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AGRASEN CIVIL SERVICES ACADEMY

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1st to 7th April 2023

WEEKLY **Current Affairs**

For

UPSC / RPSC

and All Other Competitive

EXAMS

- › World Autism Awareness Day
- › India-Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime Exercise – SLINEX-2023
- › The Apollo Successor Program: A Stepping Stone to Mars
- › Airtel-IPPB WhatsApp Banking Services
- › Rs 19,600 Crore Defence Contracts for NGOPVs and NGMVs
- › Azerbaijan and Tajikistan: Malaria-Free Countries



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Weekly Current Affairs 01-04-2023 to 07-04-2023

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One liner

- Utkal Divas or Odisha Day is celebrated on 1 April, to recognize the separation of Odisha from the Bihar and Orissa province on 1 April 1936.
- WHO: Highest proportional increase of COVID cases is seen in India.
- India exported military hardware worth ₹15,920 crore in 2022-23: Defence Ministry.
- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launches App of National Logistics Portal (Marine) Sagar-Setu in New Delhi.
- More than 40 thousand Amrit Sarovars constructed under Mission Amrit Sarovar.
- Government hikes interest rates of small savings schemes by up to 70 basis points for April-June quarter.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) registers the highest-ever revenue from operations of around 26 thousand 500 crore rupees for FY 2022-23.
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) announced the launch of WhatsApp Banking Services for their customers.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) approves 15.6-billion-dollar support package for Ukraine.
- Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York is set to repatriate 15 stolen Indian artefacts.
- Italy banned OpenAI's ChatGPT chatbot, launching a probe over a suspected breach of data collection rules.
- UK signs deal to join trade pact with 11 Asia and Pacific nations.
- PV Sindhu enters Semi-final of Madrid Spain Masters Badminton tournament.
- Gujarat Titans beats Chennai Super Kings by five wickets in the Indian Premier League opener.
- ISRO successfully carries out Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission.
- Kerala and Tamil Nadu Chief Ministers inaugurated the centenary celebrations of anti-caste struggle Vaikom Satyagraha.
- Second Energy Transitions Working Group meeting under India's G20 Presidency is organised in Gandhinagar.
- India's defence exports reach all-time high of Rs 16,000 crore to over 85 countries.
- Capulopsyche keralensis: New bagworm moth species found in Kerala.





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- Government e Marketplace (GeM) crossed Gross Merchandise Value of two lakh crore rupees in the financial year 2022-2023.
- GST collections increase by 13% to Rs 1.6 lakh crores in March; this is the second highest ever collection.
- Bandipur completes 50 years as Project Tiger reserve
- Italian government seeks to ban English and other foreign languages in official communication.
- Georgia becomes first American state to pass resolution condemning Hinduphobia.
- France invites Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Paris as a guest at the annual Bastille Day parade in July.
- Pakistan posts highest-ever annual inflation at a record 35.37% in March from a year earlier.
- Madrid Spain Masters: PV Sindhu to take on Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung in summit clash.
- Tennis: Czech player Petra Kvitova defeats Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina to win her first Miami Open crown.
- Former India cricketer Salim Durani passes away; he was the first cricketer to receive the Arjuna Award.
- Eravikulam National Park (ENP) in Kerala becomes the first to house a fernarium.
- Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh is the new Vice-Chief of Navy.
- The government has extended export curbs on petroleum products: Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
- G20 Science Summit on Clean Energy for Greener Future to begin at Agartala in Tripura.
- Prime Minister Modi to inaugurate Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in New Delhi.
- The government is in the process of establishing a first-of-its-kind National Public Health Museum.
- Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) achieves best annual production during financial year 2022-23.
- GST mop up at all-time high of Rs 18 trillion in FY23.
- Finance Ministry notifies GST amnesty scheme for non-filers and small businesses.
- NASSCOM: Indian tech SME revenue to reach USD 40 billion by FY30
- Saudi Arabia and other OPEC+ oil producers announced further cuts in their production to around 1.16 million barrels per day.
- Russia to place nuclear weapons near the borders of Belarus with NATO.
- Finland cast ballots in the parliamentary election. The race is between right-wing, conservatives and Prime Minister Sanna Marin's centre-left.
- King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck to visit India.
- Badminton: P.V. Sindhu suffered loss against Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung in the summit clash of Madrid Spain Masters Super 300.
- 10th Edition of annual Indian – Sri Lankan bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-2023 commences at Colombo.
- Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar today extended greetings on Rajya Sabha Day.
- Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy virtually hosts the first India-Central Asia Culture Ministers' Meet.
- India and Netherlands hold first Ministerial-level meeting of Joint Working Group in New Delhi.
- Mahavir Jayanti marking the birth of Jain Tirthankara Lord Mahavir is being celebrated today.
- Parliament cleared Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2023 which allows swifter clearances for mergers and acquisitions (M&As).
- Gross Direct Tax collections for Financial Year 2022-23 register over 20 per cent growth.
- New orders and output rose to a three-month high in March: S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).
- In Bangladesh, General elections will be held using ballot, without Electronic Voting Machine.
- Bahrain launches 'Golden Licence' initiative to attract large-scale investment projects.





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- US Department of Defense announces four new military sites in the Philippines.
- NASA announces four-member team of astronauts for first crewed voyage around moon in 50 years.
- Novak Djokovic returned to No. 1 in ATP rankings for a record 380th week.
- Daniil Medvedev won his fourth ATP title of the year beating Jannik Sinner in the Miami Open final.
- Government to invite bids for 50 GW of renewable energy capacity annually for the next five years.
- Skyroot Aerospace test-fires 3D-printed cryogenic engine.
- Honorary Consulate of Malta in Chennai celebrated the Freedom Day of the Republic of Malta
- India Justice Report (IJR) 2022: Karnataka at top in delivery of justice among 18 large states.
- Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry sets up a committee headed by Amitabh Kant to examine stalled real estate projects.
- World Bank lowers India's growth forecast to 6.3% for this fiscal year.
- PhonePe launches shopping app Pincode, on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform.
- Forbes Billionaire 2023 list: Ambani regains Asia's richest person spot while Adani tumbles to 24.
- Supreme Court: Service tax will not be levied on corporate guarantees by a parent company to its subsidiaries.
- Taliban extends ban on women working for NGOs to UN's mission throughout the country.
- Former US President Donald Trump pleads not guilty to 34 criminal charges against him.
- US opposes China's move to assign invented names to several places in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Finland joins NATO and becomes 31st member of military alliance.
- Union Sports Ministry approves financial assistance for 12 para shuttlers.
- United States booked its place in the final qualifying tournament for this year's ODI World Cup.
- Food & Drugs Administration of UT, in collaboration with FSSAI, to organise Eat Right Millet Mela in Jammu.
- India is elected as member of UN Statistical Commission Narcotic Drugs and Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS.
- I&B Ministry and Amazon India sign collaboration agreement to boost India's creative economy.
- President Droupadi Murmu confers Padma Awards in second Civil Investiture Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Ministry of Cooperation approved grant-in-aid of 30 crore to establish Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management.
- Government unveils plans to add 250GW renewable energy capacity in next 5 years.
- RBI Monetary Policy Committee votes for pause, keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.5%.
- Global trade growth expected to grow 1.7 per cent in 2023, lower than 2.7 per cent growth in 2022: WTO.
- India services growth slows down in March after 12-year high in February.
- Iran appoints first UAE ambassador since 2016 amid realignment of relations between Gulf states and Iran.
- French President Emmanuel Macron and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen arrived in Beijing.
- Study: SARS-CoV-2 virus not found in animal samples from Huanan seafood market.
- U.S. and South Korea hold air drills involving B-52H strategic bomber.
- M S Dhoni among five Indian cricketers to get MCC life membership.
- Cabinet approves LIGO-India, gravitational-wave detector to be built in Maharashtra.
- Information Technology Amendment Rules, 2023 were notified; Online platforms must take down PIB-flagged 'fake news'.
- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurates Gaj Utsav at the Kaziranga national park in Assam.
- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurates 200th birth anniversary celebrations of Swami Dayanand Saraswati





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- Cultural asset mapping data on villages covered under 'Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar' programme will be made available on a web portal from May.
- Cabinet approves revised domestic gas pricing guidelines to ensure stable price regime for domestic consumers.
- IMF Chief says India and China will account for half of global economic growth in 2023.
- Inflation in India will ease to 5.2 % in current fiscal, says World Bank.
- World Health Day being celebrated on April 7 with the theme of 'Health for All'.
- High inflation remained the biggest concern for the people of Bangladesh in 2022, says the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) result
- Bangladesh defeats Ireland by 7 wickets to clinch the test match as well as the series.

World Autism Awareness Day :

On April 2 every year, the world observes World Autism Day. This day is dedicated to spreading awareness about autism, a neurological condition that manifests during early childhood.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a group of conditions associated with brain development. People with autism often have co-occurring conditions such as epilepsy, depression, anxiety, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), difficulty sleeping, and self-injury.

The theme for World Autism Awareness Day 2023 is "Transforming the narrative: Contributions at home, at work, in the arts, and in policymaking". The aim of this theme is to bring awareness about autism.

What is Mukupirna fortidentata?

Scientists in Australia have discovered evidence of a previously unknown ancient marsupial called Mukupirna fortidentata. This ancient species roamed the country around 25 million years ago.

The Mukupirna fortidentata is thought to have weighed up to 50 kg, making it one of the largest marsupials alive at the time.

According to researchers, the extinction of Mukupirnids started during a period of changing climate as ancient forest regions in Australia's centre became increasingly arid.

The discovery of the Mukupirna fortidentata is significant in shedding light on the evolution and extinction of ancient marsupial lineages.

Bodofa Upendranath Brahma

Bodofa Upendranath Brahma was a prominent Bodo social activist and former president of All Bodo Students' Union. He was born on March 31, 1956, in Boragari village of Dotma, Kokrajhar district of Assam, India.

Bodofa Upendranath Brahma became President of the Goalpara District Students Union in 1978-79. He was later elected as the President of All Bodo Students Union in 1986, a position he held for several years. During his tenure as the president, he worked towards the betterment of the Bodo community, advocating for their rights and addressing their issues.

March 31st holds great significance for Bodofa Upendranath Brahma as it is his birth anniversary. In recognition of his contributions, the Assam government declared March 31st as Students' Day, to be observed across the state. On his 67th birth anniversary, Students' Day was observed at Jawaharlal Nehru College, Boko.





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Airtel-IPPB WhatsApp Banking Services

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Bharti Airtel have partnered to launch banking services through WhatsApp for their customers in India. This joint statement was released on March 31st, 2023.

What is IPPB?

IPPB (India Post Payments Bank) is a division of India Post that comes under the aegis of the Department of Posts, which comes under the Union Ministry of Communications. It was opened in 2018 and has more than 6 crore customers as of January 2022.

Through WhatsApp Banking, IPPB customers can now access banking services on their preferred messaging app. Customers can easily make service requests, locate the nearest Post Office, and perform a range of other banking services through the WhatsApp channel. This includes checking account balance, viewing mini statements, and transferring funds.

Proba-3 Mission – An Overview

The European Space Agency's (ESA) Proba-3 mission, consisting of two spacecrafts, will demonstrate precision formation flying in space. It is set to revolutionize scientific observation and space applications.

Proba-3 is an ambitious mission that aims to form a 144-m long solar coronagraph, allowing scientists to study the Sun's faint corona closer to the solar rim than has ever before been achieved. Proba-3's spacecrafts will be deployed by India's PSLV in a high Earth orbit.

Proba-3's primary goal is to validate strategies, guidance, navigation and control, and other algorithms in space.

Rs 19,600 Crore Defence Contracts for NGOPVs and NGMVs:

On March 30, 2023, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed contracts with Indian shipyards for the acquisition of 11 Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs) and six Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMVs) at an overall cost of approximately Rs 19,600 crore. This acquisition will give a boost to India's self-reliance in the defence sector.

Azerbaijan and Tajikistan: Malaria-Free Countries

Azerbaijan and Tajikistan were declared malaria-free by the WHO on March 29, 2023. This came as the result of an extensive century-long campaign by the two nations to eradicate the disease.

To be certified as malaria-free by the WHO, a country must provide rigorous, credible evidence showing that the malaria transmission cycle has been broken for at least the last three years. In Tajikistan the last cases of regional spread of Plasmodium vivax malaria were discovered in 2012. In Azerbaijan, it was last recorded in 2014.

With the latest announcement, 41 countries and one territory, including 21 countries in the European Region, have been declared as malaria-free by the World Health Organization. Azerbaijan and Tajikistan's achievement brings the WHO European Region two steps closer to becoming the first region in the world to be fully malaria-free.

Preventing Re-establishment of Transmission

Despite providing rigorous, credible evidence, a country must also demonstrate its capacity to prevent the re-establishment of transmission to be certified as malaria-free. The WHO expects Azerbaijan and Tajikistan to maintain their efforts to prevent the reintroduction of malaria transmission.

India-Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime Exercise – SLINEX-2023





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SLINEX-2023 is the 10th edition of the annual India-Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime Exercise. The exercise is aimed at improving mutual understanding, enhancing interoperability, and exchanging best practices/procedures in multi-faceted maritime operations between both Navies.

Diamond Jubilee of CBI

On April 3, 2023, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The CBI was established by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India on April 1, 1963, and has been the premier investigating agency in India since then.

Newly Constructed Office Complexes

As part of the celebrations, the Prime Minister also inaugurated the newly constructed office complexes of CBI in three cities – Shillong, Pune, and Nagpur. The move is expected to boost the CBI's capabilities and improve its efficiency in conducting investigations across the country.

5th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) organizes an annual conference that brings together decision-makers, thought leaders, academia, and institutions from across the world to work on solutions for infrastructure resilience. The latest conference, the 5th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2023, was held on 4th and 5th of April 2023 in New Delhi, India.

Who is Christina Koch?

In a significant moment for space exploration, astronaut Christina Hammock Koch has been announced as the first woman to circle the Moon.

Christina Koch joined NASA in 2013 and has served as a flight engineer on the International Space Station (ISS) for Expeditions 59, 60, and 61. She holds Bachelor of Science degrees in Electrical Engineering and Physics and a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, all from North Carolina State University. Before joining NASA, she worked as an Electrical Engineer at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), where she contributed to scientific instruments on several NASA space science missions. Koch was first launched into space in 2019 on the Soyuz MS-12 spacecraft and has spent a total of 328 days in space, conducting six spacewalks, including the first three all-women spacewalks.

Artemis II Mission: What is it all about?

The announcement of Christina Koch's involvement in the mission has officially kicked off the preparation for the Artemis II mission, which will bring humanity one step closer to landing on the Moon since the Apollo missions. The Artemis II flight is a 10-day, 2.3-million-km journey around the moon and back, aiming to demonstrate that all of Orion's life-support apparatus and other systems will operate as designed with astronauts aboard in deep space.

Who Else is Joining Koch on the Mission?

Christina Koch will be joined by astronauts Jeremy Hansen, Victor Glover, and Reid Wiseman on the Artemis II mission. Together, they will carry the world's excitement, aspirations, and dreams with them on this historic mission to the Moon.

The Apollo Successor Program: A Stepping Stone to Mars

The Artemis II mission will mark the debut crewed flight of an Apollo successor program aimed at returning astronauts to the Moon's surface this decade and establishing a sustainable outpost there, creating a stepping stone to human exploration of Mars. The objective of the program is to return astronauts to the Moon's surface and establish a sustainable outpost, which will be used to conduct research and develop technologies that will support human exploration of Mars.





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Last Time on the Moon

The last time humans walked on the lunar surface was in 1972 when Apollo 17 commander Eugene Cernan left his footprints on Earth's natural satellite. The Artemis II mission brings us one step closer to returning humans to the Moon, with the added bonus of being the first mission to include a woman astronaut on its team.

Cope India Exercise

India and the United States are set to conduct the next edition of their bilateral air exercise called 'Cope India'. This is aimed at enhancing the interoperability between the air forces of the two countries. The air exercise will take place from April 10 to 21, 2023, at the air force base in Kalaikunda, West Bengal. This will mark the first major air exercise between India and the US after a gap of five years.

The previous edition of Exercise Cope India was organized between Indian Air Force and United States Air Force in December 2018 in India. For the first time, the exercise was planned to be held at 2 Air Force bases, Kalaikunda and Panagarh from December 3-14, 2018. In the 2018 edition, IAF participated with its Su-30 MKI, Jaguar, Mirage 2000, C-130J & AWACS aircraft, while the USAF participated with 12 F15 C/D and 3 C-130 aircraft.

Basohli Painting and GI Tag

The world-famous Basohli Painting from the Kathua district in Jammu and Kashmir has obtained the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag. This is the first time in the history of GI registration that the Jammu region got a GI tag for handicrafts. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Jammu granted the GI tag to Basohli Painting after a long legal process.

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