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Adams appointed as International Event Ambassador for 16th
TCS World 10k Bengaluru

- **Dame Valerie Adams**, the renowned **shot putter** from **New Zealand**, has been appointed as the International Event Ambassador for the **16th edition of the Tata Consultancy Services World 10K** Bengaluru, scheduled for **April 28**.
- Adams had won shot put gold in the 2008 and 2012 Olympics, besides bagging a silver (2016) and bronze (2021) before retiring.
- She holds significant positions in the global sports community. She serves as the Chair of the World Athletes Commission, advocating for athlete rights and welfare worldwide.



- **About Tata Consultancy Services (TCS):**
- **Founded:** 1st April 1968
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **CEO:** K. Krithivasan
- **Parent Organization:** Tata Group

India tops list of doping offenders in 2022: WADA anti-doping report

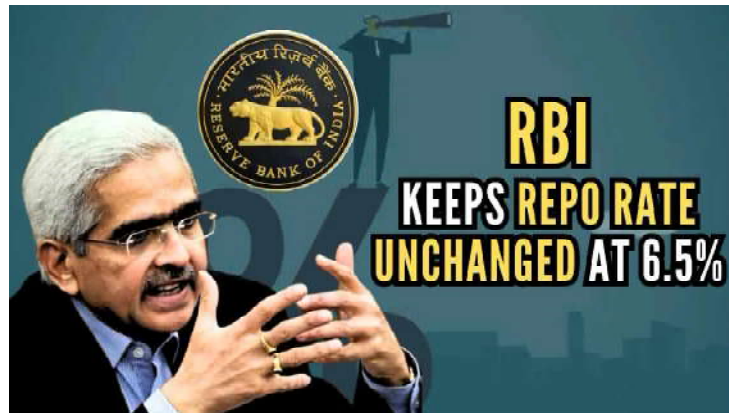
- India has emerged as the country with the highest percentage of doping offenders, according to the 2022 testing figures released by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
- The report revealed that out of 4,064 samples collected from Indian athletes (including urine, blood, and athlete biological passports), 127 individuals tested positive for banned substances, constituting 3.26 per cent of the sample size.
- WADA report also found a 6.4 per cent increase in the total number of samples analysed and reported in its Anti-Doping Administration and Management System (ADAMS) in 2022, compared to the previous year.
- The percentage of Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF) also increased to 0.77 per cent in 2022, from 0.65 per cent in 2021.



- The analysis was based on failed drug tests among nations, with more than 2000 samples being tested by their respective testing laboratories.
- Following India, **South Africa** ranked second with 80 doping failures (2.04 per cent from 4,169 samples tested), followed by **Bangkok's** testing laboratory in third place, reporting 1.93 per cent of its testing pool (3,402 samples), returning 65 cases of AAFs.
- The **United States** and **Qatar** secured the fourth and fifth positions, respectively.
- India's doping violations outnumber those of major sporting nations such as Russia (85), the United States (84), Italy (73), and France (72). China conducted the highest number of samples testing 17,357 during the counting period - with an adverse findings percentage of 0.25 per cent.
- India also topped the list for the highest percentage of failed EPO-Receptor Agonists (ERA) tests conducted per laboratory (blood), with 11 cases or 1.8 per cent of adverse analytical findings (AAFs).
- **About WADA:**
- **Founded:** 10th November 1999
- **Headquarters:** Montreal, Canada
- **President:** Witold Bañka

Repo rate kept unchanged at 6.5% for seventh consecutive time

- The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (RBI MPC) has decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the seventh consecutive time.
- The RBI MPC has also decided to keep its stance of “withdrawal of accommodation” unchanged with a majority of 5-1.
- To ensure that inflation aligned with the **four** per cent target while aligning with growth.
- The repo rate was last changed in February 2023, when it was hiked from 6.25 per cent to 6.5 per cent. between May 2022 and February 2023, the repo rate was raised by **250 basis points** (bps).
- Additionally, the **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)** will remain at **6.25 per cent**. The **marginal standing facility (MSF)** and **bank rate** will also remain at **6.75 per cent**.



- Shaktikanta Das kept the retail inflation forecast for 2024-25 (FY25) unchanged but tweaked the quarter-wise figures.
- In **Q1**, the retail inflation is now likely to be **4.9 per cent** as compared to 5 per cent earlier. In **Q2**, the inflation is likely to be **3.8 per cent** as compared to 4 per cent earlier.
- For **Q3FY25**, the inflation forecast has been kept unchanged at **4.6 per cent**. But for **Q4FY25**, the inflation forecast has been lowered to **4.5 per cent** as compared to 4.7 per cent earlier.
- While inflation is moving closer to targets, the uncertainties in food prices continue to pose challenges, as well as tight global labour markets.
- For FY25, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth prediction has been kept unchanged at 7 per cent.
- In Q1FY25 GDP growth target has been set at 7.1 per cent as compared to 7.2 per cent earlier.
- For Q2FY25, GDP growth target has been fixed at 6.9 per cent from 6.8 per cent earlier.
- For Q3 and Q4, the GDP growth has been predicted at 7 per cent each. For Q4FY25, the GDP growth target was 6.9 per cent earlier.
- **About RBI:**
- **Founded:** 1st April 1935
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Governor:** Shaktikanta Das (25th)

Paris Olympian: Bilquis Mir from J&K makes history as India's first female Jury member

- Bilquis Mir, water sports promoter, developer, athlete from Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) is set to create history as the first woman from India to serve as a jury member at this year's Summer Olympics in Paris, scheduled from July 26 to August 11.
- Mir's appointment as a jury member for the Paris Games was officially conveyed through a letter from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to the Jammu and Kashmir administration.
- **About Jammu& Kashmir:**
- **Capitals:** Winter: Srinagar, Summer: Jammu
- **Lt. Governor:** Manoj Sinha



NMDC clocks record 45MT iron ore output in FY24

- India's largest iron ore miner, the state-run **National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)** has become the first mining company in the country to cross a production of 45 million tonnes (MT) in a fiscal year.
- The Hyderabad-based **Navratna** achieved this feat in financial year 2023-24 (FY24) with a production of 45.1 MT and sales of 44.8 MT iron ore in FY24 that drew to a close, a 10% growth in production and 16% jump in sales as compared to FY23.
- NMDC in Hyderabad achieved a record-breaking 45MT production in FY24, marking a significant milestone towards its goal of 100MTPA.
- Major contributions came from **Chhattisgarh** and **Karnataka** mines, with a notable increase in pellet production and capex expenditure.

- **About NMDC:**

- **Founded:** 1958

- **Headquarters:** Hyderabad, Telangana

- **Chairman:** Amitava Mukherjee



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Fintech firm Angel one raises 1500cr via QIP for growth

- Fintech player Angel One has raised Rs 1,500 crore through the Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) route to fund working capital requirements of the company.
- Which was opened on March 26 and concluded on April 2, received an overwhelming response from both domestic and foreign institutional investors.
- Company has allotted 58.71 lakh equity shares to institutional investors at a floor price of Rs 2,555.01 apiece, aggregating the transaction size to Rs 1,500 crore.
- After the allotment of shares, the paid-up equity share capital of the company stood at Rs 8.98 crore.
- **About Angel One:**
- **Founded:** 8 August 1996
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- **Chairman:** Dinesh Thakkar



Rakesh Mohan appointed as World Bank Economic Advisory Panel

- The World Bank Group has appointed former Reserve Bank of India deputy governor Rakesh Mohan as a member of the Economic Advisory Panel,
- Currently, Mohan is serving as president emeritus and distinguished fellow at CSEP and is also part-time member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.
- Previously, Mohan worked as executive director on the board of the International Monetary Fund, as economic affairs secretary and chief economic adviser in the Finance Ministry, and economic adviser in the industry ministry.
- Mohan also served as senior fellow at the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, Yale University, and was professor in the practice of international economics and finance at the School of Management from 2010 to 2012.

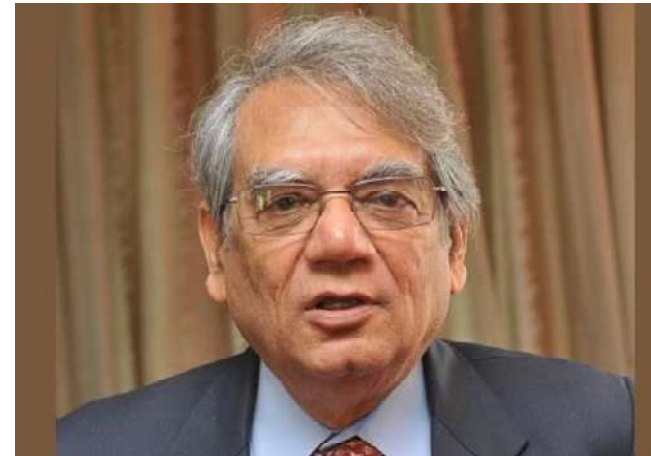
- **About World Bank:**

- **Founded:** 1st July 1944

- **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C., United States

- **President:** Ajay Banga

- **CFO:** Anshula Kant



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SJVN receives 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award 2024 for CSR Contribution

- SJVN Limited (Mini Ratna Category-I) was awarded the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award 2024 for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Contribution.
- SJVN has received two prestigious awards at the CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2024 instituted by the Construction Industry Development Council.
- SJVN has been awarded the **‘Achievement Award for Social Development and Creating Impact’** and **‘CIDC Partners in Progress Trophy’**.
- These awards demonstrate SJVN’s commitment to driving positive change through innovative and concrete CSR initiatives.



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- **Geeta Kapur**, Chairperson and Managing Director, SJVN, the company has received these prestigious awards for the **third consecutive year**.
- SJVN Limited has spent more than Rs 450 crore on various CSR activities. These mainly include the following areas: like Education and Skill Development, Health and Cleanliness, Infrastructure Development and Community Wealth Creation, Continuous Development ,Assistance during natural disasters.
- **About Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVN):**
- **Founded:** 24th May 1988
- **Headquarters:** Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- **Chairman:** Nand Lal Sharma

'Akashteer' Air Defense system is deployed to strengthen army's air defense

- The Army inducted 'Akashteer Command and Control System' into the Air Defence Corps of the Indian Army to strengthen air defence security. The Army has prepared this air defence system to meet new challenges.
- The first batch of Akashteer was flagged off for air defence control centers from the Ghaziabad facility of **Bharat Electronics Limited (BHEL)**. It has been developed as part of the Self-reliant India initiative.
- Project Akashteer would play an important role in increasing the operational efficiency and integration of the Army's air defence system.
- In this, the entire process has been digitalized and designed for automatic operation of air defence control and reporting processes.



- The induction of Akashteer Control Centers is one of the major milestones in the transformation being undertaken by the Indian Army for the new era.
- To keep pace with the new era of modernization, the **Army** has declared the year **2024** as the **‘Year of Technological Absorption’**. The Indian Army is accelerating the induction of specific technologies and system.
- **About Indian Army:**
- **Founded:** 26th January 1950
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS):** General Manoj Pande
- **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS):** General Anil Chauhan

Zimbabwe declares El Nino Drought as a National Disaster

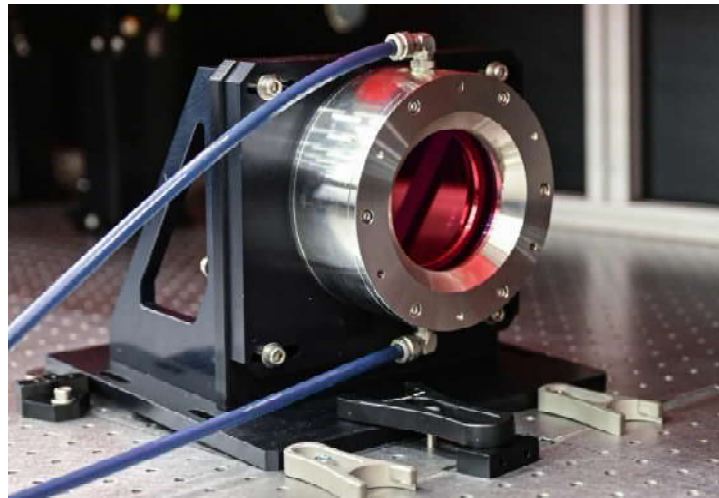
- Zimbabwe declared drought a national disaster, with President Emmerson Mnangagwa saying the country needs \$2 billion in aid to help millions of people who are going hungry.
- A severe dry spell induced by the El Nino weather pattern is wreaking havoc across southern Africa.
- The naturally occurring El Nino climate pattern, which emerged in mid-2023, usually increases global temperatures for one year afterwards. It is currently fuelling fires and record heat across the world.
- In southern Africa, **Zimbabwe** is the **third country** to declare drought a national disaster after **Malawi** and **Zambia**.



- According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the latest El Nino is one of the five strongest ever recorded and its impact will continue by fuelling heat trapped in the atmosphere by greenhouse gases.
- El Nino reached a peak in December but should still result in above-normal temperatures until May over almost all land areas.
- **About Zimbabwe:**
- **Capital:** Harare
- **Currency:** Zimbabwean dollar
- **President:** Emmerson Mnangagwa

Romania developed the world's most powerful laser 'ELI-NP'

- In the control room of a research centre in Romania, part of the European Union's Infrastructure **ELI project**, engineer **Antonia Toma** activates the world's most powerful laser "**Extreme Light Infrastructure-Nuclear Physics (ELI-NP)**", which promises revolutionary advances in everything from the health sector to space.
- The laser at the center, near the Romanian capital Bucharest, is operated by **French company Thales**, using Nobel prize-winning inventions.
- France's Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland of Canada won the 2018 Nobel Physics Prize for harnessing the power of lasers for advanced precision instruments in corrective eye surgery and in industry.



- “The sharp beams of laser light have given us new opportunities for deepening our knowledge about the world and shaping it,”
- The system is capable of reaching a peak of 10 petawatts (10 to the power of 15 watts) for an ultra-short time, in the order of a femtosecond (one millionth of a billionth of a second).
- The high-tech building housing the center cost **\$350 million**, mainly financed by the **European Union**.
- **About Romania:**
- **Capital:** Bucharest
- **Currency:** Romanian Leu
- **PM:** Marcel Ciolacu
- **President:** Klaus Iohannis

Singapore, Denmark and US are the Best places in the world to Conduct Business

- Singapore, Denmark and U.S. are the best places in the world to conduct business, according to the **Economist Intelligence Unit business environment ranking**.
- EIU's ranking is measured based off **indicators** such as inflation, cost of living, economic growth, and fiscal policies.
- Some notable “big improvers” that scored well in the index were countries like Greece, Qatar and India.
- “Singapore will remain the best geography in the world to do business, as it has for the past 16 years,” EIU's Country Forecast Manager and Europe analyst.



- Factors driving the Southeast Asian nation's place as a premier business destination is its political stability and the government's focus on helping domestic private-sector companies upgrade technologically.
- The EIU's ranking assesses the attractiveness of doing business across **82 countries** and territories, and is measured based on indicators such as inflation, cost of living, economic growth, and fiscal policies.
- **Germny** and **Switzerland** secured fourth and fifth places respectively.

Indian Chess player Arjun Erigaisi got 9th position in FIDE ranking for the first time

- Arjun Erigaisi was the top-ranked Indian in the latest FIDE rankings released by the world governing body of chess.
- With a standard rating of 2756, Erigaisi is ranked ninth in the world. Following him is five-time world champion **Viswanathan Anand**, who is the **second** ranked in India and 11th spot in the world with a rating of 2751.
- The 21-year-old Erigaisi collected eight points in the 5th Shengzhen Chess Masters and Bundesliga and mounted to the ninth position on the list. This is his debut in the top 10 in the Open standard list.



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- Anand is followed by the Candidates troika of 18-year-old **Praggnanandhaa R**, 17-year-old **Gukesh D** and **Vidit Santosh** Gujrathi, who will all be in action at the prestigious Candidates tournament later this week.
- While Praggnanandhaa is 14th in FIDE charts with a rating of 2747. Gukesh is 16th with 2743. The 29-year-old Vidit is 25th with 2727 points.
- Former world champion **Magnus Carlsen** still tops the charts with a rating of 2830. Following him are two Americans: Fabiano Caruana (rating of 2803) and Hikaru Nakamura (rating of 2789). Both Caruana and Nakamura are the favourites to win the Candidates, which will earn them the right to take on world champion Ding Liren.
- Meanwhile, in the women's ratings, **Koneru Humpy** ranked fifth with a rating of 2546 while **Harika Dronavalli** is 11th with 2503 points. The other Indian to compete at the women's Candidates tournament, **R Vaishali**, is 15th with 2475 points.

Global Leaders Community: The class of 2024 announced by World Economic Forum

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) announced its **20th edition** of Young Global Leaders Community: The Class of 2024 in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- Vedanta Ltd Non-Executive Director Priya Agarwal Hebbar is among the five Indians who have been recognised as part of the World Economic Forum's list.
- The WEF had announced the addition of 90 changemakers to its Young Global Leaders Community, all under 40 years old and representing diverse sectors of society.
- The group consists of individuals from various fields who are shaping the future and accelerating positive change through their groundbreaking work.



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- Besides Priya, the list includes actor **Bhumi Pedneka**; **Adwaita Nayar**, CEO of Nykaa Fashion; **Arjun Bhartia**, Director at Jubilant Group; and **Sharad Vivek Sagar**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Dexterity Global.
- The World Economic Forum releases the WEF Forum of Young Global Leaders list annually. The first list, released in 2005, included 237 young leaders from 70 countries.
- The young leaders are selected in seven categories.
- **About World Economic Forum:**
- **Founded:** 24 January 1971
- **Headquarters:** Cologny, Switzerland
- **President:** Borge Brende
- **Reports Released by WEF:**
- Global Gender Gap Report,
- Global Competitiveness Report,
- Energy Transition Index,
- Global Travel and Tourism Report,
- Global IT Report in collaboration with INSEAD and Cornell University.