

**22<sup>nd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

# WEEKLY Current Affairs

For

**UPSC / RPSC**

and All Other Competitive

**EXAMS**

- ◆ Fifth Round of UDAN
- ◆ World Earth Day
- ◆ Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration
- ◆ Mehngai Rahat Camp
- ◆ Farm Machinery Technology Summit
- ◆ Russia's All-Out War Against Ukraine Spurs Increased Military Spending
- ◆ Advantage Healthcare India



**महंगाई राहत कैंप**  
24 अप्रैल से

- 1140 रु प्रति 500 रु में
- हर घर तक 100 बिजली फ्री
- किसानों को 2000 रु बिजली फ्री
- फ्री राशन
- 125 दिन का रोजगार या 1000 रु/माह बेरोजगारी भत्ता
- शहरी इंदिरा गांधी रोजगार गारंटी
- 500-750 रु व 1000 रु/माह कृषक पेंशन
- पशुपालकों को 40 हजार रु का पशु बीमा
- विमंजिवी दुर्घटना बीमा 10 लाख रु
- विमंजिवी बीमा 25 लाख रु



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## Current Affairs 22 April to 30 April 2023

### Brief:-

- Fifth Round of UDAN
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- The State of the World's Children 2023: For Every Child, Vaccination
- 2023 Sudan Conflict

# ACSA







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## Fifth Round of UDAN

- The Union Civil Aviation Ministry launched the fifth round of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), known as Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN). It is expected to further boost the connectivity to remote and regional areas across India.
- UDAN 5.0 focuses on Category-2 (20-80 seats) and Category-3 (>80 seats) flights, with no restrictions on the distance between the origin and destination.
- Viability gap funding (VGF) for both Priority and Non-Priority areas has been increased to 600 km stage length.
- Only Network and Individual Route Proposals proposed by airlines will be considered.
- After receiving the Letter of Award (LoA), airlines must submit an action/business plan within two months, including their aircraft acquisition plan, availability of aircraft, crew, slots, etc.
- Airlines cannot be awarded the same route more than once, whether in different networks or the same network.
- If the average quarterly PLF surpasses 75 percent for four continuous quarters, the exclusivity will be withdrawn to eliminate the instances of exploitation in a route for monopolization.
- Airlines must commence operations within four months of being awarded the route.
- The scheme includes a list of airports that are ready or will soon be ready for operations, making it easier to operationalize routes under the scheme.
- The process of transferring routes from one operator to another will be simplified and incentivized.

## UDAN 5.0: Vision and Benefits

UDAN has been beneficial for a diverse set of stakeholders, including passengers, airlines, and underserved regions. Passengers have gained access to air connectivity, airlines have received concessions for operating regional routes, and unserved regions have received direct and indirect benefits for their economic development. UDAN 5.0 aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of making air travel affordable and accessible to the common man.

Since its launch, UDAN has proven to be a lifeblood of many regions which are now well connected with places across the country. This new and stronger version of the scheme will raise the momentum, connecting new routes, and bring us closer to the target of operationalizing 1000 routes & 50 additional airports, heliports, and water aerodromes in the near future.

## What is SuperBIT?

SuperBIT is a state-of-the-art scientific instrument designed to measure precise weak gravitational lensing of galaxy clusters. As the joint project of Durham University, the University of Toronto, Princeton University, and NASA, SuperBIT aims to detect the presence and quantity of dark matter in galaxy clusters, as well as the large scale structure of the universe.

Compared to an equivalent satellite, SuperBIT is relatively inexpensive, with a cost of approximately £4.1million/\$5million USD. Despite its lower cost, SuperBIT has an impressive range of optical sensitivity, from the near-infrared (900 nm) to the near-ultraviolet (300 nm). Its unique operating altitude of 33.5 km above Earth's atmosphere allows it to achieve space-like performance and conditions.

The main objective of SuperBIT is to assess the characteristics of dark matter, an unseen and dense substance. By observing the way dark matter bends passing rays of light, scientists can map its distribution in galaxy clusters. During its first flight, SuperBIT intends to examine if dark matter particles can collide with each other by creating a map of the dark matter distribution around clusters of galaxies that are in the process of colliding with their neighboring clusters. SuperBIT maps the distribution of dark matter by observing how it bends the path of light. Through this technique, scientists can construct a map of the distribution of dark matter and gain insights into its true nature, which remains a mystery to scientists.





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## Antennae Galaxies and Tarantula Nebula

SuperBIT's first images, taken during its recent launch on April 16, 2023, include the Tarantula Nebula and the collision between the Antennae Galaxies. The Tarantula Nebula is a vast star-forming region of ionized hydrogen gas, located 161,000 light-years from Earth in the Large Magellanic Cloud. The bright, newly formed stars within the region are surrounded by swirling clouds of dust and gas that seem to be turbulent. The Antennae Galaxies, NGC 4038 and NGC 4039, are two large galaxies colliding 60 million light-years away towards the southerly constellation of Corvus.

## World Earth Day

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated on April 22nd, observed across 193 countries worldwide. It aims to encourage people to come together for environmental protection and raise awareness about the urgent need to address climate change. The first Earth Day was celebrated in the United States in 1970, and since then, it has grown into a global movement with various events and campaigns organized by committees and organizations.

Earth Week, celebrated from April 16th to 22nd every year, is an unofficial extended celebration of Earth Day. It is dedicated to educating people about Earth Day, climate change, and the need to take steps towards environmental conservation. Earth Week provides an opportunity to initiate conversations, raise awareness, and take meaningful actions to protect our planet. It is a time to come together and amplify the campaign for environmental sustainability.

## World Earth Day 2023: Theme

The theme for World Earth Day 2023 is "Invest in Our Planet", which is a continuation of the 2022 theme. This theme emphasizes the importance of investing in efforts to save our planet on a global scale. The five feature programs of the Earth Day 2023 theme are Sustainable Fashion, The Great Global Cleanup, Canopy Project, Climate and Environmental Literacy, and Food and Environment, and the Global Earth Challenge. These programs aim to raise awareness, promote sustainable practices, and empower individuals and communities to take action for the environment.

## History and Significance of Earth Day

Peace activist John McConnell conceptualized Earth Day in 1969 at a UNESCO Conference. The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22nd, 1970, in the United States as a way to raise awareness about environmental issues and advocate for environmental protection. In 1990, Earth Day went global with the participation of 141 countries in various events and activities. In 2016, Earth Day gained further significance with the signing of the Paris Agreement, an intergovernmental treaty for climate protection. In 2020, Earth Day celebrated its 50th anniversary, showcasing the long-standing impact and importance of this global movement.

## National Civil Services Day

National Civil Services Day is annually celebrated in India on 21st April. It recognizes the contribution of civil servants towards the development of the country.

April 21 was chosen as the date for National Civil Services Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first Home Minister of India. He is widely known as the 'Iron Man of India' and played a key role in the integration of the princely states into the Indian Union. Patel's efforts to unite the country are remembered every year on this day as civil servants across the nation celebrate their contributions to the country.

## History of National Civil Services Day

The first National Civil Services Day was celebrated on April 21, 2006. It was chosen to honor Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and to recognize the efforts of civil servants in providing essential services to the people of India. The day reminds the importance of public service and encourages civil servants to continue serving the public with commitment and dedication.

## Significance of National Civil Services Day

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National Civil Services Day is a day to recognize and appreciate the civil servants' efforts towards India's development. It serves as a reminder of the importance of public service and encourages civil servants to continue serving the people with dedication and commitment.

## **Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration**

The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration is a recognition program for extraordinary and innovative work done by districts and organizations of central and state governments for the welfare of the people. The awards aim to motivate public servants to enhance accountability, transparency, and innovation in their work by recognizing their efforts towards providing better governance. They were recently conferred at the National Civil Services Day event in New Delhi.

In October 2021, the Indian government launched the PM Gati Shakti national master plan initiative to develop critical infrastructure projects for integrated and planned development. The initiative aims to reduce logistics costs and improve connectivity and accessibility. It received the award for excellence in public administration under the innovation (centre) category.

## **J&K's Mission Youth Initiative**

The 'Mission Youth' initiative by Jammu and Kashmir administration received the award in the innovation (state) category. It is an inter-social initiative that seeks to empower youth in the union territory.

## **National Covid-19 Vaccination Programme**

The Union Health Ministry's National Covid-19 Vaccination Programme was awarded the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2022 in the innovation category. Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan received the award on behalf of the ministry.

## **Anakapalli District and Swasth Bharat**

Anakapalli district in Andhra Pradesh received the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2022 for promoting Swasth Bharat (Healthy Bharat) through Health and Wellness Centres. The selection criterion for the district was based on its efforts towards promoting health and wellness.

## **Changlang District's New Age Learning Centre (NALC)**

Changlang district in Arunachal Pradesh received the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration for its innovative New Age Learning Centre (NALC). The NALC is a futuristic learning space-cum-library, conceptualized by Sunny K. Singh, the district's Deputy Commissioner. The NALC aims to provide people of all age groups with the opportunity to learn and improve every aspect of their personality.

## **Latur District's 'Arogyavardhni' Centres**

Latur district in Maharashtra received the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration in recognition of its innovative scheme, 'Sanjivani Abhiyan,' implemented for cancer diagnosis. The 'Arogyavardhni' (wellness) centres set up by the district provide health check-ups for pregnant women, children, adolescent girls, and treatment for infectious diseases, cancer, and diabetes.

## **PSLV-C55/TeLEOS-2 Mission**

Recently, ISRO successfully launched the PSLV-C55/TeLEOS-2 mission to send two Singapore-made satellite into space. An Orbital Experimental module was also launched as part of this mission to carry out tests in the space vacuum.

TeLEOS-2 and Lumelite-4 are the two Singapore-made satellites that were launched aboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. TeLEOS-2, weighing 741 kg, is a commercial Earth Observation satellite developed by the Government of Singapore and Singapore Technologies Engineering Limited.







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Lumelite-4, on the other hand, is a small, 16 kg satellite developed by the Singapore-based ST Engineering Geo-Insights Pte Ltd, with the purpose of augmenting the maritime safety of the city-state.

## **PSLV-C55 Mission**

The PSLV-C55 mission, under which the two satellites were launched, is significant in more ways than one. It marks ISRO's first commercial mission of the year 2022, and also its first mission to use the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) – a spent fourth stage of the launch vehicle that has been repurposed as an experimental platform for scientific experiments. The POEM is carrying seven non-separable payloads, including the Navigation Guidance and Control (NGC) system, which will be used for attitude stabilization, and the Starberry Sense Payload developed by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, which is a low-cost device to accurately identify and measure star positions in space. Other payloads carried by the POEM include PiLOT (PSLV In orbital Obc and Thermals), an OBC package from IIST; ARIS-2 (Advanced Retarding Potential analyser for Ionospheric Studies) experiment from IIST; HET-based ARKA200 Electric Propulsion System from Bellatrix; DSOD-3U and DSOD-6U deployer units along with the DSOL-Transceiver in S- & X- bands from Dhruva Space.

## **PiLOT Payload and ARKA200 Electric Propulsion System Payload**

The PSLV In orbital Obc and Thermals (PiLOT) payload's purpose is to test the On-Board Computer and thermal environment in space. The HET-based ARKA200 Electric Propulsion System payload, developed by Bellatrix, is a technology demonstration mission aimed at testing the performance of an advanced electric propulsion system for future missions.

## **Nagastra 1**

The Indian Army has recently made significant progress in the field of defence by signing a contract to purchase over 450 completely indigenous Nagastra-1 loitering munitions. Developed by Economic Explosives Ltd (EEL), a subsidiary of Solar Industries, in collaboration with Z-Motion from Bangalore, Nagastra-1 is a game-changer for India's defence industry, surpassing competitors from Israel and Poland to secure the contract.

Nagastra-1 is an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) of choice for loitering munitions with advanced features such as abort, recover, and reuse capabilities. Its superior features make it stand out amongst similar systems developed by more technologically advanced countries. Nagastra-1 is a significant accomplishment for India's defence industry and aligns well with the 'Make-in-India' initiative.

Solar Industries Nagpur, a leading company in India's defence industry, has secured the contract to provide Nagastra-1 to the Indian Army. The company's push for self-reliance in ammunition and defence systems has resulted in the development of the first domestic Loiter Munition (LM). This milestone achievement was made possible through the collaboration between Economic Explosives Ltd (EEL) and Z-Motion.

## **Emergency Procurement Provisions and Delivery Timeline**

The Indian Army has signed the contract for the acquisition of Nagastra-1 under the emergency procurement provisions, which must be delivered within one year. These emergency procurement deals can have a maximum value of ₹300 crores, reflecting the urgency and priority given to indigenous defence products in emergency situations. Such measures promote self-reliance and reduce dependence on foreign sources.

## **Boosting Indigenous Capability with Weaponised Drones**

Solar Industries has undertaken the task of creating a diverse range of weaponized drones, among which is the Nagastra-1. These drones possess the ability to neutralize a range of targets by means of gravity drop bombs, guided missiles, or by utilizing the Kamikaze mode. This showcases the company's commitment to enhancing the indigenous capability of using drones/UAVs as war machinery. The successful development and acquisition of Nagastra-1 by the Indian Army is a significant step towards achieving self-reliance in ammunition and defence systems.

## **Demonstrated Effectiveness of Drone Technology in Military Operations**





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The effectiveness of drone technology as a force multiplier in military operations has been demonstrated worldwide. Recent conflicts, such as those in Syria, the one between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the attack on oilfields in Saudi Arabia, and the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, have emphasized the critical role of drones in contemporary warfare. The acquisition of Nagastra-1 by the Indian Army signifies the country's commitment to staying at par with global advancements in defence technology and leveraging indigenous capabilities.

## **National Panchayati Raj Day –**

National Panchayati Raj Day is a significant day observed on April 24 every year in India. It marks the day in 1993, when the Panchayati Raj system with constitutional status in India.

The Panchayati Raj system has its roots in ancient India, dating back to around 300 BCE. The word “panchayat” has its origins in Sanskrit, where “panch” denotes “five” and “ayat” represents “assembly”. During the Mauryan period, the administration was decentralized, and local self-government was the norm. The Panchayati Raj system was initially implemented in modern India in 1959 under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru's government. However, it was only in 1993, with the 73rd Amendment to the Indian Constitution, that the system was granted constitutional status.

## **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)**

The PRIs, which are the third level of governance in India, are accountable for governing rural areas at the local level. The 73rd Amendment required the establishment of a three-level system of PRIs at the village, block, and district levels. The PRIs have a significant role in promoting rural development by executing government schemes and programs at the local level. They also guarantee that women and underprivileged sectors of society are involved in the decision-making process.

## **Significance of National Panchayati Raj Day**

National Panchayati Raj Day is significant as it highlights the importance of grassroots-level democracy and local self-government in India. This occasion offers a chance to evaluate the advancements made in executing the Panchayati Raj framework and recognize regions that need to be enhanced. Additionally, the day acknowledges the role of Panchayati Raj establishments in enhancing rural areas' growth.

## **Theme for National Panchayati Raj Day 2023**

The theme for National Panchayati Raj Day 2023 is “Sustainable Panchayat: Building Healthy, Water Sufficient, Clean & Green Villages.” The objective of the theme is to encourage the sustainable growth of rural regions by ensuring access to unpolluted water, promoting healthy habits, and establishing an environment that is both hygienic and environmentally friendly. The theme emphasizes the need for PRIs to focus on sustainable development and the role they can play in achieving this goal.

## **Mehngai Rahat Camp'**

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is set to inaugurate the 'Mehngai Rahat Camp' on April 24 at Mahapura village panchayat of Sanganer. The camp, which will continue till June 30 this year, aims to provide relief to the general public and deprived sections from rising prices and inflation.

The main objective of the Mehngai Rahat Camp, as stated by the Chief Minister, is to empower the common people. Through the camp, the government aims to provide complete information about rights, schemes, and eligibility to the general public and deprived sections. The camp will act as a platform to connect people with the public welfare schemes of the state government, providing relief from inflation and rising prices.

## **Welfare Schemes**

The Mehngai Rahat Camp will provide 10 public welfare schemes to the common people. These schemes are aimed at benefiting various sections of society, including farmers, landless laborers, and agriculture course graduate unemployed youths. The state government has allocated ₹592 crore under various schemes for farmers' welfare, including provisions





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for spraying nano urea by drone, grants to landless laborers for purchasing manual agricultural machinery, and providing agricultural machinery to farmers.

## Registration and Camp Details

Registration has been made mandatory for joining the 10 public welfare schemes run by the state government. The camps will be set up at around 2,000 permanent inflation relief camps in government offices and public places across districts. For the convenience of the common people, registration can be done in camps of other districts through the Rajasthan government's Jan Aadhar card.

## 100 Food Streets

The Union Health Ministry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, has launched a unique initiative to develop 100 food streets in 100 districts across the country. This pilot project aims to promote safe and healthy practices to reduce food-borne illnesses and improve overall health outcomes for citizens. The initiative also aims to boost the economy, create local employment opportunities, and enhance tourism potential.

The food streets initiative will be implemented through the National Health Mission (NHM) in convergence with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and with technical support from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Under the National Health Mission (NHM), States and Union Territories in India will receive financial aid of ₹1 crore for each food street or district. The ratio of financial assistance will be either 60:40 or 90:10, with the requirement that the food streets follow FSSAI guidelines for standard branding. The FSSAI will oversee the implementation of the project and provide technical support. This ensures that the food streets maintain the highest standards of hygiene and safety.

## Aim and Benefits of the Initiative

The aim of the food streets initiative is to promote safe and healthy practices to reduce food-borne illnesses and improve overall health outcomes. By providing easy access to safe and hygienic food, the initiative aims to encourage citizens to make healthier food choices. In addition to improving public health, the initiative also has several other benefits. It will boost the economy by creating local employment opportunities and enhancing tourism potential. Moreover, it will improve the hygiene credibility of local food businesses, thereby promoting the "eat right campaign" and food safety.

## Other Initiatives Associated with the Project

Apart from financial assistance, the food streets initiative also includes other important initiatives. The Health Ministry has directed Municipal Corporations and District Collectors to lead the effort in aligning financial resources and physical infrastructure to facilitate the project's smooth implementation. Moreover, several activities such as training of food handlers, independent third-party audits, certification of Eat Right Street Food Hubs, and establishing a standard protocol for modernizing food streets will be undertaken. These measures will improve the safety and hygiene standards of the food streets. Additionally, training of food handlers, independent third-party audits, certification of Eat Right Street Food Hubs, and developing a standard procedure for modernization of food streets will be undertaken as part of the initiative. This will further enhance the safety and hygiene standards of the food streets.

## Training Programmes for Street Vendors

States and Union Territories have the opportunity to conduct training programmes for street vendors on food safety, maintenance of hygiene, and waste disposal. This will help street vendors to adopt safe and hygienic practices in their food businesses, thereby contributing to the overall success of the food streets initiative.

## Exercise INIOCHOS-23

Exercise INIOCHOS-23 is a multi-national air exercise hosted by the Greece Air Force, in which the Indian Air Force (IAF) will be participating. It is one of the three exercises that the IAF will be taking part in simultaneously, along with Exercise







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Cope India with the U.S. underway at Kalaikunda and a multilateral exercise Orion hosted by France, in which four Rafale fighters are participating. Exercise INIOCHOS-23 will be held at the Andravida Air Base in Greece from April 24 to May 4.

Exercise INIOCHOS-23's goal is to strengthen international cooperation, synergy, and interoperability amongst the participating Air Forces. The exercise provides a platform for different countries to come together, share their knowledge, expertise, and best practices, and learn from each other's experiences. Through professional interactions, the participating contingents can engage in valuable exchanges, which provide insights into each other's best practices, and foster mutual understanding and cooperation among the air forces of different nations.

Exercise INIOCHOS-23 will be conducted in a realistic combat scenario that involves multiple types of air and surface assets. This scenario allows the participating air forces to test their capabilities, tactics, and strategies in a challenging environment, and enables them to refine their skills and techniques. The exercise provides an opportunity for the IAF to showcase its capabilities and demonstrate its professionalism on an international stage.

## **IAF's Participation**

The IAF will be taking part in Exercise INIOCHOS-23 with four Su-30 MKI aircraft and two C-17 aircraft. The Su-30 MKI is a state-of-the-art multi-role fighter aircraft known for its versatility, speed, and agility. The C-17 aircraft is a strategic airlifter that can transport heavy equipment, troops, and cargo over long distances. The participation of these advanced aircraft in Exercise INIOCHOS-23 highlights the IAF's commitment to enhancing its operational capabilities and interoperability with other air forces.

## **Global Buddhist Conference and the New Delhi Declaration**

The Global Buddhist Summit 2023 was held in New Delhi and concluded successfully with the New Delhi Declaration. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the two-day summit on 20th April 2023, which focused on modes of disseminating and internalizing universal values to address global challenges and offer a sustainable model for the future of the world. The Declaration reinforces the points highlighted by the Prime Minister in his opening address, emphasizing the need for peace, harmony, and universal values in today's world.

According to the Declaration, peace is the foundation for human happiness and well-being. The teachings, principles, and ideology of Buddha Dhamma are regarded as the most effective direction for fostering interfaith communication, unity, and global tranquility. The Declaration calls upon all nations, organizations, and individuals to work towards creating a world free from conflict, violence, and war. It recognizes that peace is essential to be free from conflict, ill-feeling, greed, selfishness, and uncertainty of life in the present world scenario.

## **Addressing Environmental Degradation**

The Declaration recognizes that the deterioration of the environment is among the most critical issues confronting humankind in the present time. It encourages both individuals and governments to actively work towards diminishing carbon emissions, conserving biodiversity, and safeguarding natural resources to ensure their availability for future generations. The Declaration affirms the commitment to protect the environment and promote sustainable development.

## **Promoting Well-being**

The Declaration recognizes that genuine happiness stems from inner calmness and satisfaction. It motivates individuals to foster mindfulness, empathy, and sagacity, which are vital for fostering happiness and a state of good health. The teachings of Buddha Dhamma are seen as a source of guidance in this regard.

## **Significance of Buddhist Pilgrimage**

The Declaration acknowledges the importance of Buddhist pilgrimage as an active legacy that fosters spiritual development, cultural comprehension, and societal concord. It appeals to governments to conserve and safeguard the





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revered locations of Buddhism and enhance their availability to people of diverse backgrounds. Buddhist pilgrimage is seen as a means of fostering unity and understanding among diverse communities.

## **Paradigm Shift in Human Attitude towards Nature**

The Declaration stresses the necessity of a fundamental alteration in the way humans perceive and approach nature. By drawing upon the Buddha's teachings, the Declaration accentuates the responsibility that members of the Sangha, Buddhist leaders, scholars, adherents, and establishments can assume in tackling the various challenges confronting the planet today for the betterment of all living creatures. The continuation of the annual Global Buddhist Summit is seen as an important step in this direction.

## **Preserving Value Education and Character Building**

The Declaration refers to Nalanda, which was one of the most prominent centers of Dhamma education for around seven centuries, spanning from the 5th to the 12th century AD. It precedes the modern system of university education and was famous for value education and character building. The Declaration underscores the importance of inculcating these values among youths to rejuvenate society towards the concept of "Vasudeva Kutumbakam", which means the world is one family. This will help promote a sense of community and a common purpose among individuals.

## **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)**

The BCAS was established as a Cell in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in January 1978 following the hijacking of an Indian Airlines flight in September 1976. The primary role of the cell was to manage and train personnel on Civil Aviation Security matters. In April 1987, the BCAS became an independent department under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in response to the Kanishka Tragedy in June 1985.

## **Responsibilities of BCAS**

One of the key duties of BCAS is to create aviation security standards in compliance with Annex 17 to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)'s Chicago Convention for airlines and airport operators, as well as their security agencies, responsible for implementing AVSEC measures. The BCAS also monitors the implementation of security regulations and carries out assessments to determine security requirements. The bureau ensures that security staff receives appropriate training and necessary competencies to perform their duties.

In addition, BCAS is responsible for coordinating and planning aviation security matters, including conducting surprise and dummy checks to evaluate the proficiency and alertness of security personnel. The bureau also conducts mock exercises to test the effectiveness of contingency plans and the operational preparedness of various agencies.

## **37th Raising Day Commemoration in New Delhi**

Recently, BCAS celebrated its 37th raising day in New Delhi. During the inaugural session of the two-day program, the Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Gen. Dr. V.K. Singh (Retd.), presented awards to the best screeners in different categories. The Minister also conferred awards on BCAS officers with the President's Police Medal for distinguished service on Republic Day 2022 and the Police Medal for meritorious service on Republic Day 2023. The Secretary MoCA, Shri Rajiv Bansal, and the DG BCAS, Shri Zulfikar Hasan, also addressed the program, emphasizing the importance of security in the aviation sector and BCAS's role in making aviation zero error.

## **Farm Machinery Technology Summit**

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized the third edition of the Summit on Farm Machinery Technology, which was held at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi from 27-28 April 2023 in physical format. The previous two editions of the summit were conducted virtually, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The recent edition was held in physical format.

## **Objective of the CII Summit on Farm Machinery Technology**





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The objective of the CII Summit on Farm Machinery Technology is to address the challenges faced by the sector and chart a growth path for it. Farm mechanization is an important aspect of agriculture, as it enhances productivity and availability of food grains, increases agriculture exports, mitigates labour shortage and facilitates judicious use of scarce natural resources. The Indian Government has set an ambitious target of doubling the availability of farm power to 4.0 KW per ha by the end of 2030, which presents a tremendous opportunity for all stakeholders in the sector.

## **Stakeholders in the farm machinery sector**

The stakeholders in the farm machinery sector include original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), policy makers, technology suppliers, and product development & design firms. These stakeholders play a crucial role in driving innovation, technology adoption, and policy implementation to ensure the growth of the sector.

## **Impediments to the growth of the farm machinery sector**

Despite the immense potential of the farm machinery sector, there are several impediments that need to be addressed. These include small and fragmented farms, outdated farming practices, limited investing capacity of farmers, and lack of suitable machinery. The CII Summit on Farm Machinery Technology provides a platform to deliberate on these issues and find solutions to overcome them.

## **Key Decisions at Army Commanders Conference 2023**

The Indian Army recently concluded its Army Commanders Conference (ACC), which was held from April 17-21. The conference was attended by the Army Commanders, Director-General of Military Operations, and various other senior officers. It was held in a hybrid mode for the first time, with both in-person and virtual participation.

The aim of the conference was to review and discuss the Army's operational preparedness and modernization plans. Several major decisions were taken during the conference, including the induction of a large number and variety of niche tech-enabled equipment, such as drones, electronic warfare, and anti-drone apparatus.

The decision to activate the Command Cyber Operations and Support Wings (CCOSWs) was made during the Army Commanders' Conference, taking into consideration the needs of the grey zone and the disclosure of cyber warfare capabilities. This unit will aid formations in carrying out necessary cybersecurity tasks to enhance the Indian Army's cybersecurity position. The aim of raising CCOSWs is to strengthen the cyber security posture of the Army and safeguard the networks.

## **TES Model Changes**

The Technical Entry Scheme (TES) model for officers' entry as B.Tech graduates has undergone changes. The current TES model has been converted from a five-year model to a four-year (3+1) model, with the duration of technical training at Cadet Training Wings (CTWs) under the new TES model being three years. Basic Military Training (BMT) will be conducted at IMA, Dehradun under the new TES model.

## **Training for Paralympic Events**

The leadership and organization are responsible for the well-being of soldiers and therefore, it was decided to train certain enthusiastic soldiers in nine different sports events, including Paralympic sports, using the facilities available at the Army Sports and Mission Olympic Nodes. This is aimed at harnessing the unbeatable determination and "never give up" attitude of soldiers.

## **Lead Directorates and Test Bed Formations**

The Army is setting up Lead Directorates and Test Bed formations to evolve optimal employment philosophies and scaling to facilitate better exploitation of futuristic technologies pan Army. This initiative is aimed at enabling the Army to keep up with the latest technologies and stay ahead of its adversaries.

## **World Development Report 2023: Migrants, Refugees, and Societies**







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The world population has reached eight billion and is expected to grow for decades, but many countries are facing a sharp drop in working-age adults. The competition for workers and talent will intensify globally, and many countries will be reliant on migration to realise their long-term growth potential. A recent report from the World Bank, titled “World Development Report 2023: Migrants, Refugees, and Societies”, proposes policies for better migration management in destination, transit and origin countries, underscoring its urgency.

## **Match-Motive Framework**

The report introduces the “Match-Motive Framework,” a labour economics-based approach that emphasizes how well migrants’ skills and attributes match the needs of the destination countries. The framework also considers the reasons why migrants move in search of opportunity and determines the extent to which migrants, origin countries and destination countries gain from migration. The framework combines “match” and “motive” to determine policy priorities for countries of origin, transit, destination, and the global community.

## **Policies for Origin and Destination Countries**

The World Bank report suggests that origin countries should make labour migration an explicit part of their development strategy. At the same time, it is suggested that the countries of destination promote migration in sectors where migrant skills are highly sought after, make efforts to integrate them into their society, and tackle social consequences that may worry their citizens. The report also calls for international cooperation and multilateral efforts to strengthen the match of migrants’ skills with the needs of destination societies.

## **Population Shifts**

Many low-income countries are anticipated to experience a surge in population, which will exert pressure on them to generate additional employment opportunities for the youth. However, developing and impoverished nations such as India are observing an increase in the number of young people, while developed countries have already surpassed this stage, as they are experiencing depopulation. Spain, with a population of 47 million, is predicted to reduce by over one-third by 2100, with people aged 65 and above accounting for a greater proportion of the population, escalating from 20 per cent to 39 per cent. As their populations are no longer expanding, countries like Mexico, Thailand, Tunisia, and Türkiye might soon require more foreign workers.

## **The Big Catch-up**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a major disruption in healthcare services, with more than 100 countries registering a drop in immunization levels. This has resulted in a crisis where around 75% of children have missed essential immunization against preventable but critical diseases in 2021. A targeted global initiative named The Big Catch-up has been implemented by a consortium of organizations such as the World Health Organization, UNICEF, Gavi the Vaccine Alliance, and Immunization Agenda 2030, among other public health organizations, to elevate vaccination levels among children, as they have dropped due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to the pandemic, health services were overburdened, leading to the shutdown of clinics and causing disturbances in the transportation of medical supplies such as vials, syringes, and other equipment. Furthermore, strict lockdown measures, travel restrictions, and depleting financial and human resources further compounded access to healthcare. The disruption has already led to outbreaks of diseases like measles, diphtheria, polio, and yellow fever becoming more prevalent and severe.

## **Countries Showing Progress**

While the pandemic has derailed immunization efforts, some countries have already shown considerable progress. For instance, India managed to record a strong recovery in essential vaccines in 2022, Uganda stood out by maintaining high immunization levels in the early years of the pandemic, while Kenya has targeted its approach to address immunization needs of the country’s northern nomadic populations.





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## The Big Catch-up

The Big Catch-Up will pay special attention to the 20 countries home to a majority of the children who have missed their vaccine doses. The plan's salient features include strengthening health care workforces, improving health service delivery, building trust and demand for vaccines within communities, and addressing gaps and obstacles to restoring immunization.

## Advantage Healthcare India

The upcoming 6th edition of Advantage Healthcare India (AHCI) 2023, also referred to as One Earth One Health, will be addressed virtually by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The event will take place on April 26 and 27, and will be held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, the national capital. The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, in partnership with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), is organizing the AHCI event to encourage the export of medical services from India and to present the nation as the new center of medical value travel.

### Significance of Advantage Healthcare India (AHCI):

Highlighting the Purpose of the International Summit

The international summit on medical value travel, Advantage Healthcare India (AHCI), is aimed at promoting the export of medical services from India. India has emerged as a major hub for world-class healthcare and wellness services, and this event seeks to showcase the country's potential in the medical sector. With the participation of countries from regions such as Africa, the Middle East, CIS, SAARC, and ASEAN, the summit aims to create opportunities for healthcare collaborations between participating countries. This event serves as a platform for healthcare providers from India to connect with foreign participants and explore potential collaborations.

### Co-Branding and Participants of the Summit

The 6th edition of Advantage Healthcare India 2023 (One Earth One Health) is co-branded with the Indian G20 Presidency, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) is actively involved in organizing the event. The summit is expected to witness the participation of more than 200 exhibitors, showcasing the latest advancements in the medical field, and over 500 hosted foreign delegates from 70+ countries. Additionally, the summit will be attended by Health Ministers from various countries, including Bangladesh, Armenia, Bhutan, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Maldives, Nigeria, Russia, and Somalia. Other dignitaries from ten countries, as well as foreign business delegates from Government, private hospitals, and medical facilitators, are also expected to participate.

### Significance of Advantage Healthcare India (AHCI):

The Advantage Healthcare India (AHCI) event holds immense significance as it showcases India as the New Hub of Medical Value Travel. With its world-class healthcare and wellness services, India has emerged as a prominent destination for medical value travel, attracting patients from across the globe. The summit provides a unique platform for healthcare providers from India to connect with international delegates and explore collaborations to further enhance the medical potential of the country. Through Reverse Buyer Seller Meetings and scheduled B-2-B meetings with hosted delegates from over 70 designated countries, the event aims to promote medical tourism and collaborations in the healthcare sector.

## World Intellectual Property Day

World Intellectual Property Day is observed annually on April 26th with the primary objective of promoting awareness of intellectual property and its safeguarding.

### Origins and Establishment of World Intellectual Property Day

The concept for World Intellectual Property Day was first proposed during the 33rd Assembly Session of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Member States in September 1988. It was officially established on August 9th, 1999, coinciding with WIPO's 30th founding anniversary. The inaugural celebration of World IP Day took place in the year 2000, with 59 member countries participating in the event. Over the years, the number of countries commemorating this





event gradually increased to 189 by 2022, highlighting the growing global awareness about the importance of intellectual property protection.

### **Purpose of World Intellectual Property Day**

The primary objective of observing World Intellectual Property Day is to create consciousness about the significance of protecting intellectual property. It serves as a platform to emphasize the importance of intellectual property protection and to generate awareness about copyrights, patents, trademarks, and other related subjects. Public outreach campaigns are organized on this day to educate people about the importance of intellectual property protection and promote understanding of intellectual property concepts.

### **Theme for the 2023 Celebration**

Every year, WIPO declares a new theme for World Intellectual Property Day to inspire women creators, entrepreneurs, and inventors. The theme for the 2023 celebration of World Intellectual Property Day is "Women and IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity." This theme aims to emphasize the crucial role of women in propelling innovation and creativity forward and recognizes their contributions to the field of intellectual property.

### **Role of Creators in World Intellectual Property Day**

Creators play a significant role in the celebration of World Intellectual Property Day. This day celebrates creators across the world and their contributions to the development of their respective regions. It recognizes their efforts in creating original works, inventions, and innovations, and the importance of protecting their intellectual property rights. Creators are encouraged to share their stories and experiences, inspiring others to create and innovate while respecting intellectual property rights.

### **Latest SIPRI Report**

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) is a world-renowned think tank that specializes in research and analysis of security issues. Established in 1966, SIPRI conducts independent research on issues related to peace, conflict, and security. The institute publishes various reports and databases, including its flagship publication, the SIPRI Yearbook. A new data released by SIPRI revealed a surge in defence spending.

According to SIPRI's latest data, global military expenditure increased by 3.7% year-on-year, reaching \$2.3 trillion. This is the biggest jump since 2009, and the total spending is now 10% higher than in 2012.

### **Russia's All-Out War Against Ukraine Spurs Increased Military Spending.**

The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has led to increased military spending by European countries. Many European nations are rethinking their defense budgets and increasing their investment in defense capabilities due to Russia's aggression. Russia's behavior has raised concerns about the security of European nations, especially those that are NATO members.

### **NATO's Defense Spending Goal**

In 2014, NATO members agreed to meet the target of spending 2% of their national GDP on defense by 2024. The goal was set to ensure that NATO members could collectively deter and defend against any potential threats.

### **Russian Threat in Cyberspace**

While the Russian threat has not materialized as expected, experts warn that Russia could be a potent adversary in cyberspace. Russia has been accused of engaging in cyberattacks against other countries' infrastructure, such as the United States' colonial pipeline.

### **Defense Spending Compared to GDP**







In 2022, the share of GDP spent on defense was 0.1% lower compared to 2013. However, countries such as China, India, and Israel have seen double-digit increases in defense spending over the past decade, though defense spending has not increased as a percentage of their national economic output.

## The “Lag Effect” in Defense Spending

One important consideration when assessing the effectiveness of defense spending is the “lag effect.” Weapon systems take years to develop, procure, and press into service, which means that it can take time for the effects of increased defense spending to be fully realized. Additionally, defense ministries spend their budget not only on buying new weapons and upgrading fighting forces, but also on employing personnel, administration, and military aid.

## Rang Ghar

Rang Ghar is a two-storeyed building located in the northeastern state of Assam, India. The building has a rich history and served as a royal sports pavilion during the reign of the Ahom kings and nobles. The amphitheater is situated three kilometers away from the center of Sivasagar Town, by the side of the Assam Trunk Road.

amphitheaters in Asia that has managed to survive over time. It was originally built during the era of Swargadeo Rudra Singha, and the primary building materials used in its construction were bamboo and wood. Later, Swargadeo Pramatta Singha rebuilt the structure with brick between 1744-1751 AD. The unique construction techniques and prominent architectural features of Rang Ghar showcase the rich heritage of Assamese culture and architecture.

## Tourist Development Plan for Rang Ghar by the Assam Government

The Assam government has proposed a plan to develop 26 acres on the northwest side of Rang Ghar as an international tourist destination. The 124-crore project includes an artisan village, guest house, tourist information center, amphitheater, boat house, and sound and light show. The primary objective of the project is to encourage local artisans and craftsmen to showcase their handicraft products, traditional dresses, and local cuisines to the tourists.

## The State of the World’s Children 2023: For Every Child, Vaccination

The UNICEF recently unveiled its global flagship report, ‘The State of the World’s Children 2023: For Every Child, Vaccination,’ which provides a comprehensive overview of vaccine confidence and coverage around the world. The report highlights some worrying trends, including a decline in vaccine confidence in over a third of the 55 countries studied, with some notable exceptions.

China, India, and Mexico were among the countries that saw an improvement in vaccine perception, according to the report. This positive trend indicates the success of political and social commitment to vaccination drives.

## Backslide in Childhood Immunization

The pandemic interrupted childhood vaccination almost everywhere, resulting in the largest sustained backslide in childhood immunization in 30 years. Factors such as access to misleading information and declining trust in vaccine efficacy have contributed to the growing threat of vaccine hesitancy.

## Missed Vaccinations

The UNICEF report revealed that 67 million children missed out on vaccinations between 2019 and 2021, with the coverage levels decreasing in 112 countries. The number of measles cases doubled in 2022 compared to the previous year, and the number of children paralysed by polio was up 16% year-on-year in 2022.

## Vaccination Efforts in Maharashtra

The Maharashtra government has a robust vaccination program that vaccinates nearly 2 million infants and 2.1 million pregnant women every year with routine immunization vaccines. The full immunization coverage of the state in the year 2022-23 is 100%, a testament to the government’s political and social commitment.





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## **Vaccine Confidence in India**

India has been highlighted in the report as one of the countries with the highest vaccine confidence globally. The report recognizes the success of the vaccine drive during the pandemic, which has built confidence and strengthened routine immunization systems to vaccinate every child.

## **2023 Sudan Conflict**

Sudan has been engulfed in a violent conflict between its military and paramilitary forces since April this year. The ongoing battle has led to at least 420 deaths, with many more injured and displaced.

The conflict began on April 15, 2023, when the military and paramilitary forces clashed in the capital city of Khartoum. The unrest was sparked by the growing ambition of Rapid Support Force (RSF) head, Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, who sought to lead Sudan. His ambition put him at odds with Army chief Lt Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, leading to a fallout between the two.

## **The Janjaweed Militias**

To understand the origins of the conflict, it is important to look at the Janjaweed militias. The Janjaweed militias were first armed and organized in the early 1980s by the Sudanese government. Their main purpose was to help the government expand its influence in neighboring civil-war-torn Chad.

The militias gained global prominence in 2003 when they were accused of committing genocide in Darfur. The conflict between 2003 and 2008 resulted in an estimated 300,000 deaths. The United States government, led by President George Bush, declared the violence in Darfur as "genocide" in 2007.

## **Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo and the Rapid Support Forces**

Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, also known as Hemetti, became the head of the Rapid Support Forces in 2013. Since then, the RSF has expanded its political and economic influence by partnering with the Russian mercenary Wagner Group to mine the vast gold reserves in Sudan.

With an estimated number of fighters ranging from 70,000 to 150,000, the RSF holds a significant position in Sudan. The increasing influence and power of the RSF, combined with the aspirations of Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemetti) to lead Sudan, have created a rift between him and Army chief Lt Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, ultimately resulting in the ongoing conflict.

# ACSA

