

❖ **India overtakes China to become the world's most populous country**

- India has overtaken China as the world's most populous country, according to United Nations data released on April 19, 2023.
- According to UN data India's population is 142.86 crore while China's population is 142.57 crores.
- According to a new report by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 25 per cent of India's population is between the age group of 0-14 years. The population between the age group of 10-19 years is 18 percent. The population in the age group of 10-24 years is 26 percent. The population in the age group of 15-64 years is 68 percent and the population above 65 years is 7 percent.
- Kerala and Punjab have a large elderly population, while Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have a large youth population.
- According to several studies conducted by various agencies, India's population is expected to grow for about three decades before reaching a peak of 165 crores. After that it will start declining.

❖ **Thawe Festival organised in Bihar**

- The Thawe Festival took place in Gopalganj, Bihar and the festival was jointly organised by the Department of Tourism and the Department of Art and Culture.
- The objective of the festival is to promote tourism in Gopalganj and invite visitors to Thawe Durga Temple.
- This year the 11th Annual Thawe Festival was celebrated. Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Tejashwi Yadav inaugurated the festival.

➤ The festival has been organised since 2012 at the Home Guard Ground near Thawe Durga Temple.

❖ **Mankind Pharma announces upto ₹4,326 crore offer for sale**

➤ Mankind Pharma Ltd. has announced an offer for sale (OFS) of 40,058,844 equity shares in the price band of ₹1,026 to ₹1,080 per equity shares with face value of ₹1 each.

➤ The initial public offer (IPO) will open on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 and the issue will close on Thursday, April 27, 2023.

➤ The size of the IPO is estimated at ₹4,326 crore at the upper price band. Bids can be made for a minimum of 13 equity shares and in multiples of 13 shares thereafter.

➤ The offer of 40,058,844 equity shares comprises an offer for sale of 3,705,443 shares by Ramesh Juneja, 3,505,149 shares by Rajeev Juneja, 2,804,119 shares by Sheetal Arora (collectively the promoter selling shareholders), 17,405,559 shares by Cairnhill CIPEF Ltd., 2,623,863 shares by Cairnhill CGPE Ltd., 9,964,711 shares by Beige Ltd., and 50,000 shares by Link Investment Trust (collectively, the investor selling shareholders). The company will not receive any proceeds from the offer.

❖ **Alliance Group plans new projects in 3 Southern cities at ₹8,615 cr.**

➤ City-based Alliance Group has drawn up plans to strengthen presence across South India in FY23 by unveiling 25 million sq. ft. of new projects at an investment of ₹8,615 crore.

➤ The projects comprise 10 million sq. ft. in Bengaluru, and 7.5 million sq. ft. each in Chennai and Hyderabad, at investments of ₹3,575 crore, ₹2,350 crore and ₹2,690 crore respectively.

➤ Till date, the company has delivered more than 7,500 homes and has 54 million sq. ft. under development, Alliance Group said in a statement.

❖ 8th India-Thailand Defence Dialogue

- The 8th India-Thailand Defence Dialogue was held in Bangkok.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Nivedita Shukla, Special Secretary in the Ministry of Defense and General Nuchit Sribunsong, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Defense of Thailand.
- They reviewed defence cooperation between the two countries and explored new initiatives to further strengthen bilateral ties.
- The two sides also exchanged views on regional and global issues of common interest.
- India and Thailand share a strategic partnership and defense is a major pillar of this cooperation
- India and Thailand share a maritime boundary in the Andaman Sea.
- Thailand was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with India in 1947.
- Since 2001, India-Thailand economic and commercial relations have grown significantly.
- Since 2015, India has been participating in the largest Asia Pacific military exercise X-Cobra Gold.

❖ Amit Shah chairs meeting of heads of departments of SCO member-states

- Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the meeting of Heads of Departments of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member-states in New Delhi on 20 April.
- The meeting focused on the prevention and elimination of emergency situations.
- Representatives of SCO member states shared information about large-scale emergency situations occurring in their regions and measures taken to deal with them.

- Ideas were shared on innovative practices, technologies and future prospects for cooperation in the field of prevention and elimination of emergency situations.
- India has been actively participating in the SCO and providing substantial support to various mechanisms in the Forum.
- India is focusing on initiating proposals of mutual benefit to SCO member states, observers and dialogue partners.

❖ **Tata Electronics appoints Randhir Thakur as CEO & MD**

- Tata Group has appointed Dr. Randhir Thakur as the CEO and managing director of Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd (TEPL). Till recently, Thakur was leading Intel Foundry Services as its President and has worked with Intel for over 5 years.
- He has also held leadership and technical positions at Applied Materials Inc., SanDisk Corp, and Micron Technology Inc.
- TEPL was founded in 2020 as a greenfield venture of the Tata Group with expertise in manufacturing precision components.
- Born in Himachal Pradesh, Thakur is an electronics and telecommunications engineer from the National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra, India, has a master's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the University of Oklahoma.

❖ **Assam, Arunachal signs MoU on the border dispute**

- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh government will be signed to resolve the long pending border dispute between both states in New Delhi in presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- The Assam cabinet approved the recommendations given by 12 Regional Committees formed by the state government to resolve the decades-long border dispute issue with Arunachal Pradesh.
- The decision was taken during the state cabinet meeting held in Guwahati under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma.

➤ The state cabinet also approved an investment of ₹8201.29 crore for 8 mega projects in the state and the MoUs will be signed on May 9. Around 6,100 people will be benefited from direct employment under these projects. The state cabinet also approved providing a monthly pension of ₹15,000 each to 301 Loktantra Senani of the 1975 Emergency.

❖ **Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel wins second term in polls**

- President of Cuba, Miguel Diaz-Canel (62) has clinched a second five-year term in a parliamentary vote for which he was the sole candidate in the country.
- His bid was confirmed by 97.66% of votes cast in the Communist Party of Cuba-aligned National Assembly. He took over the reins in 2018 as the first civilian leader of Cuba.
- His first five years in office were marked by the worst economic crisis in three decades.
- Diaz-Canel's bid was confirmed with 459 of the 462 lawmakers present in the Communist Party of Cuba-aligned National Assembly voting for his reelection, its president Esteban Lazo announced in the chamber.
- Cuba Capital: **Havana**; Currency: **Cuban Peso**

❖ **HSBC India ropes in Virat Kohli as their brand influencer**

- HSBC India said it has signed Indian cricketer Virat Kohli as their brand influencer, in a wider effort to amplify its support the ambitions of an aspirational India going global.
- As part of the association, a multi-media campaign featuring Virat Kohli will showcase the value proposition of banking with HSBC.
- Sharing his perspective on the partnership and business, Sandeep Batra, head of wealth and personal banking, HSBC India said, "Cricket is a unifying force and strikes an emotional chord with the Indian diaspora across the world. Our endeavor to support the aspirations of the international minded Indians will be boosted by our

association with Virat Kohli. Whether on or off the field Kohli personifies discipline and commitment to his craft, ideals that resonate with us at HSBC India.”

➤ HSBC India CEO: **Hitendra Dave**

❖ **Agriculture Minister launched SATHI Portal & Mobile App**

- The Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, has unveiled a new online platform and mobile application called SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication, and Holistic Inventory) to address the issues of seed production, quality identification, and certification.
- The platform has been developed under the Uttam Beej – Samridh Kisan scheme.
- The SATHI portal is considered a revolutionary step towards addressing issues related to seed production, quality identification, and certification.
- Seeds, pesticides, fertilizers, and irrigation are essential factors in agriculture, and inferior quality or spurious seeds can negatively impact growth and production. The use of the SATHI portal and mobile app will help in ensuring quality seed production, and certification.
- Mr. Tomar highlighted that the government is committed to overcoming challenges faced by agriculture through schemes and programmes.

❖ **NHAI to create around 10,000 km of Digital Highways by FY 2024 - 25**

- NHAI is working towards development of around 10,000 km of Optic Fibre Cables (OFC) infrastructure across the country by FY2024-25.
- National Highways Logistics Management (NHLML), a fully owned SPV of NHAI, will implement the network of Digital Highways by developing integrated utility corridors along the National Highways to develop OFC infrastructure.
- Around 1,367 km on Delhi - Mumbai Expressway and 512 km on Hyderabad - Bangalore Corridor have been identified as pilot routes for the Digital Highway development.

➤ Providing internet connectivity to remote locations across the country, the OFC network will help to expedite the roll out of new age telecom technologies like 5G & 6G.

➤ Recently inaugurated, 246 km long Delhi – Dausa – Lalsot section of the Delhi - Mumbai Expressway features a three-meter-wide dedicated utility corridor used to lay Optical Fibre Cables, which will serve as the backbone for the roll out of the 5G network in the region.

❖ **Angela Merkel receives Germany's highest Order of Merit**

➤ Former Chancellor Angela Merkel received Germany's highest Order of Merit. The Grand Cross award was handed to her by President Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

➤ The award has only been given twice before, to former chancellors Konrad Adenauer and Helmut Kohl. All three former leaders belong to the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU).

➤ The Order of Merit entails no financial reward. Merkel led Germany from 2005 to 2021, totaling four terms in office. She did not seek a fifth term. She was the first woman to take the post of chancellor and the first German head of government to have grown up in socialist East Germany.

➤ Steinmeier praised Merkel as an “unprecedented politician” who successfully steered Germany through difficult times, including the 2008 financial meltdown and the 2015 refugee crisis. Merkel, 68, was the first woman to lead Germany and the first chancellor who grew up behind the Iron Curtain in communist East Germany.

➤ Germany's highest Order of Merit is known as the Federal Cross of Merit in German. It is awarded by the President of Germany to individuals who have made significant contributions to the nation's cultural, economic, or political life, or have provided outstanding service to society.

❖ **IIT Roorkee signs pact with Taiwanese centre**

➤ Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Science and Technology Centre for

Disaster Reduction (NCDR), Taiwan, while the scientists and faculty members of NCDR, along with their Director Dr. Hongey Chen visited the institute.

- This MoU aims to develop scientific and academic cooperation and scientific research to promote relations and mutual understanding between NCDR and the Centre of Excellence in Disaster Mitigation and Management (CoEDMM) of IIT Roorkee.
- The key objective of the MoU is mutually developing technology solutions to natural hazards, including earthquakes, landslides, floods, debris flow, and compound disasters. The researchers from IIT Roorkee and NCDR aim to co-establish an early warning sensor network equipped with P-Alert sensors at selected locations in Uttarakhand.

❖ **World's Wealthiest Cities Report 2023 released**

- According to the World's Wealthiest Cities Report 2023, published by Henley & Partners and New World Wealth, New York City has emerged as the wealthiest city in the world, with 340,000 resident millionaires.
- Tokyo with 290,300 resident millionaires, ranked second, followed by The Bay Area, London, and Singapore.
- While the US has topped the list in the number of wealthy cities, with 10 out of the top 50 cities in the world, followed by China, and Australia.

Rank	City	Country	No of Millionaires
1	New York	USA	340,000
2	Tokyo	Japan	290,300
3	The Bay Area	USA	285,000
4	London	UK	258,000
5	Singapore	Singapore	240,100

➤ Bengaluru has emerged as the city with the fastest growth in terms of wealth, despite the fact that no Indian city could make it into the top 10. In Bengaluru, wealth increased significantly between 2012 and 2022.