

**IACE**

# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**23<sup>RD</sup> & 24<sup>TH</sup> April 2023**

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ **India is placed at 38<sup>th</sup> spot on World Bank's Logistics Performance Index**

- India has climbed six places on the World Bank's Logistic Performance Index (LPI) 2023, now ranking 38th in the 139 countries index, as a result of significant investments in both soft and hard infrastructure as well as technology.
- India was ranked 44th on the index in 2018 and has now climbed to 38th in the 2023 listing. India's performance has drastically improved from 2014, when it was ranked 54th on the LPI.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government had announced PM Gati Shakti initiative, a National Master Plan for multimodal connectivity, in October 2021 to reduce logistics cost and boost the economy by 2024-25.
- In 2022, the prime minister had launched the National Logistics Policy (NLP) to ensure quick last-mile delivery, end transport-related challenges, save time and money of the manufacturing sector and ensure desired speed in the logistics sector.
- In timelines, India witnessed a 17-place jump in rankings, whereas it moved up three places in rank in tracking and tracing to 38th. The report quotes modernisation and digitalisation as a reason for emerging economies, like India, to leapfrog advanced countries.
- India's category wise ranking: International shipments: 22
- Logistics competence and equality: 48
- Timeline: 17
- Tracking and tracing: 38

## ❖ 12-hour duty bill passed in Tamil Nadu assembly

- The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed the Factories (Amendment) Act 2023. The Bill seeks to increase the daily work shift of factory workers from the current 8 hours to 12 hours, meaning they can choose to work four days a week.
- The rest three days will be paid leave and the existing rules on leave, overtime, pay etc. will not change.
- The revised 12 hours of daily work has not been extended to all companies and factories, but will be implemented 'only where workers prefer it'.
- The Bill will have no impact on the current 48-hour work-week.
- In May 2020, 10 states – Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Uttarakhand, Assam, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh – had amended labor laws to propose 12-hour working hours during the pandemic.
- The Uttar Pradesh government had also issued an order increasing the daily working hours from 8 hours to 12, but withdrew it in May 2020.
- Governor: **Ravindra Narayan Ravi**
- Chief Minister: **M.K.Stalin**

## ❖ Air Marshal Sandeep Singh appointed as Military Advisor to National Security Council

- Former Vice Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Sandeep Singh (Retd) has been appointed as the new Military Advisor to the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS). He will assume charge on April 24.
- He will replace General Anil Chauhan, who was appointed Chief of Defense Staff in October last year.
- Sandeep Singh retired as the Vice Chief of the Air Force on January 31, 2023, after a military career of four decades.

- Sandeep Singh, an alumnus of the National Defense Academy, who was appointed as the new military advisor in the National Security Council Secretariat, was commissioned into the Indian Air Force in December 1983 as a fighter pilot.
- He has flown a number of aircraft, and has close to 4,900 hours of operational and test flying experience on Su-30 MKI, MiG-29, MiG-21, AN-32, Avro, Jaguar and Mirage 2000.
- In recognition of his services of an exceptionally high order, he was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal in 2006, the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2013 and the Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 2022.

### ❖ **L Murugan becomes 1st Union Minister to visit India's first village**

- Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry L Murugan on 22nd April became the first central minister to visit India's first village Avangkhu, a village along the India-Myanmar border in Nagaland's Phek district.
- The Union Minister visited the International Trade Center at Awangkhu, Phek. He recalled the Centre's commitment towards developing the north-east, including the border areas of the region.
- Highlighting India's seriousness towards the Act East Policy, the Minister announced that the two lane road up to Avangkhu border has already been sanctioned and work will start soon. He hoped that the International Trade Center at Awangkhu would witness an increase in business activities due to increase in trade volume and better connectivity.
- On the development of piggery in the state, Dr. Murugan said that the National Livestock Mission (NLM) is supporting the entrepreneurs of the state and strengthening the agriculture infrastructure and technology.
- He also announced that a grant of Rs. 14.99 lakh has been allocated to Phek district for screening children's films in the district.

## ❖ **Asia-Pacific Leaders' Conclave on Malaria Elimination to commence at Delhi**

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will be organizing Asia Pacific Leaders' Conclave on Malaria Elimination in New Delhi on 24th April 2023, in partnership with Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA).
- The Conclave will be held under the guidance of Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers. The Conclave aims to reaffirm political commitment to galvanise action for malaria elimination by 2030.
- India has made remarkable progress towards malaria elimination in recent years and has been appreciated at the global level. Among the 11 countries that are part of the World Health Organization's 'High Burden to High Impact' initiative, only India has reported decline in malaria cases during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Malaria cases and deaths also dropped by 85.1% and 83.6% respectively, from 2015 to 2022.
- The Conclave will be Presided by Dr V. K. Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog. The event will be graced by the Minister of Health and Family Welfare of Mizoram, Shri Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director, World Health Organization, SEARO, Health Ministers from APLMA member nations including Dr. Culwick Togamana, His Excellency Minister of Health, Solomon Islands and Dr. Atonio Lalabalavu, His Excellency Minister of Health, Republic of Fiji.

## ❖ **ISRO's PSLV-C55 successfully places two Singaporean satellites into orbit**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully placed two Singaporean satellites, TeLEOS-2 and Lumelite-4, in orbit aboard the trusted Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, while also carrying out experiments with seven payloads attached to its PS4 upper stage.

- At the end of a 22.5 hour countdown, the 44.4 meter tall rocket lifted off majestically from the first launch pad at the pre-fixed 2.19 pm at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre here, located about 135 km from Chennai.
- ISRO Chief S Somanath said PSLV placed both satellites into the intended orbit.
- The PSLV in its 57th mission has once again demonstrated its high reliability and its suitability for commercial missions of such class, a beaming Somanath said from the Mission Control Center.
- PSLV-C55 is a commercial PSLV mission of NSIL, which is the commercial arm of ISRO.

### ❖ **Jyothi Surekha Vennam clinches two gold medals at Archery World Cup**

- Jyothi Surekha Vennam came up with a sensational performance at the Archery World Cup Stage 1 in Antalya, Turkey, as she clinched two gold medals in compound mixed team and individual events.
- Jyothi and her debutant partner Ojas Deotale were at their ruthless best and prevailed over Chinese Taipei's Chen Yi-Hsuan and Chen Chieh-Lun 159-154 to win the gold in the compound mixed team event.
- Later, Jyothi overcame the challenge of Colombia's Sara Lopez in the compound individual final 149-146, and with that, she qualified for the World Cup finals to be held at Hermosillo, Mexico, later in the year.
- In the absence of India's multiple World Cup winner Abhishek Verma, who failed to make the cut from the national trials, the new-look Indian pair of Jyothi and Ojas hardly seemed short on experience and hit the centre an incredible 15 times from 16 arrows to defeat their 12th-seeded rivals in a lopsided final.

### ❖ **Solar Industries to Supply UAV 'Nagastra' To Indian Army**

- Solar Industries Nagpur has recently bagged an order to supply the UAV 'Nagastra' to the Indian Army, beating competitors from Israel and Poland.

- Nagastra is India's first indigenous loitering munition which can strike enemy targets with precision.
- It has been designed and developed by Economics Explosives Ltd (EEL), a 100 per cent subsidiary of Solar Industries Nagpur, in association with Z-Motion, Bangalore.
- It has an indigenous content of more than 75%.
- It said that in a 'Kamikaze mode' it can neutralise any hostile threat with GPS enabled precision strike with an accuracy of 2 m. The fixed wing electric UAV has an endurance of 60 min with a man-in-loop range of 15 km and autonomous mode range of 30 km.
- In addition to day-night surveillance cameras the loiter munition is equipped with fragmenting warhead to defeat soft-skin targets.

#### ❖ 49th India Gem & Jewellery Awards

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal attended the 49th edition of India Gem & Jewellery Awards in Mumbai.
- Organized by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), the event felicitates top exporters from the sector.
- The Union Minister felicitated 28 top exporters and facilitators during the award ceremony, which also had Frank Geerkens, Consul General of Belgium in Mumbai, as the guest of honour.
- The event was also attended by Chairman GJEPC, Vipul Shah, Senthilnathan, Chairman and Managing Director Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC).
- The GJEPC chairman expressed hope that the free trade agreements with the UK, Canada and the European Union that are being negotiated will help exporters reach US\$1 trillion in exports.
- For FY 2022-23, the overall gem & jewellery exports grew 2.48% to Rs. 300462.52 crores as compared Rs. 293193.19 crores for the same period previous

year. In terms of US dollars, the overall gem & jewellery exports accounted for US\$ 37468.66 million as compared to US\$ 39331.71 million for the same period last year.

➤ It was set up by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India in 1966.

### ❖ **India, Guyana sign Air Services Agreement**

➤ India and Guyana signed an Air Services Agreement (ASA) to facilitate easier travel between the two nations.

➤ The agreement was signed between Public Works Minister Bishop Juan Edghill and India's High Commissioner to Guyana KJ Srinivas in the presence of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who is on a 3-day visit to Guyana.

➤ The agreement's signing is consistent with the government's objective to establish ties between Guyana and the rest of the world.

➤ It will also complement the more than 50 air service agreements Guyana has negotiated with other ICAO governments for the advancement of interstate air travel.

➤ The agreement encourages the development of international air services between the two countries and the global airline market.

➤ It also addresses important matters Grant of Rights; Designation and Authorization of Airlines; Revocation or Suspension of Operating Authorization, Principles governing the operation of Agreed Services, Application of Laws, User Charges, Customs Duties and Charges, Aviation safety and security, and more, reported News Room Guyana.

### ❖ **Justice SV Bhatti appointed as acting Chief Justice of Kerala High Court**

➤ In the exercise of the power conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India, the President has appointed Justice Sarasa Venkatanarayana Bhatti as Acting Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court with effect from April 24, 2023.

➤ He would replace the current Chief Justice S Manikumar, who will retire on the aforementioned date.

➤ He served as a Judge from the Andhra Pradesh High Court and is presently working as the senior-most judge of the Kerala High Court.

### ❖ **World Book Day 2023: April 23**

➤ World Book and Copyright Day is observed on April 23 every year to promote reading books, particularly among the younger generation.

➤ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) initiated this event with the aim of combating the reduced importance given to reading due to the excessive availability of information from various sources.

➤ The purpose of this day is to encourage people worldwide to cultivate a habit of reading books. The focus is on promoting reading as the primary source of information and entertainment.

➤ The theme for World Book Day 2023 is **‘Indigenous Languages’**. It focuses on promoting the diversity in native languages of a country.

➤ UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France

➤ UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945

➤ UNESCO Director: General, Audrey Azoulay.

### ❖ **Mastercard collaborates with M1xchange for digital invoice discounting**

➤ Mastercard announced its collaboration with M1xchange to offer a digital invoice discounting solution to farmers, farmer producer organisations (FPOs), and agri-MSMEs through Farm Pass, its agri-tech platform.

➤ Along with enabling access to credit and working capital, the solution will allow farmers and FPOs to directly connect with buyers and negotiate prices for their produce.



- Farm Pass is part of Mastercard's broader Community Pass platform.
- As part of the collaboration, M1xchange, an RBI-approved facilitator for discounting and sale of receivables to banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), will bring on board its network of agri-businesses and lenders.
- M1xchange CEO: **Sundeep Mohindru**

### ❖ **Morgan Stanley: India's GDP to grow at 6.2% in FY24**

- According to the Morgan Stanley report, India's GDP in FY24 would grow at 6.2 percent.
- Inflation in India is likely to be below 5% in the second quarter of the calendar year 2024.
- The headline consumer price index (CPI) for March was in line with expectations.
- Morgan noted that the key to sustained domestic demand is a pickup in capex, which will help create more jobs, thus leading to a virtuous cycle of more jobs-to-higher income-higher savings-higher investment.
- On the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) action on repo rate, it expects the rates to be on hold in calendar year 2023 as inflation will remain below the 6 per cent mark decisively and cuts to happen in the first quarter of 2024.

### ❖ **Health Ministry receives PM's Award for Excellence in Public Administration**

- The National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme of the Union Health Ministry received the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2022 under the innovation category.
- The award was received by Rajesh Bhushan (Secretary, Ministry of Health) from PM Narendra Modi.
- PM Gati Shakti national master plan initiative received an award for excellence in public administration 2022 in the 'Innovation (Central)' category.

➤ The innovative digital platform has been modified and customised with evolving guidelines from time to time. It was ensured that the process of registration and vaccination remains simple, transparent and hassle-free.

### ❖ **Sidharth Rao, co-founder of Webchutney, passes away**

➤ The co-founder and former CEO of Webchutney, Sidharth Rao passed away due to a fatal cardiac arrest.

➤ In 1999, he founded India's first and top digital agency WebChutney.

➤ In July 2021, Rao was chosen to serve as the global CEO of Dentsu McGarrybowen.

➤ In 2022, he stepped down as group CEO of Dentsu MB India and joined hands and launched a new venture in the marketing technology (MarTech) space, called Punt Partners along with serial entrepreneur Madhu Sudan.

### ❖ **Oliver Dowden named UK's new deputy prime minister**

➤ Oliver Dowden has been named the new deputy prime minister of the United Kingdom.

➤ He has replaced current Deputy PM and Justice Secretary, Dominic Raab, who has resigned.

➤ Before this role, he had been serving as the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Cabinet Office secretary, under the present UK government.

➤ He will continue in the roles alongside his new responsibilities.

➤ While Alex Chalk becomes the 10<sup>th</sup> Justice Secretary in 10 years.

### ❖ **Madhya Pradesh's Gandhisagar Sanctuary to be second new home of Cheetahs**

➤ In a meeting with the Wildlife Advisory Board, Madhya Pradesh CM, Shivraj Singh Chouhan instructed the development of the Gandhisagar Sanctuary as a habitat for cheetahs in the next six months.

- It will be developed as a second home for cheetahs to retain the tag of cheetah state.
- The move comes after experts suggested that Kuno National Park (KNP) does not have enough space for all cheetahs.
- After Khandekar's proposal, CM Chouhan immediately instructed the forest officials to develop Gandhisagar Sanctuary within six months. ₹20 crore will be spent on the development.”

### ❖ **National Panchayati Raj Day: 24 April**

- Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated every year on 24th April to commemorate the enactment of the 73rd Amendment Act, 1992 of the Constitution in the year 1993.
- The day is celebrated to acknowledge national local self-governance and democratic decentralisation.
- The theme of National Panchayati Raj Day 2023 is 'Sustainable Panchayat: Building Healthy, Water Sufficient, Clean & Green Villages.'
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is the nodal ministry responsible for empowering, enabling and ensuring accountability of Panchayati Raj Institutions for achieving inclusive growth with social justice and efficient service delivery.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the National Panchayati Raj Day celebrations in Madhya Pradesh and laid the foundation stone and inaugurated projects worth over Rs. 17,000 crore.