisive.

5-day Army Commanders' Conference to discuss emerging security scenarios and other matters begins

The first edition of the biannual Army Commanders conclave 2023 will be conducted in Hybrid format from today. The five-day conference will continue till the 21st of April. On the first day, today, Army Commanders and other senior functionaries will meet virtually. They will then travel to Delhi for balanced physical meetings on matters which require detailed deliberations. Our Correspondent reports that the Chief of Defence Staff, the Chief

of the Naval Staff, and the Chief of the Air Staff will also address the Army Commanders conference.

Army Commanders Conference is an apex-level biannual event that is an institutional platform for conceptual-level deliberations, culminating in making important policy decisions for the Indian Army. The forum will review the progress on the activities charted out as part of 'Year of Transformation-2023' along with progress on Agnipath Scheme and digitisation and automation initiatives. During the conference, apex leadership will also brainstorm current and emerging security scenarios and review the operational preparedness of the Indian Army. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will address the conference on Wednesday.

India to hold G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) in Varanasi from 17-19 April

The first three-day G20 summit of the Agriculture Working Group under India's G20 Presidency begins at Varanasi from 17-19 April. The event will be witnessing participation of representatives from the 20 leading countries of the world and delegates from other partner countries.

In order to ensure a grand rollout of the G20 events, the government of the state of Uttar Pradesh has made complete arrangements. The three-day event will send out a message endorsing nutritious foods, food security and environment-friendly farming to keep the entire world healthy,

The G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) is being organized at Varanasi by the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Global Conference on Compressed Biogas In New Delhi, to highlight on green fuel

A two-day 'Global Conference on Compressed Biogas (CBG)' under the theme "Towards Progressive Policy Framework for a Robust CBG Foundation and Growth" is being held on April 17 and 18, 2023, in New Delhi. The Indian Federation of Green Energy (IFGE) and CBG Producer Forum are organising the event with support from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Union Minister for Petroleum, Natural Gas, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri, will inaugurate the conference. Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, will also take part as the chief guest

The objective of the CBG Conference is to apprise the industry of the initiatives taken by the government for the development of Compressed Biogas Industry and to identify the areas where policy modifications are required.

CBG has a higher calorific value and properties similar to CNG and can be utilised as an alternative green renewable that can replace CNG in automotive, industrial, and commercial areas, given the abundance of biomass availability within the country.

Current Affairs PDF- April 16, 2023

INTERNATIONAL

Bangladesh: Dhaka records highest temperature in 58 years

The extraordinary heat wave in Bangladesh continues over large parts of the country with the meteorological department predicting its continuation over the next few days. Capital city Dhaka had its hottest day on Saturday in 58 years with the temperature rising to 40.4 degrees Celsius. It is the highest temperature since 1965 when the highest temperature was recorded at 42 degrees Celsius.

The mid-western city of Chuadanga recorded a maximum temperature of 42.2 degrees on Saturday. Overall, Bangladesh experienced its highest temperature of 44.5 degrees at Jashore in 1964. On Saturday, a severe heatwave was experienced in several districts of Bangladesh including Dhaka, Faridpur, Manikganj, Bagerhat, Pabna, Jashore, Chuadanga, and Kushtia.

NATIONAL

Rajasthan's Nandini Gupta Crowned As Femina Miss India 2023

Femina Miss India World 2023 is Nandini Gupta of Rajasthan. Shreya Poonja of Delhi joined her as the first runner-up, and Thounaojam Strela Luwang of Manipur took second place. Nandini, 19, is from Kota, one of the largest teaching centres for engineering and medical students in the nation. The beauty with brains, Nandini has a degree in business management and is committed to overcoming obstacles. This year's first runner up was Delhi native Shreya Poonja, and the second runner up was Thounaojam Strela Luwang. The big finale of the 59th season of the most renowned pageant in India was held in a historic ceremony at the Indoor Stadium, Khuman Lampak, in Imphal, Manipur, the stunning city that served as the ideal setting for the mesmerising event.

SSC GD Exam to be held in 13 regional languages

In a new milestone, the Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to conduct the Constable (General Duty) examination for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in 13 regional languages, in addition to Hindi and English.

With this decision, now the languages for the Constable GD exam will include Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Odia, Urdu, Punjabi, Manipuri and Konkani apart from English and Hindi.

The landmark initiative has been taken to give a major push to the participation of local youth in the CAPF and encourage regional languages. Due to the decision, it is expected that more candidates will appear for the exams in their native or regional language, increasing their chances of being chosen.

For facilitating the conduct of the exam in multiple languages in addition to English and Hindi, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Staff Selection Commission (SSC) would sign an addendum to the existing MoU.

The Staff Selection Commission's Constable GD exam is one of its flagship tests, drawing thousands of applicants from all over the nation. The conduct of the exam in 13 regional or native languages will be seen in effect from January 1, 2024, onwards.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Voice Day

World Voice Day (WVD) is a worldwide annual event that takes place on April 16 devoted to the celebration of the phenomenon of voice. The aim is to demonstrate the enormous importance of the voice in the daily lives of all people. Voice is a critical aspect of effective and healthy communication, and World Voice Day brings global awareness to the need for preventing voice problems, rehabilitating the deviant or sick voice, training the artistic voice, and researching the function and application of voice. A goal of World Voice Day is to encourage all those who use their voice for business or pleasure to learn to take care of their voice, and know how to seek help and training, and to support research on the voice. This celebration started in Brazil in 1999 as the Brazilian National Voice Day. It was the result of a mixed initiative of physicians, speech-language pathologists and singing teachers that belonged to the former association 'Sociedade Brasileira de Laringologia e Voz – SBLV' (Brazilian Society of Laryngology and Voice), under the presidency of Dr. Nedio Steffen. This Brazilian initiative was followed by other countries, such as Argentina and Portugal, and the Brazilian National Voice Day became the International Voice Day. In the United States, the American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery officially recognized this celebration in 2002 and in that year the event obtained the name 'World Voice Day'.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

India signs MoU with World Food Programme for sending wheat to Afghanistan

India signed an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with World Food Programme (WFP) to send 10,000 metric tonnes of wheat to the people of Afghanistan. The signing ceremony between the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the United Nations (WPF) was held in Mumbai. The WFP assured that it had the required infrastructure on the ground to ensure speedy wheat delivery to Afghanistan's most vulnerable sections. The WFP has a massive supply chain and logistics infrastructure in Afghanistan that could help in ensuring that the food supply reaches those who need it the most and no one is excluded. The MoU also ensures that the assistance is coordinated and delivered in an effective and efficient manner, and that it reaches the most vulnerable sections of the Afghan population. The WFP is a humanitarian organization that is part of the United Nations system. It was established in 1961 and has its headquarters in Rome, Italy. The WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency focused on combating hunger and promoting food security.

NHAI signs MoU with Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve to enable FAST tag

National Highway Authority of India has signed an MoU with the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve, spread across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to facilitate seamless and efficient entry process for vehicles entering into the forest area. Road Transport and Highways Ministry said, the initiative aims to provide FASTag based payment system at Forest entry points. It will extend the benefit of collection of Ecosystem Management Coordination fee through FASTag at various entrance points of the Tiger Reserve.

The Ministry said, with this, visitors can avoid long queues and delays. This partnership between Indian Highways Management Company Limited and the Forest Department is a significant step towards promoting sustainable tourism and preserving natural resources by curbing vehicular emissions at the forest entry points.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Shri Amit Shah presented "Maharashtra Bhushan" award for the year 2022 to Dr. Appasaheb Dharmadhikari

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah presented "Maharashtra Bhushan" award for the year 2022 to Dr. Appasaheb Dharmadhikari in Raigarh, Maharashtra today, On this occasion, Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis and many other dignitaries were present. This is the first time that two persons from the same family have been honored with this award.

Appasaheb Dharmadhikari is a renowned social reformist. He inherited a reputation from his late father Nanasaheb Dharmadhikari. The Nanasaheb Dharmadhikari Pratishthan runs several social welfare activities such as child rites class, health camp, blood donation camp, de-addiction, area cleaning, tree plantation, environment conservation, refilling of wells, distribution of educational materials are carried out. His work continues uninterrupted. Taking note of his work, Appasaheb was also honored with the Padma Shri.

Taking note of this social work of Appasaheb, D. Y. Patil University awarded an honorary doctorate degree to Dharmadhikari. Former Governor Vidyasagar Rao appointed him as the state's cleanliness ambassador. In 2017, the central government conferred the civil honor of Padma Shri. The European International Institute honored Appasaheb with the Living Legend Award. Considering his career so far, the state government has selected him for the Maharashtra Bhushan Award.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Chennai Metro launches Singara Chennai Card in association with SBI

Chennai Metro Rail Ltd on Friday launched the Singara Chennai Card (NCCM – National Common Mobility Card) in association with SBI, as banking partner. Currently, the Singara Chennai cards can be used in Chennai metro stations, and at other metros that accept RuPay NCCM cards, including the MMRDA Mumbai Line 2A & 7; Bangalore Metro; Delhi Metro Airport Line; Kanpur Metro; and for BEST Buses in Mumbai and Kadamba Transport Buses in Goa.

In future, consumers would be able to use the card for travel on buses, suburban railways, for toll, parking, smart city and retail shops, in many parts of the country.