

MAHITHI MONTHLY SNIPPETS

APRIL 2023

NAMMAKPSC SPECIAL EDITION



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NEWS IN SHORT

State issues

- Indian Space Research Organisation and its partners successfully demonstrated a precise landing experiment for a **Reusable Launch Vehicle** at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR), **Chitradurga, Karnataka**.
- **Ankola's famous kari Ishadu Mango** now boasts of a GI tag from the state.
- **Karnataka has ranked as number one in the list of states and Union Territories** in granting access to justice and three other southern states figured among the best five, according to the **India Justice Report 2022**.
- **Appe midi** is a traditional pickling variety of mango from Karnataka, which is grown in the Malnad region of the State-especially in **Sirsi, Sagara, Siddapur, Thirthahally, Kumata, Sakleshpur, Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru**. The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (ICAR-IIHR) in Hesaraghatta for the first time will conduct an **exclusive 'appe midi' mango fair**, where 100 varieties of such mangoes will be displayed.
- **K.R. Puram, Whitefield railway** stations to be revamped under Amrit Bharat scheme. The scheme involves preparation of **Master Plans** and their implementation in phases to improve the amenities at the stations like improvement of station access, circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, lift/escalators as necessary, cleanliness, free Wi-Fi, kiosks for local products through schemes like 'One Station One Product', better passenger information systems, Executive Lounges, nominated spaces for business meetings, landscaping etc. keeping in view the necessity at each station.
- The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** is hosting a two-day regional consultative meeting for **Technology Vision 2047**, supported by Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council. This initiative brings together technology experts, thought leaders and enthusiasts to discuss and envision the future of technology and its potential for shaping a better India and a better future.
- The **country's first-of-its-kind post office building**, to accommodate the Ulsoor Bazaar post office, **3D printing technology** is being employed to construct the building.
- Aereo, an end-to-end drone solutions startup, has partnered with SJC Institute of Technology to open a **centre of excellence in Chickballapur**. This institute will serve as a platform where students learn the fundamentals of drones, drone mapping, GIS, data processing, and a certified remote pilot training course. This institute is the first-of-its-kind for advancing holistic drone education in India alongside fundamental remote pilot training.
- **Mangaluru's Pilikula Biological Park** gets **Asiatic lion, golden pheasant** under animal exchange programme was implemented with approval from Central Zoo Authority (CZA)
- **Bandipur Tiger Reserve** gets second rank in management review at fifth cycle of Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) report of tiger reserve.

- Air India has signed an agreement with KSU Aviation to launch **TaxiBot operations in Delhi and Bengaluru airports** for its Airbus A320 family of aircraft.

- **The Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP)** management is getting a male white tiger from **Chennai** to give company to the lone white female tiger at its facility and to increase the numbers of these albino cats. The three-year-old male tiger is being brought in


exchange for a lion, under **the animal exchange programme**. The zoo houses 17 tigers, 20 lions and 64 leopards (of which 50 are rescued).

- Three scientists of the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** have been awarded the **Infosys Young Investigator Award** for their efforts in research in various fields, including immunotherapy, chemical engineering, and biochemistry. The award is given to early-career IISc assistant professors in recognition of their research efforts in various fields. The award has been given to Dr Sudha Kumari of the Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology, Prof Ananth Govind Rajan of the Department of Chemical Engineering, and Prof Debabrata Laha of the Department of Biochemistry.

- **The cVigil app** has recorded 3,147 complaints in Karnataka on model code of conduct violations, of which 2,643 complaints have been found to be genuine. cVIGIL is an innovative mobile application for citizens to report Model Code of Conduct(MCC) and Expenditure violations during the elections. **‘cVIGIL’ stands for Vigilant Citizen** and emphasizes the proactive and responsible role citizens can play in the conduct of free and fair elections.

- Karnataka was declared topper in the implementation of the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme**, during a national conference in Chhattisgarh.


- More than 181 members of the Hakki Pikki tribal community from Karnataka are stuck in violence-hit Sudan, even as the government is making efforts to bring them back. The Hakki Pikki is a tribe that lives in several states in **west and south India, especially near forest areas**. Hakki Pikkis (Hakki in Kannada means ‘bird’ and Pikki means ‘catchers’) are a semi-nomadic tribe, traditionally of bird catchers and hunters




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- **Data from the Union ministry of road transport and highways (MoRTH)** shows that people prefer electric vehicles (EVs) over hybrids, nationally and also in **Karnataka, which has the second-highest number of EVs after Maharashtra**. A state-wise analysis of data puts Maharashtra on top with 2.9 lakh green vehicles, including 1.9 lakh EVs, followed by Karnataka, with more than 2 lakh (nearly 1.5 lakh being EVs) eco-friendly vehicles, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat
- Bengaluru experienced a **'Zero Shadow Day'**, when vertical objects appear to cast no shadow. This was because the sun was at its zenith, and so the shadow was directly under the object. Uttarayan (movement of the Sun from south to north from winter solstice to summer solstice) and Dakshinayan (back from north to south) happen because Earth's rotation axis is tilted at an angle of roughly 23.5° to the axis of revolution around the Sun.

NATIONAL NEWS

- **India has become the first country in the world to estimate the tuberculosis (TB) burden in-country and launch its own mathematical system to estimate the disease burden.**
- **Yangli festival celebrated in Assam** on an occasion of bountiful harvest. It is an important festival of the Tiwas as agriculture is the mainstay of their economy.
- PGRB introduces implementation of Unified Tariff-a much awaited reform in natural gas sector
- The 2nd Tourism Working Group Meeting at **Siliguri**
- The 2nd edition of joint military exercise **"The Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-2023)"** culminated at Foreign Training Node, **Aundh, Pune**.
- The **G20 EMPOWER 2023** under India's presidency aims to take forward India's women-led development agenda. The Inception meeting of G20 EMPOWER was held at Agra, Uttar Pradesh. The second EMPOWER meeting is scheduled at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- **Numaligarh Refinery Limited** achieves highest-ever Crude throughput and Distillate yield.
- 1st Ministerial-Level Meeting of India - Netherlands Joint Working Group Held In New Delhi



- **Kohima, Nagaland to host fourth B20 conference** of the Northeast Region in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of External Affairs and North Eastern State
- The Second Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting under India's G20 Presidency is to take place in the city of Guwahati, Assam.
- PM inaugurates **Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Central Bureau of Investigation** in New Delhi
- The first case of a plant fungus called **Chondrostereum purpureum** infecting human beings has been reported from Kolkata.
- **Chhattisgarh's Nagri Dubraj** rice variety gets geographical indication tag.
- The world famous '**Basohli Painting**' – popular for its miniature art style from **Kathua district Jammu** has obtained the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag followed approval by the NABARD,.
- Hyderabad-based National Geophysical Research Institute has found large deposits of **15 rare earth elements (REE) in Andhra Pradesh's Anantapur** district.
- With 110 gigawatts (GW) of solar photovoltaic (PV) module capacity set to come **online in the next three years, India will become self-sufficient** and will be the second-largest PV manufacturing country **after China**, says a new joint report from the **Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA)** and JMK Research and Analytics. In terms of upcoming PV manufacturing installations, Gujarat is the leading state in India.
- Continuing the military-to-military engagement, the Air Forces of India and the U.S. are set to conduct the **Cope India exercise** at the Kalaikunda airbase in West Bengal, with Japan as an observer. The exercise will see intense air manoeuvres aimed at improving interoperability
- There are **more women judges** at the **district court level than at the High Court** level, with 35% of the total number of judges at the district court level and only 13% of judges in the High Courts across the country being women, the India Justice Report (IJR), 2022 has revealed. **Bihar, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Uttarakhand High Courts have no women judges.**
- Ministry of I&B inks partnership with Amazon India in the field of Media, Entertainment and Public Awareness
- India has been elected to the **highest statistical body** of the **United Nations** for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2024
- The Information & Broadcasting Ministry on entered into an agreement with **Amazon India** under which the speeches of President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be streamed via Alexa and Amazon Music.
- Reliance Industries Ltd., and its telecom arm Jio Infocomm have raised a total of **\$5 billion in foreign currency loans**, the largest syndicated loan in India's history.
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), that governs UPI, in a circular issued directly to banks, intimated that they can now levy charges on merchant transactions made through Prepaid Instrument wallets using UPI.

- **TVS Supply Chain Solutions (TVS SCS)** has bagged a contract from the U.K. Ministry of Defence for the supply of spares, consumables and accessories for the Land Rover Wolf (a light military vehicle) platform.
- Ministry of Tourism, inter-alia, promotes tourist destinations of India, including the **Saptha Moksha Puri** (Seven Liberation destinations), viz., Ayodhya, Mathura, Maya (Haridwar), Kashi (Varanasi), Kanchi Avantika (Ujjain), Puri (Odisha) and Dwaravati (Dwaraka, Gujarat). Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance under the PRASHAD Scheme
- **Composite Rehabilitation Centre (CRC)** for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Divyangjan in **Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh**.
- In Azamgarh, the Union Home Minister laid the foundation stone of the Hariharpur Sangeet Mahavidyalaya at Namdarpur.
- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced the function being organized to mark the **completion of 75 years of the Gauhati High Court celebration** .
- Third production line of **the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)** set up by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) at **Nashik in Maharashtra**.
- The Indian Railways, in association with the South Star Rail, a Coimbatore-based company, will operate a tourist train to Kashmir Valley under the Bharat Gaurav scheme.
- President and Supreme Commander of the armed forces Droupadi Murmu took a sortie on an Indian Air Force (IAF) Sukhoi-30MKI fighter aircraft at the Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam. **She is the third President and second woman President to undertake such a sortie.**
- All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) under the Ministry of AYUSH hosted a walkthrough for the “Working Group of C20 on Integrated Holistic Health. MoU signed between AIIA and University of Amrita Vishwa Vidhyapeetham for collaboration in the field of Research and Academics in Ayurveda
- **Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)** conducted a large-scale Joint Military Exercise ‘**Ex KAVACH**’ involving the assets of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.
- PM inaugurates New Integrated Terminal Building of Chennai Airport in Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi participated in the **125th Anniversary** celebrations of Sri Ramakrishna Math at Vivekananda House **in Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan and Telangana, front-runners in **State Energy Efficiency Index 2021-22**.
- The '**Vibrant Villages Programme**' was launched at **Kibithoo** - a border village in Arunachal Pradesh.
- UIDAI - IIT Bombay join hands to develop touchless biometric capture system
- **Exercise Cope India 23**, a bilateral Air Exercise between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the United States Air Force (USAF) is being held at Air Force Stations Arjan Singh (Panagarh), Kalaikunda and Agra.

- The **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** has envisaged a special project called '**The Language Friendship Bridge**', which plans to train five to 10 people in the official languages of each of these countries.
- The Indian-American statistician **Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao** has been awarded the 2023 International Prize in Statistics — the **equivalent of the Nobel Prize for statistics**. It is awarded **once every two years** to an individual or team “for major achievements using statistics to advance science, technology and human welfare”.
- Ministry of Education to organise a **Young Authors’ Conference** on the occasion of the SCO Summit 2022-23
- '**Early Learner Assessment**' tool to assess children’s development between three to five years of age launched by, **Azim Premji University**. Assessment is done in a

comprehensive manner across five domains of development — physical, cognitive, language, social, emotional, and creative and aesthetic expression. Children attending any early childhood programmes like anganwadi, balwadi, nursery school, kindergarten or any other preschool education centre can be assessed with ELA.

- **Raman Research Institute (RRI)** has joined hands with the **Indian Navy** to develop secure maritime communications using quantum technologies.
- **City Union Bank Ltd. (CUB)**, in association with **Kaizen Secure Voiz Pvt. Ltd.**, has rolled out voice biometric authentication to enable access to its mobile banking application.
- **MRF Ltd.** has emerged as the **second-strongest tyre brand** in the world, according to the latest report by the U.K.-based Brand Finance, a leading brand valuation consultancy, on the most valuable and strongest tyre brands in the world.
- **Puthandu, also known as Tamil New Year**, is the first day of year on the Tamil calendar, traditionally celebrated as a festival by Tamils as the first day of the Tamil month Chittirai.

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- Ministry of Tourism, Government of India will organise the 4th and last event SCO Millets Food Festival in Mumbai
- Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE) 2023, organized by National Innovation Foundation, an autonomous institution of the Department of Science and Technology (DST). It discussed ways of raising the profile of country's innovation and entrepreneurship eco- system, which is by far the world's most inclusive eco-system, the third largest in the world and an inspiration for many progressive economies.
- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is participating in the G20 Health Working Group Side event to be held on 20th April 2023 at Goa as a side event to the G20 Health Sector Meeting. The theme for the event is Strategy and Operationalization of the One Health Agenda. The event is organized by Asian Development Bank and UN Environment Programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- National Museum of Natural History and State Museum, Lucknow sign MoU to work for environment education and conservation
- A recent study jointly conducted by researchers from the Central University of Kerala (CUK) and the Manipal Institute of Technology has found a drastic increase in the presence of microplastics in the soil in Kasaragod town post the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **first All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** in the Northeast at **Changsari near Guwahati**
- Drones will be used to deliver life-saving drugs to Char Dham pilgrims during any emergency. **Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri** all 10,000-ft-high pilgrimage sites in the Garhwal Himalayas will be covered under this.
- Scientists of the Raman Research Institute (RRI), in a study, have found the GN-z11 galaxy to have a complete absence of dust particles from its surroundings for an interim time period despite possessing a very high star formation rate. GN-z11 is identified as one of the distant and early galaxies, first discovered in 2015 by the Hubble Space Telescope.
- The Prime Minister launched the **Aapke Dwar Ayushman campaign** by distributing Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana cards to 1.1 crore eligible beneficiaries at Assam.
- The government launched the **first Ambedkar circuit tourist train**, which will cover prominent places associated with the life of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The '**Bharat Gaurav Tourist train**' is being operated under the '**Dekho Apna Desh**' initiative, which is aimed at promoting domestic tourism, and is a joint collaboration between the Ministries of Tourism and Railways. The eight-day tour will include visits to places associated with the life of Dr. Ambedkar like New Delhi, Mhow, Nagpur and the sacred Buddhist sites of Sanchi, Sarnath, Gaya, Rajgir, and Nalanda.
- IFGE- CBG Producers Forum is organizing Two Day Global Conference on Compressed Biogas under theme "Towards Progressive Policy Framework for a

Robust CBG Foundation and Growth” supported by Ministry for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India at New Delhi

- NHA Enables FASTag Based Payments at Forest Entry Points. To facilitate seamless and efficient entry process for vehicles entering into the forest area, Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL) a company incorporated by NHA to carry out Electronic Tolling, inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nagarjunasagar-Srisaillam Tiger Reserve spread across the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists in **Varanasi** to feature the MAHARISHI Initiative i.e., Millets And Other Ancient Grains
- Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inspected the under-construction **Zojila tunnel**, which will establish all-weather connectivity between the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir. It will be **India’s longest road tunnel**, and is expected to be Asia’s longest bi-directional tunnel, boasting a length of 14.15 km.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to the **Uttaramerur inscription** in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, while discussing India’s democratic history. It is from the **reign of Parantaka I (907-953 AD)**. These provide a detailed description about the **village’s self-governance** and have been cited by historians and political leaders alike as evidence of India’s history of democratic functioning.
- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented **National Panchayat Awards and inaugurated National Conference on Incentivization of Panchayats** in New Delhi
- To strengthen Gram Sabha for ensuring participatory democracy and making empowered people and accountable Panchayats, a new mobile application **GS NIRNAY**, has been developed to record and upload Gram Sabha proceedings open for public view. The app will also serve as a valuable repository of information for future reference.
- India celebrated a key milestone in its G20 presidency with the hosting of the 100th meeting of the grouping, the **Meeting of Agriculture Chief Scientists (MACS) in Varanasi**.
- The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** organized the **First National Workshop and Consultation on Draft AVGC Policies** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, for industry, academia & the government. There was forthcoming participation from several Government bodies of both Centre & State level related to AVGC, along with the industry associations & industry leaders of the AVGC sector.
- Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)** approves conduct of the Staff Selection Commission Multitasking (non-technical) Staff (SSC MTS) examination, 2022 and CHSLE Examination, 2022 in **13 regional languages** in addition to Hindi and English.

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In addition to Hindi and English, the question paper will be set in the 13 regional languages i.e. Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Odia, Urdu, Punjabi, Manipuri (also Meiti) and Konkani.

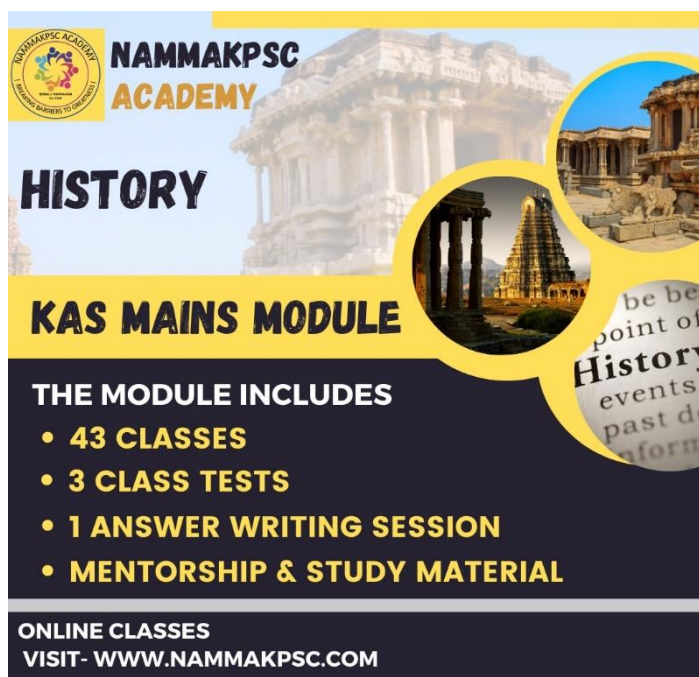
- **Y20 consultation on peace building and reconciliation** will be hosted by the University of Jammu from April 18-19, 2023.
- **Jamnagar in Gujarat is the top exporting district in India.** It formed about 24% of India's exports in value terms in FY23 (till January). Surat in Gujarat and Mumbai Suburban in Maharashtra feature second and third by a distance, forming only about 4.5% of the country's exports in the period. The other districts in the top 10 are Dakshina Kannada (Karnataka), Devbhumi Dwarka, Bharuch and Kachchh (Gujarat), Mumbai (Maharashtra), Kancheepuram (Tamil Nadu) and Gautam Buddha Nagar (Uttar Pradesh).
- The Central Government has notified the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 under **Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960** and after **superseding the Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, 2001.**
- India will host an **international summit on Buddhism** in Delhi on April 20 and 21.
- The **Delhi government** will install 70,000 street lights across the city under the **Mukhyamantri Street Light Yojana** to make the national capital safer for its citizens, especially women.
- Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, launched the new **Central Sector Scheme "Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal Products from North -Eastern Region (PTP-NER)"** for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes of North-eastern Region
- With a view to recognize the Drivers for their efforts in ensuring safety and preventing road accidents while driving Public transport buses, **Association of State Road Transport Undertakings (ASRTU)** celebrated the **HEROES ON THE ROAD felicitation** in New Delhi. ASRTU serves as a forum to discuss the latest developments, identify key issues/challenges, and exchange information on the best practices of the State Road Transport Undertakings by conducting various meetings, conferences and seminars/workshops etc.
- Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Govt. of India in partnership with the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), organized a **S20 Webinar on "An Integrated Approach to Combat Neo-Infections: A Way Forward, through Vaccines, Diagnostics and Therapeutics"** with deliberation from eminent speakers across the G-20 countries like Australia, US, UK, Canada, South Africa, European Union, Brazil and Indonesia. This S20 webinar focused on discussing a need for collaborative models that would help to strengthen and support research and development (R&D) in Vaccines, Therapeutics, and Diagnostics (VTDs). The Indian National Science Academy (INSA) is coordinating the S20 activities under the overarching theme, **"Disruptive Science for Sustainable Development"** with three subthemes focussing on **"Clean Energy for Greener Future"**, **"Universal Holistic Health"**, and **"Science for Society & Culture"**. The

emphasis is on the disruptive innovation aspect of science that identifies with the nature and essence of the overarching theme

- As a part of the series of Global Thematic Webinars being organised by the Culture Working Group (CWG) under India's G20 Presidency, the **third webinar on "Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Creative Economy"** is scheduled on 19 April 2023. It is Organised by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, the webinar is being hosted and facilitated by UNESCO (Paris), knowledge partner of CWG.
- Defence minister has approved a proposal for bringing in industry-friendly reform related to **Authority Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP)**. The AHSP is the authority which is responsible for generating, maintaining, updating or declaring obsolete the entire history and technical information of defence products.
- Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, studied the rock deposits in southern India and have found that there was a composition of shallow, inland sea in the south Indian regions. The researchers analysed the **ancient carbonate deposits in Vempalle in Andhra Pradesh** and estimated the temperature and composition of shallow, inland sea that dates back to the **Paleoproterozoic era**.
- Top Himalayan Buddhist leaders attended a **national conference at Zemithang**, the last Indian village in the Tawang sector of the LAC. Zemithang, as you might all know, is the last Indian border through which His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama entered India in 1959. Therefore, holding this conference here is significant. The conference was held at the **Gorsam Stupa on the theme "Nalanda Buddhism – retracing the source in footsteps of Acharyas: From Nalanda to Himalayas and beyond"**.
- **Union Health Ministry in collaboration with Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has requested states/UTs to develop 100 food streets in 100 districts across the country.** This initiative is being taken up as a pilot project to create an example for other such streets to come up across the country for ensuring hygienic and safe food practices. The aim of this project is to encourage safe and healthy food practices among food businesses and community members, thus, reducing foodborne illnesses and improving the overall health outcomes
- The government has launched the **fifth round of the Regional Connectivity Scheme — UDAN 5.0** — to further enhance the connectivity to remote and regional areas of the country. It was launched as a Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016, to provide affordable, economically viable and profitable air travel on regional routes to the common man even in small towns.
- **India** has improved its ranking on the **World Bank's Logistic Performance Index (LPI) 2023** by jumping to **38th position from 44th place** among 139 countries in terms of investment in technology and logistic infrastructure.
- The **Bhaderwah area** in the mountainous **Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir** is witnessing the '**purple revolution**', with farmers deriving considerable economic

benefits from it. **Lavender** has been designated by the central government as a "Doda brand product" to promote the rare aromatic plant and boost the morale of farmers, entrepreneurs, and agribusinesses involved in its cultivation as part of this **Aroma Mission**.

- According to the 'Irrigation Census', the first-ever comprehensive census of water bodies, by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to evaluate the water security situation, India has 24,24,540 water bodies, out of which 97.1 per cent (23,55,055) are in rural areas and 2.9 per cent (69,485) are in urban areas.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for the first time used the fourth stage of its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle as an orbital



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- platform with deployed solar panels to carry out experiments using seven Indian payloads embedded in it.
- **The Corps Commanders of India and China** are holding the **18th round of talks** on bringing down the tension along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh. The talks are amidst tensions prevailing due to the heavy deployment of troops on both sides of the LAC in Eastern Ladakh.
- **India's easternmost Changlang district in Arunachal Pradesh** received the **Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration in the category of "innovation"** for its initiative **New Age Learning Centre (NALC)**. The NALC is a flexible, state-of-the-art, futuristic, leisure learning space-cum-library established in the Miao subdivision to enable people from all age groups to learn and improve every aspect of their personality. The space is designed as per the comfort needs and demands of the users. Anyone can access the facilities at zero membership fees.
- **National Quantum Mission** received cabinet approval at a total cost of Rs. 6003.65 crores, to scale up scientific and industrial R&D, for accelerating Quantum Technology-led economic growth and leverage India into a leading nation in the area. The mission will be **implemented by the Department of Science & Technology (DST)** under the Ministry of Science & Technology from 2023 to 2031.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **first phase of the Kochi Water Metro** — a first of its kind public boat service in India integrated with a metro rail network.

- Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud announced that **the Supreme Court has created a special webpage for the Kesavananda Bharati case** in which a 13-judge Bench, **the largest constituted in the court's history**, through a wafer-thin majority of 7:6, held that **Parliament cannot amend the "Basic Structure"** of the Constitution.
- In a first, reports emerged that LockBit ransom ware was found to be targeting Mac devices. Cybercriminals have developed new ransom ware encryptors designed to target macOS devices, making this the **first major ransomware operation(LockBit ransomware) to specifically target Apple computers**. The new encryptors target both older Macs and newer ones running on Apple Silicon.
- The exercise to sequence 10,000 Indian human genomes and create a database under the Centre-backed **Genome India Project** is about two-thirds complete. About 7,000 Indian genomes have already been sequenced of which 3,000 are available for public access to researchers.
- An **Assam-based insurgent group — Dimasa National Liberation Army (DNLA)/Dimasa People's Supreme Council (DPSC)** — which operates in Dima Hasao district, signed a **peace agreement** with the State government and the Centre in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. The agreement will put a complete end to insurgency and there are **no more armed groups in Assam** today. under the agreement, the DNLA representatives have agreed to give up violence, surrender including the surrender of arms and ammunition, disband their armed organisation, vacate all camps occupied by DNLA cadres and join the mainstream.
- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri **Nitin Gadkari chaired the 10th Meeting for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Transport Ministers** at New Delhi. In the meeting, all the member states supported the "Concept of cooperation of the SCO Member States to decarbonize transport, promote digital transformation and innovative technologies to achieve greater efficiency and sustainability". A Special Working Group has been established to promote collaboration among member states of the SCO in the field of transportation. This group will facilitate meetings to share knowledge and best practices related to reducing carbon emissions in transportation, promoting digital transformation, and implementing innovative technologies for more sustainable and efficient transport.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi **commissioned Low Power FM Transmitters of capacity of 100 Watt at 91 locations**. These transmitters have been installed in 84 districts of 20 states. With this the network of transmitters with **All India Radio** has increased from **524 to 615**. The addition will further boost the coverage of AIR to 73.5% of the population of the country. Left Wing Extremism hit areas, Aspirational Districts and border areas of the country have been given priority for the installation of the transmitters.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- An **Australian renewable-energy company's** unique scheme to generate electricity may resuscitate the fortunes of one of India's iconic but defunct gold mines, namely the **Kolar Gold Fields (KGF)**, in Karnataka.
- Pakistan's Parliament passed a Bill to curtail the powers of the Chief Justice regarding suo motu cases and the constitution of Benches.
- UAE President names son **Khaled as Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi**
- Former Manchester United manager **Alex Ferguson** and **ex-Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger** became the first managers to be inducted into the **Premier League Hall of Fame**.
- **India and Malaysia** have agreed to **settle trade in the Indian rupee**, the Ministry of External Affairs announced, as came against the backdrop of ongoing official efforts to safeguard Indian trade from the impact of Ukraine crisis. The Union Bank of India, in a statement, said that it has become the first bank in India to operationalise this option by opening a Special Rupee Vostro Account through its "corresponding bank" in Malaysia — India International Bank of Malaysia.
- NASA named the first woman and the first African American ever assigned as astronauts to a lunar mission. **Christina Koch**, an engineer, was named as a mission specialist for the **Artemis II lunar fly-by**. **Victor Glover**, a U.S. Navy aviator, will be the first Black astronaut to be sent on a lunar mission
- **Finland joined the NATO military alliance**, dealing a major blow to Russia with a historic realignment of the continent triggered by Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.
- Australia has become the last of the "Five Eyes" security partners to ban the Chinese-owned video-sharing app TikTok from its federal government's devices.
- **South Korea and the United States** staged joint air drills involving at least one U.S. nuclear-capable B-52H strategic bomber.
- The US and 10 other nations issued the first-ever significant **anti-spyware declaration that excludes India**. Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States are the countries involved.
- While studying the atoms of heavy elements, physicists in **Japan** discovered a previously **unknown isotope of uranium**, with atomic number 92 and mass number 241, i.e. uranium-241. The discovery of a new neutron-rich uranium isotope is the first since 1979
- **The aviation safety regulator of the U.S.**, the Federal Aviation Administration, has retained the "**Category 1**" status for India's aviation safety oversight following a review. The International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) programme of the FAA determines whether a country's oversight of its airlines that operate or wish to operate to the U.S. or enter into codeshare partnerships with U.S. carriers comply with safety standards established by the UN aviation watchdog, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- China sets up no-fly zone near Taiwan

- The military junta's fighter jet from Tada-U Airport bombed over the civilian population in Pazigy village in Kanbalu township in **Sagaing** region. **Chin and Kachin are also targeted**
- Apple launched a savings account linked with its Apple Card, which will offer a high annual percentage yield (APY) of 4.15 per cent. The tech giant has tied up with **Goldman Sachs** to offer the savings account. It will need no fee, no minimum deposits, and no minimum balance requirements. The feature to set up the account can be found in the Apple Wallet app.
- India has overtaken China as the world's most populous nation, according to UN data. India's population surpassed 1.4286 billion, slightly higher than China's 1.4257 billion people. By 2025, India's population is said to touch 1.668 billion while China's population is said to contract to 1.317 billion.
- 8th India-Thailand Defence Dialogue was held in Bangkok
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) will be participating in **Exercise INIOCHOS-23**, a **multi-national air exercise hosted by the Hellenic Air Force**. The exercise will be conducted at the Andravida Air Base in Greece from 24 Apr 2023 to 04 May 2023. The Indian Air Force will be participating with four Su-30 MKI and two C-17 aircraft. The objective of the exercise is to enhance international cooperation, synergy and interoperability amongst the participating Air Forces.
- The two days **EU-India Aviation Summit** began in New Delhi. During the summit, a declaration of intent was signed by Airport Authority of India with Eurocontrol, and a letter of intent memorandum of understanding was signed by DGCA with the European Union Aviation Safety for closer cooperation. The summit focuses on EU-India air transport relations and the mutually shared challenges and opportunities of the two regions, such as the post-COVID recovery of air traffic, increasing sustainability, maintaining safety and the development of unmanned aircraft systems.
- **The Wagner group**: The Wagner group is a **Russian paramilitary organisation** headed by Yevgeny Prigozhin. Though it has been reportedly engaged in counter-militancy operations in **Africa**, its involvement is believed to have a more extensive scope covering political, economic and military fields. There have also been reports of the group supplying arms and weapons, and training regional forces in fighting

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jihadist threats. Despite its involvement in the Russia-Ukraine war, the Wagner group's presence in Africa has continued. By siding with the domestic actors in a civil war situation, the **group's actions have impacted the democratic process in Africa**. Additionally, the West has been raising concerns over human rights violations and abuse of civilians related to the Wagner group's presence in Africa.

- **Operation Kaveri** : India has started **Operation Kaveri to evacuate its nationals from conflict-torn Sudan**. Nearly 3,000 Indians are stuck in various parts of Sudan, including the national capital, **Khartoum**, and distant provinces such as Darfur. Operation Kaveri gets under way to bring back our citizens stranded in Sudan. Committed to assist all our brethren in Sudan, India had earlier stationed **two C-130J heavy-lift aircraft in Jeddah and sent INS Sumedha to Port**.
- **Nagorno-Karabakh**: Nagorno-Karabakh, known as **Artsakh by Armenians**, is a **landlocked mountainous** area in the **South Caucasus**. It was claimed by both **Azerbaijan and Armenia** after the fall of the Russian Empire in 1917 and has remained a point of tension ever since. The territory is internationally recognised as part of oil-rich Azerbaijan, but its inhabitants are predominantly ethnic Armenians and have their own government which has enjoyed close links to the government in neighbouring Armenia but has not been officially recognised by it or other U.N. member states.
- The European Parliament, the legislative body of the 27-country block European Union, has approved the **world's first set of comprehensive rules to bring largely unregulated cryptocurrency markets under the ambit of regulation by government authorities**. The regulation, called the **Markets in Crypto Assets (MiCA)**, will come into force after formal approval by member states.
- The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has found in a new report '**State of the Global Climate 2022**', that the world's sea level is rising at an unprecedented rate, portending potentially disastrous consequences for the weather, agriculture, the extant groundwater crisis, and social disparities.
- India will host **Defence Ministers** from the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** grouping. As Chair this year of the SCO, which includes Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan besides India, **New Delhi will be hosting the visiting Defence Ministers from member countries, as well as from observers Belarus and Iran**.

Environment & ECOLOGY NEWS

- In a unique and environmental friendly initiative, **sadiwara a village in Jammu and Kashmir** is offering gold coins for collecting plastic waste from environment. The village head started the unique initiative called '**Give plastic Take gold**'.
- **Prosopis chilensis**, an **alien invasive plant** is threatening to pulverise native vegetation across 21 islands in the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve (GoMBR), as revealed by an avian distribution study.
- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurates **Gaj Utsav-2023** at **Kaziranga**
- The **Assam Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW)** gave permission for handing over a satellite radio collar to the Kerala Forest Department. The device will be fixed on the wild tusker locally called **Arikompan**.

- Namami Gange Signs Agreement With 49 Universities To Inspire Youth Towards Water Conservation & River Rejuvenation
- **Malaria is all set to become a notifiable disease** across India, with Bihar, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Meghalaya too in the process of putting the vector-borne disease in the category. This will then require by law that cases be reported to government authorities. Currently, malaria is a notifiable disease in 33 States and Union Territories in India.

SPORTS NEWS

- **27th senior women's National football championship** will commence at the **Bangalore Football Stadium** in Bengaluru
- Sports Authority of India integrates Khelo India games certificates with DigiLocker
- **World Cup-winner Argentina** moves to top of FIFA rankings
- **Chennai to host Street Child Cricket World Cup**
- Buttler becomes the third quickest to reach 3000 runs in the IPL. Chris Gayle tops the list, followed by K.L. Rahul.
- Asian wrestling championships 2023 is held at Astana.
- In the first-ever census of **mangrove pitta birds** carried out in two coastal districts of Odisha, 179 such birds were sighted
- **Indian swimmer, Aryan Singh Dadiala**, equalled the existing **world record of the fastest male swimmer** to swim the **Sea of Galilee**, braving extreme weather conditions. **Sea Of Galilee is the second lowest water body in the world**, approximately 214 metres below sea level, and poses multiple challenges such as whirlpools and indefinite wind storms.

PERSONALITIES IN NEWS

- **Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh** is new Vice-Chief of Navy
- **Salim Durani** the Test cricketer, who was born in Afghanistan passed away.
- Keshub Mahindra, chairman Emeritus of Mahindra Group, passed away
- **Virginia Norwood**, an aerospace pioneer who invented the scanner that has been used to map and study the earth from space for more than 50 years, has passed away. **NASA has called her "the mother of Landsat."**
- **Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan** assumed charge as **Controller of Personnel Services**. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla; A recipient of the **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal**, the Admiral has held several key operational, staff and training appointments in his naval career including the command of missile vessels **INS Vidyut and INS Vinash**; the missile corvette INS Kulish; the guided missile destroyer INS Mysore; and the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya

IMPORTANT DATES

- On **2nd April every year we observe the World Autism Awareness Day** to spread information about Autism Spectrum Disorder and help the global ASD population lead a healthy social life. This year the theme for World Autism Awareness Day 2023 is "**Transforming the narrative: Contributions at home, at work, in the arts and in policymaking.**"

- **National Maritime Day is celebrated on 5 April** in India. The first event of the National Maritime Day or the inaugural ceremony was celebrated in 1964 with an aim to increase awareness about the economy and global trade. The theme for National Maritime Week 2023 is “Amrit Kaal in Shipping.”
- **World Health Day** is a global health awareness day celebrated every year on 7 April, under the sponsorship of the World Health Organization, as well as other related organizations. **Theme for World Health Day 2023: Health For All.**
- **National Safe Motherhood Day** is celebrated on 11 April every year and it is an important day for all the mothers or expecting mothers that aimed to reduce maternal and neonatal deaths.
- **World Hemophilia Day is observed globally on April 17** to raise awareness about hemophilia, a rare genetic blood disorder that inhibits the clotting of blood. Hemophilic individuals lack two crucial clotting factors, Factor VIII (8) or Factor IX (9), which can lead to significant bleeding during injuries and surgeries. The **theme for 2023 is “Access for All: Prevention of Bleeds as the Global Standard of Care.**
- **National Civil Services Day is celebrated in India on April 21 every year.** It is a day to commemorate the contribution of civil servants towards the development of the country.
- **“Earth Day” is an annual global event** celebrated on **April 22** to promote environmental consciousness and raising awareness of the various issues that impact our planet. The theme for Earth Day 2023 is **"Invest In Our Planet"**.
- The **2023 World Veterinary Day** will be celebrated on **29th April 2023**. The Day honours the veterinary profession every year on the **final Saturday in April**. This year the **theme of the Day is Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness in the Veterinary Profession.** Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in collaboration with Veterinary Council of India are set to celebrate World Veterinary Day- 2023

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