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- **A rare butterfly species named Neptis philyra has been recently discovered in Arunachal Pradesh**

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SIDBI collaborates with KarmaLife to offer micro loans for Gig Workers

- **The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has forged a partnership with fintech platform **KarmaLife** to extend micro loans to gig workers.
- This collaboration aims to enhance financial inclusion for gig workers by leveraging KarmaLife's mobile app technology to streamline loan access without the need for extensive paperwork.
- The partnership between **SIDBI** and **Onionlife Private Limited**, through its technology platform **KarmaLife**, seeks to support the financial inclusion of gig workers by providing them with formal institutional credit.
- By simplifying the loan application process, the initiative aims to empower gig workers economically and foster their entrepreneurial endeavors.

About SIDBI:

Founded: 2nd April 1990

Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India

Chairman: Sivasubramanian Ramann

Subsidiary: Mudra Bank

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Tamil Nadu Politician, Film Producer R M Veerappan passed away

- One of the **pioneers of the Dravidian movement** and prominent **Tamil film producer R M Veerappan** died at the age of 98.
- Veerappan had served as a minister in the former Chief Minister M G Ramachandran's Cabinet and was also in the Cabinets of late Chief Ministers: Janaki Ramachandran and J Jayalalithaa.
- This Dravidian leader born on September 9, 1926, enjoyed good ties with DMK stalwart and former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi too.
- He launched the MGR Kazhagam party.



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111-Year-Old John Alfred Tinniswood Becomes World's New Oldest Living Man

- **John Alfred Tinniswood**, a 111-year-old Englishman from **Southport, northwest England**, has officially been named the **world's oldest living man** by Guinness World Records.
- This recognition comes after the passing of the previous record holder, **Juan Vicente Pérez** of **Venezuela**, at the age of **114**, and **Gisaburo Sonobe** from **Japan,** at the age of **112** are died.
- Tinniswood attributes his remarkable longevity to a combination of luck, moderation, and a weekly indulgence in fish and chips.

World's oldest woman and living person

- The world's oldest woman and the oldest living person is held by **117-year-old Maria Branyas Morera** of **Spain**.



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Simon Harris becomes Ireland's youngest Prime Minister

- **Simon Harris**, aged **37,** has been elected as Ireland's youngest-ever prime minister.
- Harris succeeds **Leo Varadkar**, who became Ireland's youngest-ever leader at 38 and its first openly gay prime minister.
- Harris, a former health and higher education minister, secured the nomination with a vote of 88-69 in parliament, garnering support from independent lawmakers, as well as his coalition partners Fianna Fail and the Green Party.
- Harris's rise within the **Fine Gael party** has been rapid. Joining its youth branch at 16, he became a county councillor at 22 and entered parliament at 24, earning him the nickname "**Baby of the Dail**."

About Ireland:

Capital: Dublin

PM: Simon Harris

President: Michael D. Higgins

Currency: Euro



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Scientists investigate thousands of dead Antarctic penguins for bird flu

- Researchers are seeking to find out a scientific expedition last month that at least **532 dead** Adelie penguins, with thousands more thought to have died, according to a statement from **Federation University Australia**.
- While the researchers suspect the deadly **H5N1 bird flu virus** killed the penguins, the field tests were inconclusive.
- Samples are being shipped off to labs that the researchers hope will provide answers in coming months.
- Scientists are concerned specifically that the often fatal H5N1 influenza could decimate threatened species of penguins and other animals on the remote southern continent.
- The disease has spread more aggressively in wildlife than ever before since arriving in South America in 2022 and rapidly made its way to Antarctica, where the **first case** of **H5N1** was confirmed in **February**.



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Indian Coast Guard Vessel Samudra Paheredar makes a Port call at Muara Brunei

- **Indian Coast Guard's Pollution Control Vessel (PCV) Samudra Paheredar** made a port call at **Muara, Brunei** as part of its ongoing overseas deployment to **ASEAN countries.**
- The visit of ICG specialized vessels to ASEAN countries is in pursuance of India ASEAN Initiative for Marine Pollution, as announced by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in 2022 in Cambodia during the ASEAN Defence Minister Plus Meeting.
- During the **three-day** visit, the crew of ICGS Samudra Paheredar will engage in professional interactions focusing on Marine Pollution Response (MPR), Maritime Search and Rescue (M-SAR), and Maritime Law Enforcement.



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- “The visit aims not only to strengthen ties between the Indian Coast Guard and their Brunei counterparts but also to showcase India’s shipbuilding capabilities, supporting the concept of “Aatamnirbhar Bharat” and “Make in India”.
- Moreover, 25 National Cadet Corps (NCC) aboard ICGS Samudra Paheredar will also participate in Beach Cleanup activities in collaboration with local youth organizations, contributing to the Government’s initiative “Puneet Sagar Abhiyan”.
- “This overseas deployment is a testimony to the Indian Coast Guard’s commitment to bolster bilateral relationships and enhance international cooperation with Foreign Friendly Countries (FFCs)”.

About Indian Coast Guard (ICG):

Formed: 18th August 1978

Headquarters: New Delhi

Director General: Rakesh Pal

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Sagar Samman Awards were awarded on the 61st National Maritime Day

- On the occasion of the 61st National Maritime Day (5th April 2024), the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways **(MoPSW)** awarded **the Sagar Samman Awards** acknowledging exemplary contributions within the maritime sector.
- The award was presented during the event organised by the National Maritime Day Celebrations (NMDC) Central Committee at Yashwantrao Chavan Centre in Nariman Point, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The observance of National Maritime Day 2024 was centred around the **theme "Sustainable Shipping: Opportunities and Challenges'.**

Winners of Sagar Samman Awards:

Sagar Samman Varun Award	⇒	Dhirendra Kumar Sanyal
Sagar Samman Award for Excellence	⇒	Captain Kamal Kant Choudhary
Sagar Samman Award for Gallantry	⇒	Captain Subir Saha and Captain OM Dutta



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NMDC Central Committee Awards (NMDC Awards)

- The NMDC Awards for Outstanding Maritime Training Institutes and Recognitions were also announced during the event.
- The award recognises institutions and employers for their exceptional contributions to the maritime industry

Winners of NMDC Awards:

Recognition of Outstanding Indian Employers of Seafarers

Winner: The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI)

Key People:

- Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, AVSM, NM, Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command, Indian Navy, Shyam Jagannathan, Director General of Shipping & Chairman, NMDC (Central Committee, Dr. Raut Pandurang, Deputy General of Shipping and Member Secretary, NMDC (Central) Committee delivered the vote of thanks were present during the event.

About National Maritime Day:

- National Maritime Day is annually observed across India on 5th April to commemorate the maiden voyage of the first Indian-owned vessel “S S Loyalty” from Mumbai to London in 1919

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Athletic Bilbao end a wait of 40 years to win Copa del Rey

- **Athletic Bilbao** broke a 40-year spell by clinching the **Copa del Rey title** in a thrilling penalty shootout victory against **Real Mallorca**.
- In a showdown at La Cartuja stadium in Seville, the Basque squad claimed their **24th trophy**, trailing only behind Barcelona's 31 titles, by narrowly overcoming the underdog challenge from Mallorca.
- The match saw Dani Rodriguez putting Mallorca in the lead in the first half, swiftly countered by Oihan Sancet's equalizer after the break, leading to a deadlock until the decisive penalty shootout.
- Julen Agirrezabala, Athletic's goalkeeper, emerged as a hero by thwarting Manu Morlanes' penalty, while Nemanja Radonjic's miss from the spot further favored Athletic, who converted all four of their penalties to clinch victory.
- Alex Berenguer sealed the triumph with a composed finish from the spot, igniting euphoric celebrations among the traveling Basque supporters.
- For Ernesto Valverde's Athletic, who had previously faced six defeats in the final, this hard-earned victory marked the end of a series of near misses.





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Physicist Peter Higgs passed away

- **British physicist Peter Higgs**, whose theory of a mass-giving particle is called Higgs boson jointly earned him the Nobel Prize for Physics, has died aged 94.
- Higgs used ground-breaking theoretical work to help explain how the Universe has mass, thus resolving one of the greatest puzzles in physics and earning him a place alongside Albert Einstein and Max Planck in textbooks.
- His 1964 theory of a mass-giving particle, which became known as the Higgs boson or the **"God particle",** won him and Belgian physicist Francois Englert the **2013 physics Nobel Prize**.
- That followed experiments at the Large Hadron Collider at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) finally confirming the theory the previous year, nearly half a century on.
- Higgs was born in **Newcastle**, England in 1929 and studied at King's College, University of London.



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Harendra Singh was appointed as coach of Indian women's hockey

- After **Janneke Schopman** quit as the head coach of Indian women's hockey, **Harendra Singh** was appointed as coach of Indian women's hockey.
- Harendra Singh winner of the Dronacharya award has coached various Indian teams, including the senior men's hockey team.
- Harendra was serving as **coach** of the **USA men's hockey team**.
- As a coach, Harendra started his career with Indian men's hockey in 1997. Under his game, India has won 11 gold medals including the 2016 men's junior World Cup, 2017 women's Asia Cup and 2018 Asian Champions Trophy (men).



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The WHO report states that India is second after China in the cases of Hepatitis B and C

- According to a **World Health Organization (WHO)** report, India had the second highest number of hepatitis B and C cases after China with **35 million infections in 2022.**
- Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver that can cause a variety of health problems and can be fatal.
- Globally, **254 million** people were infected with hepatitis B, and 50 million were infected with hepatitis C in 2022, according to **WHO's 2024 Global Hepatitis Report**.
- In terms of viral hepatitis, **India** was second after China, with **29.8 million** hepatitis B cases in 2022 and 5.5 million hepatitis C infections.
- **China** has recorded **83 million cases** of hepatitis B and C, accounting for 27.5% of the total disease burden.



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- According to the report, India accounted for 11.6% of the total disease burden globally that year with a total of 35 million cases.
- There are **five main types** of hepatitis viruses, called types **A, B, C, D, and E.**
- Although they all cause **liver disease**, they differ in important ways, including methods of transmission, severity of disease, geographic distribution, and methods of prevention.
- The report released at the **World Hepatitis Summit** in **Portugal** and 3,500 people are dying globally due to hepatitis B and C infection every day.
- WHO has set a target to **eliminate** Hepatitis worldwide by **2030.**

About World Health Organization (WHO):

Founded: 7th April 1948

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

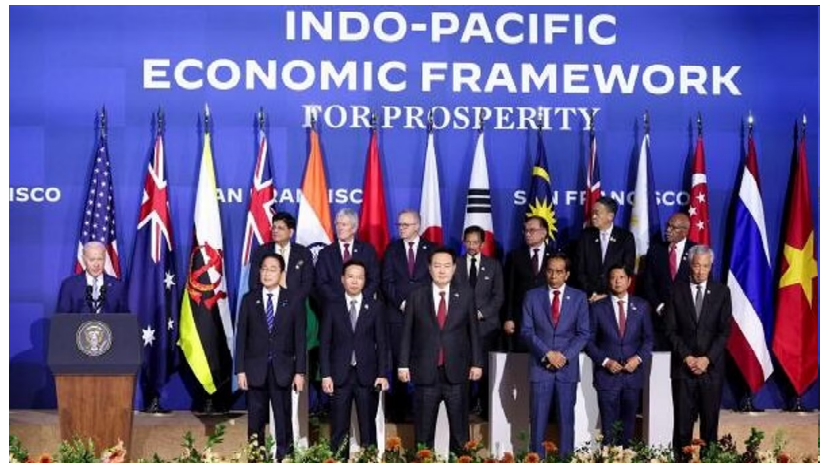
Director General: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

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Clean Economy Investor Forum will be organized by Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) in Singapore

- Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) will host its first clean economy investor forum in Singapore on June 5-6.
- India will also showcase selected ‘investible sustainable infrastructure projects’ at the forum. It is focused on energy transition, sustainable aviation fuel, battery storage hydrogen, green data centres, etc.
- This forum will bring together the region’s largest investors, innovative startup entrepreneurs, and cutting-edge project proponents and government agencies to boost investment.
- The main aim of the forum is to mobilise investments into sustainable infrastructure, climate technology, and renewable energy projects.



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- Projects that are either ready for private investment or anticipated to be ready within the next 18 months will receive priority for showcasing at the Forum.

About Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF):

- It was launched in **May 2022.**
- It provides a platform for countries in the region to collaborate on advancing resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth.
- **14 countries** are members of this Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity. They are
- Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, USA and Vietnam.
- Trade, Supply Chain, Clean Economy and Fair Economy are the **four pillars** of IPEF.

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HDFC Bank become first private sector bank to open branch in Lakshadweep

- Largest private sector lender **HDFC Bank** inaugurated a branch in **Lakshadweep's Kavaratti Island**.
- The bank becomes the first private sector lender to have a presence in Lakshadweep.
- The bank seeks to serve customers wherever they are and looks forward to serving the financial needs of individuals, families, and businesses in Lakshadweep.
- The branch was inaugurated by Captain **Lovekesh Thakur**, Commanding Officer, Indian Navy and K P Muthukoya, a well-known resident, in the presence of bank officials.

About HDFC Bank Ltd:

Founded: August 1994

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan

Tagline: We understand your world

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Toll Free: 1800-270-9975, **Ph:** 9533200400

NTPC launches latest edition of Girl Child Empowerment Mission

- **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)** is preparing to launch a new edition of its flagship corporate social responsibility initiative, **Girl Child Empowerment Mission (GEM).**
- This program is in line with the **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao** initiative of the Government of India.
- GEM aims to nurture the imaginations of girls. And also to eliminate gender inequality by promoting their ability to explore opportunities.
- Girl Child Empowerment Mission provides a platform for young girls for their all-round development through a month-long workshop during summer vacations.
- This new edition of GEM, starting from **April 2024**, will connect around **3,000 meritorious children** from deprived sections of the society across **42 identified locations of power sector PSUs.**
- With this the total number of children benefiting from the mission will exceed 10,000.

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About Girl Child Empowerment Mission (GEM):

- Started as a pilot project in **2018** with only **three locations** and **392 participants**. Today this GEM mission has grown into a nationwide movement.
- Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, the program has continued to expand its reach and impact.
- So far, a total of 7,424 girls have benefited from it. The number of participants is continuously increasing every year.
- In 2023 alone, 2,707 girls participated in workshops across 40 NTPC locations spread across 16 states in India.
- This mission focuses on empowerment of girls through various programmes. Its objective is to identify and nurture their leadership qualities. So that girls can be prepared for the future.
- This year's workshop focuses on health, hygiene, safety, fitness, sports and yoga.

About NTPC:

Founded: 7th November 1975

Headquarters: New Delhi

CEO: Gurdeep Singh

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Air India appoints Jayaraj Shanmugam as head of Global Airport Operations

- **Tata-Group owned Air India** announced the appointment of **Jayaraj Shanmugam** as head of global airport operations.
- Shanmugam joins Air India from Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), where he served as the chief operating officer, overseeing the operationalisation of the new Terminal 2.
- With a distinguished career spanning over 25 years in the airline, airport, and telecom industries, Shanmugam has previously worked with renowned companies such as Singapore Airlines, Qatar Airways, and Jet Airways.
- In another development, Air India's chief executive officer Campbell Wilson announced that the annual appraisal cycle is currently underway and will be effective from April 1.

About Air India:

Founded: 1932

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairman: Natarajan Chandrasekaran



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Apricate Blossom Festival 2024 started in Ladakh

- The magic of the **Apricot Blossom Festival** at **Lchang Nang** Retreat which takes place throughout the **month of April** in **Ladakh.**
- Nestled amidst the vibrant culture and breathtaking beauty of **Nubra Valley**, **Lchang Nang** offers a unique opportunity to celebrate spring alongside the Ladakhi people.
- This festivities, witness traditional music and dance performances, and savor delectable local delicacies, all while basking in the unparalleled splendor of nature's vibrant renewal.
- One of the highlights of the Apricot Blossom Festival is the cultural performances. Engage in traditional dance and music performances, providing a glimpse into Ladakhi culture.

About Ladakh:

Capital: Leh

Le.Governor: B.D. Mishra



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Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) is organizing 'Shakti - Festival of Music and Dance'

- Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) is organizing the festival 'Shakti – A Festival of Music and Dance' from **9 to 17 April 2024** in **seven different Shaktipeeths** of the country.
- Sangeet Natak Akademi is organizing this festival to rejuvenate the temple traditions in the country.
- **Sangeet Natak Akademi** is organizing this festival during the **Navaratri** under the series of **Kala Pravah**.
- Shakti festival was inaugurated from 9th April from the **Kamakhya Temple**, **Guwahati.**
- It will continue at Mahalakshmi Temple (Kolhapur, Maharashtra), Jwalamukhi Temple (Kangada, Himachal Pradesh), Tripura Sundari (Udaipur, Tripura) , Ambaji Temple (Banaskantha, Gujarat), Jai Durga Shaktipeeth (Deoghar, Jharkhand).
- It will conclude on **17th April, 2024** at **Shaktipeeth Maa Harsidhi Temple**, **Jaisinghpur, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh**.

About Sangeet Natak Akademi:

Established: 1953

Headquarters: New Delhi.

First President of SNA: Dr. P.V. Rajamannar

Current President of SNA: Dr. Sandhya Purecha



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Nepal Army will launch a campaign to collect garbage from Mount Everest

- Nepal Army will collect around **10 tonnes of garbage** and **five bodies** lying at Mt. Everest as part of the **Mountain Cleaning Campaign 2024**.
- A **12-member team** led by **Maj. Aditya Karki** will start their journey from the base camp on **April 14**.
- This team will bring the garbage from **Mt. Everest, Mt. Lhotse and Mt. Nuptse.**
- An **18-member Sherpa team** will assist the army in its cleaning expedition. This campaign will be flagged off by **Nepal Army Chief Gen. Prabhuram Sharma**.
- The Biodegradable waste will be brought to **Namche Bazaar** below the base camp and handed to the **Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC)** for proper treatment.



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- This campaign of the Nepal Army will be launched along with the **Ministry of Forest and Environment,** the **Tourism Department** and **the Nepal Mountaineers Association** for the Everest region's cleaning campaign.
- Plastic garbage has become a major threat in Himalayan regions. The age of degradation of plastic is more than 400 years.

About Nepal:

Capital: Kathmandu

PM: Pushpa Kamal Dahal

President: Ram Chandra Poudel

Currency: Nepalese Rupee

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India achieves target to eliminate visceral leishmaniasis 'Kala-Azar'

- **India** has achieved its target to eliminate **visceral leishmaniasis**, commonly known as **kala-azar**, according to data from the **National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC**).
- India had initially aimed to eliminate kala-azar by **2010,** but the target was extended until **2023** due to persistent challenges.
- Kala-azar, a vector-borne disease caused by **protozoan parasites** transmitted through sandfly bites, has posed a significant health challenge for decades, particularly in states like **Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh**.
- The latest data from NCVBDC indicates that India reported only **520 cases of kala-azar in 2023** across India, meeting the elimination criteria set by the **World Health Organization (WHO),** which defines elimination as no block in the country reporting more than one case per 10,000 people.



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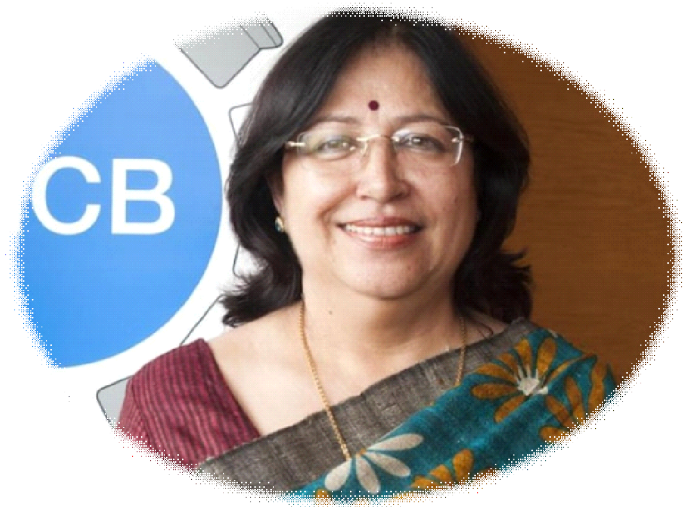
- As per the WHO, in 2020, India accounted for 18 per cent of the global burden of kala-azar. The elimination has come after government interventions, including indoor spraying to kill sandflies, sealing potential breeding sites, and mobilising healthcare workers to ensure proper treatment completion.
- In addition to kala-azar, the data also reveals the HIV-VL coinfection and post-kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis (PKDL) cases in India.
- While progress has been made, challenges persist, particularly in states like Bihar and Jharkhand, where cases of PKDL remain relatively high.

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India's Jagjit Pavadia re-elected to International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)

- India's nominee Ms**. Jagjit Pavadia** was elected by the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** as a member of the ***International Narcotics Control Board (INCB*)** for the **third term** from **2025-2030.**
- India was also elected to key UN bodies such as **the Commission on the Status of Women for the term for 2025-2029**.
- The ExecutivSe Board of the United Nations Children's Fund, the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services, the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and the Executive Board of the World Food Programme for the term **2025-2027**.



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- Pavadia has been an integral part of the International Narcotics Control Board since **2015**. She was previously re-elected by the Council for a five-year term from **2020-2025** in May 2019. Notably, she served as President of the Board for the term 2021-2022.

  About International Narcotics Control Board (INCB):

  Established: 1968

  Headquarters: Vienna, Austria

  President: Jallal Toufiq

  Membership: 13 Board Members

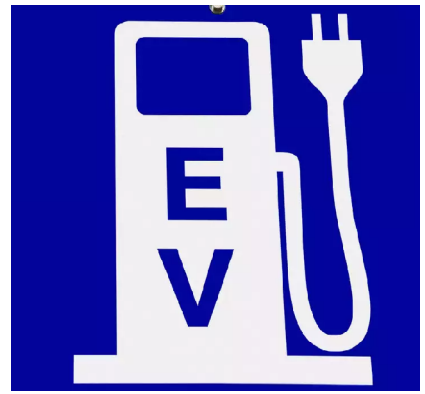
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India and European Union (EU) have launched an initiative for Electric Vehicle startups

- The European Union (EU) and India have embarked on a collaborative effort to nurture startups in the field of Electric Vehicle (EV) battery recycling.
- This initiative is a direct outcome of the **India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC)**, aimed at enhancing cooperation in clean and green technologies.
- The purpose of the partnership is to strengthen the collaboration between European and Indian clean and green technologies sector Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and startups.
- **India-EU Trade & Technology Council (TTC)** was announced by India and the European Commission on **25th April 2022 in New Delhi.**





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- **Twelve innovators** will be chosen. **Six** will be from the **EU** and **six** will be from **India.**They will be given the chance to pitch during the June 2024 Matchmaking Event.
- After their pitching presentations, six finalists will be chosen. Three will be from the India and three will be from EU.
- They will be given the opportunity to tour the EU and India, respectively.
- In order to facilitate matchmaking event, the EU and India released an **Expression of Interest (EoI).**
- The deadline for submitting **expressions of interest** is **April 30**, providing an opportunity for startups to participate in this collaborative initiative. Through the TTC, EU-India bilateral trade aims to reach new heights, leveraging innovation in clean energy technologies.

About European Union:

Founded: 1st November 1993

Headquarters: Brussels and Luxembourg

President: Ursula von der Leyen

Member Countries: 27 Members

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A rare butterfly species named Neptis philyra has been recently discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

- A rare butterfly species named **Neptis philyra,** commonly known as **long-streak sailor**, has been discovered for the first time in India in **Tale Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh.**
- Till date, the **butterfly species** was known to be found across various regions of **East Asia**, including Siberia, Korea, Japan, Central and South East Asia.
- The butterfly has serrated wings with rich brownish-black on the upper side and yellow-brown on the underside.
- The butterfly's distinct markings include a white cell streak forming a "hockey stick" pattern on the forewing.



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- The species, which is part of the **Nymphalidae family**, is known to prefer habitats such as evergreen forests, riverine vegetation, and rocky streams.

  About Arunachal Pradesh:

  Capital: Itanagar

  Chief Minister: Pema Khandu

  Governor: Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik

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