

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-APRIL 24, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- In a significant discovery, a rare golden plate with inscription - has been found in the Arulmigu Edaganathaswarar temple in Thiruvudagam on the banks of river Vaigai in Madurai district.



- ✓ The golden plate has inscriptions of a song written by saivaitic poet and saint Thirugnanasambandar
- ✓ It is one of the first plates with an ancient inscription to be found in gold.

NATIONAL

- **Self-styled pro-Khalistan preacher and Waris Punjab De head Amritpal Singh - was arrested from Gurdwara Janam Asthan Sant Khalsa from Rode village in Punjab's Moga district.**
- ✓ Rode is the ancestral village of slain Sikh terrorist and Khalistani separatist Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, after whom Amritpal styles himself
- ✓ Amritpal was taken into custody under the National Security Act (NSA) and later flown from Bathinda airport to Dibrugarh central jail in Assam
- ✓ Nine of Amritpal's aides are also lodged in Dibrugarh jail under the stringent NSA, which allows detention up to a year without any charge.

END OF A 37-DAY HUNT

Photo: ANI

March 18 | Punjab police launch an operation to nab Amritpal Singh, but he escapes with aide Papalpreet Singh. 78 people arrested and **9 weapons seized**. Mobile internet services suspended across state

March 19-21 | Four of his aides booked under NSA, taken to Dibrugarh jail. 34 more held. Amritpal's uncle surrenders. NSA against 8 more arrested **amid suspicion of ISI links, foreign funding**. Some of the getaway vehicles used by Amritpal confiscated

March 22-23 | Lookout circular, NBW against Amritpal. 154 people held. Cops quiz his wife, mother

March 25-28 | **Nepal sounds high alert** after Indian embassy informs Amritpal may be hiding in Nepal and may try to escape on a fake passport

April 10-11 | **Papalpreet held** in Amritsar district, charged under NSA and sent to Dibrugarh jail

April 22-23 | Amritpal reaches Rode village in Punjab's Moga. Arrested and taken to Dibrugarh jail



Amritpal addresses a congregation at a gurdwara in Rode village of Punjab's Moga before his arrest

- ✓ The Punjab Police had launched a crackdown on Amritpal and members of his outfit Waris Punjab De on March 18, over three weeks after his supporters attacked a police station in Ajnala near Amritsar to secure the release of an arrested colleague.

AMRITPAL SINGH: PAST & PRESENT

PTI Photo

Jan 17, 1993 | Amritpal Singh Sandhu born to Tarsem Singh and Balwinder Kaur of Jallapur Khera village in Baba Bakala tehsil of Punjab's Amritsar district. He is the youngest of three siblings

2012 | Shifts to Dubai to join uncle Harjit Singh's transport business. Had enrolled in a polytechnic college in Kapurthala after passing class 10, but did not complete the diploma course

2019 | Surfaces with comments backing the farmers' protest against three farm laws and in support of then Waris Punjab De (Heirs of Punjab) head and actor-turned-activist Deep Sidhu

Feb 15, 2022 | Deep Sidhu dies in a road accident in Sonapat, Haryana. Amritpal anoints himself head of Waris Punjab De on March 4 from Dubai

Aug 2022 | Returns to Punjab, changes clean-shaven look to flowing beard and turban. Had been espousing Khalistan (separate nation for Sikhs) in his speeches

Sept 25, 2022 | Goes through formal baptism to become 'Amritdhari Sikh' at Anandpur



Amritpal Singh at Dibrugarh Central Jail on Sunday

Sahib. Starts wearing turban and robe similar to Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, drawing comparison to the militant slain in 1984

Sept 29, 2022 | Amritpal's 'Dastar Bandi' (turban-tying ceremony to bestow responsibility) held at Bhindranwale's native village of Rode in Moga district

Dec 9 & 12, 2022 | Amritpal supporters enter a gurdwara in Kapurthala and later Gurdwara Singh Sabha at Model Town Jalandhar, pull out chairs and sofas from both shrines and set them ablaze. 'Can we sit at the same level as Guru Sahbi?'

Amritpal questions

Feb 10, 2023 | Marries British NRI Kirandeep Kaur at a gurdwara in Jallapur Khera

Feb 23 | Amritpal and thousands of his supporters lay siege to Ajnala police station in Amritsar, assault cops with swords and sticks, and get associate Lovepreet Singh Toofan freed from custody

Feb 24 | FIR registered against Amritpal and his supporters for the Ajnala attack

March 18 | Punjab police launch widespread operation to arrest Amritpal and his associates

- ✓ Several criminal cases have been lodged against Amritpal and his associates for allegedly spreading disharmony, attempt to murder, abduction, extortion, attack on police personnel and obstructing the lawful discharge of duty by public servants.
 - ✓ Amritpal returned from Dubai last year to take the reins of the 'Waris Punjab De' organisation following the death of its founder, actor-activist Deep Sidhu.
 - ✓ 'Waris Punjab De' works to help the youth of the state "follow the tenets of Sikhism" and "establish Khalsa Raj"
- **The Indian space agency ISRO - has successfully disposed of the communication satellite GSAT-12 in a post mission disposal (PMD) operation last month.**
- ✓ According to a statement issued by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the post mission disposal operation of GSAT-12 was completed on March 23, 2023.
 - ✓ GSAT-12 is the twenty-third Geosynchronous Earth Orbital (GEO) satellite to undergo PMD before decommissioning
 - ✓ The satellite carrying 12 extended C band transponders was launched on July 15, 2011.
 - ✓ After the launch of its replacement satellite CMS-01 in 2020, it was later relocated to 47.96 degrees E longitude.
 - ✓ The satellite served for more than a decade.

SPORTS

- **Kelvin Kiptum of Kenya - finished first in the London Marathon men's race on April 23 with a winning time of 2:01:25, the second quickest in history**

THE 5 FASTEST MARATHONS	
2hr 01min 09sec:	Eliud Kipchoge (KEN) 25/09/2022 - Berlin
2hr 01:27:	Kelvin Kiptum (KEN) 23/04/2023 - LONDON
2hr 01:39:	Eliud Kipchoge (KEN) 16/09/2018 - Berlin
2hr 01:41:	Kenenisa Bekele (ETH) 29/09/2019 - Berlin
2hr 01:53:	Kelvin Kiptum (KEN) 4/12/2022 - Valencia



- ✓ During the course, Kiptum achieved his personal best and was only 16 seconds behind his compatriot Eliud Kipchoge's world record of 2:01:09.
- ✓ In the women's elite race, the 5,000m and 10,000 Olympic champion Sifan Hassan of the Netherlands won her marathon debut in style by clocking in 2:18:33

- ✓ Kiptum, 23, set the fourth-fastest time on the world all-time list of 2:01:53 in his marathon debut in Valencia, Spain last year

RANKINGS

- **India - has moved up six places on the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index and is ranked at 38th place in the 139 countries index**
- ✓ India was ranked 44th on the index in 2018 and 54th in 2014.

RANKS 38TH	
World Bank's Logistics Performance Index, 2023	
Rank	Country
1	Singapore
2	Finland
3	Denmark
4	Germany
5	Netherlands
19	China, South Africa
38	India, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, Portugal, Lithuania
51	Brazil
88	Russian Fed

- ✓ The Centre had announced PM Gati Shakti initiative, a National Master Plan for multimodal connectivity, in October 2021 to reduce logistics cost and boost the economy by 2024-25.
- ✓ In 2022, the PM had launched the National Logistics Policy (NLP) to ensure quick last-mile delivery, end transport-related challenges, save time and money of the manufacturing sector and ensure desired speed in the logistics sector.
- ✓ According to the report, India's rank moved up five places in infrastructure score from 52nd in 2018 to 47th in 2023.
- ✓ It climbed to 22nd spot for international shipments in 2023 from 44th in 2018 and moved four places up to 48th in logistics competence and equality.
- ✓ In timelines, India witnessed a 17-place jump in rankings, whereas it moved up three places in rank in tracking and tracing to 38th.
- ✓ According to the report, the average dwell time for containers between May and October 2022 was three days for India and Singapore, much better than some of the industrialised countries.
 - ✓ The dwell time for the US was seven days and for Germany it was 10 days.
- ✓ The shorter the dwell time, the lower the vessel and marine-terminal operating costs.

- ✓ The Index measures the ease of establishing reliable supply chain connections and structural factors contributing it, such as the quality of logistics services, trade and transport-related infrastructure, as well as border controls.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

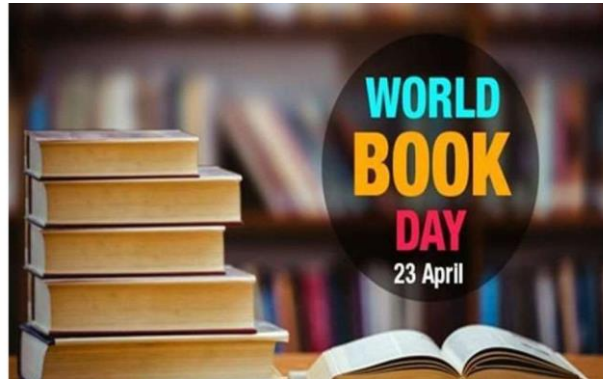
➤ National Panchayati Raj Day – April 24



- ✓ National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated every year to mark the decentralization of power through gram panchayats.
- ✓ It is celebrated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to commemorate the passing of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act in 1992
- ✓ The 73rd Amendment Act, also known as the Panchayati Raj amendment act, allows the state governments to take necessary measures that can help in the formation of gram panchayats and allow them to operate as "units of self-governance".
- ✓ The 73rd Constitutional Amendment came into effect on April 24, 1993
- ✓ Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh declared the first National Panchayati Raj Day on April 24, 2010.
- ✓ In 1957, a committee headed by Balwantraji Mehta was established to focus on the evolution of the Panchayati Raj in the country.
 - ✓ It proposed a three-layered decentralised gram panchayat system with Gram panchayat being operated at the village level, Panchayat Samiti at the block level, and Zila Parishad at the district level.
- ✓ In 1959, Rajasthan became the first state in India to launch the Panchayati Raj system followed by Andhra Pradesh
- ✓ The inauguration of the Panchayati Raj was done in October 1959 in Nagpur by India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru.
- ✓ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj also honours the Panchayats by awarding them on this day for their relentless work.
- ✓ There are different categories under which the awards are conferred, such as Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar, Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar etc.
- ✓ Every year the Central government felicitates around 170 Panchayati Raj institutions on the National Panchayati Raj Day.

- ✓ Panchayat is said to be an assembly of five members who work for the upliftment of the local communities and resolve disputes at a lower level.
- ✓ India has more than six lakh villages, with more than 6,000 blocks and more than 750 districts which are all governed by the Panchayati Raj system

➤ **World Book Day – April 23**



- ✓ World Book Day, also known as World Book and Copyright Day, is observed every year to encourage people to read books
- ✓ It emphasises the value of books and how they serve as a link between the past and the present.
- ✓ The inaugural World Book Day was observed in Barcelona on October 7, 1926, which was Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes' birthday.
- ✓ Later, the date of World Book Day was changed in 1930 to April 23, the day of Miguel de Cervantes's passing.
- ✓ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization celebrated the first World Book Day on April 23, 1995
- ✓ The date of April 23 was designated as World Book and Copyright Day because it coincides with the birthdays and deaths of several notable authors
- ✓ The day marks the death anniversary of William Shakespeare, Miguel Cervantes, Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, and the birth anniversary of greats like Haldor K Laxness, Maurice Druon, Vladimir Nabokov, Josep Pla and Manuel Mejía Vallejo
- ✓ On this Day, trophies for the UNESCO Prize for Children's and Young People's Literature in the Service of Tolerance are also presented.
- ✓ To mark the occasion, UNESCO and the international organisations that represent the three major sectors of the book industry, namely publishers, booksellers, and libraries select the World Book Capital for a year.
- ✓ Accra, Ghana, will serve as this year's World Book Capital
- ✓ The theme for World Book Day 2023 is "Indigenous Languages."

