

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

25TH April 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ Kenya's Kiptum wins London Marathon in 2nd fastest time

- Kelvin Kiptum collapsed to the ground after winning the London Marathon and recording the second fastest time in history over the distance.
- The 23-year-old Kenyan runner set the course record with a time of 2 hours, 1 minute, 25 seconds and just missed out on Eliud Kipchoge's world record by 16 seconds.
- In the women's race, Ethiopian-born Dutch athlete, Sifan Hassan won her marathon debut in 2:18:34. The Ethiopian-born Dutch athlete triumphed despite falling off the pace and clutching her hip around the 15-mile mark.
- Switzerland's Marcel Hug won the elite men's wheelchair race with a time of 1:23:44.
- Marcel Hug won the men's wheelchair race for the third time in a row, achieving the feat just six days after winning the Boston Marathon.
- Australia's Madison de Rozario won her second women's wheelchair race in a time 1:38:51.

❖ PM Modi dedicates to nation projects worth Rs. 17,000 crore in MP

- PM Modi has laid the foundation stone and inaugurated projects worth more than 17,000 crores in Madhya Pradesh.
- He has also inaugurated the integrated e-Gram Swaraj and GeM portal for public procurement at the Panchayat level.

- It is to enable Panchayats to market their goods and services through GeM.
- With the handing over of around 35 lakh Swamitva Property Cards, about 1 crore 25 lakh property cards have been distributed under this scheme in the country.
- Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone and inaugurated various railway projects worth about two thousand three hundred crore rupees. Mr Modi laid the foundation stone of 5 projects of Jal Jeevan Mission worth about seven thousand 853 crore rupees. Around 9.5 lakh families of more than 4 thousand villages will be benefitted by these schemes.
- Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Panchayati Raj Minister Giriraj Singh and several Union ministers were present on the occasion.

❖ **Shantanu Roy to become new CMD of BEML Limited**

- Shantanu Roy has been recommended as the next Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of BEML Limited, a Miniratna PSU under the Ministry of Defence.
- The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel selected him for the position from a list of three candidates, all of whom were from BEML Limited.
- Roy is presently serving as Director (Mining & Construction Business) in the same organization and has over 30 years of extensive experience in capital goods sectors for defense, mining & construction, transportation, transmission, renewable, and large power projects.
- Roy holds a graduate degree in electrical engineering from NIT-Raipur and an MBA in Financial Management.
- He has served as Executive Director of BEML Limited, responsible for the international business division, strategy & new initiatives, coordination, and northern region operations, before assuming his current position in February 2023.

❖ Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara named gates unveiled at iconic SCG

- Master blaster Sachin Tendulkar has turned 50 this year on 24 April and to honour him the iconic Sydney Cricket Ground in Australia has unveiled a set of gates named after him.
- Along with him, the SCG also added the name of another cricketing legend Brian Lara, who will be sharing the honour with Sachin Tendulkar.
- The gates were be unveiled to mark Tendulkar's 50th birthday and the 30th anniversary of Lara's 277 at the SCG, in which he scored a century in the test played in January 1993. With this new honour, both the legends will join the league of great Donald Bradman, Alan Davidson and Arthur Morris.
- Looking at the data, Lara's 277 remained to his highest at the SCG, where he totalled 384 runs at the ground in four Tests overall. Meanwhile, Sachin had an average of 157 at the iconic ground, where he scored 785 runs in five Tests over the years with three centuries.

❖ World Immunization Week 2023 observed on 24th to 30th April

- World Immunization Week, celebrated in the last week of April, aims to highlight the collective action needed to protect people from vaccine-preventable diseases.
- The aim of this week is to increase awareness around the benefits of immunization and also to encourage people to get vaccinated.
- This year the day is observed from April 24th to April 30th and is an important effort to help prevent the spread of deadly diseases around the world.
- The theme for this year's World Immunization Week is "**The Big Catch-Up**".

➤ The Big Catch-Up theme aims to highlight the urgent need to catch up on missed vaccinations and to increase access to immunization services, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

❖ Centre conducts first-ever census of water bodies across the country

➤ For the first time in India, the government has conducted the first-ever census of water bodies. The census provided a comprehensive inventory of India's water resources, including natural and man-made water bodies like ponds, tanks, lakes, and more, and to collect data on the encroachment of water bodies.

➤ The census highlighted disparities between rural and urban areas and varying levels of encroachment and revealed crucial insights into the country's water resources.

➤ About 2,424,540 water bodies have been enumerated in the country by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, out of which 97.1 per cent are in rural areas and only 2.9 per cent are in urban areas.

➤ The top five states in terms of a number of water bodies are West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Assam -- which constitute around 63 per cent of the total water bodies in the country.

➤ The top five States in terms of the number of water bodies in urban areas are West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Tripura, whereas in rural areas, top five States are West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Assam.

➤ 59.5 per cent of water bodies are ponds, followed by tanks (15.7 per cent), reservoirs (12.1 per cent), Water conservation schemes/percolation tanks/check dams (9.3 per cent), lakes (0.9 per cent) and others (2.5 per cent).

❖ Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated National Technology Centre

- Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who inaugurated the National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways & Coasts (NTCPWC) at the Discovery Campus of IIT, Madras said the centre will enable Make In India tech solutions for the sector and propel overall growth.
- Under the Sagarmala Programme, the centre has been established in IIT Chennai at a cost of 77 Crore rupees.
- The NTCPWC, the technology arm of Union Shipping Ministry will be expanded to include world-class multifunctional maritime laboratories in the areas of climate change, marine robotics, marine informatics and analytics, smart modelling and simulation.
- A maritime innovation hub, which will act as core of breeding ecosystem for fostering startups and innovation in the nation, will be setup at the NTCPWC.

❖ UIDAI, NPCI to set up eKYC aggregator, fin entities

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) are planning to set up an aggregator platform for eKYC (electronic know-your-customer).
- Aadhaar-based eKYC is used for paperless verification of a customer's credentials for new mobile connections and bank accounts.
- The platform is expected to go online over the next few months. This will do away with the need for these entities to individually register for undertaking eKYC using Aadhaar, while also ensuring that user data is not shared with the players using the platform.
- The idea is to ensure that at best the last four digits are available to the financial services players and even the masked data of the consumers is not shared. Users

will also not have to share physical copies of their documents, which often result in misuse and data theft.

➤ Once implemented, the platform is expected to help several non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) reach out to consumers to offer loans apart from aiding fintech players and insurance intermediaries.

❖ **A new book ‘A Resurgent Northeast: Narratives of Change’ launched**

➤ A new book titled, ‘A Resurgent Northeast: Narratives of Change’ has been released in New Delhi.

➤ The book was authored by an IAS officer, and senior bureaucrat Ashish Kundra.

➤ The book was launched in the presence of Kiren Rijiju (Union Minister of Law and Justice); Hardeep Singh Puri (Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas), Pema Khandu (CM of Arunachal Pradesh), and Amitabh Kant.

➤ Senior bureaucrat-author Ashish Kundra served in the Northeast for eight years.

❖ **Former MP Trilochan Kanungo passes away**

➤ Former MP and three-time MLA, Trilochan Kanungo passed away in Bhubaneswar.

➤ Kanungo was elected to the assembly in 1971, 1974, and 1985.

➤ In 1999, he was elected from the Jagatsinghpur Lok Sabha seat on a BJD ticket.

➤ He was a former chairman of Cuttack Municipality and ex-chairperson of the state finance commission.

➤ He was born on November 24, 1940, in Badamulei village in Cuttack district, Odisha.

❖ **SAIL-Bokaro Steel Plant sign MoU with Telecommunications Consultants India**

- SAIL-Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) has signed a Memorandum of understanding with Telecommunications Consultants India (TCIL) to explore the potential of application of 5G/ IT/ telecom and other wireless communication technologies in SAIL-Bokaro Steel Plant.
- This project would include SAIL's Mines and Collieries, Central Coal Supply Organization and the SAIL refractory unit in Jharkhand.
- SAIL-BSL has taken the initiative of becoming the first public sector undertaking (PSU) in the country to take initiative for setting up a dedicated 5G network with the help of TCIL which will pave way for the application of fifth-generation mobile system/information technology/telecom technologies in steel manufacturing.
- Alka Selot Asthana, Executive Director for IT and Telecom, said that TCIL has the necessary expertise, experience, and resources to provide turnkey solutions for deployment, testing, commissioning, and maintenance of 5G/ IT / Telecom technologies for SAIL-BSL.

❖ **Rajesh Kumar Singh takes charge as DPIIT secretary**

- Senior IAS officer Rajesh Kumar Singh assumed the charge of secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- Singh has replaced Anurag Jain, who was appointed secretary in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- Prior to this, Singh was the Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. Singh is an Indian Administrative Service officer of 1989 Batch from Kerala cadre.
- He has held many important positions in the Union Government as Commissioner - DDA, Joint Secretary - Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas,

Joint Secretary - Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare and Chief Vigilance Officer – Food Corporation of India.

➤ In the year 2019, the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) was renamed as Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

❖ **Cabinet approves LIGO-India, gravitational-wave detector**

➤ The Union Cabinet approved a project to build an advanced gravitational-wave detector in Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,600 crore. The facility's construction is expected to be completed by 2030.

➤ This mega-science project includes the construction, commissioning and joint scientific operation of a state-of-the-art, advanced Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) in India in collaboration with the NSF-funded LIGO Laboratory, USA.

➤ It will be an advanced gravitational-wave observatory located in Maharashtra, India, as part of a worldwide network.

➤ It is envisaged as a collaborative project between a consortium of Indian research institutions and the LIGO Laboratory in the United States of America as well as its international partners.

➤ It will be built by the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Science and Technology with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Science Foundation, US, along with several national and international research and educational institutions.

➤ Significance of LIGO-India: It will significantly enhance global capabilities in the field of gravitational-wave astronomy and astrophysics.

➤ It will provide opportunities for Indian youth to pursue research careers in cutting-edge areas of science and technology.

❖ "Locked Shields" cyber-defense exercise 2023 to be held by NATO in Tallinn

- The 2023 edition of the annual exercise "Locked Shields" was hosted by the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence in Tallinn (Estonia).
- "Locked Shields" is an annual cyber defence exercise hosted by the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence in Tallinn.
- More than 3000 participants from 38 countries including NATO allies and partners took part in the exercise.
- The exercise simulates real-time attacks and tests strategic decision making in critical situations. The exercise highlights the importance of international collaboration and cooperation in the field of cyber defence.
- The NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence helps participating countries and organisations improve their cyber defence capabilities.
- Established: **4 April 1949**
- Headquarters: **Brussels, Belgium**
- Secretary General: **Jens Stoltenberg**

❖ PM Modi flagged off India's first water metro in Kochi, Kerala

- During his two-day visit to Kerala, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate India's first-ever water metro that connects 10 islands surrounding Kochi using battery-operated electric hybrid boats.
- This innovative mode of transportation will provide seamless connectivity between the islands and the city, offering a similar level of convenience and travel experience as traditional metro systems. This transportation system is particularly beneficial in urban areas like Kochi.

➤ The metro project in Kochi will begin with eight electric hybrid boats developed by Cochin Shipyard Limited. The project is being funded by the Kerala government and the German company KfW.

➤ The water metro system will include 38 terminals and 78 electric boats. The first phase of the KWM service will launch from High Court-Vypin and Vyttila-Kakkanad terminals.

➤ The Kochi One Card can be used for both Kochi Metro Rail and Kochi Water Metro. The Kochi One App allows users to digitally purchase tickets.

❖ **World Malaria Day 2023: 25th April**

➤ World Malaria Day (WMD) is an international observance commemorated every year on 25 April and recognizes global efforts to control malaria.

➤ The aim of World Malaria Day is to raise awareness of the devastating impact of malaria and to mobilize resources and support for malaria control and prevention programs in endemic countries. The day serves as an opportunity for individuals, organizations, and governments to come together and renew their commitment to eliminating malaria, which is a preventable and treatable disease.

➤ World Malaria Day 2023 will be marked under the theme “**Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement**”.

➤ Within this theme, WHO will focus on the third “i” – implement – and notably the critical importance of reaching marginalized populations with the tools and strategies that are available today.

❖ **IndusInd Bank to launch digital bank 'Indie'**

➤ IndusInd Bank is planning to launch its own digital bank 'Indie'.

➤ The necessary approvals for all these expansion plans and other logistics by the bank are likely to be completed in 2 years.

- The bank is also planning to enter the mutual funds, insurance, and broking sector.
- It is likely to apply for the license in a few days.
- The Hindujas-promoted bank is likely to approach SEBI, IRDAI, and other regulators to obtain the necessary licences.
- IndusInd Bank HQ: **Mumbai**
- IndusInd Bank CEO: **Sumant Kathpalia**