

Advanced Educational Activities Pvt. Ltd.

CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE (APRIL 2023)

INTERNATIONAL

U.K. to join trans-Pacific partnership trade treaty.

Britain will become the first new member, and the first in Europe, to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) since it came into force in 2018.

Italy seeks to ban English, other foreign languages in official communication.

Italians who use English and other foreign words in official communications could face fines of up to 100,000 Pounds or 108,705 Dollars under new legislation introduced by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's Brothers of Italy party.

Georgia becomes first American state to pass resolution condemning Hinduphobia

In the US, Georgia Assembly has passed a resolution condemning Hinduphobia, making it the first American State to take such a legislative measure.

Finland's main conservative party claimed victory in parliamentary elections

Finland's main conservative party has claimed victory in parliamentary elections in a tight three-way race. The poll saw right-wing populists taking second place, leaving Prime Minister Sanna Marin's Social Democratic Party in third.

Malaysia ends mandatory death penalty for serious crimes.

Malaysia's parliament has voted to remove the country's mandatory death penalty, potentially sparing more than 1,300 prisoners on death row. The country has had a moratorium on executions since 2018.

US Department of Defense announces four new military sites in the Philippines.

The U.S. Department of Defense plans to open four new military sites in the Philippines for regional readiness, as part of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, or EDCA, which went into effect on 1st February.

NASA announces 4-member team of astronauts for first crewed voyage around moon

NASA has announced a team of four astronauts who will fly around the Moon next year for a 10-day mission. The team has three American and one Canadian astronaut, including a woman and an African American ever assigned as astronauts to a lunar mission.

10th Edition of annual Indian Navy - Sri Lanka Navy bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-2023 begins

The 10th Edition of annual Indian Navy - Sri Lanka Navy bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-2023 commenced at Colombo. The exercise is being conducted in two phases of three days each, the Harbour Phase followed by the Sea Phase.

Finland joins NATO bloc

Finland became the 31st member of NATO, wrapping up its historic strategic shift with the deposit of its accession

documents to the alliance. Finnish Foreign Minister completed the accession process by handing over an official document to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Australia bans TikTok on all govt. devices citing security.

Australia said that it will ban TikTok on all government devices due to national security concerns. The country has now joined a growing list of Western nations cracking down on the Chinese-owned app.

Taliban 'order' bans women staff in Afghanistan

Nearly 400 Afghan women who are UN employees have now been banned from working for the organization by the Taliban. Previously, those working with the UN were exempt from the ban.

SARS-CoV-2 virus not found in animal samples from Huanan seafood market, says study

An analysis of environmental and animal samples for SARS-CoV-2 in the Huanan seafood market, Wuhan, China, in early 2020, detected the virus in environmental swabs but not in samples taken from animals, according to a study published in Nature.

Johnson & Johnson offers \$8.9-bn settlement of talc cancer claims

Johnson & Johnson has proposed an \$8.9-billion settlement to resolve years-old lawsuits claiming that its talcum powder products caused cancer.

U.S., S.Korea holds air drills

South Korea and the United States has staged joint air drills involving at least one U.S. nuclear-capable B-52H strategic bomber.

India gets elected to UN Statistical Commission

India has been elected to the United Nations Statistical Commission for a four-year term of office beginning from January 1, 2024.

Saudi Arabia and Iran's delegations meet commences, agree to reopen embassies and consulates.

The meeting between Saudi Arabia and Iran's delegations commenced after their foreign ministers held mutual talks. The focus of the discussions is expected to be on the resumption of official relationships, the reopening of embassies and consulates, and mutual interests.

India-France Business Summit held in Paris

India-France Business Summit, commemorating 25 years of India-France Friendship was held on 11th of April in Paris. The Summit focused on themes including building a green future, emerging technologies, defence cooperation and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific regions.

Taliban issue new rules against women

The Taliban banned families and women from restaurants with gardens or green spaces in Afghanistan's Herat province. The move followed complaints from religious scholars and members of the public about mixing of genders in such places.

Iran develops new domestically-build suicide drone

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force of Iran has developed a new domestically-build suicide drone which can destroy targets within a range of 450 kilometers. The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), dubbed Me'raj 532, with a piston engine has a one-way range of 450 kilometers.

Japan awards Mitsubishi contracts worth 2.84 billion dollars to develop new missile force

In the wake of a growing threat from China, Japan has awarded its largest defence equipment maker Mitsubishi Heavy Industries contracts worth 2.84 billion dollars to develop and build a new missile force.

US, Philippines launch largest combat exercises

The US and the Philippines launched their largest combat exercises in decades that will involve live-fire drills, including a boat-sinking rocket assault in waters across the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait. The annual drills called Balikatan-Tagalog for shoulder-to-shoulder will run up to April 28 and involve more than 17,600 military personnel.

Britain ready to provide extra 500 million of loan guarantees to Ukraine

Britain is ready to provide an extra \$500 million of loan guarantees to Ukraine. British loan guarantees had been important to underwrite a broader \$15.6 billion four-year package of support for Ukraine from the International Monetary Fund.

UAE's Rashid Rover to land on Moon on 25th April

The Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre, UAE announced that the Rashid Rover, onboard the HAKUTO-R Mission 1 Lunar Lander, is scheduled to land on the Moon on 25th April 2023. The Rashid Rover is currently orbiting the Moon at an altitude of about 100 km at the perilune and about 2,300 km at the apolune.

North Korea tests new solid-fuel long-range missile.

North Korea has successfully test-launched a new intercontinental ballistic missile powered by solid propellants.

Bangladesh: Poverty declines to 18.7 %

The Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2022 conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) shows that the poverty rate in Bangladesh has declined sharply from 24.3 percent in 2016 to 18.7 percent in 2022.

India signs MoU with WFP for sending wheat to Afghanistan.

India signed a MoU with the World Food Programme (WFP) paving the way for sending 10,000 metric tonnes of wheat for the people of Afghanistan.

Macron signs France pension reform into law despite protests

French President Emmanuel Macron signed his controversial pension reform into law defying three months of protests and pleas from unions not to implement the legislation. The battle to implement the law turned into the biggest domestic challenge of Macron's second mandate, as he faced widespread popular opposition to the changes but also sliding personal popularity.

Qatar, Bahrain announces to resume their diplomatic ties after over two years

Qatar and Bahrain have announced that they will resume their diplomatic ties after over two years since the Arab boycott of Qatar was lifted. In January 2021, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Egypt ended

a three- and half-year embargo of Qatar, but all except Bahrain had already restored travel and trade links in 2021.

Chinese dual-use facilities in Myanmar & Sri Lanka raise security concerns in India

The construction of a military facility on Coco Islands in Myanmar and a proposed remote satellite receiving ground station system in Sri Lanka, both coming up with Chinese help, have raised concern in India of possible surveillance across the region.

International community condemns escalation of violence in Sudan's capital Khartoum

The international community has condemned the escalation of violence in Sudan's capital Khartoum. Heavy gunfire and blasts were reported following days of tension between the armed forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Germany switches off its last three nuclear plants.

Germany has switched off its last three nuclear reactors, exiting atomic power even as it seeks to wean itself off fossil fuels and manage an energy crisis caused by the war in Ukraine.

Europe's most powerful nuclear reactor kicks off in Finland

Finland's Olkiluoto 3 reactor, which has 1,600-megawatt capacity, was connected into the Finnish national power grid in March 2022 and kicked off regular production. The Olkiluoto 3 is western Europe's first new reactor in more than 15 years.

South Korea, U.S., Japan to hold missile defence drills to counter North Korea

South Korea, the United States and Japan staged a joint naval missile defence exercises as they push for greater security cooperation to better counter North Korea's evolving missile threats.

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. 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.

Exercise Orion: Bilateral military drill between IAF, French Air and Space Force starts in France.

Exercise Orion, a bilateral military drill between the Indian Air Force and the French Air and Space Force (FASF) started at the Mont-de-Marsan airbase in France. Orion is reportedly the largest ever multinational exercise being carried out by the French defence forces which have involved their Army, Navy and Air Force along with their allies the US and the UK.

Kuwait announces dissolution of National Assembly and calls for new elections.

Kuwait's Crown Prince, Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, has announced the dissolution of the 2020 National Assembly and the call for new elections in the coming months.

Over 6,000 troops to participate in Coronation of King Charles III

More than 6,000 men and women of the United Kingdom's Armed Forces will participate in the historic Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla next month, United Kingdom's Ministry of Defence said.

India overtakes China, becomes most populous nation with 142.9 crore people.

With 142.86 crore people, India has surpassed China to become the world's most populous nation, according to the latest United Nations data. China, with a population of 142.57 crore, is the second most populous country. This is the first time that India has topped the UN list of most populous countries since it started collecting population data in 1950.

US President announces 36th security package in new military aid for Ukraine of 325 million dollars

US President Joe Biden's administration announced 325 million dollars as the 36th security package in new military aid for Ukraine. This aid will help its military in its war against Russia. The package also includes additional ammunition for High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS).

Stampede kills 78 people in Yemen's capital Sanaa during distribution of charity for Ramadan

At least 78 people have been killed in a crush at a school in the Yemeni capital Sanaa during a distribution of charity for Ramadan. The event happened during the final days of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which is marked by a period of fasting.

U.S.-made Patriot guided missile systems arrive in Ukraine

Ukraine's Defence Minister said his country has received the U.S.-made Patriot surface-to-air guided missile systems it has long craved and which Kyiv hopes will help shield it from Russian airstrikes during the war.

U.S. President signs executive order on environmental justice

U.S. President Joe Biden signed an executive order, directing every single federal agency to work toward environmental justice for all and improve the lives of communities hit hardest by toxic pollution and climate change.

Saudi Arabia & Iran take next steps to restore diplomatic relations after Beijing talks

According to reports from state media in Saudi Arabia and Iran, the foreign ministers of the two countries had a phone call to exchange Eid greetings and discuss the next steps toward restoring diplomatic relations. The agreement to restore ties was announced last month after talks mediated by China in Beijing.

EAM Dr. S Jaishankar co-chairs 4th India-CARICOM Ministerial meeting; discusses trade, climate change & counterterrorism

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar co-chaired the 4th India-CARICOM ministerial meeting in Guyana's capital of Georgetown. Mr. Jaishankar discussed a range of issues including trade, climate change, and counterterrorism with CARICOM ministers.

Ukraine war spurs record global spending on military, Stockholm think tank says

Global military spending rose to a record last year as Russia's war in Ukraine drove the biggest annual increase in expenditure in Europe since the end of the Cold War three decades ago, a leading think tank SIPRI said. World military expenditure rose by 3.7% in real terms in 2022 to \$2.24 trillion.

Bangladesh unveils Indo-pacific outlook

Bangladesh officially unveiled its Indo-Pacific Outlook (IPO) outlining four guiding principles and 15 objectives. The official document recognizes that stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific is a crucial factor in realizing Bangladesh's 'Vision 2041', which aims to build a modern, knowledge-based developed country by 2041.

Japan's Health Ministry approves country's first abortion pill

In a significant boost to reproductive rights, Japan's Health Ministry has approved the country's first abortion pill. While abortion pills are widely available in many countries across the globe, the medication was not approved by Japan's Health Ministry.

Japanese startup ispace Inc admits failure in attempt to make first private moon landing.

Japanese startup ispace Inc (9348.T) said its attempt to make the first private moon landing had failed after losing contact with its Hakuto-R Mission 1 (M1) lander, concluding it had most likely crashed on the lunar surface.

Kenya cult deaths hits 90 as authorities expand operation

The death toll at a ranch in coastal Kenya that is owned by a pastor Pastor Paul Makenzi who is accused of leading a religious cult and ordering his followers to starve themselves reached 90. The new figure came after police exhumed 17 more bodies.

Australia to host third in-person Quad Summit on May 24 in Sydney

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said that his country will host the third in-person Quad Summit on May 24 in Sydney. It will be attended by US President Joe Biden, Japanese PM Fumio Kishida, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Saudi Arabia successfully evacuates 1687 individuals from Sudan

Saudi Arabia evacuated a total of 1687 people from Sudan, including its own citizens and nationals of 58 other countries. The evacuees, who included 13 Saudis, arrived in Jeddah.

Joe Biden & South Korean President Yoon Suk-Yeol secures a landmark deal

US President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk-Yeol have secured a landmark deal which includes plans to periodically deploy US nuclear-armed submarines in South Korea. USA has also agreed to involve Seoul in its planning for the use of nuclear weapons in any conflict with North Korea.

UAE and Cambodia finalised CEPA

The United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Cambodia have finalised the terms of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), paving the way for a new era of trade and investment cooperation between the two nations.

Emirates Unveils World's First Robotic Check-In Assistant

Dubai-based airline Emirates has unveiled its latest innovation, the world's first robotic check-in assistant named Sara. The system is part of a new City Check-in and Travel Store that is set to launch in Dubai's financial district. Sara will match customers' faces with scanned passports, check passengers in, and guide them to the luggage drop area.

Sudan Crisis: Night operation carries out by C-130J aircraft, rescues 121 personnel from small airstrip

In a daring operation carried out on the night of 27th and 28th April 2023, a C-130J aircraft of the Indian Air Force rescued 121 personnel from a small airstrip at Wadi Sayyidna, which is about 40 km North of Khartoum, Sudan.

Uzbekistan holds referendum on new Constitution

Uzbekistan held its third referendum since it became independent in 1991 following the disintegration of the Soviet Union. In the referendum, the voters would be asked if they support rewriting the Constitution.

Operation Kaveri: 14th batch of 288 stranded citizens successfully evacuated from Sudan

Indian Navy ship, INS Teg, successfully evacuated 288 stranded Indians under Operation Kaveri from the crisis hit Sudan. The 14th batch of Indians leaves Port Sudan under Operation Kaveri. "288 passengers onboard INS Teg are enroute to Jeddah." Previously, INS Sumedha, which is stationed at Port Sudan, had also left the crisis-hit country with 300 passengers onboard for Jeddah.

NATIONAL

CERT-in may be exempted from giving information under RTI Act, says Centre

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in) may soon be exempt from responding to queries under the Right to Information Act, the government informed Parliament.

CSIR scientists identify rare-earth element deposit in Anantapur

Scientists at the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research facility in Hyderabad, have reported the presence of lucrative rare-earth elements (REEs) in Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh.

1st Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group meeting under India's G20 Presidency held in Gujarat

The First Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group meeting under India's G20 Presidency concluded at Gandhinagar in Gujarat. Around 100 delegates from G20 Nations, Invitee Countries, and International Organisations participated in the event.

Ministry of Finance issues gazette notifications for Mahila Samman Savings Certificates-2023 scheme

The Ministry of Finance has issued gazette notifications for Mahila Samman Savings Certificates-2023 scheme. The two-year tenure scheme offers an attractive and fixed interest of 7.5 percent interest compounded quarterly with flexible investment and partial withdrawal options with a maximum ceiling of two lakh rupees. The scheme is valid for a two-year period upto 31st March 2025.

ISRO's Reusable Launch Vehicle aces landing test

ISRO successfully carried out the landing experiment of the Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology Demonstration (RLV-TD) programme at the Aeronautical Test Range in Challakere, Chitradurga. An Indian Air Forces (IAF) Chinook helicopter was used to drop the RLV-TD from a 4.5 km altitude.

In a first, Eravikulam National Park gets a fernarium

The Eravikulam National Park (ENP) in Kerala has a new attraction a fernarium set up inside the park. This is the first time such a fern collection is being set up in the hill station. As per data, ENP has 104 varieties of fern.

Government selects one lakh 40 thousand pilgrims to perform Haj 2023

The Indian government has selected one lakh 40 thousand pilgrims to perform Haj this year through the Random Digital Selection process. Saudi Arabia hosts around 25 lakh to 30 lakh Haj pilgrims from across the globe each year to visit Makkah.

Centre intensifies crackdown with aim to make India drug-free by 2047

Opium & cannabis cultivation in area the size of over 89,000 football fields has been destroyed in the past three years as the centre intensified its crackdown against drugs. The government is aiming to make India "drug-free" by 2047.

Dial-up Internet is now history in India: TRAI

The last dial-up Internet connection was switched off in India in March 2021, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has said, as it moved to repeal a decades-old regulation dictating the quality of service of the early Web access technology.

Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy hosts 20th Session of Culture Ministers' Meeting of SCO Member States

Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy has hosted the 20th Session of Culture Ministers' Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States through video conferencing. The Culture Ministers of Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan participated in the meeting.

Lumpy skin disease led to stagnation in milk production: Centre

India's milk production remained stagnant in 2022-23 due to lumpy skin diseases in cattle across several states and the lagged effect of Covid19 in the form of stunting of the animals, a senior official said.

Govt. introduces Aquaculture Bill in Lok Sabha

The Central government introduced the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023. The Bill, which was introduced by Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala, seeks to decriminalize certain offences listed under the earlier 2005 Act for promoting ease of doing business.

Centre extends ceasefire agreements with three Naga groups for one year.

The Centre announced to extend the ceasefire agreement with three Naga groups for a further period of one year.

NGT constitutes high-powered committee to revisit environmental nod granted to Great Nicobar Island project.

The eastern bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered a stay on the ₹72,000 crore Great Nicobar Island project and constituted a committee to revisit the environmental clearance granted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

MHA to provide financial assistance to States to help underprivileged inmates secure bail

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said that it would provide States with financial support to help underprivileged prisoners who are unable to get bail or secure release from prisons due to financial hardship.

Inter-ministerial panel under GatiShakti recommends four rail projects.

An inter-ministerial panel—Network Planning Group (NPG)—under PM GatiShakti initiative has recommended four infrastructure projects under Indian railways to improve connectivity across various regions in the country.

Women's scheme 'Ladli Behna' an early success in Madhya Pradesh

The "Ladli Behna" scheme, launched to give ₹1,000 per month to women in the age group 23-60, is getting initial success. The government had estimated the registration of 10 million women under it and in the first 10 days, 60 per cent of them have come under it.

Indigenous chip for NavIC-based satellite navigation launched.

Elena Geo Systems, a Bengaluru-based space startup incubated in IIT-Kharagpur, has unveiled an indigenously designed NavIC chip that can use India's navigation satellite system to provide positioning services. The chip can have applications in civilian and defence sectors.

Civil Aviation Ministry launches UDAN 5.0 to further enhance connectivity to remote areas.

The Union government has launched the fifth round of the Regional Connectivity Scheme — UDAN — to further enhance the connectivity to remote and regional areas of the country.

Murmu becomes third President to fly a sortie on a Sukhoi fighter jet

President and Supreme Commander of the armed forces Droupadi Murmu took a sortie in an Indian Air Force (IAF) Sukhoi-30MKI fighter aircraft at the Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam. She is the third President and second woman President to undertake such a sortie.

PM Modi flags off Secunderabad-Tirupati Vande Bharat Express

During his visit to Telangana, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Secunderabad-Tirupati Vande Bharat Express. This is the second Vande Bharat train to be launched from Telangana in just three months.

Tamil Nadu gov't's 'TN REACH' initiative to use 80+ unused helipads soon.

The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (Tidco) has developed a mechanism called Tamil Nadu Regional Aerial Connectivity through Helicopters (TN REACH), which aims to utilize over 80 unused helipads across the state to provide intercity and town connectivity.

India's tiger population tops 3,000: census

India has at least 3,167 tigers, according to estimates from the latest tiger census. There were 2,967 tigers recorded in 2018, and 2,226 in 2014. The tiger population numbers were made public by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Mysuru, at an event to mark the International Big Cat Alliance conference as well as the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger.

Odisha plans to enlist all Jagannath temples

The Odisha government has decided to enlist the Jagannath temples in different parts of India and the world, as part of the State's efforts to promote its language, culture and heritage.

India may experience 'below normal' monsoon: Skymet

Private weather forecaster Skymet has predicted a 'Below Normal' monsoon in India this year, the first time after experiencing 'normal or above normal' rainfall during the past four years.

AAP national party now; Trinamool, CPI and NCP lose status.

The Election Commission of India (EC) has accorded AAP the status of a national party while withdrawing the same status for the Trinamool Congress, the Communist Party of India (CPI) and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). With their removal, there are now only six national parties in the country.

Centre told to frame policy for menstrual hygiene in schools

The Supreme Court of India said a "uniform national policy" may be framed by the Centre in consultation with the States and Union Territories to ensure menstrual hygiene by providing sanitary pads, vending and disposal mechanisms and exclusive washrooms for girls in schools.

India Met Department forecasts normal monsoon for this year.

India likely to receive normal monsoon rainfall this year. Briefing media, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences M Ravichandran has said that monsoon seasonal rainfall from June to September is likely to be 96 per cent of the long period average, LPA.

Centre tells Supreme Court; it is ready with new data protection bill

The Central government has informed the Supreme Court of India that a new data protection bill is ready and will be introduced in the Monsoon session of Parliament.

India, Estonia holds 12th Foreign Office Consultations

India and Estonia held their 12th Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi. The Foreign Office Consultations provided an opportunity for reviewing bilateral engagements and for exchanging views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

U.S. aviation watchdog retains India's safety category after review.

The aviation safety regulator of the U.S., the Federal Aviation Administration, has retained the "Category 1" status for India's aviation safety oversight following a review. The International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) programme of the FAA determines whether a country's oversight of its airlines that operate or wish to operate to the U.S.

Tejas, Rafale, Sukhoi face off with U.S. fighter jets at Cope India 23

Indian Air Force (IAF) fighters Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Rafale, SU-30MKI and Jaguars undertook manoeuvres with U.S. Air Force (USAF) F-15 fighters and B-1B long-range bombers from April 13 under the second phase of ongoing bilateral air Exercise Cope India 23.

India reiterates, J&K and Ladakh integral part of India, and holding G20 meetings there is natural

The External Affairs Ministry has reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and inalienable part of India and holding G20 meetings in these places is quite natural for the country. Responding to Pakistan's criticism over India's move to host G20 meetings in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, these G20 events and meetings are being held across the country.

India to set up mentorship platform for women of G-20 nations

India will take the lead in setting up a global mentorship platform for G-20 countries to promote women's leadership at all levels, by facilitating knowledge-exchange among women through an e-platform. The portal would be hosted on the women's empowerment platform of the NITI Aayog.

ED files case against BBC for suspected irregularities in foreign funding

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) registered a case against the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) India under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) for irregularities in foreign funding.

Northeast gets its first AIIMs and three new medical colleges.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially opened the first All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the northeast region. The facility in Guwahati, which cost ₹1,123 crore to construct, will strengthen the region's health infrastructure.

Constitution Bench formed in same-sex marriage case.

The Supreme Court of India announced the formation of a new Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y.Chandrachud to hear a series of petitions seeking legal recognition of same sex marriages.

T.N. Governor Flags off first train heading for Tamil meet in Gujarat

The first train carrying delegates from Tamil Nadu to Saurashtra in Gujarat aimed at strengthening ties between the two States as part of the 'Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam' was flagged off by Governor R.N. Ravi. On the lines of the recently concluded Kashi Tamil Sangamam, the Centre has organised Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam.

Global Conference on Compressed Biogas was held in New Delhi

A two-day Global Conference on Compressed Biogas was held in New Delhi. Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry said, the theme of the Conference is - Towards Progressive Policy Framework for a Robust CBG Foundation and Growth.

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.

PM Modi inaugurates first Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi on 20th April.

The Ministry of Culture in collaboration with its grantee body International Buddhist Confederation will host the two-day Summit.

Dr. Jitendra Singh launches 'YUVA PORTAL' to identify potential young Start-Ups

Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched - YUVA PORTAL in New Delhi, which will help in connecting and identifying potential young Start-Ups. Dr Singh also launched the One Week -One Lab programme.

Defence Minister approves proposal for bringing in industry-friendly reforms

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved a proposal for bringing in industry-friendly reform related to Authority Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP). The AHSP is the authority which is responsible for generating, maintaining, updating or declaring obsolete the entire history and technical information of defence products.

231 antiquities brought back to Indian since 2014

The Union government said a total of 231 antiquities of Indian origin had been brought back to India since 2014, and close to 72 were in the process of being repatriated from various countries, including the U.S., the U.K., Singapore, and Australia.

100th G20 Meeting under India's G20 Presidency, MACS concludes successfully at Varanasi

The 100th G20 Meeting under India's G20 Presidency, the Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) on "Sustainable Agriculture and Food System for Healthy People and Planet" concluded successfully at Varanasi. They unanimously agreed to launch a Millet Initiative - MAHARISHI which was proposed by India for research in the field of Millets.

Centre approves National Quantum Mission

The Centre has approved the National Quantum Mission to accelerate Quantum Technology led economic growth and leverage India into a leading nation in the sector.

Agriculture Minister 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.

Govt decides to bring Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2023

The Centre has decided to bring the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2023 to check piracy in the film industry. It cleared a proposal in this regard.

Centre plans to develop more than 250 projects with Ropeway length of over 1200 kilometers

Government has planned to develop more than 250 projects with Ropeway length of over 1200 kilometers in 5 years under Parvatmala Pariyojana. Road, Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said.

India proposes to develop G-20 park in New Delhi

India has proposed to develop a G20 park in New Delhi to symbolize 'togetherness on the path of development' as part of its year-long presidency of the organization. It will showcase sculptures depicting national animals and birds of the G20 countries made with the Waste to wonder concept.

IAF joins multilateral exercise in Greece.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in Exercise INIOCHOS-23, a multi-national air exercise hosted by the Greece Air Force from April 24 to May 4.

Supreme Court directs provision of ration cards to 8 crore migrant workers not covered under National Food Security Act

The Supreme Court of India has directed States and Union Territories to provide ration cards to about eight crore migrant workers registered in the eShram portal but not covered under the National Food Security Act. The portal has 28.6 crore registrants. Of this, 20.63 crore are registered on ration card data.

Dalai Lama attends first global Buddhist conference hosted by India

The Dalai Lama participated in a global Buddhist conference hosted by India. The Tibetan spiritual leader attended the second day of the first global Buddhist conference and addressed delegates from 30 countries which include monks.

ISRO's PSLV-C55 successfully places two Singaporean satellites into orbit

ISRO successfully launched the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle C55 (PSLV-C55) mission carrying two Singaporean satellites. It is the 57th flight of PSLV, and the 16th mission of the PSLV Core Alone configuration (PSLV-CA) variant. This is the lightest version of PSLV.

DRDO, Indian Navy successfully conduct maiden flight trial of ballistic missile defence Interceptor from Naval Platform

Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Indian Navy have successfully conducted a maiden flight trial of ballistic missile defense Interceptor from Naval Platform. The trial was conducted off the coast of Odisha in the Bay of Bengal.

India launches 'Operation Kaveri' to bring back citizens stranded in Sudan

India has started 'Operation Kaveri' to evacuate its nationals from conflict-torn Sudan. Around 3,000 Indians are stuck in various parts of Sudan, including capital Khartoum and in distant provinces like Darfur.

Share of Govt Health Expenditure in country's total GDP increases from 1.13% in 2014-15 to 1.35% in 2019-20

The share of Government Health Expenditure in country's total GDP has increased from 1.13 percent in 2014-15 to 1.35 percent in 2019-20. The share of Government Health Expenditure in Total Health Expenditure has increased also from 29 percent in 2014-15 to 41.4 percent in 2019-20.

Centre conducts first-ever census of water bodies across the country.

Ministry of Jal Shakti has conducted the first-ever census of water bodies across the nation.. The top five States in terms of number of water bodies are West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Assam.

NMCG signs agreement with 49 Universities to inspire youth toward water conservation

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has signed an agreement with 49 Universities to inspire youth towards water conservation and river rejuvenation. The MoU aims to bring the student community to the forefront of the mass movement for creating a sustainable ecosystem of rivers.

DST inks MoU Indian Navy in developing secure maritime communications using Quantum Technology

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Navy in developing secure maritime communications using Quantum Technology in New Delhi. The MoU, which is for a period of five years.

Doordarshan to broadcast two-part documentary on cultural achievements of Modi government.

Doordarshan National will broadcast Dharohar Bharat Ki – Punruthaan ki Kahaani (Heritage of India: a tale of revival), a two-part documentary on the achievements of the Central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The documentary will be anchored by popular digital media presenter Kamiya Jani.

India to host SCO Defence Ministers meeting

India will host Defence Ministers from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) grouping, including China's Li Shangfu and Russia's Sergei Shoigu, later this week, India's Ministry of Defence said.

Centre to develop 50 new tourists destinations.

India plans to open up to 50 new tourism destinations, promote green tourism, launch a publicity campaign in overseas markets and operationalize 59 new air routes during its presidency of the G20 this year, said Arvind Singh, secretary at the ministry of tourism.

Cabinet approves National Medical Devices Policy, 2023

The Centre has approved the National Medical Devices Policy, 2023. The policy is expected to help the Medical Devices Sector, grow from the present 11 billion US dollars to 50 billion US dollars in the next five years.

Skyroot Aerospace test-fires 3D-printed cryogenic engine

Skyroot Aerospace, a private rocket builder, achieved a major milestone by successfully test-firing an advanced fully 3D-printed cryogenic engine for a record 200 seconds.

INCOIS deploys two more gliders into the Bay of Bengal to study climate change

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), has just launched two fresh modern deep sea 'Slocum' gliders in the Bay of Bengal, one programmed towards the north and other towards the south to study the physical and biogeochemical parameters of the sea and get an insight into the climate change.

HAL's third Light Combat Aircraft production line inaugurated

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane inaugurated the third production line of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) set up by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) at Nashik in Maharashtra.

Centre approves establishment of 157 new govt nursing colleges at cost of ₹1570 crores in India

The Union government has approved the establishment of 157 new government nursing colleges at a cost of 1570 crores in co-location with existing medical colleges in the country. The decision was taken at the meeting of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

Home Minister Amit Shah launches IFFCO Nano DAP (Liquid)

Home Minister Amit Shah launched IFFCO Nano DAP (Liquid) in New Delhi. In his address, Mr. Shah said that the launch of IFFCO Nano DAP (Liquid) product is an important beginning to make India self-reliant in the field of fertilizers.

SC modifies judgement on eco-sensitive zones around protected forests

The Supreme Court of India has modified its judgment to have mandatory eco-sensitive zones (ESZ) of a minimum one kilometre around protected forests, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries across the country.

Centre tells States to scrap levies on power generation

The Centre issued a terse warning to States against resorting to tax levies on electricity generation, including through imposition of a water cess, noting that there were no provisions in the Constitution that enabled States to do so.

Operation Kaveri: 246 Indians from crisis-stricken Sudan arrive in Mumbai

A batch of 246 Indians from the crisis-stricken Sudan arrived in Mumbai under Operation Kaveri. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar tweeted about the arrival of the flight along with pictures. IAF C17 which brought back 246 Indians to Mumbai took off from Jeddah.

India, UK to create India-UK NET zero innovation virtual centre

India and the UK have agreed to create India-UK NET zero innovation virtual centre. This centre will provide a platform for stakeholders of both countries to work together in areas like the decarbonization of manufacturing processes, transport systems, and green hydrogen as a renewable source.

Around 3500 Indians & 1000 Persons of Indian Origins are estimated to be in conflicts-hit Sudan, says Govt

The Union Government said that around 3500 Indians and 1000 Persons of Indian Origins are estimated to be in conflicts-hit Sudan. Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said, the situation on the ground in Sudan remains highly volatile and India is constantly monitoring it since the conflict began on 15th of this month.

Rajnath Singh chairs SCO defence ministers' meeting

Defence Ministers of India, Russia, China and other member nations of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) have deliberated on pressing regional security challenges and related issues at a conclave hosted by New Delhi.

Total enrolment under Atal Pension Yojana crossed 5.20 crore mark as of 31st March 2023: Govt

The Ministry of Finance has said that total enrolment under the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) has crossed the five crore 20 lakh mark as of the 31st of March of this year.

Rajnath Singh holds bilateral meetings with Uzbek, Belarus and Kyrgyz counterparts on sidelines of SCO summit

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held bilateral meetings with his Uzbekistan, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan counterparts, on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Defence Ministers' meeting in New Delhi. The entire gamut of defence cooperation with the three countries was reviewed during the meetings.

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches 'Millets Experience Centre' at Dilli Haat

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the first of its kind 'Millets Experience Centre (MEC)' at Dilli Haat in New Delhi. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) has established the Millets Experience Centre in collaboration with the Agriculture Ministry.

BANKING & ECONOMY

India unveils Foreign Trade Policy 2023, eyes USD 2 trillion exports by 2030

The Centre came out with the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 which seeks to boost the country's exports to USD 2 trillion by 2030 by shifting from incentives to remission and entitlement-based regime. The new FTP also seeks to make the Indian rupee a global currency and allow international trade settlement in the domestic currency.

CAD narrows to 2.2% of GDP in third quarter of FY23: RBI

India's current account deficit (CAD) narrowed to \$18.2 billion (2.2% of GDP) in Q3 of FY23 from \$30.9 billion (3.7% of GDP) in Q2 of FY23.

Govt. raises rates on most small saving schemes, except PPF

The Centre has raised interest rates on most small savings schemes for the April to June quarter, barring the Public Provident Fund (PPF) whose returns have been static at 7.1% for the last three years. Returns on the Sukanya Samridhi Account were increased to 8% from 7.6%— while the Senior Citizens Savings scheme would now fetch 8.2% instead of 8%. It also lifted the rate on National Savings Certificate from 7% to 7.7% and Kisan Vikas Patra from 7.2% to 7.5%.

DIPAM meets revised targets for 2022-23 receipts

The Centre received as much as ₹1,632 crore in dividends from five public-sector companies, taking its total disinvestment and dividend receipts tally for 2022-23 to over ₹94,280 crore.

India's unemployment rate rises to 3-month high of 7.8% in March: CMIE

India's unemployment rate has risen to a three-month high of 7.8% in March 2023, according to the latest data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). This marks an increase from the 7.2% unemployment rate recorded in February.

India, Malaysia can now trade in Indian rupee

The Ministry of External Affairs declared that trade between India and Malaysia can now be conducted using the Indian Rupee (INR) as a mode of settlement, in addition to other currencies.

SAIL registers all-time best annual production of hot metal & crude steel during FY 2022-23

The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has recorded production of 19.49 Million Tonnes (MT) of hot metal and 18.28 Million Tonnes of crude steel with a growth of 3.6 percent and 5.3 percent with respect to FY 2021-22.

Paradip port handles highest annual traffic among all Ports of the country

Paradip Port has handled a record annual traffic of 135.36 million metric tonnes against 116.13 million metric tonnes during the last financial year.

OPEC members announce cut in oil production exceeding one million barrels per day

In a surprise move, Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC members including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iraq, Kuwait, and Algeria have announced voluntary oil production cuts exceeding one million barrels per day from May until the end of the year.

Gross Direct Tax collections for Financial Year 2022-23 register over 20 per cent growth

Gross Direct Tax collections for the Financial Year 2022-23 stood at 19.68 lakh crore Rupees registering a growth of over 20 percent. Provisional figures issued by the Ministry of Finance showed that the net collection for the financial year 2022-23 is 16.61 lakh crore rupees.

World Bank lowers India's growth forecast to 6.3% for this fiscal year

The World Bank has forecast a 6.3% economic growth rate for India in the current fiscal year, which ends on March 31, 2024, a downgrade of 0.7 percentage points since its October forecast.

ADB cuts India FY24 growth to 6.4%

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has slashed its growth projection for India for 2023-24 sharply, from 7.2% estimated earlier, to 6.4%, attributing the cut to the global economic slowdown, tight monetary conditions, and persistently elevated oil prices.

Bahrain launches Golden Licence to attract large-scale investment projects.

Bahrain has taken a significant step towards incentivizing investments and job creation by launching a new initiative, the Golden Licence. The Golden Licence is designed to provide streamlined services and benefits to local and foreign businesses with large-scale investment projects in Bahrain.

ExxonMobil to invest ₹900 cr. in building India lube plant

ExxonMobil said it will invest almost ₹900 crore (\$110 million) to build a lubricant plant at Raigad in Maharashtra. The facility would have the capacity to potentially make 1, 59, 000 kilolitres of finished lubricants annually to meet the growing domestic demand from industrial sectors.

PhonePe forays into hyperlocal commerce

Walmart-backed PhonePe has forayed into hyperlocal commerce with its shopping app Pincode that is built on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) protocol. The Pincode app is currently live in Bengaluru and would be unveiled in other cities soon.

StanChart closes deal with Akasa Air for 5 Boeing aircraft

Standard Chartered Bank has successfully closed an operating lease of five new Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft with India's private carrier Akasa Air. The deal was structured, financed, and arranged exclusively by Standard Chartered Aviation Finance.

Reliance, Jio raise \$5 billion in India's largest syndicated loan

Reliance Industries Ltd., and its telecom arm Jio Infocomm have raised a total of \$5 billion in foreign currency loans, the largest syndicated loan in India's history. Reliance last week raised \$3 billion and Reliance Jio Infocomm secured additional credit of \$2 billion.

IFC says to stop funding new coal related infra projects

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of The World Bank, has said it will not support investments in new coal related projects. The IFC funds banks and other financial institutions that in turn lend to infrastructure and energy projects.

RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent.

While announcing the first bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2023-24, Mr. Shaktikanta Das said the monetary policy committee has unanimously decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent. Consequently, the standing deposit facility SDF rate will remain stable at 6.25 percent and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.75 percent.

RBI portal to help trace unclaimed deposits.

As part of its drive to solve the problem of unclaimed deposits, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to start a web portal which will be operational in three to four months to aid beneficiaries to get back unclaimed money. It will be password-protected and only the claimants will have access to search.

TVS SCS bags U.K. order for supply of Land Rover spares

TVS Supply Chain Solutions (TVS SCS) has bagged a contract from the U.K. Ministry of Defence for the supply of spares, consumables and accessories for the Land Rover Wolf (a light military vehicle) platform.

Tax paid by senior citizens surges to over ₹1 lakh crore

There has been a surprising surge in income tax payments from senior citizens during the past year, lifting the overall tax collections from the 60+ population by as much as 61.5% from pre-COVID levels to surpass ₹1 lakh crore.

NBFC firm REC raises \$750 million through issuance of green bonds

State-owned non-banking finance firm REC Ltd has raised USD 750 million (about ₹6,138 crore) through issuance of green bonds. The net proceeds from the issue of the bonds will be applied to finance, in whole or in part, the eligible green projects in accordance with the approvals granted by Reserve Bank of India

Disbursement under MUDRA reached 98.65% in FY23, highest since inception

The gap between sanction and disbursement under Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) has shrunk to an all-time low at 1.35 per cent at the end of just-concluded FY23. In earlier years, the gap was between sanctioned, and disbursement was between 2.2 per cent and 3.3 per cent.

FM Sitharaman leaves for USA to attend Spring Annual Meetings of IMF

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman left for USA to attend the Spring Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) - World Bank.

Tamil Nadu has ₹30,000-cr investment commitments in EV sector

Tamil Nadu government is reported to have received commitments for ₹30,000 crore worth of investments in electric vehicle manufacturing and associated segments. Locations like Hosur and Krishnagiri in the Western region is emerging as EV manufacturing hub like the Sriperumbudur and Oragadam corridors.

States' subsidy accounting must be transparent: CAG

The Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) of India, G.C. Murmu, has said States must take measures to maintain proper accounting of subsidies, reduce fiscal deficits, remove revenue deficits and keep outstanding debts at an acceptable level.

General PF rate remains at 7.1% for April-June

The Union government has retained the interest rate payable on savings in the General Provident Fund (GPF) at 7.1% for the April to June 2023 quarter, making this the 13th quarter in a row that the rates have been static for government employees' PF corpus.

India set to grow by 5.9% this fiscal: IMF.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected that India's economy will grow by 5.9% for the current fiscal year April 2023 - March 2024, a downward revision of 0.2 percentage points since the January forecast. Global output growth is projected by the IMF to slow to 2.8% in 2023 (calendar year), picking up to 3% in 2024.

Reserve Bank announces framework for acceptance of Green Deposits

With a view to foster and develop a green finance ecosystem in India, the Reserve Bank of India has put in place a framework for acceptance of Green Deposits. As per the framework, entities regulated by the RBI can accept green deposits from customers and the proceeds shall be allocated for projects undertaken in sectors like renewable energy, energy efficiency, promoting climate resilience.

Citi, JICA co-finance loan to IndusInd Bank to aid agriculture.

Citi and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have announced a co-financing loan to IndusInd Bank to improve financial access for farmers and catalyse capital investment in the agricultural sector in India. This includes \$30 million loan by Citi and ¥13 billion loan by JICA.

MRF emerges as 'second strongest tyre brand in the world'

MRF Ltd. has emerged as the second-strongest tyre brand in the world, according to the latest report by the U.K.-based Brand Finance. MRF scored high in almost all parameters and is also featured as the second fastest-growing tyre brand in the world.

Consumer inflation eases to 5.66% in March

India's retail inflation slid below the 6% mark for the first time in 2023 and only the third time in the last 15 months to touch 5.66% in March 2023.

IIP data: India's industrial output rises 5.6% in February.

India's industrial output, as measured by the index of Industrial production or IIP, in February rose 5.6% year on year, data from the Ministry of Statistics showed.

G-20 Finance Ministers discuss debt distress, Ukraine and other challenges in Washington

G-20 countries discussed the debt distress of poor and middle-income countries, challenges to the global economy, including Ukraine, and a raft of issues from cryptocurrency risk to transparency in international taxation, as the group's Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) met in Washington DC on April 12 and 13.

India, Japan and France announce common platform for Sri Lanka creditors

Japan, India and France have announced a common platform for talks among bilateral creditors to coordinate

restructuring of Sri Lanka's debt. The move is expected to serve as a model for solving the debt woes of middle-income economies.

India's forex reserves rise \$6.30 bn to \$584.75 bn

India's forex reserves increased by \$6.306 billion to \$584.755 billion for the week ended April 7, the RBI said. For the week ended April 7, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by \$4.74 billion to \$514.431 billion.

Business with turnover of over ₹100 crore will have to upload e-invoice on IRP within 7 days

Businesses with turnover of ₹100 crore and above will have to upload their electronic invoices on IRP within 7 days of the issue of such invoice with effect from May 1, GST Network has said. Currently, businesses upload such invoices on Invoice Registration Portal (IRP) on the current date, irrespective of the date of issue of such invoice.

CREDAI allies with building council for 'green' projects

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India (CREDAI) has entered into a nationwide tie-up with the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), with a pledge to build more than 1,000 Certified Green Projects in the next two years and to construct 4,000 green projects by 2030 through adoption of IGBC Green and Net Zero building ratings.

Apple's India Sales Near \$6 Billion As Tim Cook Starts Retail Push

Apple Inc.'s sales in India hit a new high of almost \$6 billion in the year through March, highlighting the market's increasing importance for the iPhone maker as Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook arrives in the country to open its first local stores.

GST collections increase by 13% to ₹1.6 lakh cr in March, second highest ever.

India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collection for the month of March 2023 is stood at 1.6 lakh crore rupees, which is 13 percent higher than the GST revenues in the same month of last year.

India's defence exports reach all-time high of ₹16,000 crore.

India has achieved a remarkable milestone as the country witnessed an all-time high level of defence export worth approx. 16,000 crore rupees to over 85 countries.

Basic chemicals, cosmetics and dyes export touch \$30 billion

Basic chemicals, cosmetics and dyes export have crossed \$30 billion in the financial year ending March 2023, of which \$27 billion was achieved between last April and February 2023.

Railways register record revenue of Rs 2.40 lakh crore for 2022-23

Indian Railways has registered a record revenue of two lakh 40 thousand crore rupees for the financial year 2022-23 which is nearly 49 thousand crore rupees more than the previous year, reflecting 25 percent growth.

UAE is India's second biggest export destination

The UAE continues to be the second most important export destination for India, according to annual trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce. The US and the UAE retained the first and second places respectively in this category during the financial year 2022-23.

Wholesale inflation dipped to 1.34% in March

India's wholesale price rise slowed to 1.34% in March, with manufactured products prices falling nearly 0.8% from a year ago, when overall wholesale inflation was at 14.5%.

India plans to appeal against WTO panel ruling on IT tariffs

India is planning to appeal against a ruling from a panel at the World Trade Organization (WTO) that the Asian country violated global trading rules by imposing tariffs on some IT products. The WTO panel gave its ruling related to a 2019 dispute with the European Union, Japan and Taiwan over import duties on IT products.

Apple opens its first India retail store at BKC, Mumbai

Apple Inc. opened Apple BKC, its first retail store in the country at Jio Centre, Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), Mumbai in a significant move to solidify its base in this part of the world. Apple CEO Tim Cook opened the gate of the store and personally received customers.

India attracts fifth of PE inflows into the Asia-Pacific region, even as fund flows slowdown in 2022

Private equity and venture capital inflows into India crossed \$61 billion in 2022, down 12 per cent on the year on global headwinds, but its share of investments in the Asia-Pacific region rose to a fifth from less than 15 per cent a year ago.

India's fantasy sports industry to grow at 33 per cent CAGR, reach 50 cr users by FY27

Reflecting the growing popularity of fantasy sports in India, the industry's revenues are expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 33 per cent to reach ₹25,300 crore in the 2026-27 financial year (FY27), with a projected user base of 50 crore.

India's real GDP growth likely accelerated to 4.9% in Q4 of 2022-23

India's real GDP growth is likely to have picked up pace to 4.9% in the last quarter of 2022-23 from the 4.4% uptick recorded in the October to December 2022 quarter, rating agency ICRA said.

Flows into NRI bank deposits in India top \$6 bn mark in April 2022-Feb 2023

The bank accounts of non-resident Indians (NRIs) held in the country received \$6.4 billion during April 2022-February 2023, more than twice the \$2.35 billion during the same period in FY22.

Coal Ministry to monetise assets worth over ₹50,000 crore in FY24

The Coal Ministry has chalked out plans to monetise around ₹51,118.61 crore in the current financial year, ending March 2024, which includes assets of the mining behemoth Coal India (CIL).

Govt to stop online companies from building special platforms for ONDC, says Goyal

The Union government wants the main platform of e-commerce companies to join the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), rather than build a new app to join the network, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said.

U.K. blocks Microsoft \$69-bn Activision deal over cloud gaming concerns

Britain said it would block Microsoft's \$69-billion acquisition of "Call of Duty" maker Activision Blizzard over its concerns it would harm competition in cloud gaming.

Zomato, Zypp Electric partner to deploy one-lakh e-scooters for last-mile delivery by 2024

Electric mobility startup Zypp Electric plans to deploy one-lakh electric scooters in collaboration with Zomato for last-mile delivery by 2024. As part of the tie-up, Zypp will also provide delivery partners to Zomato for the last-mile deliveries in various cities across the country.

India's patent filings soar 13.6% in FY22: Nasscom

India witnessed a significant increase in patent filings, also the highest annual increase in the last decade, in fiscal 2022, with a 13.6% YoY growth rate, said a report prepared by Nasscom. FY22 also witnessed a rise in the share of domestic filings to 44.4% of total patents filed, compared to 41.6% in the previous year. Out of the 5,84,000 patents filed in India between FY2010 and FY2022.

Godrej Consumer to buy Raymond's FMCG business for ₹2,825 crore

Godrej Consumer Products will acquire the FMCG business of Raymond Consumer Care Ltd. (RCCL) for ₹2,825 crore. The FMCG business which includes brands such as Park Avenue Deo, KS Deo, Kamasutra and Premium have been sold through slump sale.

Core sectors' output dipped to 5-month low of 3.6% in March

Growth in India's eight core sectors' output fell to a five-month low of 3.6% in March, from 7.2% in February, with electricity and cement production slipping from a year ago, and crude oil output falling for the tenth successive month.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Q4 profit rises 26% as NII jumps 35%

Kotak Mahindra Bank reported fourth-quarter standalone net profit rose 26% year-on-year to ₹3,496 crore, buoyed by a 35% jump in net interest income (NII).

Central Bank Q4 net profit grows 84% to ₹571 crore

Central Bank of India reported that its fourth quarter net profit grew 84.19% to ₹571 crore against ₹310 crore a year ago, owing to improvements in all-round performance.

AWARDS

Indian American C.R. Rao wins Nobel Prize equivalent in statistics at the age of 102

The Indian American statistician Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao has been awarded the 2023 International Prize in Statistics — the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for statistics. It is awarded once every two years to an individual or team "for major achievements using statistics to advance science, technology and human welfare".

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.

Wing Commander Deepika Misra becomes 1st woman IAF officer to get 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.

India's easternmost district gets PM excellence award for innovation

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

2023 Goldman Environmental Prize Winners

Six grassroots environmental activists received the Goldman Environmental Prize in 2023. Known as the "Green Nobel Prize," the Goldman Prize honors environmental activists from the six continental regions. The 2023 prize winners are Alessandra Korap Munduruku from Brazil, Chilekwa Mumba from Zambia, Delima Silalahi from Indonesia, Diane Wilson from the U.S., Tero Mustonen from Finland, and Zafer Kizilkaya from Turkey.

PERSONS IN NEWS (National and International)

Donald Trump

Donald Trump turned himself in for a historic New York court hearing held amid tight security and a global media frenzy, as the Republican billionaire becomes the first U.S. President in history to face criminal charges. Mr. Trump is expected to plead not guilty to a host of charges related to hush money paid to a porn star ahead of the 2016 election.

Md. Sahabuddin

Veteran freedom fighter, jurist and politician Md. Sahabuddin was sworn in as the 22nd President of Bangladesh in Dhaka.

Nandini Gupta

Nandini Gupta from Rajasthan's Kota has been crowned Femina Miss India 2023. Nandini was crowned the new beauty queen of India at the 59th edition of India's most prestigious beauty pageant. The first and second runner-ups were Delhi's Poonja and Manipur's Thounaojam Strela Luwang respectively.

Anant Maheshwari

IT Industry body NASSCOM has appointed Anant Maheshwari, President of Microsoft India, as its chairperson for 2023-24. Maheshwari, who was Nasscom's vice-chairperson, succeeds Krishnan Ramanujam, President of business and technology services at TCS.

Amitabh Kant

The Centre has formed a committee headed by former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant to study stalled real estate projects and suggest ways to complete them.

Chaudhry Anwarul Haq

Chaudhry Anwarul Haq, a lawmaker from former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party was elected as the "Prime Minister" of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Amritpal Singh

In a joint operation of Punjab Police and Intelligence wing, pro-Khalistan preacher and 'waris punjab de' chief Amritpal Singh, who was on the run for a month now was arrested from Rode village in the Moga district of Punjab.

L.Murugan

Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting L Murugan became the first Union Minister to visit India's first village on the Indo-Myanmar border in Phek district of Nagaland.

Rajesh Kumar Singh

Rajesh Kumar Singh has assumed charge as the Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. Mr Singh is an Indian Administrative Service officer of the 1989 Batch from Kerala cadre.

Siddhartha Mohanty

The Central Government appointed Siddhartha Mohanty as the chairman of state-run Life Insurance Corporation of India for two years. Mr. Mohanty, who is one of the four managing directors at LIC, was already named interim chairman in March for three months.

Parkash Singh Badal

Former Punjab Chief Minister and veteran Akali Dal leader Parkash Singh Badal passed away after a brief illness at a private hospital in Mohali. Mr. Badal, served as Punjab's Chief Minister five times.

Rabey Hasani Nadwi

Renowned Islamic scholar and president, All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Rabey Hasani Nadwi, passed away in Lucknow. He was 94. Known for his ability to take everybody along, Mr. Hasani was also the Vice-President of Riyadh's Aalami Rabita Adab-e-Islami, a founding member of the Muslim World League.

Zafrullah Chowdhury

Veteran Liberation War fighter and legendary public health activist Dr. Zafrullah Chowdhury passed away in Dhaka. He won the Ramon Magsaysay Award in the Community Leadership category in 1985 and the Right Livelihood Prize in 1992 for his outstanding work in the public health sector.

Keshub Mahindra

Former chairman of Mahindra & Mahindra, Keshub Mahindra, passed away at the age of 99. During his chairmanship, the Mahindra Group grew from a manufacturer of automobiles to a federation of companies operating in a range of businesses.

Sudhir Naik

Former India opening batter and Mumbai captain Sudhir Naik passed away following a brief illness. Naik, who played three Tests and two ODIs in 1974-75, was hospitalized after suffering a fall at home on March 24. He was a part of five Ranji Trophy title-winning sides, including the one in 1970-71 as captain.

Salim Durani

Former Indian cricketer, Salim Aziz Durani passed away in Jamnagar. He featured in 29 Test matches for team India and scored 1,202 runs with an average of 25.04.

Ranajit Guha

Noted historian Ranajit Guha Guha, who was 100 years old, died at his residence in Austria. One of his well-known books is 'Elementary Aspects of Peasant Insurgency in Colonial India'.

SPORTS

Wimbledon lifts ban on Russian and Belarusian players

Russian and Belarusian players will be able to compete at Wimbledon as neutral athletes after the All England Club reversed its ban from last year.

PV Sindhu loses in final of Madrid Spain Masters

P.V. Sindhu has lost to Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung in the summit clash of the Madrid Spain Masters.

Tennis: Medvedev beats Sinner for Miami Open title

Daniil Medvedev had won his fourth ATP title of the year, beating Jannik Sinner 7-5, 6-3 in the Miami Open final.

Bezzecchi claims maiden MotoGP win in Ducati sweep

Marco Bezzecchi claimed a maiden MotoGP win at the rain-lashed Argentina Grand Prix, also delivering a first victory for a Ducati team owned by motorcycling legend and seven-time champion Valentino Rossi.

Golf: Koepka wins Orlando LIV title

Four-time Major champion Brooks Koepka has won the second LIV Golf title of his career after clinching a two-shot victory in Orlando.

Golf: China's Yin claims first LPGA crown at Los Angeles Open

China's Yin Ruoning has won her first US LPGA title at the Los Angeles Open, holding off Major winner Georgia Hall by one stroke.

Nitin to be on-field umpire in Leeds and Manchester Tests

Nitin Menon, the only Indian in the ICC elite panel of umpires, will officiate in the iconic Ashes in England in June-July.

Dhoni among five Indian cricketers to get MCC life membership

The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) gave Life Membership to World Cup-winning captain M.S. Dhoni, along with four other distinguished India internationals. They include Yuvraj Singh, Suresh Raina, former women's National captain Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami.

SAI integrates Khelo India Games Certificates with DigiLocker

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has integrated Khelo India Games Certificates with DigiLocker for the first time. With this, now the Khelo India Games participating athletes and other stakeholders will be able to access their certificates of merit and participation from the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 in Madhya Pradesh onwards.

World Cup-winner Argentina moves to top of FIFA rankings

World Cup winner Argentina topped the FIFA rankings for the first time in six years. Argentina's two wins in friendlies last month ended the one-year run at the top for Brazil, which lost to Morocco 2-1 and fell to No. 3.

Tejaswin Shankar wins decathlon silver in US, misses national record by a whisker

Commonwealth Games medallist high jumper Tejaswin Shankar bagged a decathlon silver and came close to breaking the national record at the Jim Click Shootout competition in Arizona, USA.

Chennai to host Street Child Cricket World Cup in September, 2023

Street Child United, in partnership with Shree Dayaa Foundation, announced that the Street Child Cricket World Cup will take place from 20th – 30th September 2023, Chennai, India.

Badminton: Priyanshu Rajawat clinches men's singles trophy of Orleans Masters Super 300 tournament

India's Priyanshu Rajawat clinched the Orleans Masters Super 300 badminton tournament with a 21-15, 19-21, 21-16 win over Denmark's Magnus Johannesen in France.

Wrestling: Indians claim three medals in Astana

Indian Greco Roman wrestlers have bagged three medals, including a silver and two bronzes, in the Asian wrestling championships in Astana.

Tennis: Jabeur beats Bencic to win Charleston Open title

Ons Jabeur defeated defending champion Belinda Bencic in straight sets to win the WTA Charleston Open clay court tournament.

Chess: Gukesh wins at World Chess Armageddon Asia & Oceania

Grandmaster D. Gukesh has stunned former world rapid champion Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in the final to win the World Chess Armageddon Asia & Oceania event.

Golf: Rahm wins Masters crown to reclaim World No.1 spot

Jon Rahm delivered tension-packed clutch shots down the stretch to win the Masters, capturing his second major title to reclaim the world number one ranking.

Vikas secures Greco Roman 72kg bronze in Asian meet

Vikas secured another bronze medal for India in Greco Roman 72kg category at the Asian wrestling championships in Astana. Vikas beat Kroea's Jiyeon Lee 11-0 before losing 1-6 to Iranian Sajjad Ali. India finished the Greco Roman competitions with four medals, including one silver and three bronzes.

Nisha Dahia wins Silver in Asian Wrestling Championships in Kazakhstan

India's Nisha Dahiya won silver at the Asian wrestling championships in Astana, Kazakhstan. She won the medal in the women's 68kg category.

India's Antim Pangal clinches silver at Asian Wrestling Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan

India's Antim Panghal won silver at the 2023 Asian Wrestling Championships after losing to Japan's Akari Fujinami in the 53-kg category in Astana, Kazakhstan. Four other Indian wrestlers including Anshu Malik (57kg), Sonam Malik (62kg), Manisha (65kg) and Reetika (72kg) added to India's medal tally by winning their bronze medal bouts.

Aman Sehrawat clinches India's first gold medal at Asian Wrestling Championships

Aman Sehrawat has clinched India's first gold medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2023 in Astana, Kazakhstan. Sehrawat topped the podium in men's 57 kg freestyle category on the penultimate day of the competition.

Kazakhstan: Indian Women wrestlers bag seven medals to finish third at Asian Wrestling Championship

Indian women wrestlers have bagged seven medals - two silver and five bronze - in Asian Wrestling Championships at Astana in Kazakhstan and finished 3rd in the Women's Teams Ranking.

₹3,200 crore will be spent on sports facilities in next 5 years in India under Khelo India campaign

Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Anurag Singh Thakur said in Himachal Pradesh that under the Khelo India campaign, an amount of about 3,200 crore rupees will be spent on sports facilities during 5 years.

Anirudh clinches freestyle bronze in Asian wrestling
Anirudh Kumar (125kg) claimed bronze in the freestyle competitions of the Asian wrestling championships in Astana, defeating Uzbekistan's Sardorbek Kholmatov 122 in the bronze medal match.

Shaili uncorks the second longest jump by an Indian woman

Shaili Singh stole the show with a brilliant 6.76m leap in the women's long jump event in the Indian Grand Prix4 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium. Shaili recorded the second best women's long jump performance by an Indian, behind Anju Bobby George's 6.83m National record set in the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Tennis: Rublev rallies past Rune for first master's title in Monte Carlo

Russia's Andrey Rublev fought back against Denmark's Holger Rune to win his first master's 1000 title in Monte Carlo.

MotoGP: Francesco Bagnaia Wins Sprint at Grand Prix of the Americas

Francesco Bagnaia breezed to a comfortable win in the Grand Prix of the Americas MotoGP sprint. Alex Rins on the Honda LCR took second with Jorge Martin on another Ducati in third.

Chennai to host Asian Champions Trophy in August

The seventh Asian men's Champions Trophy hockey tournament will be held at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai from August 3 to 12. This is the first time the tournament will be held in India.

Wisden 2023: Mooney, Stokes win Wisden cricketer of the year

Australia's Beth Mooney has been named the Wisden Almanack's leading women's cricketer in the world for the second time, while Ben Stokes has been crowned the leading men's cricketer for the third time in four years. India's big-hitting Suryakumar Yadav succeeded Mohammad Rizwan as the top T20 cricketer in the world.

Tennis legend Mukerjee releases his autobiography "Crosscourt."

Jaidip Mukerjee, a renowned tennis player, launched his autobiography titled "Crosscourt". The book chronicles Mukerjee's journey and provides insight into his life as a successful tennis player.

Ballance retires from all forms of cricket

Former England batter Gary Ballance announced his retirement from cricket, four months after leaving Yorkshire following the racism scandal involving Azeem Rafiq.

Suryakumar Yadav continues to lead ICC T20 rankings

Swashbuckling Indian batter Suryakumar Yadav continued his stay at the top of the latest ICC Men's T20 Batters Rankings. Suryakumar, who has endured a lean run of late, remained static on the ICC list with 906 rating points, and is over 100 points ahead of the second placed Mohammad Rizwan (798) of Pakistan.

Central University of Odisha, Koraput organizes Traditional Sports Festival 'Bharatiya Paramparik Kreedha Mahotsav.'

The Central University of Odisha, Koraput, organized the Bharatiya Paramparik Kreedha Mahotsav, a Traditional Sports Festival, which showcased a wide range of indigenous sports forms of the country.

Jyothi Surekha Vennam clinches two gold medals in compound mixed team and individual events at Archery World Cup

Indian mixed team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Ojas Pravin Deotale outclassed Chen Yi Hsuan and Chem Chieh Lun of Chinese Taipei 159-154 to win the mixed team gold. The second gold came in the women's individual Compound event after Jyothi Surekha Vennam defeated Sara Lopez of Columbia 149-146.

Tennis: Alcaraz beats Tsitsipas, wins second straight Barcelona Open title

Carlos Alcaraz beat Stefanos Tsitsipas in straight sets to successfully defend his title at the Barcelona Open, an ATP500 event.

Tennis: Swiatek beats Sabalenka in straight sets to win Stuttgart title

World number one Iga Swiatek cruised past Aryna Sabalenka 6-3 6-4 to win the Stuttgart Open in a repeat of last year's final to confirm her status as a French Open favourite.

Iconic Sharjah stadium stand named after Sachin Tendulkar on his 50th birthday

An iconic Sharjah cricket stadium stand has been renamed after Sachin Tendulkar in a special ceremony in the UAE, honouring the Indian cricket legend on his 50th birthday on April 24. The West Stand at the iconic stadium has been renamed the 'Sachin Tendulkar Stand.'

Odisha extends Indian Hockey team sponsorship till 2033

The Odisha government has decided to further extend its sponsorship for both the Men and Women Indian Hockey Teams (senior and junior) for another ten years from 2023 to 2033.

Odisha beats Bengaluru FC in Super Cup summit to win first title

Odisha FC were crowned the champions of the Super Cup football tournament after they prevailed over Bengaluru FC 2-1 in the summit showdown, winning their first silverware.

Asian Youth Athletics Championships: India Bag Four Medals on Opening Day in Tashkent

India started its campaign on a positive note at the Asian Youth Athletics Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, winning four medals, including a gold.

Sri Lanka spinner Prabath Jayasuriya breaks 71-year-old Test record

Sri Lankan spinner Prabath Jayasuriya made history by becoming the fastest spinner to take 50 Test wickets in the second match of the two-match series against Ireland in Galle. He also became the fastest Sri Lankan bowler with 50 Test wickets, leapfrogging legends like Muttiah Muralitharan, Chaminda Vaas, and Rangana Herath.

Rezoana wins Asian under-18 400m in record time

Rezoana Mallick Heena broke the eight-year-old meet record of Bahrain's former World champion Salwa Eid Nasser as she won the girls 400m gold at the fifth Asian under-18 athletics championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Abhilash Tomy scripts maritime history

Commander Abhilash Tomy (retd.) created history as the first Indian to complete the Golden Globe Race, finishing in second place after a gruelling 236 days alone at sea in his sail boat named *Bayanat*, in a journey of grit and endurance.

MISCELLANEOUS

67 million children missed routine vaccines globally between 2019 and 2021 because of Covid-19

Some 67 million children partially or fully missed routine vaccines globally between 2019 and 2021 because of lockdowns and healthcare disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the United Nations said. Of the 67 million children whose vaccinations were severely disrupted, 48 million missed out on routine vaccines entirely flagging concerns about potential polio and measles outbreaks.

UN reports 'off the charts' melting of glaciers.

The world's glaciers melted at dramatic speed last year and saving them is effectively a lost cause, the United Nations reported, as climate change indicators once again hit record highs. The last eight years have been the warmest ever recorded, the UN's World Meteorological Organization said.

India climbs 6 places on World Bank's Logistic Performance Index

India has climbed six places on the World Bank's Logistic Performance Index (LPI) 2023, now ranking 38th in the 139 countries index, as a result of significant investments in both soft and hard infrastructure as well as technology. India's performance has drastically improved from 2014, when it was ranked 54th on the LPI.

China goes beyond its territory to harass and intimidate its citizens settled in other nations: Report

A global report has alleged that China goes beyond its territory to harass and intimidate its citizens settled in other nations. According to the report published by Geo-politik, Beijing uses surveillance and individual data for intimidation, blackmail, and coercion of its opponents based in foreign countries.

JWST near infrared imaging reveals a compact galaxy

New James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) imaging and spectroscopy observations have revealed a gravitationally-lensed galaxy at redshift 9.5 — corresponding to 510 million years after the Big Bang. The researchers report (Science) near infrared imaging from the JWST of a distant galaxy magnified by gravitational lensing.

Ministry of Culture to release comic book series based on themes and people featured in PM Modi's Mann Ki Baat programme

The Union Culture Ministry has decided to release a 12-part comic book series based on the themes and people featured in Prime Minister Modi's Mann Ki Baat programme. The special project is being implemented by Amar Chitra Katha, which will release the series in English, followed by translations in 12 Indian languages.

Major shift in global governance to tackle current and looming challenges as climate crisis: UN report

A UN report said, there has to be a major shift in global governance to better tackle such current and looming challenges as the climate crisis and rising security threats. Launched by the UN's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, A Breakthrough for People and Planet: Effective and Inclusive Global Governance for Today and the Future, outlines an ambitious plan to overhaul the global architecture.

World Autism Awareness Day: 2nd April

World Autism Awareness Day is observed every year on April 2nd. World Autism Awareness Day 2023's topic this year is "Contribution of Autistic Individuals at Home, at Work, in the Arts, and Policymaking."

World Health Day is observed on April 7

World Health Day is observed on April 7 every year. The theme this year is Health for All. This year the world health body is observing its 75th anniversary.

Nation remembers Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar on his birth anniversary.

India remembers the architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar on his birth anniversary on April 14.

World Creativity and Innovation Day 2023: 21st April

World Creativity and Innovation Day is celebrated annually on April 21 to raise awareness about the crucial role that innovation and creativity play in human development.

International Earth Day: 22nd April

International Earth Day was observed on 22nd April, 2023. It was introduced by the United Nations on April 22, 2009, following a resolution proposed by the State of Bolivia and supported by more than 50 member countries.

World Book and Copyright Day: 23rd April

World Book and Copyright Day is observed on April 23 every year to promote reading books, particularly among the younger generation. The theme for World Book Day 2023 is 'Indigenous Languages.' It focuses on promoting the diversity in native languages of a country.

International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace is being observed on April 24

The International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace is being observed on April 25. The Day acknowledges the use of multilateral decision-making and diplomacy in achieving peaceful resolutions to conflicts among nations.

World Malaria Day on April 25: India registers over 85 per cent decline in malaria cases from 2015 to 2022

World Malaria Day is observed every year on 25th of April to recognize global efforts to control malaria. This year the theme is - Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement. India has witnessed over 85.1 per cent decline in malaria cases and 83.36 per cent reduction in deaths during the year from 2015 to 2022.

World Intellectual Property Day 2023 on April 26

World Intellectual Property Day is observed on April 26th every year to celebrate the importance of intellectual property rights (IPR). The day was established by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in 2000. The theme for this year's World Intellectual Property Day 2023 is "Accelerating Innovation and Creativity: Women and IP".

World Day for Safety and Health at Work is being observed on April 28th

April 28th is marked as the World Day for Safety and Health at Work. It is observed annually to encourage the balance of safe, healthy, and appropriate working environments worldwide. The theme for the year 2023 is, 'A safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle and right at work'.

International Dance Day: 29th April

International Dance Day is being celebrated on 29th April. The Day aims to raise awareness about the benefits of dance and bring people together through it.