

**IACE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ India opens its 16th Visa application center in Bangladesh's Kushtia

- The High Commission of India opened its 16th Visa application center in Kushtia town of Southwestern Bangladesh.
- The new Indian Visa Application Center (IVAC) was inaugurated by High Commissioner Pranya Verma.
- This will provide greater ease and convenience to residents of Kushtia and its surrounding areas seeking visa services to visit India.
- The new center will further strengthen people-to-people contact. It will serve as a new platform to promote tourism, trade and people-to-people exchanges between India and Bangladesh.
- The High Commission of India operates its largest Visa Operations Center in the world in Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh accounts for the largest number of foreign tourists in India, including those availing medical, tourism, business and student visa facilities.
- People's Republic of Bangladesh
  - Capital: Dhaka
  - Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina Wazed
  - President: Mohammad Shahabuddin
  - Currency: Taka

### ❖ **G20 meeting of Chief Agricultural Scientists begins in Varanasi**

- The G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) began on 17 April in Varanasi.
- The three-day meet is being organized by the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- The theme of the meeting is “Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems for Healthy People and the Planet.”
- Around 80 foreign delegates from G20 member states are participating in the event.
- The discussions covered various issues of agricultural research and development including food security and nutrition, climate smart agriculture, digital agriculture, public private partnership etc.

### ❖ **CII and Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare organises Digital Health Summit 2023**

- The Digital Health Summit 2023 was organized jointly by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in Goa.
- The theme of the event was ‘Building One Health together – Improving Health equity’.
- The aim of the summit was to bring together policy makers, industry leaders and global health experts and thought leaders to deliberate on the key issues faced by the digital health sector.
- The event aligns with the agenda of India's G20 health working group on digital health innovations.
- It aims to assist in universal health coverage and improve healthcare delivery for One Earth, One Family, One Future.

### ❖ **First AIIMS inaugurated in the Northeast at Changsari near Guwahati**

➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Changsari near Guwahati. It is the first AIIMS in the Northeast.

➤ He announced three other medical colleges in Assam.

➤ The three medical colleges at Nalbari, Nagaon and Kokrajhar have been built at a cost of around Rs. 615 crore, Rs 600 crore and Rs 535 crore, respectively.

➤ He also laid the foundation stone of Assam Advanced Health Care Innovation Institute (AAHII) at IIT-Guwahati.

➤ He distributed Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) cards in all districts.

➤ The Prime Minister also launched a healthcare scheme to provide free medical treatment of Rs. 5 lakh each year to 11 million beneficiaries.

➤ The AIIMS campus, built at a cost of Rs. 1,123 crore, is a one-of-a-kind healthcare facility in the entire northeastern region.

➤ It will have an annual intake capacity of 100 medical students every year.

### ❖ **Shali Singh produces second longest jump at Indian Grand Prix 4 Athletics**

➤ Long jumper, Shali Singh won a gold medal in the women's long jump at the Indian Grand Prix 4 2023 athletics meet in Bangalore, Karnataka.

➤ She has logged a 6.76m effort, the second-best by an Indian after the legendary Anju Bobby George.

➤ With this win, she has also qualified for the Asian Games 2023, scheduled in Hangzhou, China, by breaching the women's long jump qualifying standard of 6.45m set by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).

### ❖ **Banking on Climate Chaos Report released**

➤ According to the annual Banking on Climate Chaos Report, the world's 60 largest banks have spent \$5.5 trillion on financing fossil fuel projects since 2016.

➤ Released by: Rainforest Action Network, Bank Track, Indigenous Environmental Network, Oil Change International, Reclaim Finance, Sierra Club and Urgewald.

➤ JPMorgan Chase & Co has spent \$434.15 billion, followed by Citibank NA, Wells Fargo & Company, and Bank of America Corporation.

### ❖ **Chennai Metro and SBI launch Singara Chennai Card**

➤ Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has collaborated with the State Bank of India for the National Common Mobility Card or Singara Chennai Card as part of the multimodal and ticket integration plan.

➤ It can be used on metro trains and on MTC buses and suburban trains later, and can also be used in other metros.

➤ The option to link the card to an SBI bank account will be available soon.

➤ It can be preloaded with cash from 100 to 2,000 with a 1.8% commission charged by SBI.

### ❖ **ESA successfully launches JUICE mission to study Jupiter's Icy Moons**

➤ The European Space Agency (ESA) launched its flagship JUICE (Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer) mission.

➤ The mission was carried by an Ariance 5 rocket from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.

➤ It will take an eight year journey to reach Jupiter.

➤ Aim: To understand whether there are habitable environments among those icy moons and around a Jupiter.

➤ It will make detailed observations of Jupiter and its three large moons: Ganymede, Callisto and Europa.

### ❖ **Sekhar Rao appointed as interim MD and CEO of Karnataka Bank**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Sekhar Rao as interim Managing Director (MD) and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of Karnataka Bank w.e.f April 15, 2023.
- He has been appointed for a period of three months or till the appointment of regular MD and CEO whichever is earlier.
- He has replaced Mahabaleshwara M S, whose term ended on April 14, 2023.
- Prior to this role, he was serving as an executive director of the bank.

### ❖ **India, Japan and France announce common platform for Sri Lanka creditors**

- India, Japan and France have announced a common platform for talks among bilateral creditors to coordinate the restructuring of Sri Lanka's debt.
- This move is expected to serve as a model for solving the debt woes.
- Sri Lanka has secured a 2.9 billion dollar programme from IMF to tackle its huge debt burden.
- But, the middle-income economy could not apply for relief under the G-20's common framework for debt treatment, which targets only low-income countries.

### ❖ **AIFF announces minimum wage for women players**

- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has decided that the top eight participating teams in the Indian Women's League (IWL), have a minimum of 10 Indian players on a fully professional annual contract worth a minimum of Rs 3.2 lakhs.
- Aim: To revamp and restructure women's football in the country, in line with the Strategic Roadmap Vision 2047.
- The 2024-25 season will have 10 teams in the top division followed by two other divisions.

➤ AIFF President: Kalyan Chaubey

❖ **Army Commanders Conference to be organized in hybrid format**

➤ Army Commanders' Conference (ACC) is an apex level biannual event scheduled from April 17 to 21, 2023.

➤ It is an institutional platform for conceptual-level deliberations, culminating in making important policy decisions for the Indian Army.

➤ For the first time, it is being conducted in Hybrid format exploiting available technology for secure communication.

➤ Army Commanders will meet virtually on the first day and then travel to Delhi for balance physical meetings.

❖ **Global Conference on Compressed Biogas to be held in New Delhi**

➤ IFGE- CBG Producers Forum will organize a two day Global Conference on Compressed Biogas in New Delhi from 17 April 2023.

➤ Theme: "Towards Progressive Policy Framework for a Robust CBG Foundation and Growth"

➤ Aim: To apprise the industry regarding the initiatives taken for the development of the compressed biogas industry and to identify the areas where policy modifications are required.

➤ Union Minister for Petroleum, Hardeep Singh Puri will also attend the event.

❖ **G7 Ministers' meeting on Climate, Energy and Environment**

➤ G7 Ministers' meeting on Climate, Energy and Environment was held in Sapporo, Japan.

➤ The participating leaders committed to work towards ensuring carbon-free electricity production by 2035 and accelerating the phase – out of coal.

➤ This is significant as the G7 nations account a quarter of global carbon emissions.

➤ Recognising the current global energy crisis and economic disruptions , participants reaffirmed their commitment of accelerating the clean energy transition to net-zero GHG emissions by 2050 at the latest.

Current Members of G7:

➤ US, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan. The European Union is also represented within the G7.

➤ The members of this group are the most developed and the advanced economies of the world.

### ❖ **CAPF to hold exams in 13 local languages**

➤ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said that the examinations to recruit constables in Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) will be conducted in 13 regional languages, other than Hindi and English.

➤ The new arrangement will kick in starting from January 1, 2024.

➤ In addition to Hindi and English, the question paper will be set in Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Odiya, Urdu, Punjabi, Manipuri and Konkani languages.

➤ The ten-lakh strong CAPF comprises forces such as the CRPF, Border Security Force (BSF), Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and Assam Rifles.

### ❖ **Second meeting of G20 Digital Group in Economy Working Hyderabad**

➤ The G20 second Digital Economy Working Group meeting has begun in Hyderabad. With a focus on digital public infrastructure, cyber security and skilling. About 140 delegates from member countries, invitee countries and international organisations will be deliberating upon various issues during the three-day meeting.

➤ The first topic that is discussed is high-speed mobile broadband and its impact on lives of people and society at large and industry.

- The other sessions are centered on ‘Digital Inclusion: Connecting the Unconnected’, and ‘Sustainable, Green Digital Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities’.
- India presidency has launched two major campaigns for the first time : one is Stay Safe Online, which is running now in all G20 countries, and invited countries.
- The second campaign is the Digital Innovation Alliance.

### ❖ **Narayan Prasad Saud becomes Nepal's new foreign minister**

- Kathmandu, Nepali Congress leader Narayan Prasad Saud was sworn in as Nepal’s new foreign minister.
- President Ram Chandra Poudel administered the oath of office and secrecy to the newly appointed foreign minister at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here.
- Sixty-year-old Saud is also the central committee member of the Nepali Congress and he has been elected as the House of Representatives from Kanchan – a constituency in far-western Nepal.
- He had earlier served as Minister of State for Education and Sports and Minister for Irrigation.

### ❖ **DRDO CoE inaugurated at IIT-H**

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)‘s collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H) started in 2020 with the former’s research cell transformed into a Centre of Excellence as DIA-CoE.
- This centre was inaugurated by chairman of DRDO Samir V. Kamat in the presence of IIT-H director B.S. Murty and director of DIA-CoE G. Ramaguru at Technology Research Park, IITH.
- There are seven verticals of technology projects that will be undertaken at DIA-CoE at IIT-H.



➤ The DRDO team with the IIT-H team will work together and identify the target projects in each of these domains and execute to complete them in a period of 3 to 5 years.

### ❖ **BCCI hikes cash prize for domestic tournaments**

➤ The BCCI announced an increase in prize money for the domestic tournaments with the Ranji Trophy winners set to receive a whopping cash reward of ₹5 crore this year.

➤ According to the new pay structure, Ranji Trophy winners, who currently get a cheque of ₹2 crore, will be receiving ₹5 crore, while the runners-up and losing semifinalists will get ₹3 crores and ₹1 crore respectively.

➤ The women's tournaments will also see a raise in the prize money as the senior women's one-day champions will get Rs 50 lakh. Earlier, they were getting Rs 6 lakhs. The runner-ups will get Rs 25 lakh. Similarly, the senior women's T20 winners will get Rs 40 lakh, an eight-times increase from the Rs 5 lakh they were getting and the runner-ups will get half of it.

### ❖ **Rublev rallies past Rune for first Masters title in Monte Carlo**

➤ Russia's Andrey Rublev fought back against Denmark's Holger Rune to win his first Masters 1000 title in Monte Carlo.

➤ The fifth seed rallied from 4-1 down in the deciding set to defeat sixth-seeded teenager Rune 5-7, 6-2, 7-5 after one hour 34 minutes on the red clay of Court Rainier III.

➤ Rublev, 25, claimed the biggest win of his career after losing the Masters finals in Monte Carlo and Cincinnati, both in 2021.

### ❖ **Bagnaia dominates Grand Prix of the Americas MotoGP sprint**

➤ World champion Francesco Bagnaia breezed to a comfortable win in the Grand Prix of the Americas MotoGP sprint.

- Pecco Bagnaia notched up his third win of the 2023 MotoGP World Championship season with a composed run to the flag in the Grand Prix of The Americas Sprint Race at COTA.
- The Ducati rider started from pole at Austin and dominated the 10-lap dash to bounce back from his fall last time out in Argentina.
- Alex Rins on the Honda-LCR took second with Jorge Martin on another Ducati in third.
- Marco Bezzecchi came in sixth for the VR46 Ducati team owned by motorcycling legend Valentino Rossi to retain his lead in the world championship but only by one point now from Bagnaia.