

# Weekly Current Affairs

14<sup>th</sup> April-20<sup>th</sup> April, 2024

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **1. 'All We Imagine as Light' will be first Indian film to compete at Cannes Film Festival in 30 years**

- Writer-director Payal Kapadia's debut fiction feature All We Imagine As Light has been selected for the 2024 Cannes Film Festival in the competition section, making her the first female filmmaker to represent India in this category. The last Indian film to compete for the coveted Palme d'Or was Shaji N Karun's Swaham in 1994.
- Before this, of all the Indian films that the 1983 Cannes Film Festival screened, Mrinal Sen's Kharij bagged the "Special Jury" prize. Prior to that, films such as M S Sathyu's Garm Hava (1974), Satyajit Ray's Parash Pathar (1958), Raj Kapoor's Awaara (1953), V Shantaram's Amar Bhoopali (1952), and Chetan Anand's Neecha Nagar (1946) were chosen to participate in the "Competition" segment at Cannes. Neecha Nagar became the first Indian film to gain recognition at the Cannes, after it was awarded Palme d'Or.

### **2. Nyishi Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh celebrates Longte festival**

- The Nyishi tribe in Arunachal Pradesh enthusiastically celebrates the Longte festival, one of their biggest cultural events. Unlike many other tribal festivals, Longte prohibits the sacrifice of animals, instead adorning altars with decorative white feathers and bamboo decorations.
- The Longte festival is a significant cultural event for the Nyishi tribe in Arunachal Pradesh. It is marked by its unique tradition of abstaining from animal sacrifice, opting instead for symbolic decorations using feathers and bamboo.

### **3. Chitrakoot's Stunning Glass Skywalk Bridge in Uttar Pradesh**

- In a remarkable feat of engineering and tourism development, the state of Uttar Pradesh has unveiled its first-ever glass skywalk bridge, located at the enchanting Tulsi (Shabari) Waterfall in Chitrakoot. This innovative and visually stunning structure, shaped like Lord Ram's bow and arrow, is poised to become a premier eco-tourism destination for visitors to the region.
- The glass skywalk bridge, constructed at a cost of Rs 3.70 crore, seamlessly blends into the natural surroundings of the Kodand forest area, where the cascading Tulsi Waterfalls are situated.

### **4. The government directs e-commerce firms to remove Bournvita, other drinks from the 'health drinks' category**

- The government has asked all the e-commerce companies to remove drinks and beverages, including Bournvita, from the health drinks category from their portals.
- “National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), a statutory body constituted under section (3) of the Commission of Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act 2005 after its inquiry under Section 14 of CRPC Act 2005 concluded that there is no ‘health drink’ defined under FSS Act 2006, rules and regulations submitted by FSSAI and Mondelez India Food Pvt Ltd,” the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in an advisory to all e-commerce companies.

### **5. Indira Gandhi International Airport is the 10<sup>th</sup> busiest airport**

- More and more people are flying after the pandemic, making airports busier than ever. A report by the Airports Council International shows that in 2023, 8.5 billion passengers took to the skies worldwide – a huge jump of 27.2% from the previous year.
- This surge in numbers means the world is almost back to pre-pandemic travel levels, with a recovery rate of 93.8% from 2019. The Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi has secured 10th position, with a passenger traffic of 72.2 million flyers in 2023.

### **6. Government to Establish cotton Test Labs in 6 States for Kasturi Cotton**

- The central government is planning to establish dedicated testing labs for high-grade Kasturi cotton in six states as part of a push to promote the Indian cotton brand globally.
- Currently, the certification of Kasturi cotton is conducted through a limited number of NABL-accredited labs, and the government aims to enhance the quality standards and global acceptance of Indian textiles through this initiative.

### **7. Dharamshala to get India’s first ‘hybrid pitch’**

- With their international cricket stadium here set to host two Indian Premier League matches, the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) is set to introduce SISGrass Hybrid Pitch Technology into their practice facilities. This move will ensure that the practice pitches are of top-notch quality, as traditional surfaces cannot withstand rigorous training schedules and tend to deteriorate quickly, limiting valuable practice opportunities for players.
- Based in the Netherlands, SISGrass, part of the SIS Pitches group of companies, is poised to take Indian cricket to new heights with its revolutionary investment in the first-ever hybrid pitch installation in the picturesque HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala.

## 8.India's Exports Estimate To Reach 776.68 Billion Dollars In Financial Year 2023-24

- India's exports are estimated to reach 776.68 billion dollars in financial year 2023-24, surpassing last year's highest record. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in a release that that the overall exports in the preceding financial year, 2022-23, were 776.40 Billion dollars.
- The Ministry added that overall imports in the financial year 2023-24 are estimated to be 854.80 Billion dollars, exhibiting a negative growth of minus 4.81 per cent compared to the preceding financial year.

## 9.IMF raises India's GDP forecast to 6.8% in 2024.

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised India's GDP growth forecast for 2024-25 upwards by 30 basis points to 6.8%, citing strong domestic demand. This projection, while robust, falls slightly below the Indian government's forecast of 7%. Additionally, the IMF raised its global growth projection for 2024 by 10 basis points to 3.2%, highlighting the resilience of the world economy amidst challenges.
- The IMF projects India's GDP to grow at 6.8% in FY25, with a slight dip to 6.5% in FY26, attributing the strength to robust domestic demand and a growing working-age population. For FY24, the IMF raised its GDP growth projection to 7.8%, reflecting continued economic momentum.

## 10.J&K High Court Upholds Rule of Law, Quashes Detention under Public Safety Act

- In a significant ruling, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed the detention of Jaffar Ahmad Parray under the Public Safety Act. Justice Rahul Bharti emphasized that India operates under the rule of law, asserting that citizens cannot be detained without proper legal grounds. Parray had been held since May based on allegations of being associated with terrorist groups, but the court found the detention illegal and ordered his immediate release.
- Parray's detention, ordered by the Shopian district magistrate, lacked legal justification according to the High Court. Despite police allegations, the court highlighted the absence of any formal charges or antecedent culpability against Parray. The grounds for detention heavily relied on police reports, failing to provide sufficient legal basis for Parray's arrest.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### 1.USA has launched the underwater drone 'Manta Ray'

- Northrop Grumman has released images of a completed prototype for a new class of autonomous underwater vehicles, as part of the Manta Ray

project. Northrop is the largest private sector aerospace and defense employer in Utah, with locations in Brigham City, Clearfield, Magna, Ogden, Roy, Tremonton and Salt Lake City.

- A far cry from the powerful solid-state rockets tested in Promontory in Box Elder County, the contract calls for "low-power, high-efficiency undersea propulsion systems," and low-power methods of sensing the vehicle's surroundings while remaining undetected, requiring that these vehicles remain independent of existing ports or ships after deployment.

## 2. India Ranks 10<sup>th</sup> Globally in Cybercrime Study in World Cybercrime Index

- A newly developed World Cybercrime Index sheds light on the origins and prevalence of cybercrime across the globe. Compiled by a team of researchers including Miranda Bruce, Jonathan Lusthaus, Ridhi Kashyap, Nigel Phair, and Federico Varese, the index draws insights from surveys conducted among leading cybercrime experts worldwide.
- Despite challenges in pinpointing cybercriminal locations due to sophisticated masking techniques, the index identifies key countries where cybercrime thrives, emphasizing the urgent need for targeted preventive measures.



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## 3. India Post opens third post office in Antarctica

- The new post office was inaugurated at Bharati Station. Almost four decades later, letters meant for Antarctica will now have a new PIN code, MH-1718, with the Department of Posts opening a second branch of the post office on the Bharati research station in Antarctica.
- The inauguration coincided with the 24th Foundation Day of the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), The first post office was established in 1984 at Dakshin Gangotri, followed by another in 1990 at Maitri Station.

## 4. "Tagore On The Padma Boat" Programme organized in Bangladesh

- Renowned Tagore scholar and singer Dr. Anand Gupta directed the musical dance program on the theme ” Tagore on the Padma Boat”. Many of the artists were alumni of the Vishwa Bharati, Shantiniketan.
- Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Dhaka in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology, People’s Republic of Bangladesh organised the event to commemorate Kaviguru Rabindranath Tagore’s memories on the bank of river Padma in Bangladesh.

## **5.The World Future Energy Summit 2024 organised in Abu Dhabi**

- The 16th World Future Energy Summit commenced in Abu Dhabi. The Summit focuses on the urgent need for financial investment and increased renewable energy capacity to tackle climate change.
- Francesco La Camera - Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency. Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa - President and CEO of the UAE Independent Climate Change Accelerators.

## **NEW APPOINTMENTS AND PERSON IN NEWS**

### **1.Arvind Kumar appointed as Director (Refineries) Of Indian Oil**

- Arvind Kumar, currently serving as the Managing Director & CEO of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited, has been appointed Director (Refineries) at Indian Oil Corporation Limited.
- Indian Oil is ranked 94th on the Fortune Global 500 list of the world's biggest corporations as of 2022. At present Arvind Kumar is serving as the Managing Director & CEO of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL). Now with the new order he has been appointed Director (Refineries) at Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).

### **2.Sachidananda Mohanty appointed as Member,UGC**

- Sachidananda Mohanty has been appointed as a Member of the University Grants Commission (UGC) for a period of three years with immediate effect. The appointment was made by the Ministry of Higher Education, Government of India, as per a gazette notification.
- He is a former Professor and Head of the Department of English, University of Hyderabad. He has also served as the Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Odisha. Mohanty has over three decades of experience in the field of education and culture.

### **3.Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong to Step Down, Hands Over Power to Deputy Lawrence Wong**

- Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, after two decades in office, will step down on May 15, passing the baton to his deputy, Lawrence

Wong. The transition marks a significant moment for Singapore as it prepares for new leadership amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Lee, aged 72, will formally advise the city-state's president to appoint Wong, currently serving as deputy prime minister and finance minister, as his successor. Wong, with unanimous support from lawmakers in the long-ruling People's Action Party, will be sworn in at the national palace on the same day.

#### **4. Former Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj to Head US-India Tax Forum**

- The US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF) has appointed former Revenue Secretary and ex-Secretary of Economic Affairs Tarun Bajaj as the head of the US-India Tax Forum. Bajaj, 61, joined the USISPF as an advisor to the Board of Directors in January and will now spearhead the US-India Tax Forum.
- A 1988-batch Haryana Cadre IAS officer, Bajaj served as Revenue Secretary. During his tenure with the Indian government, he played a pivotal role in shaping fiscal policies and promoting economic growth.

#### **5. Senior IPS Officer 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.
- Anurag Kumar is a 2004 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the Assam-Meghalaya cadre. Prior to his new appointment, he was serving in the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), a premier organization under the Ministry of Home Affairs that focuses on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of police forces across the country.

#### **6. Kristalina Georgieva Re-appointed as IMF Managing Director**

- Kristalina Georgieva has been re-appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a new 5-year term starting on 1 October 2024. She was the sole candidate nominated for the position this year, and her appointment was made by the IMF executive board.
- The IMF managing director is appointed by the executive board, which can choose a managing director through either voting or consensus. In 2004, the IMF adopted a policy of appointing a Managing Director through consensus. Candidates for the MD post can be nominated by an IMF Fund Governor or an Executive Director.

## **7.Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah appointed as New Prime Minister of Kuwait**

- Kuwait's Emir has appointed Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as the new Prime Minister following the resignation of Sheikh Mohammed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. Sheikh Ahmad, born in 1952, brings extensive experience in finance and government, having held various ministerial positions.
- Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, born in 1952, holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a focus on Finance from the University of Illinois. He has a notable career history, including roles at Kuwait's Finance Center and the Central Bank of Kuwait.

## **8.Saurabh Garg Appointed as Secretary of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**

- In a significant move, the Central Government has entrusted IAS officer Saurabh Garg with the additional charge of Secretary of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). This decision, communicated through an order issued by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), underscores Garg's extensive experience and expertise in the realm of public administration.
- Garg, a 1991-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Odisha cadre, will serve in this capacity until a regular incumbent is appointed or further directives are issued. This latest appointment highlights the government's confidence in Garg's abilities to navigate the complexities and responsibilities associated with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

## **BANKING**

### **1.Jana Small Finance Bank Collaborates with Kotak Mahindra Life to Provide Insurance Products**

- Jana Small Finance Bank has partnered with Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Limited to offer life insurance products to the customers of the bank.
- The partnership will help 52 lakh customers of the bank with a wide range of life insurance products offered by Kotak Life, including long-term savings and retirement solutions

### **2.Reserve Bank of India Rejects Odisha-based Annapurna Finance Limited's Application for Universal Bank License**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in a cautious move, declined Annapurna Finance Limited's application for a universal bank license made in January

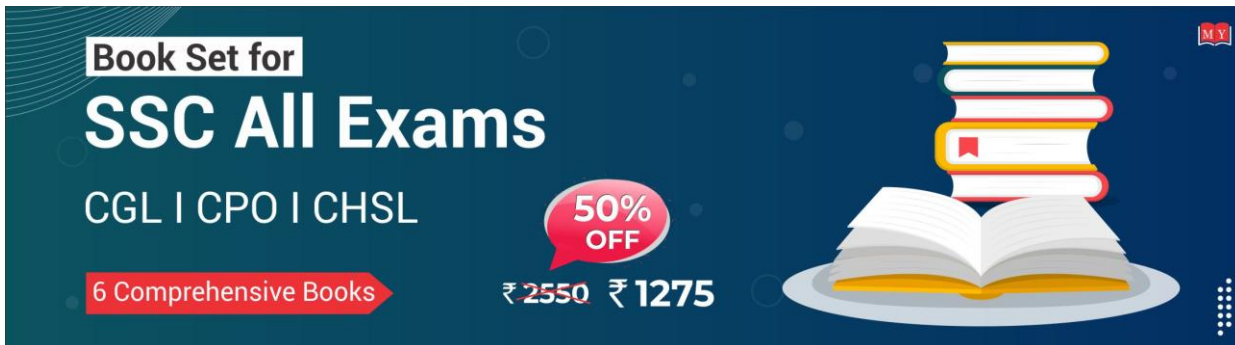


2023. The RBI expressed caution and hesitation about awarding a full-service bank license to the Odisha-based lender.

- Annapurna Finance Limited primarily focuses on microfinance loans, which raised concerns for the regulator regarding the bank's capability to operate as a universal bank.

### 3. LIC Increases Equity Stake in Hindustan Unilever by Over 5%

- In a recent move, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) announced that its stake in FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) has surpassed 5%. The Corporation augmented its shareholding in HUL from 4.99% to 5.01% of the company's paid-up capital by acquiring additional shares from the open market. This increase amounted to a purchase of 3,05,000 equity shares, bringing LIC's total shares in HUL to 11,77,18,555.
- LIC procured the additional shares on April 12th, with an average cost of Rs 2,248.59 per unit. This transaction marks a significant move by LIC to strengthen its position in one of India's leading FMCG companies.



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### 4. Apple and CleanMax Collaborate to Advance Renewable Energy in India

- Apple has partnered with CleanMax to deploy 14.4 megawatts of rooftop solar installations across six industrial sites in India, aimed at reducing emissions associated with its operations in the country.
- The installations are expected to mitigate approximately 207,000 tons of carbon emissions throughout their operational lifespan. The collaboration features a unique business model where the environmental benefits support Apple's efforts to address emissions from its operations in India.

## SCIENCE TECH

### 1. Government issues tender to purchase of 97 LCA Mark-1A fighter planes

- Ministry of Defence, Government of India has issued a tender for procurement of 97 indigenously manufactured LCA Mark – 1A fighter aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). Their cost is likely to be more than Rs 65 thousand crore.

- This will be the largest ever order for indigenous military equipment placed by the Government of India. The LCA Mark-1A is an upgraded version of the Tejas aircraft, incorporating modernized features and capabilities. The Defence Ministry has recently issued this tender to HAL.

## **2. With just Rs 150 base airfare, take a 50-minute flight from Lilabari to Tezpur in Assam**

- Not just this route, there are many more flights where the base ticket price is less than Rs 1,000. All of them are operated under the regional air connectivity scheme that provides various incentives for the airline operators.
- According to an analysis shared by travel portal ixigo with PTI, there are at least 22 routes where the base airfares are less than Rs 1,000 per person, with the lowest being Rs 150 for flights connecting Lilabari and Tezpur in Assam.

## **3. SPACE India appointed Sanjana Sanghi as its Brand Ambassador**

- Since its inception in 2001, SPACE India has been on a mission to integrate Astronomy and Space Science into school curricula nationwide, inspiring over 1.5 million students across 1,000 schools. The organization has been instrumental in demystifying rocket science and making space education accessible to all.
- Now, SPACE India has welcomed rising Bollywood star and UNDP Youth Champion, Sanjana Sanghi, as its Brand Ambassador. Sanjana's commitment to education and social activism aligns perfectly with SPACE India's vision to increase access to space education. As a gold medalist from Lady Shri Ram College, her dedication to excellence makes her an ideal advocate for the organization's educational initiatives.

## **4. Power Grid board approves plan to raise Rs 12000 crore via bonds**

- Power Grid board approved a proposal to raise up to Rs 12,000 through the issuance of bonds in one or more tranches in 2024-25. Power Grid Corporation is the country's largest electric power transmission utility. It operates 86 percent of Inter-Regional networks.
- State-owned Power Grid Corporation of India board approved a proposal to raise up to Rs 12,000 through the issuance of bonds in one or more tranches in 2024-25. Power Grid Corporation is the country's largest electric power transmission utility. It operates 86 per cent of Inter-Regional networks.

## **5. SPACE, a evaluation hub for Indian Navy, set up by DRDO, inaugurated**

- 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.

## **DEFENCE**

### **1. Russia's Successful Angara-A5 Rocket Test Launch**

- Russia successfully tested its Angara-A5 space rocket for the first time on April 11, 2024. The test launch was conducted from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in the Far East of Russia. In fact, rocket test launches on April 9 and 10 were cancelled due to a malfunction in the pressurization system and a problem with the engine launch-control system.
- Two previous launch attempts on April 9 and 10 were canceled due to technical issues. The April 9 launch was canceled due to a malfunction in the pressurization system, while the April 10 launch was canceled because of a problem with the engine launch-control system.

### **2. 'Dustlik-2024' joint military exercise was organized between India and Uzbekistan in April 2024**

- The fifth edition of the India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise DUSTLIK is set to commence on April 15, 2024, in Termez District, Uzbekistan. This exercise marks another milestone in the strategic partnership between the two nations, fostering mutual cooperation and enhancing military capabilities.
- Participating contingents from the Indian Armed Forces and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan will undergo joint training sessions during the two-week-long exercise. The focus will be on sharing best practices in subconventional operations under UN mandates, aiming to bolster operational effectiveness and coordination between the two armies.

### **3. DRDO & Indian Army conducted successful trials of MPATGM Weapon System**

- DRDO and the Indian Army have successfully conducted trial of the indigenous Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile System. The system consisted of the MPATGM, Launcher, Target Acquisition System, and the Fire Control Unit.
- The Warhead Flight Trials were successfully conducted at the Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has

complimented the DRDO and the Indian Army for the successful trials of the system, terming it as an important step towards achieving self-reliance in advanced technology-based defence system development.

## **BOOKS**

### **1.A Book ‘India-the Road to Renaissance: A Vision and an Agenda’ lauched in Hyderabad**

- A Vision and an Agenda’ written by former UN official Bhimeswara Challa was launched at Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) campus. Former IAS officer Dr Jayaprakash Narayan, former ASCI chairman K. Padamanabhaiah and former RBI Governor Dr D. Subba Rao attended the launch event.
- Retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer and former UN official Bhimeswara Challa unveiled his latest book India—the Road to Renaissance: A Vision and an Agenda at an event at the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Bella Vista campus.

## **AWARDS**

### **1.50,000\$ cash prize will be given by World Athletics to the track and field athletes who win gold medals in the Paris Olympics**

- When a track and field athlete stands on the top of the Olympic podium in Paris this summer, a gold medal will not be their only prize. For the first time, they will also be rewarded with a cheque. In tennis, football or cricket, athletes are paid to play matches and rewarded with hefty bonuses and cash prizes based on their performances.
- World Athletics announced a cash prize of \$50,000 (approx Rs 41.6 lakh) for each gold medal winner at the Paris Olympics, which begins on July 26. Four years later, at the Los Angeles Games, all three medal winners will receive monetary benefits in addition to a medal, the global body announced.

### **2.Lokesh Muni honoured with American President’s Gold Volunteer Service Award**

- The American President’s Volunteer Service Award was established in 2003 during George Bush’s presidency. The award is given to individuals who have provided at least 500 hours of voluntary service in the United States and whose work has positively impacted communities and inspired those around them.
- Jain Acharya Lokesh Muni has become the first Indian monk to be honoured with the American President’s Gold Volunteer Service Award.

The award recognizes Acharya Lokesh Muni’s contribution to the public good and humanity.

### 3.Prestigious John Dirks Gairdner Global Health Award for Dr.Gagandeep Kang

- Dr. Gagandeep Kang, an Indian researcher, has been awarded the 2024 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award for her achievements in global health research. The Gairdner Foundation announced its 2024 Canada Gairdner Award winners, recognizing some of the world’s most significant biomedical and global health research and discoveries.
- The Foundation awarded Dr. Kang “for extensive cohort-based epidemiological, environmental and clinical trial research on enteric diseases in children and their effects on life course, with significant impact on vaccine development and health policy in India and internationally.”


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### 4.Radhika wins silver medal at Asian Wrestling Championships 2024

- Radhika clinches silver in the 68kg category after being bested by world champion Nonoka Ozaki of Japan. Shivane Pawar earns a bronze in the 50kg class, at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2024 in Bishkek.
- India's overall medal count stands at 5, including earlier wins in the men's freestyle events. Earlier, Udit won the silver while Abhimanyu and Vicky clinched bronze medals

### 5.Prestigious John Dirks Gairdner Global Health Award for Dr.Gagandeep Kang

- Dr. Gagandeep Kang, an Indian researcher, has been awarded the 2024 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award for her achievements in global health research. The Gairdner Foundation announced its 2024 Canada Gairdner Award winners, recognizing some of the world’s most significant biomedical and global health research and discoveries.
- The Foundation awarded Dr. Kang “for extensive cohort-based epidemiological, environmental and clinical trial research on enteric diseases in children and their effects on life course, with significant impact on vaccine development and health policy in India and internationally.”

## **SPORTS**

### **1.Mary Kom steps down as Paris Olympics Chef-de-Mission**

- Citing ‘problems’ that have ‘partly crippled’ her, Mary Kom resigned as the Chef de Mission of India’s contingent . Her decision comes weeks after the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) chose the boxing legend for the post.
- The IOA, on March 21, announced contingent officials for the Paris Olympics, which begin on July 26. While Mary was chosen as the chef de mission, winter Olympian Shiva Keshavan was named her deputy.

### **2.Arjun Kadhe and jeevan Nedunchezhiyan clinch ATP Challenger Tennis Tournament in Mexico**

- American President Joe Biden hosted the inaugural trilateral summit among the United States, Japan, and the Philippines on April 11, 2024, at the White House in Washington D.C. The meeting underscored the commitment of the United States to support its allies, Japan and the Philippines, amid escalating territorial disputes with China.
- Prior to the summit, the maritime forces of the Philippines, Japan, the United States, and Australia conducted a joint maritime exercise named Maritime Cooperative Activity (MCA) in the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone on April 7, 2024, in response to Chinese harassment allegations by the Philippines.

### **3.Nepal's Dipendra Singh created history to hit 6 sixes in an over**

- Dipendra made history by hitting 6 sixes in 1 over in a T20I match, joining an elite list of Yuvraj and Pollard. This happened against Qatar in the ACC Men's Premier Cup, where he scored 64 runs off 21 balls. Dipendra has been significant in Nepal's cricket history, playing in their 1st-ever ODI in 2018 and hitting the fastest fifty in T20I cricket at the 19th Asian Games.

### **4.Sunrisers Hyderabad Shatter IPL Record with Mammoth 287-Run Total Against RCB**

- Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) took the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 by storm, crushing their opponents Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) with a record-breaking total of 287 runs for the loss of just 3 wickets. Pat Cummins-led team had scored 277 for 3 in its second match of the ongoing edition against Mumbai Indians at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad, breaking the then record of 263 for 5, set by RCB against the now-defunct Pune Warriors India in 2013 in Bengaluru.
- The Sunrisers’ astonishing performance surpassed their own previous record of the highest-ever team total in IPL history, which they had set just a few matches earlier against Mumbai Indians. This latest feat has cemented

SRH's reputation as a formidable batting unit, capable of overwhelming any bowling attack on their day.

### **5.Mohun Bagan pip Mumbai City to win maiden ISL League Shield**

- A dominant Mohun Bagan defeated Mumbai City FC 2-1 to win their maiden ISL League Shield. This was Mohun Bagan's first victory over the two-time Shield Winners across four seasons as the Mumbai heavyweights were also unbeaten over them in previous eight matches, winning six of them.
- Liston Colaco (28th), and Jason Cummings (80th) struck for Mohun Bagan, while Lallianzuala Chhangte struck for Mumbai City FC against the run of play in the 89th minute when he converted a freekick from Yoell Van Nieff.

### **6.India clinches 2 silver, 2 bronze medals at Mathematical Olympiad 2024**

- The Indian team showcased exceptional talent at the 13<sup>th</sup> European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad 2024 held in Tskaltubo, Georgia, securing 2 Silver and 2 Bronze medals.
- Participants Gunjan Agarwal and Sanjana Philo Chacko won Silver, while Larissa and Sae Patil bagged Bronze. The team was led by Shri Sahil Mhaskar (Leader), Ms. Aditi Muthkhod (Deputy Leader), and Ms. Ananya Ranade (Observer).

## **OBITUARY**

### **1.Noted Carnatic Musician K G Jayan Passes Away**

- Noted Carnatic musician K.G. Jayan died at his residence at Thripunitura in Ernakulam district of Kerala on April 16 He was 90. He was undergoing treatment for various ailments. His cremation will be held at the crematorium in Thripunitura at 5.30 p.m on April 17. Popular Malayalam actor Manoj K. Jayan is his son.
- KG Jayan was a known name in the Malayalam music industry and his compositions, especially his devotional tracks, were loved by all. With his twin brother KG Vijayan, who died in the '80s, Jayan came up with several tracks that continue to resonate with Malayalees. They were known as the "Jaya-Vijaya" duo.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **1.World Haemophilia day observed on 17<sup>th</sup> April**

- World Hemophilia Day is celebrated on April 17th every year. This day is recognized worldwide to increase awareness of hemophilia and other

inherited bleeding disorders. The World Federation of Haemophilia established World Haemophilia Day in 1989.

- The date of April 17 was chosen to commemorate the birthday of the World Federation of Haemophilia's founder, Frank Schnabel. Haemophilia was first discovered around the 10th century, when people began to take a serious interest, particularly in male patients who died after suffering minor bleeding wounds.

## 2. World Heritage Day observed on 18th April

- In 1982, The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) proposed the idea of observing World Heritage Day.
- The theme for this year's World Heritage Day is - "Discover and Experience Diversity." Heritage monuments and sites are often victims of human activities, natural disasters, and urbanization. The day reinstates the importance of protecting and preserving them.

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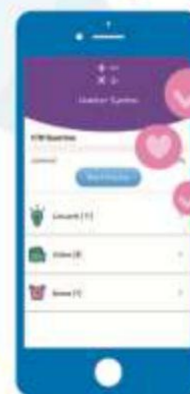


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