

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS ACE The 8th APR 2024 DESCRIPTIVE



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- **❖** Yoga Mahotsav has been organized at Pune, Maharashtra.
- **❖** Dr. Raghu Ram received fellowship of American Surgical Association (ASA)

World Health Day: April 7th

- World Health Day is observed on April 7 to raise awareness about pressing health issues, promote healthy lifestyles, and advocate for universal access to quality healthcare.
- ➤ The theme of World Health Day 2024 is "My Health, My Right".
- ➤ It is celebrated to mark the foundation day of the **World Health Organization**, which was founded in 7th April **1948**.
- WHO is an autonomous organization that works under the United Nations (UN) to promote health issues at the global level.
- > The World Health Assembly (WHA) was formed to oversee the work of WHO.
- ➤ The year 2020 was declared the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife by the World Health Assembly.

About World Health Organization (WHO):

Founded: 7th April 1948

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Director General: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesu



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Srinivas Pallia appointed as new CEO & MD of Wipro Company Ltd

- > Srinivas Pallia has been appointed as the new CEO & MD of the Wipro company for a term of five years after the resignation of Thierry Delaporte from his position
- The Board of Directors noted the resignation of Mr Thierry Delaporte with effect from April 6, 2024. He will be relieved from the employment of the Company with effect from the close of business hours on May 31, 2024."
- Pallia is one of the rare candidates to rise up the ranks to the top within Wipro, which has seen several CEO changes in the last 15 years. Some quick to-dos as he takes charge, experts said, are to boost the morale of the employees of the country's fourth largest IT services and consultancy firm and reverse senior level attrition.

About Wipro Ltd:

Founded: 29th December 1945

Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka



US, Japan, Australia and the Philippines to stage Military drills in disputed South China Sea

- The United States, Japan, Australia and the Philippines will hold their first joint naval exercises, including anti-submarine warfare training, in the South China Sea where Beijing's aggressive actions to assert its territorial claims have caused alarm.
- The Philippine military gives name to exercise is "first Multilateral Maritime Cooperative Activity" took place in waters in the country's exclusive economic zone.
- The four treaty allies and security partners are holding the exercises to safeguard "the rule of law that is the foundation for a peaceful and stable Indo-Pacific region" and uphold freedom of navigation and overflight.



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- China was not mentioned by name in the statement, but the four countries reaffirmed their stance that a 2016 international arbitration ruling, which invalidated China's expansive claims on historical grounds, was final and legally binding.
- China has refused to participate in the arbitration, rejected the ruling and continues to defy it. The Philippines brought its disputes with China to international arbitration in 2013 after a tense sea standoff.
- The Chinese Foreign Ministry warned against military exercises involving the United States and its allies in the disputed waters harming its security and territorial interests.

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Virat Kohli achieves another milestone, becomes first batter to score 7,500 runs in IPL

- Royal Challengers Bengaluru's star **Virat Kohli** became the first batsman ever to cross the 7,500-run mark in the Indian Premier League.
- ➤ Kohli got the historic feat in the clash against Rajasthan Royals in Jaipur.
- Kohli, who needed 34 runs to get to the 7,500-run mark, got to the feat in the 7th over of the RCB innings when he took a single off the fourth ball of the R Ashwin over.
- ➤ Kohli is also the only batter in the history of the IPL to have more than 7,000 runs in the tournament.
- The second batsman in the list for most runs in IPL is **Shikhar Dhawan** with **6755** runs to his name.
- The 35-year-old raised his third fifty of the season in the clash against Rajasthan and laid a solid platform for his side, adding 125-run opening stand with skipper Faf Du Plessis.
- The knock was also Kohli's first 50-plus score in nine IPL innings in Jaipur. He aggregated 149 runs at 21.28 (strike rate 94.3) in eight previous innings at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium.

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India secures second overseas port: Sittwe agreement approved by MEA

- After Chabahar port (Iran), India has gained the rights to operate a second overseas port, Sittwe, in Myanmar.
- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has approved a proposal for India Ports Global (IPGL) to take over the operations of the entire port located on the Kaladan River.
- > IPGL is a company 100 per cent owned by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- In the Indian Ocean, China and India are engaged in a struggle to expand their economic influence. Ports have become highly significant in this rivalry.
- > China, in particular, has been aggressively seeking to acquire operating rights for numerous ports

About Myanmar

Capital: Naypyidaw

PM: Min Aung Hlaing

President: Myint Swe

Currency: The kyat

Continent: Europe



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ICICI Bank provides Rs. 2675cr to Tata steel for 3 years

- ➤ ICICI Bank has provided a Rs. 2,675 crore debt facility to Tata Steel for a term of three years to repay its existing debt.
- Tata Steel has raised Rs. 2,700 crore through unsecured fixed-rate bonds at 7.79%, show documents filed with National Securities Depository Ltd.
- Tata Steel will make a bullet payment to both investors on March 27, 2027.
- Tata Steel is among the top three steel producers in India with 21.6 million tonnes per annum of crude steel capacity on a standalone basis. The company targets to expand its total capacity to 40 mtpa by FY30.





- India Rating expects Tata Steel's liquidity to be supported by strong cash accruals and on-balance sheet liquidity of Rs. 10,800 crore in the nine months ended December 2024, it has scheduled annual consolidated repayments of Rs. 16,000 crore in FY25.
- Tata Steel's consolidated financial profile is likely to benefit from the restructuring of TSL's UK operations, which have been a drag on the company's cash flows.
- TSL is expected to replace its blast furnaces with more cost-efficient and environment-friendly electric arc furnace-based 3mtpa steelmaking capacity by FY27.
- The management has conveyed to the rating agency that the UK government has agreed to fund up to GBP500 million of the planned capex of GBP1.25 billion.
- > The agency expects fixed cost overheads to reduce from FY26, resulting in positive cash accruals in the UK business.

About ICICI Bank:

Founded: 1994

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi

Tagline: Hum hai na Khayal Apka.

Peter Pellegrini: Russia-friendly populist elected as Slovakia president

- ➤ Ukraine-sceptic government ally **Peter Pellegrini** won Slovakia's presidential election against pro-Western diplomat **Ivan Korcok**.
- > Opposition-backed Korcok conceded defeat as nearly complete results showed he had received 47 percent of the vote against former Prime Minister Pellegrini's 53 percent.
- Peter replaced the liberal Zuzana Caputova.

About Slovakia:

Capital: Bratislava

PM: Robert Fico

Currency: the euro

Continent: Europe



US, UK, Australia expanding AUKUS security pact to deter China

- The U.S., UK and Australia are set to begin talks on bringing new members into their AUKUS security pact as Washington pushes for **Japan** to be involved as a deterrent against China.
- The countries' defence ministers will announce discussions on "Pillar Two" of the pact, which commits the members to jointly developing quantum computing, undersea, hypersonic, artificial intelligence and cyber technology, citing people familiar with the situation.
- They are not considering expanding the **first pillar**, which is designed to deliver nuclear-powered attack submarines to Australia.



- AUKUS, launched by the three countries in 2023, is part of their efforts to push back against China's growing power in the Indo-Pacific region. China has called the AUKUS pact dangerous and warned it could spur a regional arms race.
- ➤ U.S. President Joe Biden has sought to step up partnerships with U.S. allies in Asia, including Japan and the Philippines, amid China's historic military build-up and its growing territorial assertiveness.
- ▶ Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will likely discuss expanding AUKUS to include Japan when the president hosts the prime minister in Washington.
- Australia, however, is wary of beginning new projects until more progress has been made on supplying Canberra with nuclear-powered submarines.

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Website 'Booth Raabta' Launched by Punjab for election related information

- In the district of Malerkotla, Punjab, a unique initiative has been launched by the District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Pallavi.
- The initiative involves the launch of a special website called 'Booth Raabta', which aims to provide election-related information to the people of the district.
- The website, boothraabta.com, not only helps voters but also polling personnel in any circumstances.
- The website, which means 'Booth Contact', is a unique initiative of the Malerkotla district authorities. Booth Raabta will guide people of the district on various election-related issues.

For the first time, young voters can download certificates through the website, and voters can also rate any polling

station.



- The website also includes arrangements for calling ambulances and information about government hospitals at one click.
- This website gives detailed information about all districts regarding liquor and drug seizures after the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct.

About Punjab:

Capital: Chandigarh

Chief Minister: Bhagwant Mann

Governor: Banwarilal Purohit

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UAE's Masdar to Host World Future Energy Summit (WFES)

- Masdar, the UAE's prominent clean energy company, is set to host the World Future Energy Summit (WFES) from April 16 to 18 at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC).
- This summit serves as a pivotal global event focusing on future energy, clean technology, and sustainability, featuring various discussions, forums, and activations.
- ➤ The Masdar Pavilion at WFES will serve as a center for innovation, collaboration, and knowledge exchange.
- It will feature engaging panels and presentations, including forums by Masdar's initiatives such as Y4S (Youth 4 Sustainability) and WiSER (Women in Sustainability, Environment and Renewable Energy).

Moreover, the Innovation Zone, hosted by Masdar, will highlight industry panels, showcasing the latest climate solutions and technology innovations.



- ➤ Green Hydrogen Summit: Accelerating the Global Transition
- ➤ On April 16, Masdar will also host the annual Green Hydrogen Summit, aiming to expedite the development of the global green hydrogen economy.
- This summit will gather policymakers, industry leaders, investors, and entrepreneurs to explore green hydrogen's potential in supporting the transition to a net-zero emissions economy.
- Masdar's CEO Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi committed to advancing clean energy and accelerating the energy transition in alignment with The UAE Consensus agreed at COP28.
- Masdar aims to achieve a renewable energy portfolio capacity of 100GW by 2030, supporting the goal of tripling global renewables capacity by the end of the decade and becoming a leading producer of green hydrogen.

About United Arab Emirates (UAE):

Capital: Abu Dhabi

PM: Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

President: Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Currency: Dirham

Ms. Astrid Schomaker of Germany - Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

- ➤ United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, following consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, announced the appointment of Astrid Schomaker of Germany as the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- The Secretary-General extends his appreciation and gratitude to **David Cooper** of the United Kingdom, who will continue to serve as Acting Executive Secretary until Ms. Schomaker assumes her functions.

Since 2015 she has been co-chair of the steering committee of United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) International Resource Panel.



- Ms. Schomaker brings to the position extensive experience in international relations and negotiations, deep knowledge of the global sustainable development agenda and multilateral environment agreements, and policymaking on global environmental issues.
- > She led the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the integration of biodiversity, pollution and resource efficiency and circular economy into partnerships with Group of 20 countries, among others.

About Germany:

Capital: Berlin

PM: Olaf Scholz

President: Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Currency: the euro

Indian Shuttlers Anupama and Tharun Win Kazakhstan International Challenge

- Nineteen-year-old Anupama, hailing from Almora, secured her second consecutive title by defeating compatriot Isharani Baruah 21-15, 21-16 in a 41-minute final in Uralsk, Kazakhstan
- Notably, Anupama, a former junior world No. 1, has previously won titles at the India International Challenge in 2021, Polish Open (2022 and 2024) and Tajikistan International Series in 2023.
- In the men's singles category, 22-year-old **Tharun**, who finished as the runner-up at the senior national championships in Guwahati last December, secured his maiden international title by defeating eighth-seeded **Malaysian Soong Joo Ven** 21-10, 21-19.



- Tharun displayed commendable performance throughout the tournament, defeating competitors like Gagan Balyan, S Sankar Muthusamy, Dmitriy Panarin and Le Duc Phat on his way to the final.
- However, in the mixed doubles final, the Indian duo of Sanjai Srivatsa Dhanraj and Maneesha K faced a defeat, losing 21-9, 7-21, 12-21 against Malaysia's Wong Tien Ci and Lim Chiew Sien.

About Kazakhstan:

Capital: Astana

PM: Oljas Bektenov

President: Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

Currency: The tenge

ICG Director General inaugurates new Aquatic Centre in Mandapam, Tamil Nadu

- Indian Coast Guard Director General Rakesh Pal inaugurated the Indian Coast Guard Aquatic Centre at ICGS Mandapam near Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu.
- He is currently on a four-day visit to the maritime force's bases in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Puducherry, and made his first visit to Chennai to review operational preparedness and infrastructure development in the region.
- During his visit, the Director General engaged with officers and personnel to discuss his vision for ensuring safe, secure, and clean seas, as per a statement from the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).



- As part of his ongoing visit to the Eastern Region, DG Rakesh Pal also visited ICG Station Krishnapatnam, where he reviewed infrastructure projects and interacted with officers and personnel at the station.
- The Indian Coast Guard, alongside the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force, is one of the four forces under the Defence Ministry, each governed by its own legislation.

About Indian Coast Guard (ICG):

Formed: 18th August 1978

Headquarters: New Delhi

Director General: Rakesh Pal

Public-sector banks may be allowed to transfer unclaimed shares to IEPF

- The finance ministry is considered to amending the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970, which governs public sector banks (PSBs), to make suitable provisions for allowing PSBs to transfer shares to the **Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF)** when dividends of such shares remain unclaimed by the investors for seven consecutive years.
- While Section 10B of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970, allows the transfer of unclaimed dividends to the IEPF, it, however, does not mention a provision for transferring unclaimed shares and may now be amended by the next government to allow such transfers to happen".

➤ IEPF was established for the promotion of investor awareness and protection of their interests. Unclaimed dividends and shares transferred to IEPF can be easily claimed by the investor by submitting the required documents and following the verification process.

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- According to the latest annual report of IEPF, companies have transferred Rs 446 crore to IEPF in 2021-22, while the cumulative balance available with IEPF by the end of 2021-22 is Rs 5,262 crore.
- Private companies, including private banks, which are covered under the Companies Act already transfer both unclaimed dividends and shares to IEPF.
- Experts believe that the primary objective of the proposed amendment is to align the provisions of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980, with the requirements prescribed under the Companies Act, 2013.

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Made-in-Miraj sitars & tanpuras receive GI tags

- The drone and transverse waves of the tanpuras and sitars made in Miraj have kept music enthusiasts in India and abroad mesmerised for nearly 200 years.
- The string instruments, and the contribution of the craftsmen towards making them since the mid-nineteenth century in the town of **Sangli district**, **Maharashtra** got the geographical indication (GI) tags.
- While Miraj Musical Instrument Cluster got the tag for sitar, Soultune Musical Instrument Producer Company received it for tanpura.
- Miraj Musical Instrument Cluster and Soultune Musical Instrument Producer Company are the umbrella organisations of the sitar and tanpura makers, respectively.
- "Miraj city has the tradition of making string instruments since 1850."
- GI tags validity time period is 10 years. The Geographical Indications Registry is located at Chennai.

About Maharashtra:

Capital: Mumbai

Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde

Governor: Ramesh Bias



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Parivartan Chintan, a Tri-Service Conference held in New Delhi

- ➤ The first ever Parivartan Chintan, a Tri-Service Conference held in New Delhi on 8 April 2024.
- The aim of this conference is to generate fresh and new ideas, reforms and initiatives to propel jointness and integration efforts.
- ➤ Chief of Defence Staff, General **Anil Chauhan** chaired the day long discussions.
- It was the first ever conference of the Heads of all Tri-Services Institutions, the Department of Military Affairs, Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff and the three Services containing elements of the army, navy, and air force.

Officers from different service brackets recommended measures to achieve the "Joint and Integrated" end state with

celerity.



Jammu & Kashmir Bank Introduces Virtual ATM Facility in Collaboration with Paymart India

- In a strategic partnership aimed at enhancing banking convenience, J&K Bank has teamed up with Paymart India Pvt Ltd to launch a Virtual ATM (VATM) facility.
- This innovative service enables cardless cash withdrawals for customers through local retailers, particularly benefiting areas like Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh where accessibility to traditional ATMs may be limited.
- Customers can utilize the bank's mobile application as a Virtual Card, with merchants using their smartphones as Virtual ATMs.
- This arrangement facilitates cash withdrawals without the need for physical cards. Upon initiating a withdrawal request, customers receive an OTP for validation, which they share with the merchant.
- Notably, this facility allows withdrawals of up to Rs.2000 per transaction, with a monthly limit of Rs 10,000.

About J&K Bank:

Founded: 1st October 1938

Headquarters: Srinagar

CEO: Baldey Prakash





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GI Tag registration in India crosses 600, Uttar Pradesh tops the list

- The number of geographical indications (GI) registered products in India has crossed 600, with **Uttar Pradesh** leading the list with **69 products**.
- Varanasi of Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the highest number of products with GI tags from a single geographical location. Varanasi has 30 certified products like Banaras Thandai, Banaras Shehnai, Banaras Tabla, Banaras Lal Peda, Banaras Mural Painting etc.
- The total number of Indian products granted GI Tag as of 31 March 2024 is 635.
- ➤ Of the 1,158 applications filed over the past 20 years with the patent office, 635 are now GI-registered.



- Recently famed GI tags are Hyderabad Lac bangles got GI certification. Also, Telengan's famed Warangal Chapata chili, Balanagar custard apple, Nalgonda oriental pickling melon (Dosakai), Nizamabad turmeric and Kollapur mangoes from Nagarkurnool district are under the GI registration process.
- A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products with a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation due to that origin.
- During 2023-24, **160 products** were granted GI tags by the patent office, a 300 per cent growth compared to 2022-23. Out of the 160 products that were granted GI tags, as many as **63 GI tags** were granted on 30 March 2024.
- Out of the 160 products that got GI tag registration, the maximum number of products were from the following states.
 Uttar Pradesh with 69 and second in Tamil Nadu with 58.
- A record 63 GI tag was issued on a single day on 30 March 2024. The maximum number of products to be granted GI tags was from Assam 19 products, Uttar Pradesh 16, Maharashtra 16, Gujarat 5, Meghalaya 4, Tripura 2 products.
- ➤ The first product to be given a GI tag was **Darjeeling tea in 2004**.

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Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) to invest Rs. 1.5 trillion in developing world's largest Renewable Energy park in Khavda

- Adani Green Energy Ltd plans to invest about Rs. 1.5 trillion through 2030 to develop the world's largest renewable energy plant with 30-gigawatt capacity at the Khavda renewable energy park in Gujarat.
- The project, part of the Adani Groups renewable energy flagship's plan to achieve 45 gigawatt (GW) installed renewable energy capacity in the country by 2030, will see 26 GW of solar and 4 GW of wind generation capacity coming up.
- Currently, AGEL has an operating renewable portfolio of 10.93 GW—7.39 GW solar, 1.4 GW wind, and 2.14 GW of hybrid - across 12 states.
- "In this financial year, they are planning about 4 GW (addition) in khavda, so it will be 6 GW by March 2025.
- The investment towards manufacturing of solar module and related products and wind turbines would be over Rs. 30,000 crore over the next four years. adani

About Adani Group Energy Ltd. (AGEL):

Founded: 23 January 2015

Headquarters: Ahmedabad

CEO: Amit Singh

Telegram: Click here Toll Free: 1800-270-9975, Ph: 9533200400

Renewables

NCDFI elected Meenesh Shah as its chairman

- The National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Limited (NCDFI) unanimously elected Dr. Meenesh Shah as President in its board elections.
- Earlier, NCDFI elected eight directors unopposed on the Board in its General Body meeting.
- Apart from these elected directors, **S. Regupathy**, executive director of NDDB, is a nominee director on the board of NCDFI.

About National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India (NCDFI):

Founded: 1984

Headquarters: Anand, Gujarat



Yoga Mahotsav has been organized at Pune, Maharashtra

- ➤ It has been organized in celebration of the **75-day** countdown to the International Day of Yoga. It was held at Wadia College Sports Ground, Pune, Maharastra.
- ➤ It has been jointly organized by Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga and National Institute of Naturopathy, Ministry of Ayush, Government of India.
- During the celebration, the experts of Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga gave a live demonstration of Common Yoga Protocol.
- > During the demonstration, over 5000 Yoga sadhaks performed the Common Yoga Protocol.
- Common Yoga Protocol involves the simple and effective Yogic practices in the simplest form for healthy living.

About Maharashtra:

Capital: Mumbai

Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde

Governor: Ramesh Bais



Dr. Raghu Ram received fellowship of American Surgical Association (ASA)

- The American Surgical Association (ASA) has honored **Dr. Raghu Ram Pillarisetti** with an Honorary Fellowship in **Washington DC**.
- > Dr. Raghu Ram is the **third surgeon** from South Asia to receive a high honor in the **144 years' history** of America's oldest and most prestigious surgical organization.
- ➤ Honorary Fellowship is the highest recognition that the American Surgical Association can bestow on a country's surgical affiliate.
- Dr. Raghu Ram Pillarisetti is the founder director of KIMS-Ushalakshmi Center for Breast Diseases in Hyderabad.
 Dr. Raghu Ram is a renowned surgeon in the Asia Pacific region.
- > Dr. Raghu Ram has been awarded the Padma Shri (2015) and Dr. BC Roy National Award (2016).
- ➤ The 144th Annual Meeting of ASA was held at Grand Hyatt, Washington, United States.

About United States:

Capital: Washington DC

PM: Joe Biden

Currency: Dollar



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