

Weekly Current Affairs 22nd April to 27th April 2024 - English**National News**

PM Modi Graces 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav
On the auspicious occasion of Mahaveer Jayanti, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The event paid tribute to the 24th Tirthankar, Bhagwan Mahaveer, whose teachings of Ahimsa (Non-Violence), Satya (Truthfulness), Asteya (Non-Stealing), Brahmacharya (Chastity), and Aparigraha (Non-attachment) have illuminated the path of peaceful coexistence and universal brotherhood.

Satellite Insights: Expansion of Glacial Lakes in the Indian Himalayas

The Himalayan Mountains, known as the "Third Pole" for their vast glaciers, are experiencing significant changes due to global climate shifts. Glacial retreat leads to the formation and enlargement of lakes, posing risks like Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs). Monitoring these changes is challenging but essential for understanding environmental impacts and managing risks.

Indian Historical Records Commission Unveils New Logo and Motto

The Indian Historical Records Commission (IHRC) is an apex advisory body on archival matters in India. Established in 1919, the IHRC serves as a national forum for creators, custodians, and users of records, advising the Government of India on the management of records and their use for historical research. The IHRC is headed by the Union Minister of Culture.

India's First Multi-Purpose Green Hydrogen Pilot Project Inaugurated in Himachal Pradesh

India takes a significant step in renewable energy with the inauguration of its first multi-purpose green hydrogen pilot project at the 1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS) in Himachal Pradesh's Jhakri. Spearheaded by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN), the project aims to produce green hydrogen through renewable energy sources.

International News

Prabowo Subianto Declared Indonesia's President-Elect Amid Controversy

Indonesia's electoral commission has officially declared Prabowo Subianto as the president-elect after the country's highest court rejected challenges to his landslide victory lodged by two losing presidential candidates. Subianto, currently serving as the defense minister, secured 58.6% of the votes, amounting to more than 96 million ballots, which is more than twice the number received by either of his rivals.

State News

The 34th Seng Kihlang Festival Concludes in Wahiajer, Meghalaya

The 34th Seng Kihlang festival, a revered event for adherents of the Khasi Indigenous Faith, recently concluded in Wahiajer, Meghalaya. Spanning from April 19, 2024, the festival celebrated the unity and traditions of the indigenous community. At the heart of this annual gathering lies the symbolic exchange of the Monolith, a cherished ritual that represents the enduring spirit of unity among believers. This year, the esteemed Monolith was received in Wahiajer from Seng Khasi Shaid Shaid, located in the West Khasi Hills.

Rankings & Reports News

UNFPA Report Highlights on India's Population

In its recent report titled "Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope," the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) sheds light on India's demographic landscape. With a current estimated population of 1.44 billion, India maintains its status as the most populous country globally. Notably, 24% of this vast populace falls within the age bracket of 0-14 years, indicating a significant youth demographic.

Gems & Jewellery Export Trends in FY23-24: A Detailed Overview

In the fiscal year 2023-24, India experienced a significant decline in its gems and jewellery exports by 14.94%, amounting to US\$32.02 billion compared to US\$37.6 billion in the previous year. The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJPEC) released provisional data highlighting this downturn.

Agreement News

Air India Expands Partnership with Japan's ANA

Air India has entered into a codeshare partnership with All Nippon Airways (ANA), Japan's largest airline. This agreement, effective from May 23, 2024, will allow passengers of both airlines to combine flights between India and Japan using a single ticket.

Appointment News

Citroen India Ropes in MS Dhoni as Brand Ambassador

In a strategic move to enhance its brand presence and awareness in the Indian market, French carmaker Citroen has engaged cricketing legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador. The Stellantis Group company, which is a relatively new entrant in the competitive Indian passenger vehicle market, aims to find a firm footing and strengthen its brand identity through this association.

India's Gita Sabharwal Appointed as UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia

The United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, has appointed Gita Sabharwal of India as the new UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia. Sabharwal assumed her post on Monday, bringing with her nearly three decades of experience in development, supporting climate transition, sustainable peace, governance, and social policy, while leveraging digital technology and data to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Naima Khatoon Breaks Glass Ceiling, Becomes First Woman Vice-Chancellor of AMU

In a historic move, President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Professor Naima Khatoon as the first woman Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), breaking a century-old glass ceiling. The appointment, seen as part of the BJP government's outreach to Muslim women, comes days ahead of the second phase of the Lok Sabha election.

Narsingh Yadav Elected Chairman of WFI Athletes Commission

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has completed the process mandated by the United World Wrestling (UWW), the global governing body for the sport. As a condition for lifting the suspension of WFI, UWW had instructed the federation to establish an Athletes Commission to address the grievances of wrestlers.

Axis Bank Re-appoints Amitabh Chaudhry as MD & CEO for Three More Years

Axis Bank's board has approved the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as Managing Director & CEO for another three years, effective January 2025, subject to RBI approval. Alongside Chaudhry, Independent Directors Meena Ganesh and Gopalaraman Padmanabhan have also been re-appointed for four years each.

Rabi Sankar Re-appointed RBI Deputy Governor: Government Grants One-Year Extension

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the re-appointment of T. Rabi Sankar as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a one-year term, effective from May 3, 2024. Sankar, a seasoned central banker with a career spanning over three decades at the RBI, was initially appointed as Deputy Governor on May 3, 2021, for a three-year period.

Arun Alagappan Appointed Executive Chairman of Coromandel International

Coromandel International Ltd. (CIL), a leading provider of agri-solutions, has announced a significant leadership transition. Arun Alagappan, the former Executive Vice Chairman, has been appointed and re-designated as the Executive Chairman of the company.

Banking News

Razorpay and Airtel Payments Bank Introduce UPI Switch: Revolutionizing Payment Infrastructure

In a groundbreaking collaboration, Razorpay and Airtel Payments Bank have unveiled the UPI Switch, a cutting-edge cloud-based infrastructure designed to revolutionize the landscape of digital payments. This innovative product promises to enhance success rates by 4-5% and handle an impressive 10,000 transactions per second (TPS), offering businesses unprecedented efficiency and scalability.

BharatPe Introduces BharatPe One: Revolutionizing Payment Solutions

In a significant move, BharatPe has unveiled BharatPe One, an innovative all-in-one payment device set to redefine digital transactions. This cutting-edge product integrates POS, QR, and speaker functionalities into a single device, promising unparalleled convenience for merchants and customers alike.

PayU Receives RBI's In-Principle Approval as Payment Aggregator

In a significant development, PayU, the digital financial services provider, has obtained the coveted in-principle authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function as a Payments Aggregator (PA) under the Payment Settlements Act, 2007. This approval, after a year-long process, marks a pivotal moment for PayU's operations in India.

SEBI Approval for CRISIL's ESG Ratings Unit

SEBI has granted approval to CRISIL ESG Ratings & Analytics as a Category 1 provider of ESG ratings, marking a significant development in the realm of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) assessments in India. This accreditation underscores the growing importance of independent ESG ratings in financial markets, particularly in guiding decision-making for issuers and investors towards sustainable practices.

NABARD-RBI Innovation Hub Partnership Accelerates Digital Agri Lending

In a strategic collaboration, NABARD has joined forces with the RBI Innovation Hub to revolutionize agricultural lending through digitalization. The partnership aims to streamline loan processing and enhance accessibility for farmers across India.

SBI Card MILES Launches Three Travel-Focused Credit Card Variants

SBI Card has introduced three variants of its travel-centric credit card, SBI Card MILES, catering to diverse travel needs. The variants—SBI Card MILES ELITE, SBI Card MILES PRIME, and SBI Card MILES—are designed to offer curated benefits to travelers, from frequent flyers to enthusiasts.

Science & Technology News

Clouded Tiger Cat: A New Species Discovered in Brazil's Rainforests

In a remarkable discovery, scientists have identified a new species of wild cat thriving in the dense rainforests of Brazil. Dubbed the clouded tiger cat (*Leopardus pardinoides*), this feline marvel has captivated the hearts of animal enthusiasts and conservationists alike, sparking renewed efforts to safeguard the region's rich biodiversity.

Indian Students Shine at NASA's Human Exploration Rover Challenge

Two Indian student teams have brought laurels to the country by winning prestigious awards at the NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge (HERC). The KIET Group of Institutions from Delhi-NCR bagged the "Crash and Burn" award, while the Kanakia International School from Mumbai received the "Rookie of the Year" award.

Awards & Honors News

Pavuluri Subba Rao Honoured with Aryabhata Award for Astronautics Contribution

Pavuluri Subba Rao, the Founder, CEO, and Chairman of Ananth Technologies, has been conferred with the prestigious 'Aryabhata Award' by the Aeronautical Society of India (ASI). This honour recognizes Rao's "tremendous lifetime contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India."

Mohammed Salem's Award-Winning Photograph at World Press Photo 2024

Mohammed Salem is a Palestinian photographer who works for the news agency Reuters. In 2024, he won a very important award called the World Press Photo of the Year award. The World Press Photo award is a prestigious international competition for photojournalists (photographers who capture news events).

The Laureus World Sports Awards 2024 Announced Important

The prestigious 2024 Laureus Sports Awards ceremony, held in Madrid, was a grand celebration of the world's best athletes and their remarkable achievements. The event honoured several sporting icons who have left an indelible mark on their respective disciplines. Novak Djokovic, the world's top-ranked tennis player, etched his name in the annals of Laureus history by becoming the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year for the fifth time.

Randeep Hooda Honoured with Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award

In a prestigious ceremony held at Mumbai's Dinanath Mangeshkar Natyagrih, actor Randeep Hooda was bestowed with the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award. This honor recognizes his remarkable contributions to Indian cinema and his recent film "Swatantrya Veer Savarkar."

Important Dates News

International Mother Earth Day 2024, Date, History, Theme and Significance

On April 22nd, the world will unite to commemorate the 54th International Mother Earth Day. This annual event serves as a poignant reminder of the critical need to address the mounting environmental challenges threatening our planet, including rapidly rising pollution levels, deforestation, and global warming. This year's theme, "Planet vs. Plastics," aims to shed light on the detrimental effects of plastic pollution on human and environmental health.

World Book and Copyright Day 2024, Date, History and Importance

World Book and Copyright Day is a special day celebrated every year on April 23rd. The main purpose of this day is to promote reading, books, and copyright. On this day, events and activities happening all around the world to honour books and the people who create them – authors. It is a way to encourage everyone to read books and understand why it is important to protect the rights of writers and publishers.

National Panchayati Raj Day Observed on April 24th every year

National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated annually on April 24th to commemorate the establishment of the Panchayati Raj system in India. This decentralized form of governance, introduced by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act in 1993, aimed to empower local self-governing bodies, known as Gram Panchayats, at the village level.

Khongjom Day: Remembering the Valiant Fighters of Anglo-Manipuri War

In Manipur, Khongjom Day is observed on April 25 to pay homage to the brave souls who fought against the British in the Khongjom Battle during the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891. This day holds great significance in the history of Manipur, as it commemorates the valor and sacrifice of those who laid down their lives to protect their homeland.

World Immunization Week 2024 Observed on April 24 To 30

Every year, from April 24 to 30, the world celebrates World Immunization Week. This global campaign aims to raise awareness about the importance of vaccination and its role in protecting individuals, communities, and populations against preventable diseases. Vaccination campaigns have been instrumental in eradicating smallpox and nearly defeating polio, showcasing humanity's remarkable achievements in the field of immunization.

World Malaria Day 2024 Observed on 25th April Annually

Every year on April 25, World Malaria Day is observed to raise awareness about the prevention, treatment, and control of malaria, a life-threatening disease caused by mosquito bites. Malaria is prevalent in tropical and subtropical regions, but it is preventable with proper precautions and measures. This annual observance serves as a reminder of the global efforts needed to eradicate this disease and ensure a healthier world.

International Girls in ICT Day 2024 Observed on April 25

Every year on the fourth Thursday of April, the world celebrates International Girls in ICT Day. This important occasion aims to highlight the significance of girls and young women in the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and encourage them to pursue education and careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). This year, International Girls in ICT Day falls on April 25.

International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day 2024 Observed on April 26th

Every year, on April 26th, we observe the International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day. This day is dedicated to remembering the victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and raising awareness about this catastrophic event. On April 26, 1986, the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine (formerly part of the Soviet Union) exploded, releasing a massive radioactive cloud into the atmosphere. This disaster exposed approximately 8.4 million people to harmful nuclear radiation.

World Intellectual Property Day 2024 Celebrates on 26th April

World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated annually on April 26th by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). This day is dedicated to promoting the role of intellectual property (IP) in stimulating innovation and creativity. The official theme for World Intellectual Property Day 2024 is 'IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity'. The theme highlights the importance of IP in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and creating a better future for all.

World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2024 Observed on 27th April

The World Day for Safety and Health at Work is an annual international campaign observed on April 28th to promote safe and healthy working conditions for all workers. This day aims to raise awareness of the importance of occupational safety and health and to honour those who have suffered injuries, illnesses, or lost their lives due to work-related accidents or diseases. This year, World Veterinary Day will be celebrated on Saturday, April 27, 2024. The theme for 2024 is "Veterinarians are Essential Health Workers".

World Veterinary Day 2024 Observed on 27th April

The World Veterinary Day (WVD) is an annual global celebration that honours the invaluable contributions of veterinarians to society. Observed on the last Saturday of April, this day aims to raise awareness about the crucial role veterinarians play in maintaining the health and welfare of animals and humans alike.

Sports News**Red Bull's Max Verstappen Claims Maiden Chinese Grand Prix Victory**

In a display of sheer dominance, Max Verstappen of Red Bull Racing claimed a resounding victory at the long-awaited Chinese Grand Prix, extending his lead in the 2024 World Championship. The Dutchman's triumph marked the first Formula One race in China in five years, and he left no room for doubt, leading from start to finish.

Gukesh Etches Name in Chess History as Youngest Challenger

In a remarkable achievement, Indian chess prodigy Dommaraju Gukesh, aged just 17, has made history by winning the FIDE Candidates tournament, becoming the youngest-ever challenger in the history of the World Chess Championship. Not only that, but Gukesh is also the first teenager to win the prestigious tournament.

Nandini's Sponsorship of Ireland and Scotland Cricket Teams Sparks Debate

In a move to strengthen its international presence, 'Nandini', the dairy brand of the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), has announced its decision to sponsor the cricket teams of Scotland and Ireland for the upcoming 2024 T20 World Cup. According to KMF's managing director, MK Jagadish, the teams will prominently display the 'Nandini' brand during the matches.

Casper Ruud wins Barcelona Open, Rybakina clinches Stuttgart Open

In a remarkable achievement, World No. 6 Casper Ruud of Norway defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece, clinching the ATP Barcelona Open 500 singles title. The final scoreline of 7-5, 6-3 marked a significant milestone for Ruud, as he secured the biggest trophy of his professional career.

Chahal to Bumrah: Top 10 Highest Wicket-Takers in IPL History

The Indian Premier League (IPL) has been a stage for numerous bowling exploits, and several bowlers have etched their names in the record books with their outstanding performances. As the 2024 edition of the IPL unfolds, let's take a look at the top 10 highest wicket-takers in the history of the tournament. Yuzvendra Chahal, the wily leg-spinner from Rajasthan Royals, stands tall as the highest wicket-taker in IPL history.

Saurav Ghosal Bids Farewell to Professional Squash

Indian squash Player, Saurav Ghosal, the nation's premier player, has announced his retirement from professional squash. The 37-year-old's decision marks the end of an illustrious career that spanned over two decades, during which he achieved numerous milestones and brought glory to the country.

T20 World Cup ambassador Usain Bolt predicts big things for cricket in USA

Legendary sprinter Usain Bolt has been named the official ambassador for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup, co-hosted by the West Indies and the United States from June 1 to 29. The Jamaican icon, known as the fastest man alive, brings his passion for cricket and global appeal to ignite the tournament and propel the sport into new territories.

Yuvraj Singh Named ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the appointment of Indian cricket legend Yuvraj Singh as an ambassador for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. The announcement comes with just 36 days remaining until the highly anticipated global event for T20 cricket commences.

Sana Mir Named Ambassador of ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the appointment of Pakistan cricket legend Sana Mir as the ambassador for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier. Mir, who represented Pakistan in 226 international games, with 137 of them as captain, will bring her invaluable experience to the event.

Obituaries News

Sudhir Kakar, the "Father of Indian Psychology", Passes Away

The world lost Sudhir Kakar, a renowned writer, cultural critic, and the "Father of Indian Psychology," who passed away at the age of 85. Kakar's life and work bridged the gap between Western and Eastern thought, leaving an indelible mark on the field of psychoanalysis in India.

Yakshagana Exponent Subrahmanya Dhareshwar Passes Away

The world of Yakshagana, a traditional theatre form of Karnataka, has lost a towering figure. Subrahmanya Dhareshwar, a senior and well-known Yakshagana 'bhagavatha' (background singer), passed away in Bengaluru. He was 66 years old.

Defence News

Indian Navy Conducts 'Poorvi Leher' Mega Exercise to Test Maritime Preparedness

The Indian Navy conducted a mega exercise, 'Poorvi Leher,' along the East Coast to validate its procedures and assess its

preparedness to meet maritime security challenges in the region. The extensive drill witnessed the participation of ships, submarines, aircraft, and special naval forces.

Honouring the Valiant: Brighton's Tribute to Indian Soldiers

In a move to honour the courageous Indian soldiers who fought valiantly in the First and Second World Wars, the Brighton and Hove City Council in England has taken a commendable step. They have decided to hold an annual multi-faith event at the town's India Gate memorial this October, recognizing the pivotal role played by these warriors from the undivided Indian subcontinent.

IAF Conducts Successful Test of Air-Launched Ballistic Missile

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has achieved a significant milestone by successfully testing a new version of an air-launched medium-range ballistic missile. The missile, codenamed ROCKS or Crystal Maze 2, was test-fired from a Su-30 MKI fighter jet in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Books & Authors News

A book titled 'Heavenly Islands of Goa' released by Goa Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai

In a remarkable literary odyssey, P.S. Sreedharan Pillai, the Governor of Goa, has embarked on a mission to unveil the state's rich natural heritage through a series of captivating books. His latest offering, "Heavenly Islands of Goa," is a testament to his dedication to preserving and promoting the state's lesser-known facets.

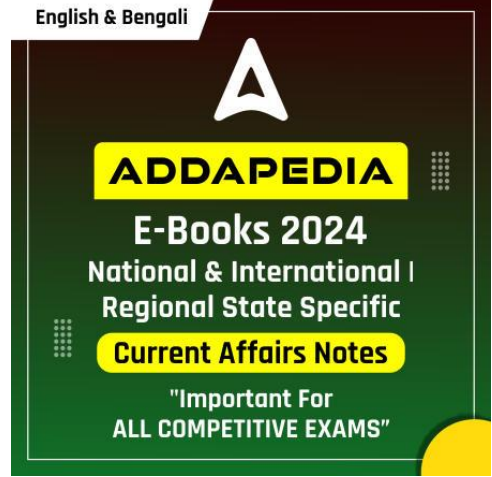
EAM Jaishankar Receives Book 'India's Nuclear Titans'

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar received a copy of the book 'India's Nuclear Titans,' edited by Soumya Awasthi and Shrabana Barua. The book traces the evolution of India into a nuclear state while highlighting the pivotal roles played by renowned figures like Homi Bhabha, Vikram Sarabhai, Abdul Kalam, and K. Subrahmanyam, among others.

Miscellaneous News

Shompen Tribe Casts Historic Votes in Andaman and Nicobar Elections

On a momentous occasion, members of the Shompen tribe, one of India's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), exercised their democratic right for the first time by casting votes in the Andaman and Nicobar Lok Sabha constituency elections. This significant event marks a milestone for the indigenous community residing in the dense tropical rainforests of the Great Nicobar island.



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