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APRIL – 2024

FIRST IN NEWS

1. **India's first Hindi film on Artificial Intelligence "IRAH"** took place in **Mumbai**.
2. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is poised to make history as the **first Indian Prime Minister** since **Indira Gandhi** to grace the cover of **Newsweek**
3. India's **first multi-purpose green hydrogen** pilot project at the **1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS)** in **Jhakri Himachal Pradesh**, spearheaded by **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN)**.
4. **Nigeria** has become the **first country** in the **world** to roll out the "revolutionary" new **Men5CV vaccine** against **meningitis**.

POLITY

1. The **Supreme Court** held that an election candidate has a **right to privacy from voters**.
2. **The Saksham App**, developed by the election commission, provided various services from registering voters with disabilities to making wheelchairs available for them on election day.
3. For the **first time**, 7 members of the **Shompen tribe**, took part in the election process by casting their votes in the **Andaman and Nicobar Lok Sabha constituency**.
4. Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act 2014 completed 10 years.
5. United Nations-linked **Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)** deferred the accreditation of the **NHRCI (National Human Rights Commission of India)** for the **second year** in a row.
6. Election Commission of India for the **first time** provides facilities of **home voting** in coming 2024 election.

SCHEMES IN NEWS

Scheme Name	Launched by	Objective
Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM)	NTPC Limited	Aims to nurture the imaginations of girls and eliminate gender inequality by promoting their ability to explore opportunities.
Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 (EMPS 2024)	Ministry of Heavy Industries	Aims to faster adoption of electric two-wheeler (e-2W) and three-wheeler (e-3W)

ECONOMY

1. RBI's celebrated **90th Foundation Day**.
2. India's **defence exports** crossed **₹21,000 crore, approximately \$2.63 billion**, for the first time.
3. Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL), plans to build its first commercial crude oil strategic storage in 2.5 million tonnes of underground storage at Padur in Karnataka.
4. The **Central Board of Direct Taxes** has signed record number of **125 advance pricing agreements (APAs)** in the financial year 2023-24.
5. **RBI Monetary Policy, Repo Rate to Remain Steady for Seventh Time**.
6. **The World Bank** has revised India's GDP growth projection for FY25 to 6.6%.
7. The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has raised India's GDP growth forecast for the current **fiscal year (FY25) to 7%** from the previous estimate of **6.7%**.
8. **National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)** raised its **highest-ever monetization** value of **Rs. 15,624.9 Crore** through the **Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) mode**.
9. **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued master **Direction – Reserve Bank of India (Asset Reconstruction Companies) Directions, 2024**.

10. **The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has signed highest ever record **125** Advance Pricing Agreements **APAs** (including Unilateral and Bilateral APAs) in FY 2023-24 with **Indian taxpayers**.
11. **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** has crossed a record 40 million in 2023-24, an increase of 27% from the 31.5 million enrolled in FY23.
12. **World Trade Organization (WTO)** is celebrating **30 years of the Marrakesh Agreement**.
13. **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** launched **SCORES 2.0** version which strengthens investor **complaint redress mechanism** in **securities market** by making process more efficient.
14. **PayU** has received an in-principle approval from **the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as a **Payment Aggregator**.

ENVIRONMENT

1. An extremely **rare all-white penguin** is a female of the **Gentoo species** spotted in **Chilean Antarctica**
2. **Moyar Valley of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve** biggest nesting colony of **Gyps vultures** in the wild in peninsular India.
3. Scientists have discovered a new species of **cicadas** in **Meghalaya**, referred to as "**Butterfly Cicadas**", first record of the genus **Becquartina** in **India**
4. **Thousands of sardine fish** have been surfacing near a beach in **Goa**. It's a "**rare**" phenomenon known as '**sardine run**'.
5. The emergence of **Azole-resistant Aspergillus fumigatus (ARaf)** across the world is an important **public health concern**.
6. The IUCN has released a report titled "**Towards a Regenerative Blue Economy – Mapping the Blue Economy**".
7. **Paleontologists** have unearthed a **giant predator snake** in Gujarat's **Panandhro Lignite Mine** in Kutch named **Vasuki indicus**.

8. Researchers have uncovered a vast reservoir of water, dubbed the "**Ringwoodite Ocean**," concealed within the Earth's mantle, over **700 kms beneath the surface**.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. **The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Bhopal** has developed an effective photocatalyst.
2. **NASA**, along with a suite of international and private partners, has plans to build a small space station Called **Lunar Gateway**.
3. **OpenAI** has announced a new generative AI system named **Sora**
4. **World's Most Powerful Laser Developed** in Romania engineer **Antonia Toma**.
5. The Scientists have discovered strong evidence indicating the presence of **ozone** on **Jupiter's moon Callisto**.
6. **NexCAR19** CAR-T therapy is **India's first indigenously** Made-in-India CAR-T therapy.
7. The Indian Army has received the first batch of 24 Russia-made **Igla-S Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS)**.
8. The US achieved its **first touchdown** on lunar surface in over **50 years**, **Odysseus** landed as planned at a crater called **Malapert A** near the moon's south pole.
9. India's **AstroSat** space telescope has achieved a significant milestone by detecting more than **600 Gamma-Ray Burst (GRB)**.
10. Astronomers have discovered **three new moons** around **Uranus** and **Neptune- S/2023 U1, The bright S/2002 N5, While faint S/2021 N1**.
11. **NASA** has announced that **Dragonfly** mission to **Saturn's massive moon Titan** will be launched in **2028**.
12. **ISRO** celebrated **Satellite Technology Day (STD)** commemorating the **50th** year of the **Aryabhata Launch** in **1975**.

13. **Chinese** scientists have developed the **world's first satellite** capable of enabling smartphone calls directly, **without** the need for **ground-based infrastructure**.
14. **Skyroot Aerospace** has successfully test-fired Stage-2 of **Vikram-1 space launch vehicle**, called **Kalam-250**.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. India has delivered the **first batch** of **BrahMos** supersonic cruise missiles to **Philippines** recently.
2. **Thailand's** parliament overwhelmingly approved a **marriage equality bill** legalizing **Same-Sex Marriage**.
3. **Algeria** has inaugurated the **world's third-largest** and **Africa's largest mosque**.
4. A rare human case of **bubonic plague (Black Death of 14th century)** has occurred in **the US state of Oregon**
5. Germany Legalizes Recreational Cannabis to curb black market.
6. Zimbabwe has introduced a new **gold-backed currency** called ZiG - the name stands for "**Zimbabwe Gold**" to stabilise the economy.
7. **World Health Organization** has announced the deployment of the **AI S.A.R.A.H (Smart AI Resource Assistant for Health)**.
8. **Sweden** became the **38th country** to sign the **Artemis Accords**.
9. **Armenia and Azerbaijan** came a step closer toward normalizing relations after a bitter conflict over territory.
10. **The European Union (EU)** recently introduced a **revamped visa system** tailored specifically for Indian nationals, allowing Indians access to long-term, **multi-entry Schengen visas**.
11. **Project Nimbus** is a **\$1.2 billion** contract awarded to **Google and Amazon.com** to supply the Israeli government with cloud services.

12. **Dubai** is to construct the **world's largest airport, Al Maktoum International Airport.**
13. **The International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023**, concluded with a closing ceremony held at the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** headquarters in **Rome, Italy.**
14. India signed a **10-year agreement** with Iran for the development of the **Shahid Beheshti Port Terminal at Chabahar Port.**
15. **Australian Government** in its **National Defense Strategy (NDS) 2024** identified **India** as '**top-tier security partner**' in the **Indo-Pacific Region (IPR).**
16. **External Affairs Minister** for India participated virtually in the **first 'ASEAN Future Forum'**, held in **Hanoi, Vietnam.**
17. **World Health Organisation (WHO)** has launched a new **CoViNet**, network of global laboratories with expertise in human, animal and environmental coronavirus surveillance.
18. **World Health Organization (WHO)** has prequalified the **Euvichol-S vaccine** for **Cholera.**

NATIONAL NEWS

1. **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** introduces the **myCGHS app** for iOS, delivering enhanced healthcare accessibility and digital experiences to **Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS).**
2. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** was honoured with the '**Merchant Navy Flag**' marked the beginning of **National Maritime week** (March 29 to April 5).
3. **President of India** launched **India's first** home-grown gene therapy for cancer '**CAR-T cell therapy**' at IIT Bombay.
4. India is embarking on establishing its **first privately** managed **strategic petroleum reserve (SPR)** by **2029-30.**
5. India has gained **operational control** over the **Sittwe Port in Myanmar**, second overseas port acquisition after **Chabahar in Iran.**

6. **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)** recently unveiled **India's largest Climate Clock** at its **headquarters** in **New Delhi**.
7. India's **first multi-purpose green hydrogen** pilot project at the **1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS)** in **Jhakri Himachal Pradesh**, spearheaded by **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN)**.
8. **Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (Space)** suitable for survey, sampling, and data collection of air, surface, mid-water, and reservoir floor parameters by using the modern scientific instrumentation inaugurated recently
9. **Mission ISHAN** by **Airports Authority of India** to streamline operations, enhance capacity, and alleviate congestion, benefiting both airlines and passengers.
10. **Holistic Development of Great Nicobar**, is piloted by **Niti Aayog** and implemented by the Port Blair-based **Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO)**.
11. **India** observes **105th anniversary** of the **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre**.
12. **38th Annual World's Billionaires List 2024**, **Mukesh Ambani** is the only Indian to make it to the list of the top 10 billionaires in the world.

TAMILNADU NEWS

1. **Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO)** is India's oldest and one of the world's oldest solar observatories.
2. **100 Years of Vaikom satyagraha**, **first** among temple entry movements in India.
3. The pack of **Asiatic wild dogs**, also known as **dhole** to operate around **Bokkapuram** in **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR)**.
4. **The Nilgiri Tahr (Nilgiritragus hylocrius)** from the endangered status, the Tamil Nadu government is executing a synchronised survey of the State animal.
5. **Tamil Nadu** is now closer to achieving elimination of **filariasis**.

6. **85 species** found in Tamil Nadu are classified as **'High Conservation Priority'**
7. **Tamil Nadu** recorded a voter turnout of **69.72** per cent during elections to **39 Lok Sabha constituencies**.
8. The **Tamil Nadu School Education Department** has issued **Guidelines for the Elimination of Corporal Punishment in Schools (GECP)**.

CULTURE

1. **Baisakhi (April 13)**: Celebrated primarily in **Punjab**, **Punjabi New Year** and the harvest festival of **rabi crops** also holds historical significance as the day when **Guru Gobind Singh** founded the **Khalsa** in **1699**.
2. **Bohag Bihu (April 14-20)**: Also known as **Rongali Bihu**, this is the **Assamese New Year festival** celebrated in **Assam**, marks the **beginning of the harvest season** with a week of festivities, including traditional Bihu dances, music, and feasts.
3. **Tamil Puthandu (April 14)**: This is the Tamil New Year celebrated in Tamil Nadu.
4. **Naba Barsha (April 14)**: The **Bengali New Year** is celebrated with cultural events, traditional music, dance, and community gatherings throughout West Bengal.
5. **Chaitra Navratri (April 9-17)**: This **nine-day festival** dedicated to **Goddess Durga** is observed with fasting, prayers, and cultural events across India. The culmination, **Ram Navami**, celebrates the birth of **Lord Rama**.
6. **Ugadi (April 9)**: **New Year for Telugu and Kannada people**, celebrated with the preparation of traditional dishes, decorations, and cultural performances in **Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka**.
7. **Gudi Padwa (April 9)**: This festival is celebrated as the New Year by **Maharashtrians**, involves hoisting a **gudi (decorated bamboo stick)** outside homes, preparing special dishes, and engaging in cultural activities.
8. **Cheti Chand (April 9)**: This festival marks the **Sindhi New Year** and is celebrated with processions, devotional songs, and community feasts to honour the birth of **Jhulelal**, the **Sindhi deity**.

9. **Prime Minister** inaugurated the **2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav** on the occasion of **Mahavir Jayanti**.
10. **Kesariya stupa** is the **tallest and largest Buddhist stupa** in the **world**.

AWARDS/PRIZE

Award	Awarded by	Awarded to	Known for
Freedom Prize of the Media	Ludwig Erhard Summit	Aleksei Navalny and his wife, Yulia Navalnaya	Contributions to freedom of expression, dialogue, and democracy.
Aryabhata Award'	Aeronautical Society of India (ASI)	Pavuluri Subba Rao	Tremendous lifetime contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India
John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award	Gairdner Foundation	Dr. Gagandeep Kang	Her achievements in global health research.
World Press Photo of the Year award	World Press Photo Foundation	Mohammed Salem	Palestinian photographer who works for the news agency Reuters.
KISS Humanitarian Award 2021	Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS)	Ratan Tata	Recognizes individuals and organizations epitomizing humanitarian efforts globally
Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award	Deenanath Mangeshkar Pratishthan	Dinanath Mangeshkar Natyagrih and actor Randeep Hooda	

15th Vishwakarma Award	CIDC	Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC)	GAIL (India) Limited	Achievement Award for Best Construction Projects, Barauni – Guwahati Natural Gas Pipeline project (BGPL).
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PERSONS IN NEWS

Person	Why in news?
Bilquis Mir	First woman from India to represent the country as a jury member at the upcoming Summer Olympics in Paris
Gopi Thotakura	First Indian pilot to venture into space as a tourist, joining Blue Origin's NS-25 mission .
Nikhil Kamath	At the age of 37 years, co-founder of Zerodha , is the youngest Indian billionaire in the Forbes list.
Peter Higgs	Nobel Laureate Physicist proposed the Higgs field passed away recently

IMPORTANT DAYS

Day	Date	Theme
Odisha Foundation Day	April 01	
World Autism Awareness Day	April 02	Empowering Autistic Voices
International Day of Mine Awareness	April 04	Protecting Lives, Building Peace
National Maritime Day	April 05	

International Day of Conscience	April 05	Promoting the Culture of Peace with Love and Conscience
International Day of Sport for Development	April 06	Sport for the Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies
International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda	April 07	
World health day	April 07	My Health, My Right
World Homeopathy Day	April 10	Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family
World Parkinson day	April 11	Encouraging Better Living with Parkinson's
Nation safe motherhood day	April 11	
International Day of Human Space Flight	April 12	Encourage Scientific Curiosity
40th Siachen Day	April 13	
World Quantum Day	April 14	
B.R Ambedkar Jayanti	April 14	
National Fire Service Day	April 14	Ensure Fire Safety to contribute towards nation building
World Art Day	April 15	
Ensure Fire Safety to contribute towards nation building	April 17	Equitable access for all: recognizing all bleeding disorders

World Heritage Day	April 18	Disasters & Conflicts Through the Lens of the Venice Charter
World Liver Day	April 19	Be Vigilant, Get Regular Liver Check-Ups and Prevent Fatty Liver Diseases
National Civil Service Day	April 21	
World Earth Day	April 22	Planet vs. Plastics
World Book and Copyright Day	April 23	
World Laboratory Day	April 23	
UN English and Spanish Language Day	April 23	
Khongjom Day	April 23	
National Panchayati Day	April 24	
Zero Shadow Day	April 24	
World Malaria Day	April 25	Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world
International Girls in ICT Day 2024	April 25	Digital Skills for Life
International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day	April 26	
World Intellectual Property Day	April 26	IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity

World Veterinary Day	April 27	Veterinarians are essential health workers
World Immunization Week	April 24 to 30	Humanly Possible: Immunization for All
World Day for Safety and Health at Work	April 28	
Ayushman Bharat Diwas	April 30	

DEFENCE IN NEWS

1. The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** announced that India's defence exports surged to a record Rs 21,083 crore in the fiscal year 2023-24, marking a remarkable growth of 32.5% from the previous year.
2. **DRDO** and **India's Strategic Forces Command (SFC)** have successfully conducted a flight test of the new generation ballistic missile called **Agni-Prime**.
3. **April 9th**, the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** celebrates its **59th anniversary of Bravery Day, or Valour Day**.
4. **Russia** vetoed a **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** draft resolution on a weapon-free outer space jointly proposed by the **United States and Japan**.
5. **The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA)** has been extended by the Centre to **eight districts in Nagaland** and **three districts in Arunachal Pradesh**.
6. **The Indian Air Force** has successfully tested a new version **Crystal Maze 2**, a medium-range ballistic missile.
7. **Israel** deployed **C-Dome** defence system for the first time.

Exercise	Parties involved	Exercise type
Gagan Shakti-2024	Indian Air Force (IAF)	Air Force
Sagar Kavach	Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Marine Police, Fisheries, Customs, and other security agencies.	Coastal security exercise

COMMITTEE IN NEWS

Committee	Members	Purpose of the committee
Najmi Waziri committee	Focused on safeguarding the forests in the national capital.	Najmi Waziri committee
42nd Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC)	Pledge to achieve debris-free space missions by 2030, global efforts to ensure the sustainability of space exploration.	42nd Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC)

PLACES IN NEWS

Place Name	State/Country	Known for
Taiwan Earthquake	Taiwan	Witnessed a massive earthquake (7.2)
Dubai Flood	United Arab Emirates	Witnessed the heaviest rainfall in 75 years, recording more than 250 mm (around 10 inches) in 75 years fewer than 24 hours

The Aral Sea	Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and Iran	The world's fourth-largest lake until the early 1960s, has dried up.
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INDICES

Report	Released by	Note
India Gaming Report 2024	Interactive Entertainment and Innovation Council (IEIC)	Largest gaming market in the world, boasting a user base of 568 million gamers
Lancet report	The Lancet	By 2050 the share of senior citizens in India will be more than 20 per cent, that is one five people
Global Trade Outlook and Statistics report	World Trade Organization (WTO)	Global GDP growth will remain mostly stable over the next two years at 2.6% in 2024 and 2.7% in 2025.
2024 Global Hepatitis Report	World Health Organisation (WHO)	India is second only to China in the number of Hepatitis B and C infections, with 3.5 crore cases
World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) report	World Anti-Doping Agency	India has been identified as the country with the highest percentage of doping offenders
QS World University Rankings	Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)	Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has secured the top position

Hurun Global Unicorn Index	Hurun Report	United States maintained its lead with 703 unicorns and China followed with 340 , India ranked third with 67 unicorns .
Global Education Monitoring Report	UNESCO	Impact of technology on girls' education opportunities and outcomes
State of World Population 2024 report.	United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA)	India leads globally with an estimated population of 144.17 crore, followed by China (142.5 crore).
India TB Report 2024	Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	25.52 lakh TB patients in 2023 (increase from 24.22 lakh cases in 2022)

SUMMITS

Summit Name	Hosted in	Purpose of Summit
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)	Astana, Kazakhstan	The 19th annual meeting of the secretaries of the security councils
World Future Energy Summit (WFES)	Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC)	Pivotal global event focusing on future energy, clean technology, and sustainability
2024 Ocean Decade Conference	Barcelona, Spain	Aimed to assess progress toward the goals of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)
Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference	Bhutan	To preserve tiger habitats critical for biodiversity and supporting millions of people

6th edition of the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI)	India	Emphasized the nation's expanding contribution to global crisis response efforts.
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PORTAL IN NEWS

Portal	Purpose	Launched by
CDP-SURAKSHA	Digital platform aimed at streamlining the distribution of subsidies to horticulture farmers under the Cluster Development Programme (CDP)	CDP-SURAKSHA
Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW)	Suitability Mapping portal allows universal access to state and district-level data.	Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW)
SARTHI (Sandbox for Agriculture, Rural Security, Technology and Insurance)	Aims to help insurance companies reach out to farmers and rural population.	SARTHI (Sandbox for Agriculture, Rural Security, Technology and Insurance)
SWATI (Science for Women- A Technology & Innovation)	Contains a database highlighting accomplishment of Indian women in STEM & Medicine fields.	SWATI (Science for Women- A Technology & Innovation)

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Book Name	Author Name	Note
Knife	Salman Rushdie	Famous British- Indian author and essayist
The Idea of Democracy Law and Spirituality: Reconnecting the Bond	Sam Pitroda	Widely recognized for his pivotal role in India's telecommunications revolution
Just a Mercenary? Notes from My Life and Career	Duvvuri Subbarao	22nd Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
India — the Road to Renaissance: A Vision and an Agenda	Bhimeswara Challa	known for his work in the realm of spirituality and philosophy
Law and Spirituality: Reconnecting the Bond	Professor Raman Mittal and Professor Seema Singh	
The Winner's Mindset	Shane Watson	Famous Australian cricketer
Heavenly Islands of Goa	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai	Known for his role as the Governor of Goa
India's Nuclear Titans	Soumya Awasthi and Shrabana Barua	

SPORTS IN NEWS

1. **Dhoni** achieved a remarkable feat, becoming the **first wicketkeeper** to record **300 dismissals** in **T20 cricket**.
2. **Djokovic** surpassed **Roger Federer's record** and become the **oldest World No. 1** in ATP Rankings history.
3. **Sumit Nagal** becomes the **first Indian tennis player** to win an **ATP Masters 1000 match** on **clay** courts.
4. Legendary sprinter **Usain Bolt** and Indian cricket legend **Yuvraj Singh** has been named the official **ambassador** for the upcoming **ICC Men's T20 World Cup**.

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