

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-APRIL 30,2023

STATES

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - participated in an event marking 20 years of completion of the SWAGAT initiative in Gujarat on April 27 via video conferencing**



- ✓ During the event, the prime minister interacted with the past beneficiaries of the scheme
 - ✓ Gujarat government is celebrating SWAGAT Saptah, on successful completion of 20 years of the initiative.
 - ✓ A first of its kind tech-based grievance redressal programme, SWAGAT (State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology) was started by the Prime Minister in April 2003, when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat.
 - ✓ It is held on the fourth Thursday of every month wherein the Chief Minister interacts with citizens for grievance redressal
 - ✓ The main purpose of the scheme was to act as a bridge between the citizens and the government using technology by solving their day-to-day grievances in a quick, efficient and time-bound manner.
 - ✓ More than 99% of grievances submitted till date have been resolved.
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- **The Directorate of Tourism, Jammu and Kishtwar Tourism Development Authority (KTDA) – has organized a two-day Sinthan Snow Festival-2023 at Sinthan Maidan, Kishtwar from April 28 to 30.**

- ✓ The snow festival was organized in collaboration with the District Administration Kishtwar, the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL), and the Army



- ✓ The 2 day Sinthan Snow Festival-2023 will host a variety of activities like Bike Rally, Paragliding, Snow Kayaking, Fun Snow activities, Local cultural performances among others
- ✓ The Sinthan Maidan is a significant hub for skiers, trekkers, etc.
- ✓ Sinthan Top is a mountain pass and a popular tourist destination located between Breng Valley in the Anantnag district of Kashmir division and Kishtwar district of Chenab Valley in the Jammu division.
- ✓ The Sinthan Top is the highest motorable mountain pass that connects Kishtwar district in Jammu division with Anantnag district in Kashmir division and is 12, 414 feet above sea level.
- ✓ Sinthan Top offers a 360 degree view of both the Jammu and Kashmir regions.

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - praised the completion of India's first cable-stayed rail bridge, the Anji Khad Bridge in Jammu and Kashmir.**
- ✓ On April 29, Union Cabinet Minister of Railways, Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the completion of the bridge and said it is now currently ready for use.
- ✓ The bridge is constructed in Reasi district of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir under the most Challenging Udampur-Srinagar-Baramulla-Rail Link (USBRL) project of Indian Railways.

- ✓ All 96 cables on the first cable-stayed bridge of India have been fully installed in a record time of 11 months and the total length of cable strand used in the bridge is 653 km.



- ✓ The engineering marvel is constructed over the Anji river, a tributary of the Chenab river, between Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir.
 - ✓ The total length of the structure is 473.25 metres and its height from the river bed to the formation is 196 metres.
 - ✓ IIT Roorkee and IIT Delhi conducted detailed site-specific investigations for the project.
 - ✓ The project is commissioned by the Northern Railways and was executed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) and Hindustan Construction Company.
 - ✓ The project will also comprise the world's highest railway bridge over the Chenab River.
 - ✓ The 1,315-m arch bridge will be taller than the Eiffel Tower in Paris and will rise 331 m above the riverbed.
 - ✓ The total cost of the entire train line is Rs.37,000 crore and the bridge is Rs.400 crore.
- **Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar - launched the first of its kind 'Millets Experience Centre' at Dilli Haat in New Delhi on April 28.**
- ✓ The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) has established the Millets Experience Centre in collaboration with the Agriculture Ministry.
 - ✓ The Centre aims to raise awareness of Millets and encourage its adoption among the general public.



- ✓ The ministry-led initiative of establishing a consumer-oriented 'Millets Experience Centre' would not only promote the dietary benefits of millets but also popularize Shree Anna as a nutritional powerhouse.
- **The Centre – has integrated its ambitious Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) with the Prime Minister Gati Shakti mega project.**
- ✓ The VVP aims to develop infrastructure in the North Eastern region to stop migration of border population and to open up villages for tourism along the China border
- ✓ The Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N) in Gujarat has been roped in to provide satellite images and GIS mapping of the projects that will be taken up under the scheme.
- ✓ The scheme has been allocated Rs.4,800 crore for the financial years 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26, which includes Rs.2,500 crore for road construction alone.
- ✓ The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry to implement the scheme
- ✓ On February 15, the Union Cabinet approved the VVP to cover 2,967 villages in 46 border blocks of 19 districts in four States and one Union Territory - Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Ladakh along the China border.
- ✓ Out of these, 662 villages will be prioritised for coverage.
- ✓ As many as 455 villages or around 68% of the total villages that will be covered in the first phase of the scheme are in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ In Ladakh, 35 villages have been chosen, while 75 were chosen in Himachal Pradesh, 46 in Sikkim and 51 in Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The digital platform of Gati Shakti brings 16 Ministries together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects and allows government departments to break operational delays.
- **The government - has launched a new e-commerce portal 'Indiahandmade.com' for artisans and weavers**



- ✓ The new website enables artisans and weavers to sell their handloom and handicraft products directly to customers without any middlemen
- ✓ The portal will launch products from more than 35 lakh handloom weavers and 27 lakh handicraft artisans directly to the consumers.
- ✓ The portal currently offers clothing, home decor, jewellery, accessories, and other products handmade by skilled artisans
- ✓ Moreover, the portal doesn't charge any commission from sellers and provides free shipping with a return option to customers along with multiple payment gateways to pay online.
- ✓ The launch comes nearly three months after finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana (PM-VIKAS) to help train small artisans and craftsmen on the quality, scale and reach.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Veteran politician Mohammed Shahabuddin - was sworn in as the 22nd president of Bangladesh recently on April 24**



- ✓ Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury administered the oath to 73-year-old Shahabuddin at the historic Durbar Hall of Bangabhaban
 - ✓ The state ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her cabinet colleagues.
 - ✓ Shahabuddin succeeds Abdul Hamid whose tenure ended on April 23
 - ✓ Born in 1949 and hailing from the northwestern Pabna district, Shahabuddin is a retired district judge who later served as one of the commissioners of the independent Anti-Corruption Commission.
 - ✓ Shahabuddin later joined politics to become a member of the Awami League Advisory Council and took part in the 1971 Liberation War.
 - ✓ He was imprisoned following the 1975 assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of Prime Minister Hasina.
 - ✓ In 1982, Shahabuddin was inducted into the country's judicial service.
- **The World Health Organization – has recently launched two health initiatives – ‘PRET and the Big Catch-up’**
- ✓ The Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats (PRET) Initiative operates under the aegis of the International Health Regulations (IHR), 2005
 - ✓ The initiative was announced at the Global Meeting for Future Respiratory Pathogen Pandemics held in Geneva, Switzerland.
 - ✓ It focuses on improving pandemic preparedness for groups of pathogens based on their mode of transmission and to better prepare for future outbreaks
 - ✓ The Big Catch-up initiative was launched by the WHO, UNICEF, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation along with Immunization Agenda 2030 and many other global and national health partners to boost vaccination rates among children.
 - ✓ It aims to protect populations from vaccine-preventable outbreaks like measles, diphtheria, polio and yellow fever
 - ✓ The initiative will pay special attention to the 20 countries — Afghanistan, Angola, Brazil, Cameroon, Chad, DPRK, DRC, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Somalia, Madagascar, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Tanzania and Vietnam
 - ✓ World Immunization Week is a health campaign coordinated by the WHO and celebrated in the last week of April every year

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Defence minister Rajnath Singh - will make a two-day visit to the Maldives next week**
- ✓ Further, IAF chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari will travel to Sri Lanka, to strengthen defence and strategic ties with the two nations amid China's expansion in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
 - ✓ Both Singh and ACM Chaudhari will leave for their official visits on May 1.

- ✓ Singh is expected to meet Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, foreign minister Abdulla Shahid and defence minister Mariya Didi during the trip.
 - ✓ To counter China's expansion in the region, India has been helping Malé with the capacity-building of the Maldives National Defence Forces (MNDF), military aid and training, EEZ surveillance and hydrographic surveys.
 - ✓ Defence secretary Giridhar Aramane had also visited Maldives last month for the bilateral defence cooperation dialogue, under which the two countries had decided to further boost bilateral military ties.
- **India and the United Kingdom - have agreed to create 'India-UK NET zero innovation virtual centre'.**



- ✓ This centre will provide a platform for stakeholders of both countries to work together in areas like the decarbonization of manufacturing processes, transport systems, and green hydrogen as a renewable source.
- ✓ This was announced by Science, and Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, while chairing the India-UK Science and Innovation Council meeting in the presence of United Kingdom Minister George Freeman
- ✓ Dr Jitendra Singh is leading a high-level official Indian delegation of the Ministry of Science and Technology on a six-day visit to the United Kingdom.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurated the 6th edition of Advantage Healthcare India (AHCI) 2023, a G20 co-branded event through a video message.**
- ✓ The event took place on April 26 and 27 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi
 - ✓ Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare & Chemicals and Fertilizers, Dr V K Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, Prem Singh Tamang, Chief Minister, Sikkim and Prof. Dr Manik Saha, Chief Minister, Tripura were present at the event.
 - ✓ The event was attended by Health Ministers of 7 countries - Bangladesh, Maldives, Somalia, Armenia, Bhutan, Nigeria and Egypt



- ✓ With the theme of 'One Earth, One Health', the purpose of the two-day AHCI is to highlight India as the new hub of Medical Value Travel and its emergence as a major hub for world-class healthcare and wellness services
 - ✓ Around 125 exhibitors and more than 500 foreign delegates from 73 countries of Africa, the Middle East, CIS, and SAARC have participated in the summit and more than 100 MoUs were signed by the stakeholders during the event.
 - ✓ The two-day event organized by Health Ministry in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)
- **The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh – was held in New Delhi on April 28**



- ✓ The meeting deliberated on various regional security challenges and related issues.
- ✓ Defence Ministers of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and other member nations of SCO reviewed the overall situation in Afghanistan during the meeting
- ✓ India has also invited Belarus and Iran, currently observers in SCO, to participate in the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting.

- ✓ Pakistani Defence Minister Khawaja Asif participated in the meeting through virtual mode
 - ✓ The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
 - ✓ India was made an observer at the SCO in 2005 and has generally participated in the ministerial-level meetings of the grouping
 - ✓ India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017.
- **The Y 20 Pre Summit Meeting under G20 hosted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs - was concluded on April 28.**



- ✓ The three-day event began on April 26 and witnessed more than 100 delegates from 30 different countries
 - ✓ The Y20 pre-summit was attended by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur and the Lieutenant Governor of Leh-Ladakh Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd).
 - ✓ India assumed the G20 Presidency on 1st December 2022 for a period of 1 year till 30th November 2023
 - ✓ Under the framework of the G20 Presidency, the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India organized Youth 20 Summit-2023.
 - ✓ Youth20 is one of the official Engagement Groups of the G20.
 - ✓ The Youth20 (Y20) Engagement Group provides a platform for youth to express their perspectives and ideas on G20 priorities.
- **Mizoram Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati - addressed a conclave organized by the Civil 20 (C20) Working Group on Education and Digital Transformation (EDT) at Mizoram University recently on April 25**
- ✓ The event was co-hosted by the Mizoram University and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham of Kerala.
 - ✓ The conclave was organized in the context of India's G20 Presidency and its C20 Engagement Group



- ✓ Mizoram University and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham of Kerala have tied up to launch science, technology and innovation (STI) hubs in the districts of Aizawl and Serchhip in Mizoram.
- ✓ Funded by the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, these hubs would promote sustainable livelihoods through capacity building, skill development for tribal communities, awareness against substance abuse and digital literacy.

PERSONALITIES

- **Retired Indian Navy Officer, Abhilash Tomy - scripted history on April 29 to become the first ever Indian to complete the prestigious Golden Globe Race 2022**



- ✓ The Golden Globe Race is a solo around-the-world sailing competition and had started on September 4 last year from Les Sables-d'Olonne in France
- ✓ Commander Abhilash Tomy, a solo circumnavigator from Kerala, not only completed the race but finished second only behind South Africa's Kirsten Neuschafers, the only female participant in the race, who ended up first finishing the race on April 27

- ✓ Tomy spent a whopping 236 days along on the high seas as part of the solo, non-stop, unassisted voyage, which saw him navigate unpredictable weather, treacherous seas, and immense isolation.
- ✓ He had purchased a Rustler 36 yacht in France, and named it 'Bayanat'.
 - ✓ It had previously been used for the race in the last Golden Globe by sailor Philippe Pécché.
- ✓ Tomy had participated in the 50th anniversary edition of the Golden Globe Race back in July 2018 on an indigenously built sailing vessel 'Thuriya', but he had met with an accident while at the third position.
 - ✓ His boat was damaged in an unusual storm in the southern Indian Ocean and Tomy suffered a severe injury to his spine.
 - ✓ Tomy spent 82 days on the high seas and was later rescued following complex international efforts, after being stranded halfway between Australia and South Africa.
 - ✓ With titanium rods in his spine and five vertebrae fused into one, Abhilash had “to learn to walk again” following the incident
- ✓ In March 2020, during the Dubai Expo, Abhilash Tomy announced that he would be participating in the race again in 2022 with Bayanat, a company specialising in AI-powered geospatial intelligence, being his sponsor
- ✓ Indian adventurer and sailor Abhilash Tomy is also a recipient of the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **UAE astronaut Sultan Al-Neyadi - has become the first Arab astronaut to walk in space as part of a space mission named 'Expedition 69'.**



- ✓ The astronaut ventured out from the International Space Station (ISS) and completed his spacewalk.
- ✓ Sultan Al Neyadi and NASA astronaut Steve Bowen concluded their 7-hour-long spacewalk on April 29 in the vacuum of space on the starboard side of the ISS' truss structure
- ✓ During their spacewalk outside the International Space Station (ISS), Bowen and Al Neyadi laid cables and insulation on the “starboard truss” of the station.

- ✓ Al-Neyadi will soon be completing two months in space after launching from Cape Canaveral in Florida with his Crew-6 team members on March 2.
 - ✓ He is expected to be on board the space station till September 2023
 - ✓ This accomplishment marks an important step forward for the Arab world's participation in space exploration.
 - ✓ The UAE Astronaut Programme is one of the projects managed by the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre under the UAE's National Space Programme
 - ✓ Hazza Al Mansoori, who lived on the space station for eight days in 2019, was the first Arab or Emirati astronaut to go to space
 - ✓ But Al Neyadi is the first Arab and Emirati astronaut on a long-term mission to ISS.
- **Dubai-based airline Emirates - has unveiled the world's first robotic check-in assistant named Sara.**
- ✓ The system is part of a new City Check-in and Travel Store that is set to launch in Dubai's financial district.



- ✓ Sara will match customers' faces with scanned passports, check passengers in, and guide them to the luggage drop area.
 - ✓ The robot is equipped with facial recognition technology and can print boarding passes, making the check-in process more efficient.
 - ✓ Sara is also portable and can move around to assist those who need help.
 - ✓ The facility, which opened on April 27, allows customers to drop their luggage as early as 24 hours and up to 4 hours before their flight, arriving at the airport at their leisure.
 - ✓ Passengers can check in via self-check-in kiosks, at dedicated desks with Emirates agents, or with the help of Sara.
- **Japanese start-up ispace - said its attempt to become the first company to land on the Moon had ended in failure**



- ✓ The mission failed on April 26 after losing contact with its Hakuto-R Mission 1 (M1) lander.
- ✓ The Japanese firm “determined that there is a high probability that the lander eventually made a hard landing” and had most likely crashed on the lunar surface
- ✓ The lander was aiming for a landing site at the edge of Mare Frigoris in the moon’s northern hemisphere
- ✓ It was carrying a two-wheeled, baseball-sized rover developed by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, Tomy Co Ltd and Sony Group Corp.
- ✓ The lander also planned to deploy a four-wheeled rover dubbed Rashid from the United Arab Emirates.
- ✓ It was also carrying an experimental solid-state battery made by Niterria Co Ltd among other devices to gauge their performance on the moon.
- ✓ Only the United States, the former Soviet Union and China have soft-landed spacecraft on the moon, with attempts in recent years by India and a private Israeli company ending in failure.

DEFENCE

- **In a historic first, the Indian Army - has inducted five women officers in combat roles into its Regiment of Artillery**



- ✓ Lt Mehak Saini, Lt Sakshi Dubey, Lt Aditi Yadav, Lt Pious Mudgil and Lt Akanksha have joined the Army's premier artillery units after successfully completing their training at the Officers Training Academy (OTA) in Chennai on April 29

- ✓ Out of the five women officers, three are posted to frontline formation units deployed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China and the other two in "challenging locations" near the frontier with Pakistan
- ✓ The Regiment of Artillery is a major combat support arm and it has around 280 units that handle various gun systems including Bofors howitzers, Dhanush, M-777 howitzers and K-9 Vajra self-propelled guns.
- ✓ The young women officers are being posted to all types of key artillery units, where they will get adequate training and exposure to handle rockets, field and surveillance and target acquisition (SATA) systems as well as key equipment in challenging conditions.
- ✓ Lt Saini has been commissioned into a SATA regiment, Lt Dubey and Lt Yadav into field regiments, Lt Mudgil into a medium regiment and Lt Akanksha has been inducted into a rocket regiment
- ✓ In January, Chief of Army Staff Gen Manoj Pande announced the decision of commissioning women officers into artillery units.
- ✓ In a significant move, the Army in 2019 began the process of inducting women into the military police.
- ✓ The role of the military police includes policing cantonments and army establishments, preventing breach of rules and regulations by soldiers, maintaining the movement of soldiers as well as logistics during peace and war and extending aid to civil police whenever required.
- ✓ In January, Captain Shiva Chauhan from the Army's Corps of Engineers was posted at a frontline post in Siachen Glacier, in the first such operational deployment of an woman Army officer at the world's highest battlefield

APPOINTMENTS

- **The government - has named Siddhartha Mohanty as the first chief executive of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) for the term beginning in June 2024 to June 2025.**



- ✓ He had been serving as the corporation's interim chairman since March.

- ✓ The decision regarding the appointment of Mohanty as the LIC chairman was taken by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) headed by PM Narendra Modi.
- ✓ LIC, the country's largest insurer has decided to phase out the chairman post to align with other publicly traded corporations.
- ✓ In May, LIC offered the largest IPO in India to date as the government agreed to sell a 3.5% stake.
- ✓ Mohanty was one of four managing directors at LIC when insurer launched its IPO
- ✓ He began his career with LIC as a direct recruit officer in 1985 and rose through the ranks to the top position.

SPORTS

- **Indian badminton stars, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty - created history by becoming the first Indian doubles pair to make the final of the Badminton Asian Championships.**



- ✓ The duo dominated the Olympic champions Lee Yang and Wang Chi-Lin before the latter retired in the second game of the semi finals in Dubai on April 29.
- ✓ In the final, the world No. 6 Indian doubles pair will face the world No. 8 Malaysians Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi, who defeated former world champions Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi of Japan.
- ✓ Though PV Sindhu emerged world champion, no Indian had managed to win the Asian title in this period.
- ✓ Dinesh Khanna was the last Indian to win the Asian title in 1965.

