

Weekly Current Affairs 01<sup>st</sup> April to 06<sup>th</sup> April 2024 - English

## National News

**Dr. Manmohan Singh to Retire from Rajya Sabha**  
**Dr. Manmohan Singh**, former **Prime Minister of India**, **retire** from the **Rajya Sabha**, marking the end of his **three-decade-long tenure** in the **Upper House**.

## International News

**UN Appoints Saudi Arabia to Lead Women's Rights Forum Despite Criticism**

Saudi Arabia has been chosen to chair the **UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**, despite widespread criticism due to its poor record on **women's rights**. The appointment of **Saudi Ambassador Abdulaziz Alwasil** has sparked outrage from human rights groups, given the stark disparity between the kingdom's actions and the commission's mandate to promote gender equality.

**Indian Engineering Exports Surge: UAE, Russia, and Saudi Arabia Lead the Way**

India's engineering exports soared by **15.9% year over year in February 2024**, marking the third consecutive month of growth and reaching a **record high of \$9.94 billion for the fiscal year 2023-2024**. Notably, this growth surpassed December 2023 figures.

**Congo Appoints First Female Prime Minister Amid Eastern Violence**

The Democratic Republic of Congo has appointed **Judith Suminwa Tuluka** as the country's **first female Prime Minister**. This move by President Felix Tshisekedi fulfills a campaign promise and comes at a time of **worsening violence** in the mineral-rich **eastern region** bordering Rwanda.

**Veteran Dealmaker Atul Mehra Joins Axis Capital as MD & CEO**

**Axis Capital** has appointed **Atul Mehra** as the new **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**. His appointment is waiting for final approval. Mehra will be overseeing both the **investment banking** and **institutional equities** businesses at Axis Capital. Atul Mehra is an experienced dealmaker with over **30 years** of experience in the industry. He was previously the Joint MD at **JM Financial**.

**Sanjay Nayar Appointed as New ASSOCHAM President**  
The **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)**, a prominent **industry chamber**, has appointed **Sanjay Nayar** as its new **President**. Nayar has replaced **Ajay Singh**, the Co-Founder of **SpiceJet** airline, whose tenure has ended.

**Lt Gen JS Sidana is New Director General of EME**

Lieutenant General **JS Sidana** has taken over as the **33rd Director General of the Department of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (DGEME)** and **Senior Colonel Commandant of the EME Corps** on **April 1, 2024**.

**Santosh Kumar Jha Appointed as New CMD of Konkan Railway Corporation**

**Santosh Kumar Jha**, an **Indian Railway Traffic Services (IRTS)** officer of the 1992 batch, will assume the role of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL) on **April 1, 2024**.

**IIT-Kanpur Alumnus Sandeep Jain Steps Into FISME Presidency**

**Sandeep Jain**, an auto-component manufacturer and alumnus of **IIT-Kanpur**, has been unanimously elected as the President of the **Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME)** for the year 2024-25.

In line with FISME's tradition of holding **annual elections**, Jain's name was approved in a meeting of the **Central Executive Committee** held in New Delhi. FISME elects one-third of its CEC members annually, and the newly constituted body elects the President for the year.

**Abdel Fattah al-Sisi Sworn in for Third Term as Egyptian President**

**Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, 69**, has commenced his third term as the leader of the nation, extending his tenure until 2030. Amidst battling economic challenges, **Sisi vows to prioritize national interests and fulfill the aspirations of the Egyptian people for a modern, democratic state**.

## Zimbabwe Declares State Of Disaster Over Devastating Drought

Zimbabwe, along with Zambia and Malawi, has declared a state of disaster due to a severe drought sweeping across southern Africa. President Emmerson Mnangagwa cited an "El Nino-induced drought" causing below-normal rainfall, affecting over 80% of the country. This drought, exacerbated by climate change, has led to dire food shortages and humanitarian crises across the region.

## UAE's Masdar to Host World Future Energy Summit

Masdar, the UAE's prominent clean energy company, is set to host the **World Future Energy Summit (WFES)** from April 16 to 18 at the **Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC)**. This summit serves as a pivotal global event focusing on future energy, clean technology, and sustainability, featuring various discussions, forums, and activations.

## Business News

### India to Build First Commercial Crude Oil Strategic Storage

India aims to bolster its strategic petroleum reserves (SPRs) by constructing its first privately managed storage facility in partnership with a private company by 2029-30.

## Appointment News

### Moushumi Basu Takes Over as New President of JNU Teachers Association

The **Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers Association (JNUTA)** has appointed a new team of **office-bearers** for the term of **2024-2025**, according to a statement released. **Moushumi Basu**, a professor at the **School of International Studies**, has been appointed as the next **JNUTA president**.

### Joyshree Das Verma Becomes New President of FICCI Ladies Organisation

**Joyshree Das Verma** has taken over as the **41st National President** of the **FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO)** for the year **2024-25**. FLO is the **oldest women-led and women-centric business chamber** of South East Asia.

## Tata International Appoints Rajeev Singhal as MD

Tata Group's global **trading and distribution arm, Tata International**, has announced the **appointment of Rajeev Singhal** as its new **Managing Director (MD)**. Singhal's appointment to the **new position** is **effective from April 1, 2024**. He **succeeds Anand Sen**, who **superannuated (retired)** on **March 31, 2024**, as per a statement by Tata International.

## Rakesh Mohan Appointed to World Bank Economic Advisory Panel

The World Bank Group has appointed former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor Rakesh Mohan as a member of its Economic Advisory Panel. This panel will be chaired by Lord Nicholas Stern, the IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government at the London School of Economics. World Bank Group Chief Economist Indermit Gill will co-chair the panel.

## Meenesh Shah Elected as Chairman of NCDFI

**The National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd. (NCDFI)**, the national-level apex dairy cooperative, has elected its new Board of Directors. In the elections held, **Dr. Meenesh Shah** was unanimously chosen as the new Chairman of the organization.

## Banking News

### RBI Monetary Policy, Repo Rate To Remain Steady For Seventh Time

RBI Monetary Policy Committee has decided by majority 5:1 to keep policy rates unchanged, Governor Shaktikanta Das announced on April 5. He also that core inflation has declined steadily. It is the first bi-monthly monetary policy of 2024-25. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor also announced MSF & Bank rates to continue to be at 6.75%. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor has kept the policy rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent.

## Science & Technology News

### WHO Launches CoViNet: A Global Network for Coronaviruses

**The World Health Organization (WHO)** has introduced CoViNet, a global initiative aimed at enhancing the detection, monitoring, and assessment of coronaviruses worldwide. CoViNet expands upon the existing WHO COVID-19 reference laboratory network to encompass a broader spectrum of coronaviruses, including **SARS-CoV-2, MERS-CoV**, and potential novel strains of public health concern.

## Awards &amp; Honors News

## REC Wins SKOCH ESG Award 2024 in Renewable Energy Financing Category

**REC Limited**, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been bestowed with the **SKOCH ESG Award 2024** in the 'Renewable Energy Financing' category. The award underscores REC's dedication to sustainable financing, paving the way for a greener future and accelerating the transition to renewable energy. Executive Director of REC Limited, Shri T.S.C. Bosh, received the award in New Delhi.

## Dr. Karthik Kommuri Honoured at National Fame Awards 2024

**Dr. Karthik Kommuri** is renowned for his exceptional patient care and commitment to contemporary practice in orthodontics and dentistry. He is known for his unwavering dedication to patient well-being, pursuit of excellence, and creating brighter smiles.

In recognition of his efforts, Dr. Kommuri was felicitated with the Distinguished Overseas Dental Specialist (Orthodontics and Orofacial Pain) title at the **National Fame Awards 2024**, held at The Club in Mumbai. The chief guest of the ceremony was Dia Mirza.

## SJVN Awarded for Outstanding Corporate Social Responsibility

SJVN Limited, a leading public sector undertaking, has been honored with two prestigious awards at the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2024. The awards were given by the Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC) in recognition of SJVN's remarkable contributions to corporate social responsibility (CSR).

## Important Dates News

## RBI Celebrates 90 Years of Service on Foundation Day 2024

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, the nation's **central banking institution**, is entering its **90th year on April 1st, 2024**. To mark this significant occasion, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is attending the event at Mumbai's **National Centre for the Performing Arts**.

## World Autism Awareness Day 2024

**World Autism Awareness Day** is on April 2nd every year. It aims to raise awareness and support for people with autism. The **theme** for 2024 is "Empowering Autistic Voices." A report says around **18 million** people in India have autism. Between 1-1.5% of children aged 2-9 years old are diagnosed with autism. **Boys** are more commonly affected than girls.

## United Nations Observes International Mine Awareness Day on 4th April

The United Nations Observes **International Mine Awareness Day** on 4th April. International Mine Awareness Day is a **day dedicated to raising awareness** about the **serious impact of landmines** and other **explosive remnants of war** on civilians. It also aims to promote the **protection of persons with disabilities** in conflict and peacebuilding settings.

## National Maritime Day 2024

National Maritime Day is observed annually on April 5 in India. It is a day dedicated to recognizing the importance of the maritime sector in the country's international trade and economic growth. The date marks a significant milestone in India's maritime history. On April 5, 1919, the first Indian commercial ship, SS Loyalty, embarked on a journey to the United Kingdom, breaking the British monopoly on sea routes. This event was a crucial step in the development of India's shipping industry.

## International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 2024

Every year on **April 6th**, the world celebrates the **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP)**. This day is dedicated to recognizing the positive impact that sports and physical activity can have on people's lives and communities around the globe.

## National Library Day 2024

**National Library Day** is celebrated every year on **April 6th**. On this day, people come together to celebrate the important role that libraries and librarians play in our society. It's a day to reflect on the importance of reading and making books accessible and affordable for everyone.

## Sports News

**Hardik Singh and Salima Tete Honoured at Hockey India Awards 2023**

**Hardik Singh** and **Salima Tete** were named the **Players of the Year** for 2023 in the men's and women's categories, respectively, at the sixth annual **Hockey India Awards**.

During the event, Hockey India announced the **revival of the Hockey India League (HIL)**, which will return in **January 2025** after a hiatus since 2017. The revived league will feature **eight men's teams** and **six women's teams**, with auctions likely to be held after the **Paris Olympics**.

**Maharashtra Men's and Women National Kho Kho Champion**

The **Maharashtra team** emerged as the undisputed champion at the **56th National Kho Kho Championship 2023-24**, clinching both the **men's and women's titles**. The championship was held at **Delhi's Karnail Singh Stadium** and the **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium**.

**Bindyarani Devi Wins Bronze, Mirabai Chanu Qualifies for Paris Olympics 2024 at IWF World Cup**

The IWF World Cup 2024 was held in Phuket, Thailand from March 31 to April 11, 2024. The event was organized by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), the world governing body for men's and women's weightlifting. 25-year-old Indian weightlifter Bindyarani Devi competed in the women's 55kg category and won a bronze medal.

**Bilquis Mir: The First Indian Woman on the Paris Olympics Jury**

Bilquis Mir, a canoeist from Jammu and Kashmir, is set to make history as the first woman from India to represent the country as a jury member at the upcoming Summer Olympics in Paris. This prestigious appointment was officially conveyed through a letter from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to the J&K administration.

## Obituaries News

**Veteran Actress Barbara Rush Passes Away at 97**

Barbara Rush, a **Golden Globe-winning actress**, embarked on her journey in the entertainment industry in the 1950s. Her breakthrough role came in 1954 with the science-fiction film "**It Came from Outer Space**," which earned her the **Golden Globe Award for Most Promising Newcomer**.

**World's Oldest Man, Juan Vicente Pérez, Dies at 114**

**Juan Vicente Pérez** was a man from Venezuela who lived a very, very long life. He was born on **May 27, 1909**, in a town called El Cobre. This means he was alive for 114 years. Now that Pérez has passed away, the title of "world's oldest man" is expected to go to a 112-year-old man from Japan named Gisaburo Sonobe. But this needs to be confirmed by Sonobe's family first.

**Tamil Actor Visheshwara Rao Passes Away at 64**

Veteran Tamil actor Visheshwara Rao passed away on April 2 at the age of 64. He died due to complications from cancer, which he had been battling for the last few years. Rao was undergoing treatment for the disease at a private hospital in Chennai when he breathed his last.

## Defence News

**DRDO successfully conducted a flight test of the new generation ballistic missile called 'Agni-Prime'**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and India's Strategic Forces Command (SFC) have successfully conducted a flight test of the new generation ballistic missile called 'Agni-Prime'. The test occurred at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, off Odisha's coast. The data was captured by several range sensors placed at different locations, including two downrange ships placed at the terminal point. The launch was witnessed by the Chief of Defence Staff, Chief of Strategic Forces Command, and other senior officials from DRDO and the Indian Army.

**Miscellaneous News**

**Bundelkhand Wheat Variety Gets GI Tag**

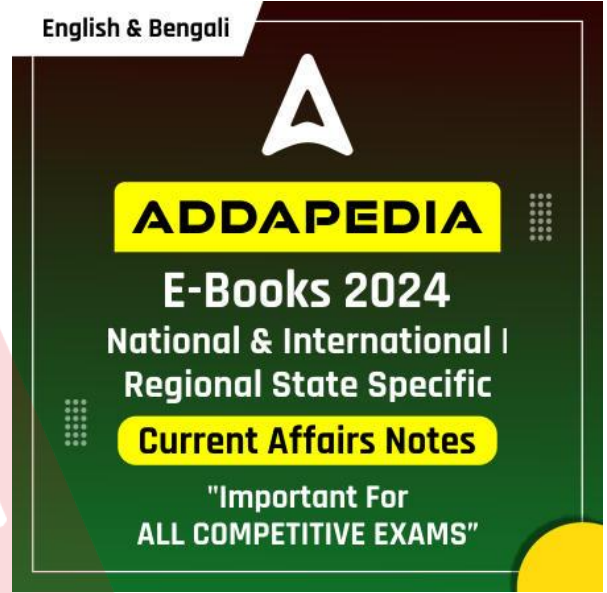
In a significant milestone for agricultural recognition, the **indigenous wheat variety** from the Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh, locally known as **Kathiya Gehu**, has been granted the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**. This is the **first farm produce** from Uttar Pradesh to receive this honor.



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