



MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 01-30, 2024

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TNPSC EXAMS
24 YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE

Foot Prints

(Compilation of Current Events)

 TAMIL NADU	 STATES	 NATIONAL	 INDIA & THE WORLD	 INTERNATIONAL
 SCHEMES	 DEFENCE	 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	 EVS	 ECONOMY
 COURT VERDICTS	 CONFERENCES & SUMMITS	 AWARDS	 PERSONALITIES	 BOOKS & AUTHORS
 SPORTS	 RANKS & REPORTS	 DAYS	 OBITUARY	 NEWS OF THE MONTH
 KNOWLEDGE	 APPOINTMENTS	 COMMITTEES	 APPS / PORTALS	 MISCELLANEOUS

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TAMIL NADU

➤ Indian Coast Guard Aquatic Centre at ICGS Mandapam

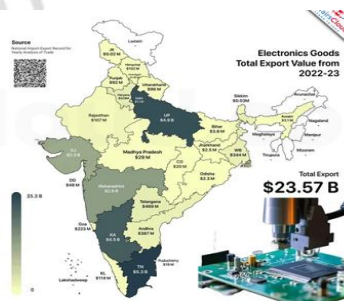


- ✓ Indian Coast Guard Director General Rakesh Pal inaugurated the Indian Coast Guard Aquatic Centre at ICGS Mandapam near Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu, as part of his four-day visit to the maritime force's bases in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Puducherry.
- ✓ The visit aimed to review operational preparedness and infrastructure development in the region, with a focus on ensuring safe, secure, and clean seas.
- **T.N. Leading the Country on Multiple Fronts**
- ✓ The Export Preparedness Index, 2022, and the National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade (NIRYAT) for 2022- 23, released by the Union government, showed that the "Dravidian model of governance" was leading the country.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu also led the country in institutional deliveries and antenatal care, it said. The annual report of the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry for 2022-23 had revealed that Tamil Nadu had 50 Special Economic Zones (SEZ), the highest among the States, it said. "In Gujarat, there are only 21 SEZs," it added.
- ✓ According to the Export Preparedness Index, 2022, released by NITI Aayog, Tamil Nadu had secured the first position by scoring between 80 and 100 on various parameters, it said.
- ✓ As per the report released by NIRYAT, Tamil Nadu was second only to Maharashtra, accounting for 16.30% of the total exports.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu had secured 3.31% (NFHS-5) in the National Multidimensional Poverty Index, 2023, in terms of 'Uncensored Headcount: Maternal Health', while Gujarat secured 12.72%.

- ✓ Various reports released by the Centre showed that Tamil Nadu, under Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, led the country on multiple fronts.
- **State Ranks First in Export of Textiles and Leather Goods**
- ✓ According to the National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade (NIRYAT), the DMK said, Tamil Nadu accounted for 22.58% of the textiles exported from the country. “The report has made it clear that Tamil Nadu tops the list when it comes to export of textiles,”.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu’s share was \$7.990 billion while Gujarat’s share was \$4.738 billion. Top among 10 States Tamil Nadu was also ranked first among the 10 States that export readymade garments.
- ✓ The total exports from India was \$16.19 billion and Tamil Nadu’s share was \$5.30 billion.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu also secured the first place in the export of leather goods, accounting for 43.20% of the national tally. “The data clearly show that Tamil Nadu is leading in many sectors.
- **In Electronics Exports, Tamil Nadu jumps to Top**
- ✓ Driven by the aggressive India push from global major Apple, the southern state of Tamil Nadu has become the top state in terms of electronic goods exports in the financial year 2023-24, surpassing Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

Tamil Nadu emerges as India's top electronics exporter, triples exports to \$5.37 bn in FY23

State	FY23 (in \$ billion)	% share of India's exports	FY22 (in \$ billion)	% share of India's exports
Tamil Nadu	5.37	22.83	1.86	11.98
Uttar Pradesh	4.9	20.85	3.77	24.25
Karnataka	4.52	19.22	3.87	24.89
Maharashtra	2.68	11.41	2.08	13.39



- ✓ The state posted a 78 per cent increase in exports from \$5.37 billion in 2022-23 to \$9.56 billion in 2023-24.
- ✓ In 2023-24, Karnataka became the number two exporting state with \$4.62 billion, contributing to 16 per cent of the national exports, followed by Uttar Pradesh with \$4.46 billion worth of exports and 15 per cent of the national share.
- **Tamil Nadu Conducts Nilgiri Tahr Survey**
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government is conducting a three-day synchronised survey of the Nilgiri Tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*), the State animal.



- ✓ The survey aims to estimate the population of the endangered species, which once roamed the Anamalai and Nilgiris landscape.
 - ✓ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) representative will be an observer in the exercise.
 - ✓ The survey is being conducted in collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), and the IUCN.
- **T.N. Looking to Tap into Carbon Market to Fund Climate Projects**



- ✓ Tamil Nadu is looking to tap into the carbon market to fund its climate action projects such as the Wetland Mission and increasing the mangrove cover, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, said on Wednesday.
 - ✓ This includes creating new mangrove areas, improving the degraded mangrove patches and ensuring that you create a large number of green jobs.
 - ✓ In the coming months, we would register the projects, get them rated, and make presentation for the carbon credits program.
- **Chithirai Festival**
- ✓ Lord Kallazhagar's annual ritual in Alagar Temple, Madurai during the Chithirai festival saw thousands of devotees gathering to witness his ceremonial entry into the Vaigai river.

- ✓ The festival, merging narratives of Lord Kallazhagar and Goddess Meenakshi's marriage, holds historical significance and promotes harmony.
- ✓ Alagar Temple is situated at the base of Alagar hills in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, and is one of Lord Vishnu's 108 abodes, revered as Kallazhagar.



STATE

➤ UP Leads with Most GI-Tagged Products

- ✓ Northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh has taken the lead in having the highest number of Geographical Indication (GI) certified products in the country.



- ✓ With the recent addition of 15 new products, Uttar Pradesh now boasts a total of 69 GI-tagged products, surpassing Tamil Nadu's 58.
- ✓ The holy city of Varanasi has emerged as a leader in GI-tagged goods production, with a remarkable 30 certified products – the highest from a single geographical area.
- ✓ GI certification ensures that these products are unique representations of a specific culture, society, or craft.

NATIONAL

➤ 60 Traditional Products - GI Tag

- ✓ A record 60 products from across India, including Banaras Thandai, have been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ✓ This is the first time that such a large number of products have been given the GI tag at one go, a senior official from the Geographical Indications Registry said, adding that more States were coming forward and filing applications to get a GI tag for their traditional products.
- ✓ Six traditional crafts from Assam and thirteen other products from Assam have been given the tag.

➤ Central Equipment Identity Register System (CEIR)

- ✓ As many as 1,580 lost or stolen mobile phones have been successfully recovered, thanks to the Central Equipment Identity Register System (CEIR) which was introduced last year.



- ✓ The CEIR system is a citizen-friendly initiative that was launched by the Department of Telecommunication (DoT), under the Ministry of Communications in May 2023.
 - ✓ It is integrated with the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS), ensuring efficient information sharing.
 - ✓ It also facilitates reporting, blocking, unblocking, and tracing of IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) numbers for lost or stolen mobile devices across the country.
- **India's Nuclear Energy Roadmap: Achieving 1 Lakh MW by 2047**

- ✓ In line with its ambitions for a sustainable energy future, India aims to ramp up its nuclear power production significantly, targeting a capacity of 1 lakh MW by 2047.



- ✓ This objective, outlined in a report titled 'Synchronising Energy Transitions Towards Possible Net Zero for India: Affordable and Clean Energy for All,' highlights the nation's commitment to expanding its nuclear energy sector.

➤ **IRDAI Removes Age Bar for Purchasing Health Insurance**

- ✓ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has removed the age limit for purchasing health insurance policies, with effect from April 1.



- ✓ Earlier, there was an age limit of 65 years to buy new health insurance policies. The IRDAI's latest move is aimed at bringing in extended health benefits to senior citizens.
- ✓ The IRDAI directive mandates health insurance providers to develop specialised policies catering to senior citizens, and to establish dedicated channels for addressing their claims and grievances.

➤ **Shompen Cast their Vote for the First Time**

- ✓ For the first time, members of the Shompen, one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in the country and who reside in the dense tropical rain

forests of the Great Nicobar island, on Friday took part in the election process by casting their votes in the Andaman and Nicobar Lok Sabha constituency.



- ✓ Seven members of the tribe exercised their franchise, said Andaman and Nicobar Islands' Chief Electoral Officer B.S. Jaglan.
- ✓ The estimated population of Shompen was 229, as per the 2011 Census data.
- **India's First Multi-Purpose Green Hydrogen Pilot Project**
- ✓ India's First Multi-Purpose Green Hydrogen Pilot Project Inaugurated in Himachal Pradesh.



- ✓ India has taken a big step forward in renewable energy with the start of its first green hydrogen trial project.
- ✓ It will be located at the 1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS) in Jhakri, Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ The project, which is being led by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN), wants to make green hydrogen using clean energy sources.

INTERNATIONAL

➤ India, EU Launch Initiative for EV Start-ups

- ✓ The European Union (EU) and India launched an Expression of Interest (EOI) for startups working in Battery Recycling Technologies for Electric Vehicles (EVs) for a matchmaking event.



- ✓ The matchmaking aims to enhance the cooperation between European and Indian Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and startups in the clean and green technologies sector.
 - ✓ The intended exchange of knowledge and expertise will be instrumental in advancing the circularity of rare materials and transitioning towards carbon neutrality in both India and the EU.
- ## ➤ UK's First Woman High Commissioner to India
- ✓ Lindy Cameron, a distinguished Oxford University alumna and former CEO of the UK's National Cyber Security Centre, has been appointed as the first woman high commissioner to India.



✓ Her appointment marks a significant milestone in UK-India relations, coming 70 years after India appointed its first high commissioner to London.

➤ **ASEAN Future Forum**



- ✓ External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar said that India truly believes that a strong and unified Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) can play a constructive role in the emerging regional architecture of the Indo-Pacific.
- ✓ Speaking at the First ASEAN Future Forum virtually, Dr. Jaishankar said that the synergy between 'India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative' (IIPOI) and the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) provides a strong framework of cooperation, including and addressing challenges to comprehensive security.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

➤ Parivartan Chintan

- ✓ The inaugural Tri-Service Planning Conference, dubbed 'Parivartan Chintan,' convened in New Delhi on April 8, 2024, orchestrated by the Ministry of Defence.



- ✓ This landmark event aimed to foster jointness and integration among the Indian Armed Forces, especially in light of ongoing efforts to establish unified theatre commands.

➤ World Future Energy Summit

- ✓ 16th World Future Energy Summit has commenced in Abu Dhabi, drawing together global leaders, policymakers, and experts in sustainable energy and climate initiatives.



- ✓ The summit aims to foster dialogue on key issues like global climate action, renewable energy, energy security, and sustainable development.
- ✓ Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, President and CEO of the UAE Independent Climate Change Accelerators, emphasized the critical need for substantial financial investments to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- ✓ Francesco La Camera, Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency, emphasized the urgency of increasing renewable energy capacity to at least 11 terawatts by 2030.

➤ **Ocean Decade Conference**

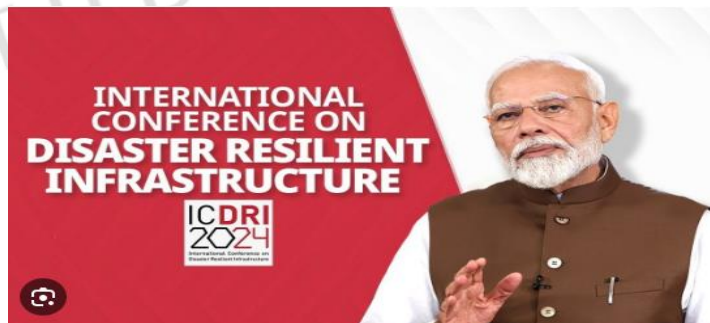
- ✓ India, led by Earth Sciences Secretary M. Ravichandran, advocated for the establishment of a region-specific ocean observation center during the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference held in Barcelona, Spain.



- ✓ The conference, organized by the Spanish government and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, aimed to assess progress toward the goals of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and foster collaboration among stakeholders.

➤ **Disaster Resilient Infrastructure**

- ✓ The 6th edition of International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure has begun in New Delhi.



- ✓ While addressing the 6th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure via a video message, Prime Minister highlighted that while disasters are often measured in monetary terms, their true toll is felt by individuals, families, and communities.
- ✓ He stressed the need for resilience to be incorporated into both new infrastructure projects and post-disaster reconstruction efforts.

➤ **Critical Minerals Summit**

- ✓ Ministry of Mines will hold Critical Minerals Summit Enhancing Beneficiation and Processing Capabilities in New Delhi.



- ✓ The summit will bring together a diverse array of Indian and international stakeholders, including industry leaders, startups, government officials, scientists, academics, and policy experts.
- ✓ The summit is set against the backdrop of India's rapid economic growth and ambitious clean energy targets, which underscore the urgent need for securing a domestic supply of Critical Raw Materials.

APP
STUDY CENTRE

DEFENCE

➤ Exercise Dosti-16

- ✓ India, Maldives & Sri Lanka's took part in 'Dosti-16' held in Maldives.



- ✓ Seeking to enhance maritime security and interoperability, coast guard personnel from India, the Maldives and Sri Lanka have embarked on a four-day trilateral exercise to identify emerging maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean Region.
- ✓ Indian Coast Guard ship Samarth and ICGS Abhinav took part at the exercise 'DOSTI-16'.
- ✓ Bangladesh is participating as an observer.

➤ Gagan Shakti

- ✓ IAF's 10-day mega exercise 'Gagan Shakti' begins from April 1-10.



- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) is showcasing its might and capability to carry out high-octane operations during the upcoming 'Gagan Shakti-2024' exercise "in a realistic environment" from April 1-10.
- ✓ The exercise involves all air force bases and assets scattered across the country.

➤ Agni-Prime

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and India's Strategic Forces Command (SFC) have successfully conducted a flight test of the new generation ballistic missile called 'Agni-Prime'.



- ✓ The test occurred at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, off Odisha's coast. The data was captured by several range sensors placed at different locations, including two downrange ships placed at the terminal point.
 - ✓ The launch was witnessed by the Chief of Defence Staff, Chief of Strategic Forces Command, and other senior officials from DRDO and the Indian Army.
- **Sagar Kavach**
- ✓ A two-day coastal security exercise called Sagar Kavach 01/24 was conducted off the Lakshadweep Islands from April 1-2, 2024.



- ✓ The exercise involved the participation of all maritime security agencies, including the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Marine Police, Fisheries, Customs, and other security agencies.
- **Exercise Dustlik**
- ✓ Fifth edition of the 'Dustlik' Joint Military Exercise will start in Termez District, Uzbekistan. 'Dustlik' Joint Military Exercise between India and Uzbekistan is set to begin in Termez District, Uzbekistan, from April 15.



- ✓ It will be conducted at Termez District, Uzbekistan from 15 to 28 April 2024.
- ✓ Contingents from the Indian Armed Forces and Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan will participate in this exercise for collaboration & future military interactions.

➤ **Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System**

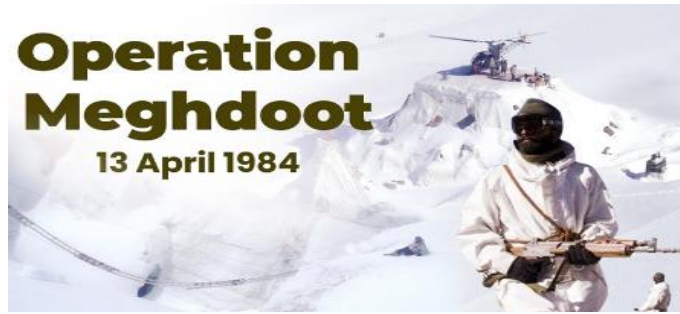
- ✓ Indigenous Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile System: A Milestone in India's Self-Reliance.



- ✓ In a significant milestone for India's defense capability, the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Army have successfully conducted trials of the indigenously designed and developed Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System.
 - ✓ This indigenous development marks a crucial step towards achieving self-reliance in advanced technology-based defense systems.
- **Operation Meghdoot**
- ✓ The Indian Army recently commemorated 40 years since 'Operation Meghdoot' began for securing the Siachen Glacier.

Operation Meghdoot

13 April 1984



- ✓ Operation Meghdoot was the code-name for the Indian Armed Forces operation to capture the Siachen Glacier, a strategically crucial region dominating Northern Ladakh.
- ✓ The primary objective behind this operation was to pre-empt the seizure of Sia La and Bilafond La passes by the Pakistan Army.
- ✓ Launched on April 13, 1984, this military operation was unique as the first assault launched on the world's highest battlefield.

➤ India Delivers First Batch of BrahMos Missiles to Philippines



- ✓ In a significant move reflecting the deepening military cooperation between India and the Philippines amid rising tensions in the South China Sea, India has successfully delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines.
 - ✓ This delivery marks the fruition of a \$375 million deal signed in January 2022, making the Philippines the first export customer for this joint venture missile between India and Russia.
- ### ➤ 'Poorvi Leher' Mega Exercise
- ✓ Indian Navy Conducts 'Poorvi Leher' Mega Exercise to Test Maritime Preparedness.



- ✓ The Indian Navy conducted a mega exercise, 'Poorvi Leher,' along the East Coast to validate its procedures and assess its preparedness to meet maritime security challenges in the region.
- ✓ The extensive drill witnessed the participation of ships, submarines, aircraft, and special naval forces.
- **Lightest Bullet Proof Jacket**
- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO has successfully developed the lightest bulletproof Proof Jacket in the country for protection against the highest threat Level 6 of BIS ammunition.



- ✓ Recently, this bulletproof jacket was successfully tested at TBRL, Chandigarh.
- ✓ Ministry of Defence in a statement said that this jacket is based upon a new design approach, where novel material along with new processes has been used.
- **Maritime Partnership Exercise**
- ✓ INS Sahyadri of Indian Navy and UK's RFA Argus and Lyme Bay participated in a Maritime Exercise aimed at enhancing interoperability and maritime cooperation.



- ✓ Exercises included tactical maneuvers, boarding operations, and helicopter operations to exchange best practices and expertise between the two navies.
- ✓ It also highlights the growing bilateral defence cooperation between India and UK.

- **High-Speed Low Drag-Mark 2 Missile**
- ✓ IAF and Indian Navy Induct Rampage Missile for Enhanced Strike Capabilities.
- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy have bolstered their combat capabilities with the induction of the Rampage long-range supersonic air-to-ground missile, previously utilized by the Israeli Air Force in operations against Iranian targets.
- ✓ The missile, known as the High-Speed Low Drag-Mark 2 within the Indian Air Force, offers a striking range of up to 250 kilometers.

ECONOMY

- **IMF Raises India's GDP Growth Projection to 6.8%**
- ✓ The International Monetary Fund, raised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth projection to 6.8% for the financial year (FY) 2024-25.



- ✓ In its update to the World Economic Outlook, the IMF has raised 30 basis points from its January forecast of 6.5%.
 - ✓ In its report, the IMF said that growth in India is projected to remain strong at 6.8% in FY 2024-25, and 6.5% in FY 2025-26 with the robustness reflecting continuing strength in domestic demand and a rising working-age population.
- **World Bank Projects India's Economy**
 - ✓ The Indian economy is projected to grow at 7.5 per cent in 2024, the World Bank has said, revising its earlier projections for the same period by 1.2 per cent.



- ✓ According to the World Bank's most recent South Asia Development Update, overall growth in South Asia is forecast to be strong at 6 per cent in 2024, driven mostly by robust development in India and recoveries in Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- ✓ According to the report, South Asia is expected to remain the fastest-growing region in the world for the next two years, with growth projected to be 6.1 per cent in 2025.

AWARDS

➤ **Maa. Aranganathan Memorial Awards**

- ✓ Maa. Aranganathan Memorial Awards for literary scholars will be conferred on Tamil scholars Thea. Gnanasundaram and K.V. Balasubramaniam on April 16, according to a press release from the Maa. Aranganathan Foundation.



- ✓ The foundation launched in 2018 has been honouring Tamil scholars who have made lasting contributions to literature, art, and heritage.
- ✓ The awards were instituted in the memory of Maa. Aranganathan, an unsung writer, but well recognised in the circle of connoisseurs of contemporary Tamil literature.

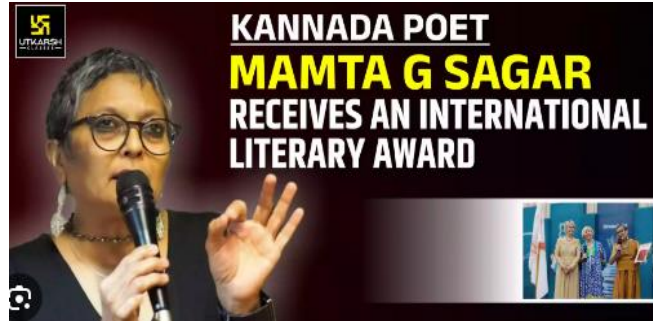
➤ **John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award**

- ✓ India's Dr Gagandeep Kang has been awarded the 2024 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award for her achievements in global health research.



- ✓ Dr Kang was awarded for "extensive cohort- based epidemiological, environmental and clinical trial research on enteric diseases in children.
- ✓ Dr Kang is Adjunct Professor, Christian Medical College, (Vellore) and Director, Enteric, Diagnostics, Genomics and Epidemiology, with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

➤ **World Literary Prize**



- ✓ Mamta G. Sagar, a renowned Kannada poet, writer, academic, and activist based in Bengaluru, has added another feather to her cap by winning the prestigious World Literary Prize from the World Organization of Writers (WOW).

➤ **South Asian Person of the Year by Harvard**



- ✓ Indian-American actress Avantika Vandanapu, best known for her role as Karen Shetty in the 2024 musical comedy “Mean Girls,” has been honoured with the prestigious “South Asian Person of the Year” award by Harvard University.

➤ **Asunta Lakra Award**

- ✓ Deepika Soreng, the promising forward of the India Women’s Hockey Team, has been honoured with the prestigious Hockey India Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player of the Year during the Hockey India 6th Annual Awards 2023.



- ✓ The award recognizes her outstanding performance and immense potential as a rising star in the sport.
- ✓ The year 2023 marked a significant milestone in Deepika’s hockey career as she made her debut for the Indian team during the Women’s Junior Asia Cup.

➤ **Aryabhata Award**

- ✓ Pavuluri Subba Rao Honoured with Aryabhata Award for Astronautics Contribution.



- ✓ Pavuluri Subba Rao, the Founder, CEO, and Chairman of Ananth Technologies, has been conferred with the prestigious ‘Aryabhata Award’ by the Aeronautical Society of India (ASI).
- ✓ This honour recognizes Rao’s “tremendous lifetime contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India.”

➤ **Prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize 2024**

- ✓ Alok Shukla, a renowned environmental activist and convenor of Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan, has been selected for the prestigious 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize.
- ✓ Also known as the “Green Nobel Prize,” this annual award honours grassroots environmental champions worldwide for their outstanding contributions to environmental protection.

APPOINTMENT

➤ IPS Officer Love Kumar Appointed as IG in Special Protection Group



- ✓ Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Love Kumar has been appointed as the Inspector General (IG) in the Special Protection Group (SPG) for a period of two years, according to an official notification issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
 - ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved this proposal from the Office of the Secretary (Security), Cabinet Secretariat.
- ## ➤ Anurag Kumar Appointed as Joint Director of CBI
- ✓ In a significant development in India's law enforcement landscape, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of senior IPS officer Anurag Kumar as the Joint Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
 - ✓ This move, which comes into effect immediately, underscores the government's confidence in Kumar's leadership and expertise to serve in this crucial role.
- ## ➤ Next Chief of Naval Staff
- ✓ The Government has appointed Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, PVSM, AVSM, NM, presently serving as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, as the next Chief of the Naval Staff with effect from the afternoon of April 30, 2024.



- ✓ The present Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R Hari Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM retires from service on April 30, 2024.
- ✓ Born on May 15, 1964, Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi was commissioned into the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy on July 01, 1985. VAdm DK Tripathi has commanded Indian Naval Ships Vinash, Kirch and Trishul.



PERSONALITIES

➤ **Bilquis Mir**

- ✓ Bilquis Mir: The First Indian Woman on the Paris Olympics Jury.

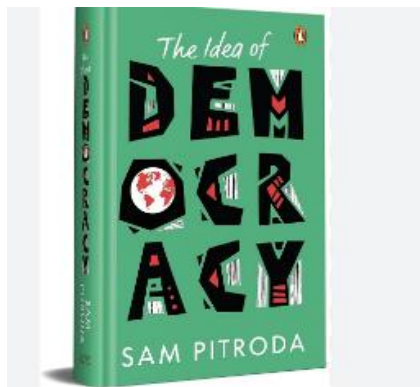


- ✓ Bilquis Mir, a canoeist from Jammu and Kashmir, will be the first woman from India to serve on a jury for her country at the Summer Olympics in Paris.
- ✓ An official letter from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to the J&K government announced this important position.

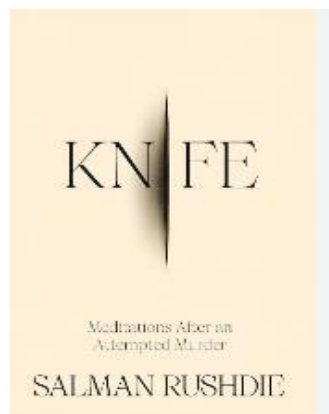
BOOKS & AUTHORS

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

- ✓ Renowned author Sam Pitroda has written a new book titled 'The Idea of Democracy', which explores the current state of democracy and its potential challenges in countries like India and the United States.



- ✓ The book launch event was attended by Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal and other eminent personalities from the literary industry.
- ### ➤ **Knife**
- ✓ British-American author Salman Rushdie releases his memoir "Knife". Booker Prize-winning author Salman Rushdie's memoir "Knife" has been released.



- ✓ In 'Knife', the Salman Rushdie has an imaginary conversation with his attacker.
- ✓ On this occasion, has spoken in detail about the moment he was attacked by a man with a knife on a stage in New York in 2022.
- ✓ In this attack, Rushdie's damaged liver and hands and nerves in his right eye.

➤ **India's Nuclear Titans**

- ✓ External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar received a copy of the book 'India's Nuclear Titans,' edited by Soumya Awasthi and Shrabana Barua.



- ✓ The book traces the evolution of India into a nuclear state while highlighting the pivotal roles played by renowned figures like Homi Bhabha, Vikram Sarabhai, Abdul Kalam, and K. Subrahmanyam, among others.

➤ **The Winner's Mindset**

- ✓ A Book Titled "The Winner's Mindset," Authored by Shane Watson.



- ✓ In his book, "The Winner's Mindset," Watson shares the insights and strategies that enabled him to conquer his fears and reach new heights in his cricketing career.
- ✓ While the book is not an autobiography in the traditional sense, it serves as a powerful self-help guide, offering readers a glimpse into the mindset that propels individuals to success.

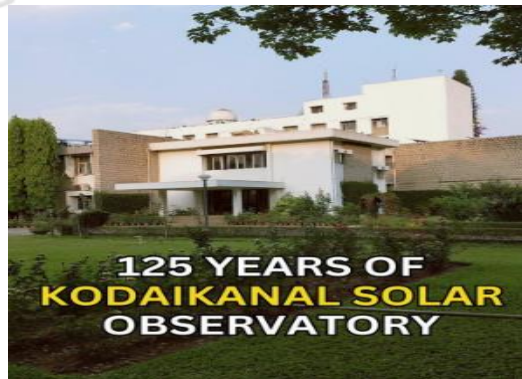
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ Stargate' AI Supercomputer

- ✓ Microsoft And OpenAI Unveil \$100 Billion 'Stargate' AI Supercomputer.



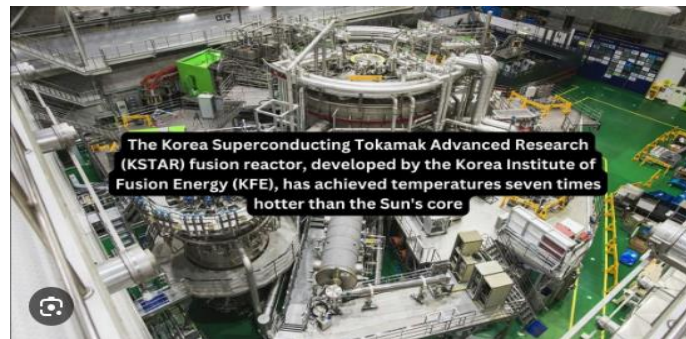
- ✓ In a groundbreaking collaboration, tech giants Microsoft and OpenAI have revealed plans to construct an unprecedented artificial intelligence supercomputer known as "Stargate."
 - ✓ This ambitious endeavor, estimated to cost a staggering \$100 billion, represents a significant leap forward in AI infrastructure and capabilities.
- **125 Years of Kodaikanal Solar Observatory**
- ✓ Located in Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu, is the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KoSO), a solar observatory.



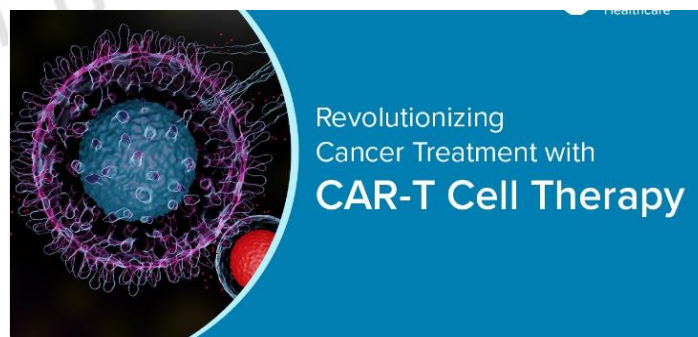
- ✓ It is among the world's oldest solar observatories, having been in operation since 1899, and has spent more than 125 years at the forefront of solar study.
- ✓ Now celebrating 125 years of operation, the observatory is run by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru.

➤ Artificial Sun

- ✓ **Scientists in South Korea** have set a new world record using the **Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research (KSTAR)** device, an “artificial sun” nuclear fusion reactor.



- ✓ During tests conducted between December 2023 and February 2024, they generated **plasma temperatures of 100 million degrees Celsius** for a duration of 48 seconds.
 - ✓ The **achieved temperature of 100 million degrees Celsius** is a remarkable seven times hotter than the Sun’s core, which has a temperature of approximately 15 million degrees Celsius.
 - ✓ **Nuclear fusion** has the potential to provide limitless energy without carbon pollution, making it a promising alternative to traditional energy sources.
- **CAR-T Cell Therapy**
- ✓ **India's First Gene Therapy for Cancer Launched.**



- ✓ The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, launched India's first home-grown gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay on April 4, 2024.
 - ✓ This groundbreaking treatment, called 'CAR-T cell therapy', is a major breakthrough in the battle against cancer.
- **S.A.R.A.H. - Smart AI Resource Assistant for Health**

- ✓ World Health Organization has launched S.A.R.A.H. It is a digital health promoter prototype.



- ✓ S.A.R.A.H. is a Smart AI Resource Assistant for Health. It engages users 24 hours a day in 8 languages on many health topics, on any device.
- ✓ It is trained to offer information on major health topics, which include mental health and healthy habits.
- ✓ It can help people in having better understanding of risk factors for some leading causes of death in the world. These include cancer, heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes.
- ✓ It has the ability to support people in having access to latest information on eating a healthy diet, quitting tobacco, and being active.

➤ **Moon Mission in 2040**

- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief S Somanath has revealed that the upcoming phase of the Chandrayaan project is in progress, aiming to advance India's lunar exploration efforts.



- ✓ He indicated that Chandrayaan-4 marks the initial stride towards India's aspiration of landing an astronaut on the moon by 2040.

- ✓ Somanath further stated that ISRO is working on a wide range of projects, including rocket and satellite projects, application projects, and technology development projects.

➤ **Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (SPACE)**



- ✓ In a significant step towards enhancing India's naval capabilities, the Department of Defence (R&D) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have recently inaugurated a state-of-the-art facility called the Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (SPACE) at the Underwater Acoustic Research Facility in Kulamavu, Idukki, Kerala.
- ✓ This cutting-edge facility, set up by the Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory of DRDO, is designed to serve as a premier testing and evaluation hub for sonar systems destined for the Indian Navy, a critical component of the country's maritime defense strategy.

➤ **Debris-Free Space Missions by 2030**

- ✓ ISRO chairman S Somanath announced that the country aims to achieve debris-free space missions by 2030.



- ✓ ISRO has a clearly laid-out plan for space exploration.
- ✓ The main aim of the initiative is to achieve debris-free space missions by 2030.

- ✓ ISRO had brought several old satellites and fourth stage of PSLV rockets back to the Earth through the deorbiting process as part of its zero orbital debris mission.
- ✓ India is also planning to set up its own space station 'Bharatiya Antriksh Station' by 2035.

➤ **Neptis philyra**



- ✓ A rare butterfly species named *Neptis philyra* (*Nymphalidae* family), also known as the **long-streak sailor**, has been discovered for the first time in India at the **Tale Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (TWS)**, Arunachal Pradesh by a team of butterfly enthusiasts.
- ✓ Previously known to be found across various regions of East Asia, including eastern Siberia, Korea, Japan, and central and southwest China.
- ✓ It has a white cell streak on the forewing that forms a “hockey stick” pattern.

SPORTS

➤ Mirabai Chanu

- ✓ Mirabai Chanu has become the sole Indian weightlifter who qualified for the Paris Olympics 2024. After competing successfully in the IWF World Cup in Phuket, Thailand on April 1, 2024, Mirabai Chanu achieved this.



- ✓ Chanu placed third in Group B of the women's 49kg competition, finishing 11th overall. At the World Cup, Chanu lifted 184 kg in total.
- ✓ It was required as a final and compulsory qualifier for Paris 2024.
- ✓ Chanu has fulfilled the requirements for the Olympics in Paris.

➤ Arjun Erigaisi

- ✓ India has a new No. 1 as Arjun Erigaisi Climbs to No. 9 in the World.



- ✓ In the latest FIDE rankings released by the world governing body of chess, India has a new number 1 chess player – Arjun Erigaisi.
- ✓ With a standard rating of 2756, Erigaisi is ranked ninth in the world. This is his debut in the top 10 of the Open standard list.

➤ 2024 Paris Olympics



- ✓ In wrestling, India's star woman grapplers, Vinesh Phogat, Anshu Malik, and Reetika Hooda, clinched the Paris Olympics 2024 quota at the Asian Olympic qualifiers in Kyrgyzstan's Bishkek.
 - ✓ Phogat beat Laura Ganikyzy of Kazakhstan, 10-Nil, in the 50 kg category, while Anshu defeated Laylokhon Sobirova of Uzbekistan in the 57 kg category, 11-Nil.
 - ✓ Reetika defeated Hui T. Chang of Chinese Taipei, 7-Nil, in the 76 kg category.
- **Candidates Chess Tournament**
- ✓ In Chess, 17-year-old Indian prodigy, Dommaraju Gukesh made history as the youngest-ever player to win the FIDE Candidates tournament in Toronto.



- ✓ Gukesh became the youngest-ever Candidates Tournament champion, beating Garry Kasparov's record, which was 20 years when he won this tournament in 1984.
 - ✓ After Vishwanathan Anand, he becomes the second Indian to qualify for the World Chess Championship
 - ✓ With this amazing victory, Gukesh will challenge the reigning Champion Ding Liren of China in the World Chess Championship.
- **Nethra Kumanan**
- ✓ In Sailing, India's Nethra Kumanan has bagged the Paris Olympics quota at the Last Chance Regatta in Hyeres, France.



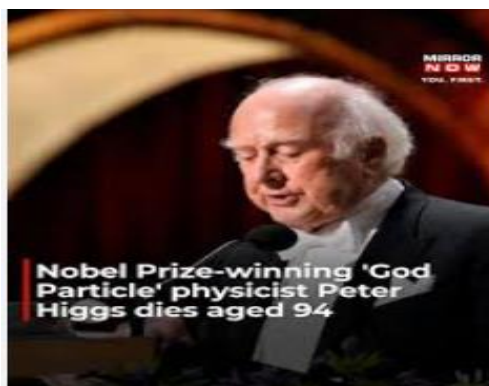
- ✓ However, she secured the Olympic quota as the top performer among sailors from the Emerging Nations Program, ENP..
- ✓ Nethra is the second Indian sailor to secure a ticket to the upcoming Paris Olympics.
- ✓ Earlier in January this year, Vishnu Saravanan had secured India's first sailing quota at the ILCA 7 Men's World Championship 2024 in Australia.

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OBITUARY

➤ **British Physicist Peter Higgs**

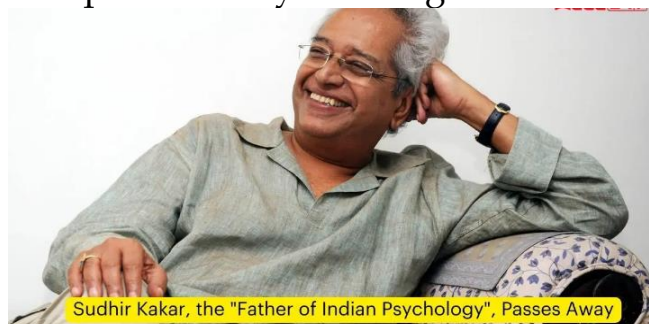
- ✓ British physicist Peter Higgs died at the age of 94.



- ✓ Peter Higgs gained fame for the discovery of 'Higgs-Boson Particle' i.e. 'God Particle'.
- ✓ Peter Higgs was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2013 for this groundbreaking discovery, which helped explain how the universe was created after the Big Bang.
- ✓ Higgs showed how bosons hold the universe together, a crucial understanding in the field of physics.

➤ **Sudhir Kakar**

- ✓ Sudhir Kakar, the "Father of Indian Psychology", Passes Away
- ✓ The world lost Sudhir Kakar, a renowned writer, cultural critic, and the "Father of Indian Psychology," who passed away at the age of 85.



- ✓ Kakar's life and work bridged the gap between Western and Eastern thought, leaving an indelible mark on the field of psychoanalysis in India.

REPORT

➤ Food Waste Index Report 2024

- ✓ Households across the globe wasted over one billion meals a day in 2022, even as 783 million people struggled with hunger and a third of humanity faced food insecurity, according to the Food Waste Index Report 2024.



- ✓ The report noted that in 2022, there were 1.05 billion tonnes of food waste generated amounting to 132 kilograms per capita and almost one-fifth of all food available to consumers.
- ✓ “Out of the total food wasted in 2022, 60% happened at the household level, with food services responsible for 28%, and retail 12%.
- ✓ The report monitoring of food waste, pointing out that “many low- and middle-income countries continue to lack adequate systems for tracking progress to meet Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 of halving food waste by 2030.

➤ India Employment Report 2024

- ✓ Employment Scenario in India Grim, says ILO report.



- ✓ The share of those with secondary or higher education among the unemployed youth in India has almost doubled from 35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022, according to the India Employment Report 2024 released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Institute of Human Development (IHD).

- ✓ The report says that youngsters account for almost 83% of the country's unemployed workforce.
- ✓ Employment and underemployment of the youth increased between 2000 and 2019 but declined during the pandemic years.

➤ **Katchatheevu Island Issue**

- ✓ Katchatheevu Island is an uninhabited island spanning 285 acres in the Palk Strait between India and Sri Lanka. It is 1.6 km in length and more than 300 m wide.



- ✓ St. Anthony's Church is the only structure on Katchatheevu Island. It was built in the 20th century.

When did the Katchatheevu controversy begin?

- ✓ Sri Lanka claimed sovereignty over Katchatheevu due to the Portuguese occupation of the island from 1505 to 1658.
- ✓ India claimed it due to possession by the Raja of Ramnad as part of its estate. Katchatheevu has been a disputed territory between India and Sri Lanka since the British era.
- ✓ The island was ceded to Sri Lanka by the government of India through an agreement in 1974.

➤ **WHO report: India second only to China in hepatitis B and C cases**

- ✓ According to the **Global Hepatitis Report** by World Health Organisation (WHO), India accounted for the second-highest number of cases of **hepatitis B and C in 2022** after **China**, with 35 million infections.



- ✓ Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver that can cause a range of health problems and can be fatal.
- ✓ According to the report, **254 million people** lived with hepatitis B and **50 million** with hepatitis C in 2022 globally.
- ✓ India, which was second only to China in the viral hepatitis burden, registered **8 million** hepatitis B cases in 2022 while the number of hepatitis C infections stood at **5.5 million**.

➤ Global Forest Watch

- ✓ According to the latest data from the Global Forest Watch monitoring project, 2.33 million hectares of tree cover have been lost since 2000.



- ✓ It is equivalent to a six per cent decrease in tree cover during this period.
- ✓ As per the data, 95 per cent of the tree cover loss in India between 2013 to 2023 occurred within natural forests.
- ✓ Between 2002 to 2023, India lost 4,14,000 hectares of humid primary forest (4.1 per cent), which is 18 per cent of its total tree cover loss in the same period.
- ✓ The Global Forest Watch tracks forest changes in real time by using satellite data and other sources.
- ✓ Between 2001 and 2022, forests in India emitted 51 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent a year and removed 141 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent a year.

➤ UNFPA Report



- ✓ United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) latest report, titled "Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope: Ending Inequalities in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights," sheds light on India's population dynamics and the persistent disparities in sexual and reproductive health.
- ✓ India leads globally with an estimated population of 144.17 crore, surpassing China. The report reveals that India's population is expected to double in 77 years.
- ✓ Notably, 24% of India's population falls in the 0-14 age bracket, indicating a significant youth demographic.

➤ **SIPRI Report**

- ✓ India was the fourth largest military spender globally in 2023. At \$83.6 billion, the country's military expenditure was 4.2% higher than in 2022.



- ✓ Meanwhile, global military expenditure rose by 7% to \$2,443 billion in 2023, the steepest annual rise since 2009, said the latest report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- ✓ As per the report, the 10 largest spenders in 2023, led by the United States, China, and Russia, all increased their military spending.

➤ **UNFPA Report Highlights on India's Population**

- ✓ In its recent report titled "Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope," the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) sheds light on India's demographic landscape.



- ✓ With a current estimated population of 1.44 billion, India maintains its status as the most populous country globally.
- ✓ Notably, 24% of this vast populace falls within the age bracket of 0-14 years, indicating a significant youth demographic.

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RANKING

➤ Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024

- ✓ According to the **Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024**, **India in 2023** ranks third with **67 unicorns**, which is one less than 68 such startups last year.
- ✓ **The US** led the list with **703 unicorns**, up 37 from 2022, and followed by **China** with **340 unicorns**.
- ✓ **UK and EU** ranked **No 4 and No 5** in the list, respectively.
- ✓ The total value of the world's unicorns have reached **\$5 trillion**, equivalent to **last year's GDP of Japan**.
- ✓ In general, the report has found **1,453 unicorns** in the world, based in **53 countries** and **291 cities**.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
April 02	World Autism Awareness Day	The theme for 2024 is "Empowering Autistic Voices."
April 04	International Mine Awareness Day	The theme is 'Protecting Lives, Building Peace'.
April 05	National Maritime Day	The theme is "Navigating the Future: Safety First! ".
April 05	International Day of Conscience	The theme is 'Promoting a Culture of Peace with Love and Conscience'.
April 06	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	The official theme is "Sport for the Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies".
April 06	National Handmade Day	The theme is 'Buy a Handmade Product'
April 06	National Library Day	This day provides an opportunity to reflect on the significance of reading and the need to make books and knowledge accessible to all
April 07	World Health Day	The theme for World Health Day is "My Health, My Right"
April 09	National Mature Women's Day	This day is all about reminding women that they are special regardless of their advancing years
April 10	World Homoeopathy Day	The theme is "Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family."
April 10	National Siblings Day	The theme of this year's Siblings Day is "Sibling Strengths."
April 11	National Safe Motherhood Day	National Safe Motherhood Day is observed with the

		objective of promoting the well-being and safety of mothers
April 11	World Parkinson's Day	World Parkinson's Day is observed to raise awareness of Parkinson's disease
April 12	International Day of Human Space Flight	The theme is 'Encourage Scientific Curiosity'
April 12	International Day for Street Children	The theme is "Belonging"
April 14	Ambedkar Jayanti	Ambedkar Jayanti is observed on 14 April every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar
April 14	World Quantum Day	India celebrates World Quantum Day, a global initiative to raise awareness and appreciation of quantum science and technology
April 15	World Art Day	World Art Day 2024's theme, "A Garden of Expression: Cultivating Community Through Art"
April 16	Save the Elephant Day	The theme is "Ending the Illegal Wildlife Trade"
April 17	World Hemophilia Day	The theme is "Equitable access for all: recognizing all bleeding disorders"
April 18	World Heritage Day	The theme of World Heritage Day is 'Discover and Experience Diversity'
April 19	World Liver Day	This year's theme, "Keep your liver healthy and disease-free"
April 21	National Civil Services Day	This day offers a chance to express gratitude towards the

		contributions made by civil servants to society
April 22	International Mother Earth Day	This year's theme, "Planet vs. Plastics"
April 23	World Book Day	The theme for World Book Day 2023 is "Indigenous Languages"
April 23	World English Day	The day is observed every year to commemorate the birth and death anniversary of the English playwright and poet William Shakespeare
April 24	National Panchayati Raj Day	National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated annually on April 24th to commemorate the establishment of the Panchayati Raj system in India
April 25	World Malaria Day	Theme 'Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world'
April 25	World Penguin Day	This day is significant because it coincides with the start of the northern migration of Adelie penguins
April 26	World Intellectual Property Day	The official theme is 'IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity'.
April 27	World Veterinary Day	The theme for 2024 is "Veterinarians are Essential Health Workers"
April 29	International Dance Day	International Dance Day, celebrated annually on April 29th, stands as a global tribute to the art of dance

