

# IACE

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5<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024

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## National Maritime Day: April 5<sup>th</sup>

- Every year, April 5 is observed as National Maritime Day to spread awareness about the importance of the national maritime sector in world trade and economic exchange across the industry.
- **Theme:** “Navigating the future: safety first!”
- This day was **first** observed on **April 5, 1964**.
- The maritime sector plays an immense role when it comes to international trade and the economy. Ships are mainly used for transportation purposes of goods across the border.
- On this day, the “NMD Award of Excellence” is also presented to honour the individuals for their lifetime distinguished and exceptional achievements in the Indian maritime sector at the senior level.

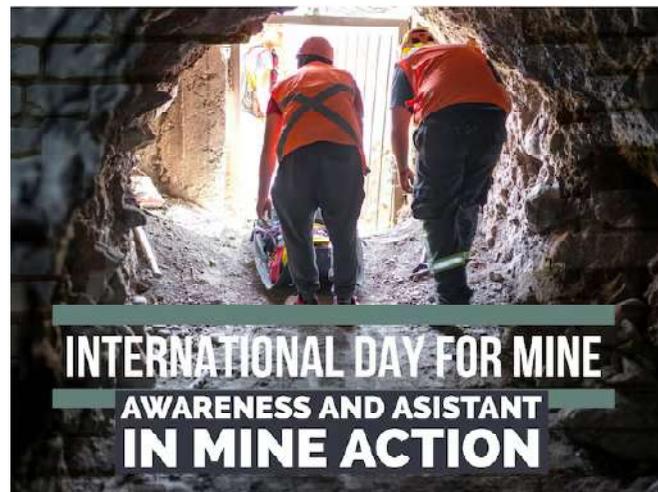


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## International Day for Mine Awareness: April 4<sup>th</sup>

- Every year on 4 April, the International Day for Mine Awareness is observed.
- It is celebrated to increase public attention towards mine action activities, land mines, their threats to the safety of mankind, and how to work towards their eradication.
- The **theme** of the International Day for Mine Awareness 2024 is “**Protecting Lives, Building Peace**”
- On 8th December 2005, the United Nations General Assembly confirmed that the 4th of April of every year would be observed as International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.
- It was **first** observed on **4th April, 2006**.
- The day calls for efforts from national leaders to create and develop national mine-action capacities.
- Daniel Craig was the first UN Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards.



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## Sensex, Nifty end at record closing high ahead of RBI policy decision

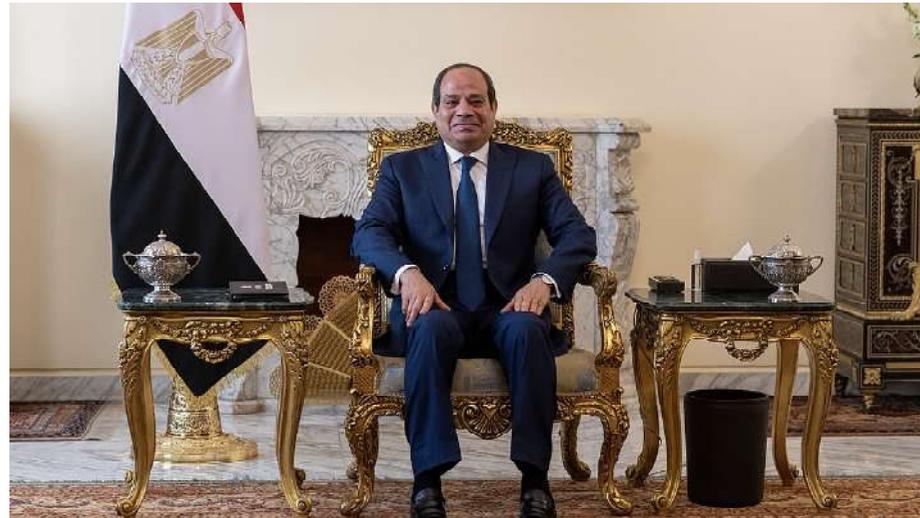
- The S&P BSE Sensex and National Stock Exchange Nifty closed the session at new highs, with the **Sensex** reaching **74,228**, a gain of **351 points**, or **0.5 per cent**, and the **Nifty** closing at **22,515**, a gain of **80 points**, or **0.4 per cent**.
- Indian equity benchmarks hit new highs propelled by gains in HDFC Bank and comments from US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell.
- The benchmark indices, the BSE 500, BSE AllCap, and the Nifty Midcap 100 made fresh record highs.
- Most of the gains in the Sensex were contributed by HDFC Bank, which rose 3.06 per cent and was also the best-performing Sensex stock.



- The private lender's shares rose after the bank reported a 26.4 per cent year-on-year deposit growth compared to the previous quarter when deposits grew by 7.5 per cent.
- The US private payroll data released that it rose to 184,000 in March against 155,000 in the previous month.
- The market breadth was positive, with 2,382 stocks advancing and 1,465 declining. After HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, which rose 1.4 per cent, gained the most, followed by Titan Company, which rose 1.9 per cent.

## Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has been sworn in for his third term as President of Egypt

- Abdel Fattah el-Sisi swearing-in his final six-year term as leader of the Arab world's most populous country.
- If he does not make constitutional amendments to extend his tenure again.
- The 69-year-old former army chief, who has been in power for the last decade, is set to remain president till 2030.
- In December, he was re-elected with 89.6% of the vote in a race against three unknown candidates.
- In 2013, El-Sisi came to power after overthrowing Mohammed Morsi, the country's first popularly elected president.
- In 2018, he was re-elected. He had won both the last elections with 97% votes.



- He increased the presidential mandate from four to six years and amended the Constitution to increase the limit on consecutive terms in office from two to three.
- Under his rule, Egypt has jailed thousands of political prisoners, and the Presidential Pardon Committee has freed about 1,000 a year.
- **About Egypt:**
- **Capital:** Cairo
- **PM:** Moustafa Madbouly
- **Currency:** Egyptian pound

## India is planning to create its first privately managed Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) by 2029-30

- India plans to build its first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) by 2029-30, granting the operator the freedom to trade all of the stored oil.
- Allowing fully commercial SPR is similar to the approach taken by nations like South Korea and Japan, which permits private lessees, mostly oil majors, to trade crude.
- Till now, India has allowed only partial commercialization for its three existing SPRs in southern India, which have a combined capacity of 36.7 million barrels.
- India plans to build **two new SPRs** with private partners allowed to trade all the oil locally.



- The first is an 18.3 million barrels reserve at Padur in southern Karnataka state, and the second is a 29.3 million barrel SPR in eastern Odisha state.
- In case of shortage, the government will have the first right to oil.
- India is the world's third-largest oil importer and consumer. It is keen to expand its SPR capacity to protect against global supply disruptions and price rises.
- Expanding oil storage capacity will also help India join the International Energy Agency (IEA), which requires its members to reserve a minimum of 90 days of oil consumption.
- With the central government providing up to 60% of the total, the Padur SPR and linked pipeline and oil import facility would cost about 55 billion rupees (\$659 million).

## Juan Vicente Perez Mora, the world's oldest man passed away

- Juan Vicente Perez Mora, the world's oldest man passed away at the age of 114.
- He was certified as the world's oldest man in **2022**.
- He was officially declared as the **oldest man** alive on **February 4, 2022**, when he was **112 years and 253 days old**.
- As of 2022, he had 41 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and 12 great-great-grandchildren.
- He was born on 27 May 1909, in the state of Tachira in Venezuela.
- At the age of five, he started working with his dad and brothers in agriculture.



## A new OptiDrop platform has been developed by C-CAMP to study single cells

- The **Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP)** has developed a new platform 'OptiDrop' to study single cells.
- This platform has potential use in diagnostics, therapeutics, agriculture, and animal health.
- This microfluidic chip-based platform will allow optical sensing of biological samples without the expensive open space.
- This innovative platform has been developed by C-CAMP's Discovery to Innovation Accelerator team.
- It will enable the study of single cells encapsulated in droplets with ease and precision.
- Optidrop will help in studying the impact on individual cells during a drug screen, environment control (water contamination counter), and detection and sorting of CAR-T cells in immuno-oncotherapeutics.
- Currently, Flow cytometers in market cost between Rs. 45 lakhs and Rs. 1 crore. OptiDrop setup costs only about Rs. 10 lakh.



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## Dr. Karthik Kommuri received the prestigious National Fame Award 2024

- Dr. Kommuri was awarded the title of **prestigious Overseas Dental Specialist** (Orthodontics and Orofacial Pain) at the National Fame Awards 2024 held at The Club, Mumbai.
- Reputably known for providing outstanding patient care, Dr. Karthik Kommuri is a great example of modern orthodontics and dentistry practices.
- He is known for his unwavering dedication towards the well-being of patients, pursuit of excellence, and commitment to shaping brighter smiles with each passing day.
- National Fame Awards, is to recognize exceptional individuals and organizations that have achieved fame and nationwide popularity.
- The awards aim to celebrate their inspiring achievements and positive impact in their fields.
- In the **third edition** of the National Fame Awards honoured many B-town celebrities like Gauahar Khan, Udit Narayan, Alka Yagnik, Rahul Dev, Zayed Khan, Jennifer Winget, Karan Wahi, Maanvi Gagroo and others.



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## NATO celebrates 75 years of collective defense in Europe and North America

- **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** is set to celebrate 75 years of collective defence across Europe and North America as Russia's war on Ukraine enters its third year and sorely tests the allies' resolve while rising populism gnaws at their unity.
- The ceremony held in **Brussels**, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his counterparts will mark the moment the alliance's founding treaty was signed on April 4, 1949, in Washington.
- The anniversary comes as the now **32-nation** alliance weighs a plan to provide more predictable longer-term military support to Ukraine.
- **About NATO:**
- **Established:** 4<sup>th</sup> April 1949
- **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium
- **Member Countries:** 32 (Sweden - 32<sup>nd</sup> member of the NATO)



## Murmu launches India's first gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay

- President Droupadi Murmu launched India's first home-grown gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay.
- Describing the newly-launched treatment, named “**CAR-T cell therapy**,” as a beacon of hope, President Murmu expressed confidence that the therapy will provide a new lease of life to countless cancer patients.
- CAR-T cell therapy, considered a groundbreaking advancement in medical science, has long been available in developed nations. However, its prohibitive costs have rendered it beyond the reach of many.
- The therapy is not only accessible but also the world's most affordable CAR-T cell therapy.
- The collaborative efforts between the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, Tata Memorial Hospital, and industry partner ImmunoACT, highlighting the indigenous therapy as an example of the ‘Make in India’ and ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ initiatives.



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## Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi inaugurated Param Vir Chakra Garden

- Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi inaugurated the Param Vir Chakra garden and Aikyam exhibition at the **Kanchi Mahaswami Vidya Mandir** in **Tambaram**.
- Ravi was accompanied by Lt. Gen. Karanbir Singh Brar, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM), General Officer Commanding (Dakshin Bharat area), and V.Shankar, chairman of the Sri Kanchi Mahaswami Trust.
- The garden showcases the history and statues of the **21 Param Vir Chakra awardees**.
- The garden serves as a tribute to the courageous heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation, ensuring their valor is remembered and celebrated.
- **About Tamil Nadu:**
- **Capital: Chennai**
- **Chief Minister:** M. K. Stalin
- **Governor:** R. N. Ravi



## India's First Atonomous AI Software Engineer : 'Devika'

- A 21-year old Kerala boy has created India's first AI software engineer that can understand human instructions and generate software code and even do bug fixing.
- Named **Devika**, the AI agent is inspired by **Devin**, the world's first fully autonomous AI software engineer developed by Cognition Labs in the US, its creator Mufeed VH.
- Devika is the first indigenous open-source project joining the race and it is an application that can create software from scratch from high-level instructions.
- It comprises AI agents that can think, plan, research, and write code to accomplish.
- Devika can sketch out a step-by-step plan, search and browse the internet, and write the code and instructions to develop a software, and even improve or modify it collaboratively with humans.
- Devika uses large language models (LLMs) such as the Claude model from Anthropic, OpenAI's GPT 4, Meta's Llama series, Groq.



## Forbes billionaires list: Ambani richest Asian with net worth of \$116 bn

- American business magazine Forbes released its “**Forbes World’s Billionaires List 2024: The Top 200**”, which features 200 Indians, up from 169 last year.
- The total wealth of these Indian billionaires is a record \$954 billion up 41 per cent from \$675 billion in 2023.
- Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries, is at the top of the list in India with a net worth of \$116 billion, an increase of 39.76 per cent to \$83 billion last year, making him the first Asian to break into the \$100 billion club.
- Ambani retained his position as the **ninth richest person** in the **world** and both India’s and Asia’s richest person.



- According to the list, Gautam Adani, chairman of the Adani Group, is the second richest Indian, with a net worth of \$84 billion. The **richest woman** in India is **Savitri Jindal**, now the fourth richest Indian, up from sixth a year ago. She has a net worth of \$33.5 billion.
- The Forbes 2024 list also has 25 Indian billionaires who made their debut.
- **Bernard Arnault** and family, with a total net worth of \$233 billion, topped the list, followed by **Elon Musk** (\$195 billion), **Jeff Bezos** (\$194 billion), **Mark Zuckerberg** (\$177 billion), **Larry Ellison** (\$114 billion), Warren Buffett (\$133 billion), Bill Gates (\$128 billion), Steve Ballmer (\$121 billion), Mukesh Ambani (\$116 billion), and Larry Page (\$114 billion).
- According to the “Forbes World’s Billionaires List 2024: The Top 200”, currently, there are more billionaires than ever - 2,781 in all, 141 more than last year and 26 more than the record set in 2021.
- The combined net worth of \$14.2 trillion in aggregate, up by \$2 trillion from 2023 and \$1.1 trillion above the previous record set in 2021.

## Canara Bank launches Loan products to meet Hospitalization Expenses

- Canara Bank launched a slew of new products, including a loan scheme to meet shortfall of hospital expenditure.
- A healthcare-focused loan product called **Canara Heal** is aimed at meeting the shortfall of hospitalization expenditure while settling through TPA healthcare insurance claims of self and/or dependents.
- The loan for meeting hospital expenses will be available at 11.55 per cent per annum on a floating basis and 12.30 per cent at fixed interest rate basis.
- The healthcare loan facility is available for customers whose treatment bill exceeds the insurance limit.
- The bank also introduced a customized savings account for women called **Canara Angel** with unique features such as cancer care policy, pre-approved personal loan Canara ReadyCash and online loan against term deposit product Canara MyMoney.



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- It is free of cost for women at the time of opening a savings account, adding that existing women customers can upgrade their accounts to avail these features.
- The bank also unveiled '**Canara UPI 123PAY ASI**', a user-friendly payment interface, and '**Canara HRMS Mobile App** for Staff', an HR management solution for the bank's employees.
- Canara Bank becomes the first bank to offer seamless doorstep digital services to self-help groups (SHGs) in collaboration with Reserve Bank Innovation Hub.
- **About Canara Bank:**
- **Founded:** 1<sup>st</sup> July 1906
- **Headquarters:** Bengaluru, Karnataka
- **MD & CEO:** K. Satyanarayana Raju
- **Tagline:** Together We Can

## Election Commission launches 'Myth vs Reality Register' to combat misinformation

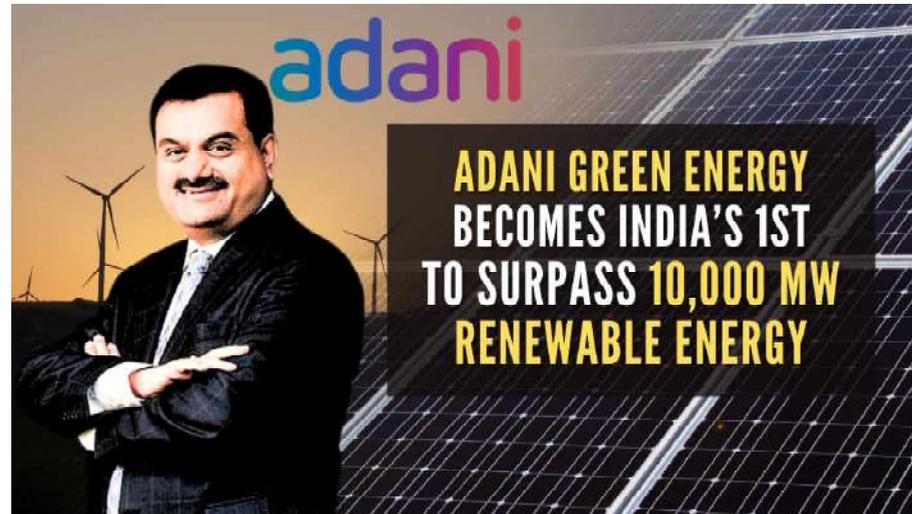
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) launched a new initiative aimed at combating the spread of misinformation surrounding the electoral process and the upcoming general elections.
- The 'Myth vs Reality Register', accessible via the Election Commission's website at <https://mythvsreality.eci.gov.in>.
- The above website will serve as a reliable resource to differentiate between facts and falsehoods, ensuring that voters have access to accurate and verified information throughout the electoral process.
- The microsite was launched by Chief Election Commissioner **Rajiv Kumar**, along with Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu.



- “The platform can be used to verify information, prevent the spread of misinformation, debunk myths, and stay informed about key issues during the General Elections 2024”.
- **About Election Commission of India:**
- **Founded:** 25<sup>th</sup> January 1950
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Chief Election Commission of India:** Rajiv Kumar (25<sup>th</sup>)

**Adani Green Energy Limited becomes the first indigenous company to achieve renewable energy capacity of 10,000 MW**

- After commissioning 2,000 MW of solar capacity at the world's largest renewable energy park, Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) announced that it became the country's first company to have above 10,000 megawatt (MW) or 10 gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy capacity.
- The renewable energy arm of ports-to-power conglomerate Adani Group aims at a **45 GW** renewable energy capacity by **2030**.
- The company now has an operating portfolio of 10,934 MW, the largest in India. It has brought 2,848 MW renewables capacity on stream in FY24.



- AGEL's operational portfolio comprises 7,393 MW solar, 1,401 MW wind and 2,140 MW wind-solar hybrid capacity.
- Adani Green Energy commences 775 MW solar projects in Khavda, Gujarat with a 30 GW project, becoming India's largest renewable portfolio holder operational in 12 states.
- **About Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL):**
- **Founded:** 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015
- **Headquarters:** Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- **CEO:** Amit Singh

## Shiny Wilson Nominated as a Member of Asian Athletic Commission

- Shiny Wilson, an Indian athletics, has been nominated as a member of the Asian Athletic Commission for a period of **four years** (2024-2028).
- Born in Kerala, India, Shiny Wilson's journey in athletics began at a young age. She emerged as the national champion in the 800 meters in 1981, marking the beginning of a career that would span over a decade and leave an indelible mark on Indian athletics.
- Shiny Wilson's career coincided with that of PT Usha, another stalwart of Indian athletics..Shiny Wilson represented India in more than 75 instances in international competitions.
- The duo, along with MD Valsamma and Vandana Rao, clinched the gold medal in the women's 4x400m relay.



- Shiny Wilson's achievements extend beyond the Asian Games. She represented India in the Olympics on four occasions – 1984 Los Angeles, 1988 Seoul, 1992 Barcelona, and 1996 Atlanta.
- In the 1992 edition, she became the first Indian woman to be the flagbearer for the Indian contingent.
- Her contributions to athletics have been recognized with several awards. She was bestowed with the **Arjuna Award** by the Government of India in **1985**, while she was honoured with **Padma Shri** in **1998**. Moreover, she was presented with the Chinese Journalists Award in 1991 for being one of the top 10 athletes in Asia.

## Global life expectancy up 6.2 years since 1990: Lancet report

- According to a Lancet study, people worldwide are living more than six years longer on average in 2021 than they did in 1990.
- The study also showed that life expectancy in India has increased by nearly eight years in the past three decades.
- The study stated that the rise in global life expectancy is attributed to decrease in the number of deaths from diarrhoea, low respiratory infections, stroke, and ischemic heart disease.
- The study further showed that in the South Asia region, Bhutan saw the biggest gains in life expectancy (13.6 years), followed by Bangladesh (13.3), Nepal (10.4), India (8 years), and Pakistan (2.5 years).



- The challenges posed by the pandemic, researchers found that Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Oceania had the largest net gain in life expectancy between 1990 and 2021 (8.3 years). This increase is mostly due to the decline in deaths caused by chronic respiratory diseases, stroke, lower respiratory infections, and cancer.
- The Lancet report showed that the **Global Burden of Disease Study (GBD) 2021** highlighted the sharp drops in deaths from enteric diseases, a class of diseases that includes diarrhoea and typhoid. These improvements increased life expectancy worldwide by 1.1 years between 1990 and 2021.
- Reductions in deaths from lower respiratory infections added 0.9 years to global life expectancy during this period.

## Ajit Doval leads the Indian delegation at SCO Meeting in Astana

- National Security Advisor Ajit Doval led a delegation at the 19th Meeting of Secretaries of the Security Council of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- Doval highlighted the need to shun double standards and hold sponsors, financiers, and facilitators of terrorism accountable.
- Addressing the meeting, Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev advocated adopting a Cooperation Programme to counter **terrorism, separatism, and extremism** for **2025-2027** and the **SCO Anti-Drug Strategy** for **2024-2029**.
- He mentioned that countering “three evil forces”, terrorism, separatism and extremism along with transnational organised crime, drug trafficking and cybersecurity challenges remain priorities during Kazakhstan's chairmanship in the SCO.



- **About SCO:**
- **Founded:** 15<sup>th</sup> June 2001
- **Headquarters:** Beijing, China
- **Member Countries:** 9 permanent members and 3 observer members (Afghanistan, Belarus and Mongolia)
- **Current Chairman of SCO:** Kazakhstan

## India successfully conducts test flight of Agni-Prime ballistic missile

- India has successfully tested the new-generation nuclear-capable Agni-Prime ballistic missile, with a strike range from **1,000 to 2,000 km**, from the **Abdul Kalam Island** off the coast of **Odisha**.
- This test marks the Agni-Prime's second "pre-induction night trial," conducted by the tri-service Strategic Forces Command (SFC) along with the DRDO.
- The launch was witnessed by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, SFC Chief Vice Admiral Suraj Berry, and other senior officials from the armed forces and DRDO.
- The latest Agni-Prime test comes after the flight-trial of the over 5,000-km range Agni-5 intercontinental ballistic missile with multiple warheads (MIRVs) for the first time
- The Agni-Prime will gradually replace the Agni-I (700-km) missiles in the arsenal of SFC, which also has the Prithvi-2 (350-km), Agni-2 (2,000-km), Agni-3 (3,000-km), and Agni-5 ballistic missiles



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