

# **15<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

## **INTERNATIONAL**

## 1) India-Spain Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation

- The 12th Session of the India-Spain Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC) took place on April 13.
- During the meeting, the two sides discussed a range of issues related to economic cooperation between the two countries.

# 2) India and the European Union

- The potential signing of a free trade agreement between India and the European Union is seen as a positive step towards promoting economic ties between the two regions.
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has emphasized the benefits of such an agreement, which could serve as a catalyst for enhancing the India-EU relationship.



## **NATIONAL**

## 1) 132nd birth anniversary of social reformer BR Ambedkar

- On the occasion of the 132nd birth anniversary of social reformer BR Ambedkar, a special tourist train has been launched from New Delhi that will take passengers to various cities associated with him across the country.
- The train, named Bharat Gaurav, will tour the Ambedkar Circuit and was flagged off by Union Minister of Tourism G Kishan Reddy and Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar from the Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station.
- The tour, which will last for seven nights and eight days, will cover important sites in Maharashtra and Bihar.

## 2) 'Vande Metro'

- Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced that the Union government plans to introduce 'Vande Metro' by December 2023.















- This announcement comes after the successful launch of the Vande Bharat Express, which is a semi-highspeed train operating in several parts of the country.
- The upcoming metro network is expected to connect major cities and provide a cost-effective mode of transportation.

# 3) Association for Democratic Reforms

- According to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), out of the 28 state chief ministers and two union territories, 29 of them are millionaires in India.
- Jagan Mohan Reddy from Andhra Pradesh is the richest among them with assets worth ₹510 crore, while Mamata Banerjee, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, has the lowest assets worth around ₹15 lakh.
- The report also noted that Jammu and Kashmir, which is a Union Territory, does not have a chief minister at present. Out of the 30 CMs analyzed, 29 (97 percent) are crorepatis with the average assets being ₹33.96 crore for every CM, the ADR said. Out of the 30 CMs analyzed, 29 (97 percent) are crorepatis with the average assets being ₹33.96 crore for every CM, the ADR said.





# 4) Time Magazine's annual 100 Most Influential People of 2023

- Shah Rukh Khan and 'RRR' director SS Rajamouli are included in Time Magazine's annual 100 Most Influential People of 2023, becoming the only two Indians on the list. Both SRK and Rajamouli's last big screen ventures, Pathaan and RRR, earned over Rs 1000 crore worldwide.
- The esteemed list by Time magazine includes the likes of US President Joe Biden, King Charles, billionaire CEO Elon Musk, Bella Hadid, and Beyonce, among others.

## 5) Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve















- The authorities of the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve, which spans across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and the NHAI's subsidiary, Indian Highways Management Company, signed an agreement aimed at streamlining the entry process for vehicles into the forest area.
- According to a statement from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the memorandum of understanding (MoU) will enable the implementation of a FASTag-based payment system at forest entry points.

#### **STATE NEWS**

# 1) G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists

- A significant event, the G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS), is scheduled to take place in Varanasi from 17 to 19 April.
- The meeting's theme is Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems for Healthy People and Planet, which aligns with India's G20 presidency theme of "One Earth, One Family, One Future".

# 2) 125-foot bronze statue of BR Ambedkar in Hyderabad

- The Chief Minister of Telangana, K Chandrasekhar Rao, unveiled a 125-foot bronze statue of BR Ambedkar in Hyderabad to commemorate the 132nd birth anniversary of the renowned Indian Constitution architect.
- The unveiling ceremony was a grand affair, with provisions made to accommodate over 35,000 individuals from all 119 constituencies.
- Additionally, approximately 750 state-owned Road Transport Corporation buses were deployed to facilitate public transportation to the event.
- This statue in Hyderabad is now the tallest statue of Ambedkar in India.

## 3) Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled several railway projects

- During his day-long tour to Guwahati, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled several railway projects across the Northeast region, while also inaugurating a methanol plant and laying the foundation stone for a bridge over the Brahmaputra river.
- Modi conducted the virtual inauguration of five railway works, along with other projects, from the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

# 1) World Art Day

- UNESCO's General Conference declared April 15 as World Art Day to commemorate Leonardo da Vinci's birthday, recognizing the importance of art in promoting creativity, cultural diversity, and information exchange.















- Art has always encouraged innovation and sparked discussion among individuals worldwide. However, to preserve artistic freedoms, it is crucial to safeguard the conditions that support and protect artists.
- This celebration is an opportunity to encourage the development, distribution, and enjoyment of art annually

# 2) World Voice Day

- World Voice Day (WVD) is an international event celebrated annually on April 16th to recognize and appreciate the significance of the human voice in our everyday lives.
- Effective communication is reliant on a healthy and well-functioning voice. The purpose of WVD is to promote global awareness of the importance of preventing voice-related problems, training the artistic voice, rehabilitating damaged or abnormal voices, and researching the function and application of the voice.





## 3) Save the Elephant Day

- On April 16th each year, people across the globe observe Save the Elephant Day, which aims to promote awareness of the issues faced by elephants and inspire efforts to protect these majestic animals.
- This day provides an opportunity to highlight the significance of elephants, the challenges they encounter, and the actions that can be taken to safeguard their existence.
- In this blog post, we will discuss the importance of elephants, the dangers they confront, how we can aid in their conservation, and all about the celebrations of Save the Elephant Day 2023

## **OBITUARY**

# 1) Uttara Baokar passed away

- Noted actor and theatre artist Uttara Baokar passed away at the age of 79. Baokar, who studied acting at the National School of Drama (NSD), played various roles in different plays such as Padmavati in 'Mukyhamantri', Mena in 'Mena Gurjari', Desdemona in Shakespeare's 'Othello', mother in playwright Girish Karnad's 'Tughlaq', among others.













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