

# IACE

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> APR 2024 DESCRIPTIVE

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## World Art Day: April 15<sup>th</sup>

- Every year April 15<sup>th</sup> observed as the world Art Day to promote the development, diffusion and enjoyment of art.
- **Theme:** ‘A Garden of Expression: Cultivating Community Through Art.
- The background of World Art Day can be traced back to its founding organization, **the International Association of Art (IAA), which began in 1954.**
- The IAA got its start as a partnership agency through the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the purpose of learning about artistic freedoms as well as associating artists together with UNESCO’s work.
- The first World Art Day was celebrated **in 2012** when it was started by the IAA with the idea of promoting awareness about creative activity all over the globe World Art Day continues to be supported and promoted by UNESCO.



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## Jallianwala Bagh Massacre: April 13<sup>th</sup>

- **April 13** is remembered every year as **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Day** also called **Massacre of Amritsar**.
- The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, one of the darkest moments of India's colonial past, remains etched in the nation's collective memory even after **105 years**.
- On this day in **1919**, the unarmed Indian public was killed in Jallianwala Bagh, located in Amritsar.
- On 9 April 1919, Indians raged over the arrest of two nationalist leaders, Saifuddin Kichlu and Dr. Satyapal, who protested on 10 April 1919 to show solidarity with their leaders.
- The protests soon turned violent, killing some protesters. The government enforced martial law to prevent any such protests in the future.
- On the day of Baisakhi on 13 April 1919, a large crowd of people unaware of martial law gathered in Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar. More than 1000 unarmed men, women, and children were killed.
- Later, the **Hunter Commission** was set up by the government to investigate the massacre.



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## 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 'Operation Meghdoot' celebrated on 13<sup>th</sup> April

- The Indian Army on April 13 to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation Meghdoot, the operation that was carried out on the challenging terrains of Siachin glaciers.
- Including the development of heavy-lift helicopters and logistic drones, the security forces have left no stone unturned in improving the supply chains to the region, especially during harsh winters.
- Here is the list of major strides that the army has implemented to enhance operational capabilities in the Siachen Glacier region:
- Improved Access, Improved Mobility, Revolutionised Communication and improved medical facility.

### **About Operation Meghdoot:**

- Launched on April 13, 1984, under the leadership of Lieutenant General Manohar Lal Chibber, Lieutenant General PN Hoon, and Major General Shiv Sharma.
- The operation's primary objective was to pre-empt the seizure of Sia La, and Bilafond La passed by the Pakistan Army.



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## 'India among 12 nations responsible for 60% of mismanaged plastic waste'

- According to a recent report of **Switzerland's non profit group EA Earth Action**, India is among the top twelve countries in the world responsible for 60 percent of the planet's mismanaged plastic waste.
- The report Plastic Overshoot Day was released by EA Earth Action.
- **Eritrea** topped the Mismanaged Waste Index while **Bermuda** was at the bottom the higher the rank of the country in the Index means greater waste mismanagement in the country.
- Mismanaged plastic waste refers to plastic that is not properly recycled, incinerated, or kept in sealed landfills. It is mainly thrown in the open, polluting soil, land, water or air.
- Plastic Overshoot Day refers to the expected Day when the volume of plastic waste generated will be more than the waste management system can manage.
- According to the report, the **world** is likely to **overshoot the plastic waste management** on **5th September 2024** this year.





- The report said that almost half of the world's population will be living in areas where plastic waste has already exceeded the capacity to manage it, by April 2024.
- **India** is expected to reach its **Plastic Overshoot Day on April 23**.
- The twelve countries are: China, India, Russia, Brazil, Mexico, Vietnam, Iran, Indonesia, Egypt, Pakistan, the United States and Turkey are responsible for 60 per cent of the world's mismanaged plastic waste.
- Belgium is the top generator of per capita plastic waste in the world, with a yearly waste production of 147.7 kg per person.
- Oman topped the list of countries having the highest per capita mismanaged plastic waste. Oman's per capita mismanaged plastic waste in 2024 is expected to be 111 kg.
- The global plastic waste generation has risen by **7.11 per cent** since **2021**.
- **Plastic production** in the world is expected to **double**, and **plastic pollution** is expected to **triple** by **2040**.
- Global plastic waste generation this year is expected to be **220 million tons** of plastic waste, of which **70 million tons** will be mismanaged plastic waste that pollutes the environment.
- The per capita plastic waste production in **India** is lowest in the world. It was **8 kg** per capita per year.
- India's expected mismanaged waste in 2024 will be 7.4 million tons, which is "very high".
- The report predicts that the Indian mismanaged plastic waste will be less than one-fifth of China and one-third of the US.
- The report also claimed that India is estimated to release an average of 3,91,879 tons of microplastics into the environment and 31,483 tons of chemical additives into waterways this year.

## BharatPe Co-Founder Ashneer Grover to launch 'ZeroPe' Medical Loan App

- **BharatPe** co-founder and former managing director **Ashneer Grover** is gearing up for a new venture in the fintech space with **ZeroPe**, an app designed for medical loans.
- **ZeroPe**, currently in its testing phase, has been developed by **Third Unicorn**.
- The **ZeroPe** app is set to provide instant pre-approved medical loans of up to Rs 500,000 in collaboration with Delhi-based Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Mukut Finvest.
- The service is exclusively available at partnered hospitals, as mentioned on the **ZeroPe** app website.
- Grover's entry into this arena adds to a growing trend, with businesses like SaveIn, Qube Health, Arogya Finance, Neodocs, Fibe, Kenko, and Mykare Health already offering instant financing solutions for medical bills and elective treatments.



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- In **January 2023**, Grover, along with his wife Madhuri Jain Grover and Chandigarh-based entrepreneur **Aseem Ghavri**, launched **Third Unicorn**.
- Third Unicorn started out with CrickPe to compete with rivals such as Dream11, Mobile Premier League (MPL), and Games24x7's My11 Circle.
- The company raised \$3.5 million in a seed funding round led by ZNL Growth Fund, with participation from Vevek Ventures Investments and Rishaayu LLP.
- The digital landscape is witnessing a surge in startups offering data-driven medical loans catering to various healthcare needs, including hospitalisation, home care, and chronic care management. These startups aim to integrate hospital networks, health insurance providers, and government healthcare schemes into their offerings.
- A joint report by consulting firm Boston Consulting Group and Singapore-based venture capital firm B Capital projects **India's digital healthcare** market to potentially **generate \$37 billion** in revenue by **2030**, with healthcare financing estimated to contribute \$5 billion to this figure.

## Russia successfully launched first Angara-A5 space rocket

- **Russia** successfully test-launched its **Angara-A5 space rocket** from the **Vostochny Cosmodrome in the Far East**.
- This launch comes after a series of technical setbacks that led to the cancellation of two previous attempts.
- Angara-A5 space rocket is designed to carry **heavy payloads** into **low Earth orbit**. It has been designed to carry **payloads exceeding 20 tonnes into orbit**.
- In recent years, Russia's space programme has been hit by a number of high-profile setbacks.
- The Angara family of rockets has been developed to replace the Soviet-designed Proton rockets.

### About Russia:

**Capital:** Moscow

**President:** Vladimir Putin

**PM:** Mikhail Mishustin

**Currency:** Russian Ruble

**RUSSIA  
LAUNCHES  
NEW HEAVY-LIFT  
ROCKET  
ANGARA-A5**



## IMF Executive Board selects Kristalina Georgieva to serve as MD

- **The International Monetary Fund's** executive board selected **Bulgarian economist Kristalina Georgieva** to serve as **managing director** for a **second five-year term**, starting on October 1<sup>st</sup> this year.
- “The Board commended Ms. Georgieva’s strong and agile leadership during her term, navigating a series of major global shocks”.
- Georgieva is the **second woman to head the IMF** and the first person from an emerging market economy. She is the IMF’s **12th managing director** since its founding in 1944.
- Georgieva has led the lender through huge shocks to the global economy, from the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic just months after she took office to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in **February, 2022**.



- European Union finance ministers last month endorsed Georgieva for a second term at the helm of the lender of last resort, virtually assuring her approval. Traditionally, European countries recommend the managing director of the IMF and the United States recommends the head of the World Bank.

**About Internatioanl Monetary Fund:**

**Founded:** July 1944

**Headquarters:** Washington D.C, USA.

**Managing Director:** Kristalina Georgieva

## **Bjarni Benediktsson has been appointed as Prime Minister of Iceland**

- After the resignation of **Katrín Jakobsdóttir**, **Bjarni Benediktsson** is appointed as **Prime Minister of Iceland**.
- **Katrín Jakobsdóttir** Serving more than six years in office as a prime minister.
- **Benediktsson** previously served as finance minister under **Jakobsdóttir** and was **prime minister** for **10 months in 2017** and also served as foreign minister.
- Iceland's next parliamentary elections are due to be held next year.

### **About Iceland:**

**Capital:** Reykjavík

**PM:** Bjarni Benediktsson

**President:** Guðni Th. Jóhannesson

**Currency:** Icelandic krona



## Gopi Thotakura: First Indian Pilot to Embark on Space Tourism with Blue Origin

- **Gopi Thotakura** is making history as the first Indian pilot to venture into space as a tourist, joining **Blue Origin's NS-25 mission**.
- His selection highlights a significant milestone in India's space exploration journey, marking a new era for space tourism.
- Gopi Thotakura, an accomplished pilot and adventurer, brings a wealth of experience to the NS-25 mission.
- With a background in piloting various aircraft, including bush planes, aerobatic planes, seaplanes, gliders, and hot air balloons, Thotakura has also served as an international medical jet pilot.
- His passion for exploration recently led him to summit Mt. Kilimanjaro, showcasing his adventurous spirit and determination.





- The importance of Blue Origin's mission, which aims to benefit Earth while exploring the vastness of space.
- Thotakura sees space exploration as a means to protect our planet and seeks to contribute to this noble cause. Thotakura's interpretation of Blue Origin's mission underscores the significance of seeking life and adventure beyond Earth's boundaries.

## Central Government Appoints AshishKumar Chauhan, Sridhar Vembu as Members of UGC for 3 years

- In a significant development for India's higher education sector, the Central government has announced the appointment of **Ashish Kumar Chauhan, CEO and managing director of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), and Sridhar Vembu, founder of Zoho Corporation,** as members of the **University Grants Commission (UGC).**
- The move expands the **UGC's membership from four to eight,** aiming to enhance its regulatory capabilities, reported The Hindu.
- Joining Chauhan and Vembu are **Sachidananda Mohanty,** former vice chancellor of the Central University of Odisha, and **Shashikala Gulabrao Wanjari,** currently serving as **vice chancellor of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration.**



- Their tenure on the Commission is set **for three years**, or until further orders.
- The UGC, tasked with overseeing higher education in India, can have up to ten members, excluding the chairman and vice chairman.
- Notably, two of the remaining eight members must be central government officials, with Higher Education Secretary Sanjay Murthy and Additional Secretary in the Expenditure Department of the Finance Ministry, Sanjay Prasad, fulfilling these positions.
- The recent appointments align with the **UGC Act of 1956**, which stipulates that at least four members should be active university professors.
- Additionally, the law allows for the selection of members with expertise in diverse fields such as agriculture, commerce, forestry, industry, engineering, law, medicine, or other learned professions.

### **About UGC:**

**Founded:** November 1956

**Headquarters:** New Delhi

**Chairman:** Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar

## Moody's Analytics forecasts India's GDP to grow 6.1% in 2024

- **Mody's Analytics** has projected a slight uptick in the **Indian economy's growth for calendar year 2024 to 6.1 per cent** from **6 per cent** in March this year, lower than the growth clocked in 2023.
- It expect India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to grow 6.1 per cent in 2024 after 7.7 per cent last year.
- The India's recent consumer price inflation at around **5 per cent** was without clear evidence of a trend towards slowing price pressures.
- Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stated that uncertainties in food prices continue to influence the inflation outlook.
- It maintained its **retail inflation** projection for the current fiscal year **2024-25** at **4.5 per cent**.



- The central bank had forecast inflation rates of 4.9 per cent for the June quarter, 3.8 per cent for the September quarter, and 4.6 per cent and 4.7 per cent for the December and March quarters, respectively.
- The China and Japan are held back by weak domestic demand, the performance of India and ASEAN economies is flattered by a delayed post-pandemic rebound.
- According to the agency output in India remains 4 per cent lower than it would have been without the pandemic and its various aftershocks - from supply snags to military conflicts abroad.

## Baisakhi, Bihu, Vishu, Poila Baishakh and Puthandu festivals celebrated in different parts of the country

- It's that time of the year again when people can catch a glimpse of India's diverse cultures. The Eastern, Northern & Southern parts of the country celebrate their first harvest festival of the year - **Baisakhi, Bihu, Vishu, Poila Baishakh & Puthandu** - with vigour and fervour.
- Every year, the festivals fall on April 13 or April 14, based on the Hindu or Sikh Calendar.

### **Baisakhi: Harvest Festival of Punjab**





- This year, **Baisakhi** falls on **April 14**. On this day, Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Guru of Sikhs, asked people to follow Sikhism in 1699, and the Khalsa community was formed.
- The northern states of **Punjab, Haryana and parts of Delhi** celebrate this day with much fanfare. People get together, and perform bhangda and gidda on traditional folk songs and dhol. Men show off their gatka skills (traditional form of martial-arts of the Sikh.)
- The Sikh community also observes it as the day of thanksgiving for abundant harvest, and pray for future prosperity.

### **Vishu: Malayalam New Year**

- This year, **Vishu** was celebrated on **April 14**.
- The festival of lights and fireworks is celebrated in **Kerala**, and **parts of Karnataka**. People decorate their houses with diyas and lights, and burst firecrackers (locally called Vishupadakkam).
- The traditions of Vishu include the first auspicious view of the festive day (called Vishukkani Kazhcha).

### **Bihu: Harvest Festival of Assam**

- Observed on April 15, 2018, Bohag Bihu is the widely celebrated across **Assam**, and parts of **Manipur and Bengal**.
- The **Assamese** celebrate **Bihu thrice a year**, which signify the distinct cycles of farming - Bhogali/Magh Bihu (January), Bohag/Rongali Bihu (April), and Kongali Bihu (October).

## **Puthandu: Tamil New Year**

- This year, Puthandu is being celebrated on April 14 in **Tamil Nadu**, and Tamil-dominated **countries Sri Lanka and Mauritius**.
- According to the Tamil Calendar Varusha Pirappu, Puthandu marks the first day of the first month (Chithirai).
- The celebrations of Puthandu resonate to that of Vishu.

## **Poila Baishakh: Bengali New Year**

- This year, **Poila Baishakh** will be celebrated **on April 15** in **West Bengal**, and parts of **Tripura**.
- According to the Bengali calendar, it is the first day of first month (called Baishakh), and people thank the divine forces for the harvest of the previous year and that to follow.
- This year Poila Baishakh festival is being celebrated in Bangladesh

## Mathematician Avi Wigderson wins the 2023 ACM A.M. Turing Award

- ACM has announced that it is awarding the **2023 ACM A.M. Turing Award** to **Avi Wigderson** for his contributions in the area of **theoretical computer science**, and notably, for changing our understanding of how randomness works in computation.
- ACM- the Association for Computing Machinery
- “Wigderson is a soaring intellectual force in theoretical computer science, an exciting discipline that attracts some of the most promising young researchers to work on the most difficult challenges.”
- This year’s Turing Award recognizes Wigderson’s specific work on randomness, as well as the indirect but substantial impact he has had on the entire field of theoretical computer science.



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- Wigderson's research proved that "every probabilistic polynomial time algorithm can be efficiently derandomized" and that randomness isn't essential for efficient computing.
- Three of the papers he authored on this topic were then used by other computer scientists and led to several other new ideas.
- Wigderson is currently a professor in the School of Mathematics at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey.

## Indian Microbiologist Gagandeep Kang honoured with John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award 2024

- **Dr. Gagandeep Kang**, an Indian researcher, has been awarded the **2024 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award** for her achievements in global health research.
- The Gairdner Foundation announced its 2024 Canada Gairdner Award winners, recognizing some of the world's most significant biomedical and global health research and discoveries.
- The Foundation awarded Dr. Kang “for extensive cohort-based **epidemiological, environmental and clinical trial research on enteric diseases** in children and their effects on life course, with significant impact on vaccine development and health policy in India and internationally.”



- Dr. Kang's research group has established substantial community-based birth cohort studies addressing childhood enteric infections, growth, and development for over 20 years.
- Her work has generated extensive information on the complex interactions between the environment and infections in children, and the influence of prior infections on subsequent responses to vaccination.
- She has led studies that contributed to the development and introduction of two Indian rotavirus vaccines into the national immunization program.

### **Other 2024 Canada Gairdner Award Laureates**

- The other 2024 Canada Gairdner International Award laureates were recognized for their work in areas such as CAR T cell therapy for cancer, DNA sequencing technology, and understanding the impact of human breast milk on the infant microbiome.
- The 2024 Canada Gairdner Momentum Award went to mid-career investigators, including Meghan Azad and Christian Landry, for their exceptional scientific research contributions with continued potential for impact.



Command Hospital become the first government hospital  
in the country to have piezoelectric bone conduction hearing implant

- The department of ear, nose & throat (ENT) at **Command Hospital** (Southern Command) in **Pune** has successfully performed **piezoelectric Bone Conduction Hearing Implants (BCI)** on a **7-year-old child** with congenital ear anomalies and a severe hearing loss, as well as an adult with Single Sided Deafness (SSD).
- This achievement marks the first instance of a government hospital in India acquiring and conducting such advanced hearing implants.
- The piezoelectric bone conduction hearing implant system is a cutting-edge medical device designed for patients with conductive loss, mixed hearing loss, and single sided deafness.



- Despite the effectiveness of this technology, its high cost has limited its accessibility to a certain group of patients who do not qualify for cochlear implants or benefit from traditional hearing aids or surgery.
- Providing hearing augmentation through bone conduction implants is crucial for enhancing academic performance in children and improving social interactions in adults with hearing disabilities.
- The ENT department at Command Hospital (Southern Command) serves as a specialized Neurotology center within the Armed Forces Medical Services, offering implantable hearing solutions to patients with various types of hearing impairments.
- The successful implantation procedures were carried out at Command Hospital (Southern Command) in Pune by Lt Col (Dr) Rahul Kurkure, a Neurotologist and Implant Surgeon, under the supervision of Col (Dr) Nitu Singh, the senior advisor & HoD (ENT).

## Rohit becomes first Indian to hit 500 sixes in T20s

- **India and Mumbai Indians (MI)** star batter **Rohit Sharma** became the first Indian to smash **500 sixes in T20 cricket**.
- He achieved this milestone during his side's **Indian Premier League (IPL)** match against **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** at **Wankhede Stadium**.
- Rohit was at his vintage best in the match, scoring 105\* in 63 balls. His knock was studded with 11 boundaries and five sixes.
- The highest number of sixes in T20 cricket is by **West Indies (WI) legend Chris Gayle** (1,056 sixes), followed by **WI all-rounder Kieron Pollard** (860 sixes), **Andre Russell** (678 sixes) and **Colin Munro** (548 sixes).
- In six matches this IPL season, Rohit has scored 261 runs at an average of 52.20 and a strike rate of over 167, with a century.



## India Invokes Peace Clause for Fifth Consecutive Time at WTO

- India has invoked the **peace clause** at the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** for the **fifth consecutive time for the marketing year 2022-23 (October-September)** due to breaching the prescribed subsidy limit for rice offered to its farmers.
- While the value of India's production of **rice was \$52.8 billion** in **2022-23**, a subsidy worth **\$6.39 billion** was given to farmers during the year, India notified to the WTO.
- This means the rice subsidy was **12 per cent of the value of production**, thereby breaching the 10 per cent domestic support ceiling, which is in accordance with global trade rules.



- However, there is no immediate repercussion for the breach since India has invoked the “peace clause”, agreed upon at the Bali ministerial of WTO in 2013.
- This provides immunity to developing countries from challenges for breaching the ceiling for wheat and rice until a permanent solution is found.
- India had been exceeding the domestic support limits on rice since 2018-19, it had been able to shield its price support-backed public stockholding policies on rice from any legal challenge by invoking the Bali peace clause.

## Justice Aniruddha Bose becomes new head of National Judicial Academy

- Supreme Court Justice Aniruddha Bose has been appointed as the new director of the National Judicial Academy (NJA), Bhopal.
- Supreme Court Chief Justice DY Chandrachud had announced the decision to appoint him during a ceremonial bench held on April 10 in honor of the retired judge.
- Aniruddha Bose was born on 11 April 1959 in Kolkata.
- In January 2004, he was appointed as a permanent judge of the Calcutta High Court.
- On August 11, 2018, he was elevated as the Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court.



- Justice Bose was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019.
- Justice Aniruddha Bose has retired from the Supreme Court on 10 April 2024.
- While bidding farewell to Justice Bose, Chief Justice Chandrachud called him ideally suited for the post of Director of the Judicial Academy.

### **About National Judicial Academy (NJA):**

- The National Judicial Academy (NJA) in Bhopal was established in **1993** as an independent society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- **NJA** is a fully funded by the **Government of India**.
- The NJA works under the instructions of the Supreme Court of India.
- The mandate of the NJA is to conduct training to assist judges in their adjudicative role and in the performance of court administration work.
- A **Governing Council (GC) and General Body (GB)** are established to control the functioning of **the NJA**.
- **The Chief Justice of India** is the **Chairman** of both the **GC and GB** of the NJA.