

# IACE

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024 DESCRIPTIVE

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### HEADLINES

- ❖ Sangita Kalanidhi award for vocalist T.M.Krishna
- ❖ Indigenous drug developed for sickle cell anemia
- ❖ Agnicul plans to launch 3D printed Rocket
- ❖ SEBI gives nod for Beta version of T+0 settlement
- ❖ Navneet Kumar Sehgal became the new chairman of Prasar Bharathi
- ❖ India is agreed to support for Bhutan's 13th five year plan
- ❖ India and Seychelles to participate in the exercise "LAMITIYE"
- ❖ Volcano eruption in Reykjanes peninsula in Iceland
- ❖ India and Kathmandu celebrates 22nd Golden Jubilee Scholarship Day
- ❖ RCB wins its first title in World Premier League
- ❖ Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) Programme Launched in Chandigarh

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- ❖ 'Ethanol 100' automotive fuel launched by Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in New Delhi
- ❖ Sheetal Devi has been announced by Election Commission as its National Person with Disability (PwD) Icon
- ❖ For the fifth time, Vladimir Putin won the Russian Presidential Elections
- ❖ In the Grievance Redressal Assessment Index, the Home Ministry ranked among the top 10 ministries

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## Sangita Kalanidhi award for vocalist T.M.Krishna

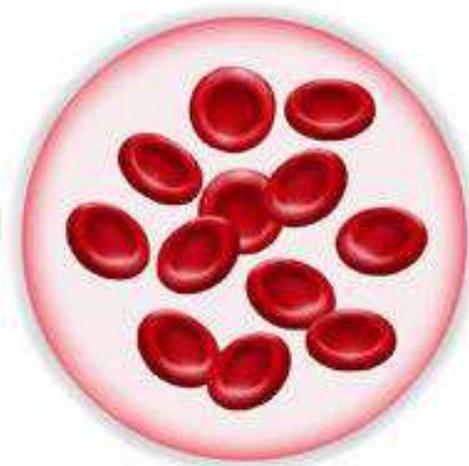
- Renowned carnatic musician, **T M Krishna**, has been chosen as the Sangita Kalanidhi awardee for 2024.
- The award, considered the Oscar equivalent for carnatic music, is given away by the **Music Academy in Chennai**.
- Krishna has won several awards not only for his music, but also for social activism.
- In **2016**, Krishna was awarded the coveted Ramon Magsaysay Award.
- In its citation, the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation had described the musician as one who identified the domination of caste in Carnatic music.
- **Mohiniyattam** exponent **Neena Prasad** has been conferred Nritya Kalanidhi award, the academy's recognition in the field of **dance**.



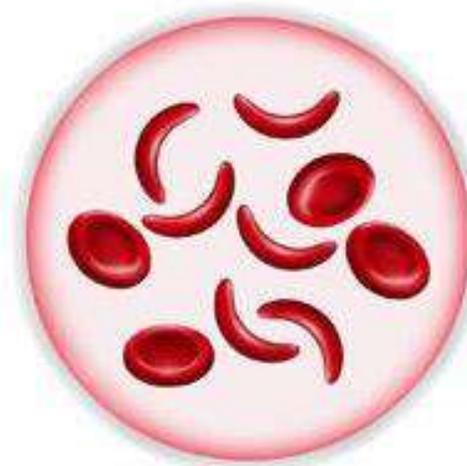
## Indigenous drug developed for sickle cell anemia

- Delhi based **Akmus Drugs and Pharmaceutical Limited** announced the development of a new drug for sickle cell disease.
- The drug would be the country's first indigenous, room temperature stable drug for sickle cell disease to be available at 1% of the global price.
- The pharma company is expected to provide the government medicine for less than Rs.600.
- The medicine will be accompanied by oral syringes for precise dosage administration.
- The drug will help free India of sickle cell disease.

Sickle cell anemia



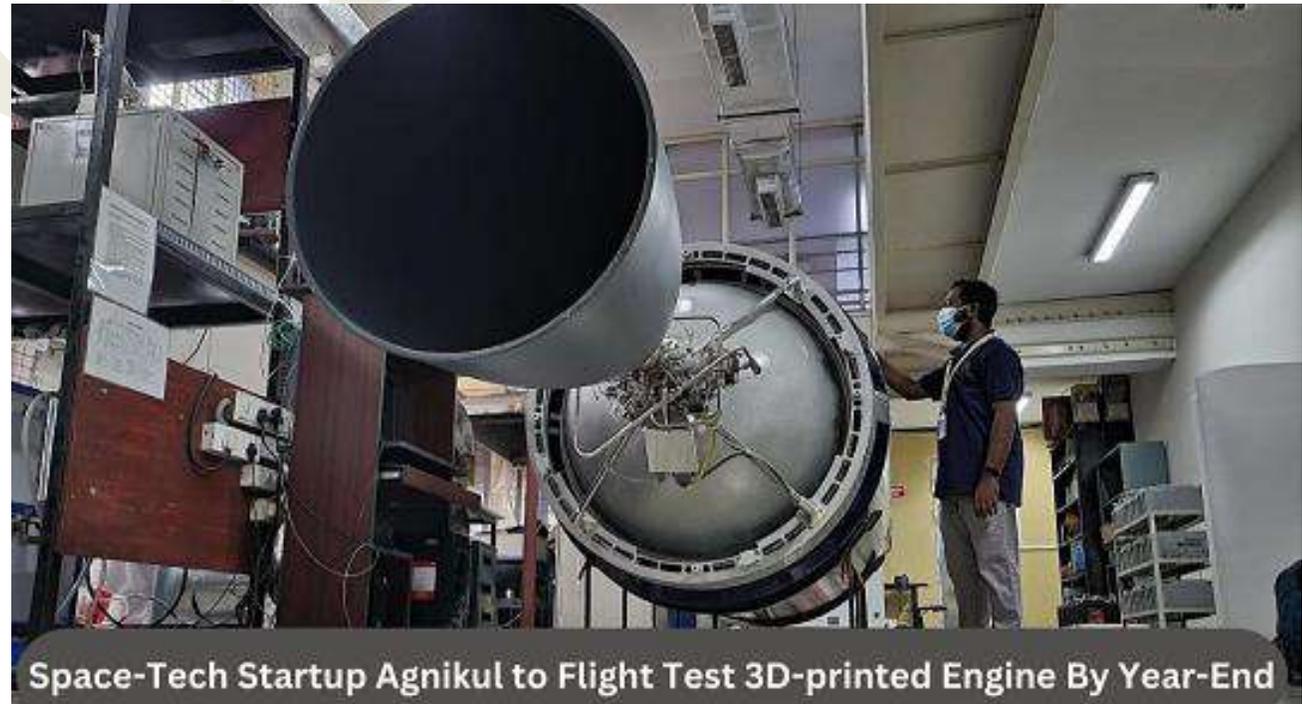
Normal red blood cells



Sickle cell anemia

## Agnicul plans to launch 3D printed Rocket

- **IIT-Madras** incubated start-up AgniKul Cosmos is all set to launch its 3D printed sub-orbital rocket Agnibaan SOrTeD later this month from its private launchpad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota.
- In August last year, AgniKul started the process of integrating its Agnibaan SubOrbital Technological Demonstrator (SOrTeD) at its private launchpad in Sriharikota.
- Agnibaan SOrTeD is a single-stage launch vehicle powered by AgniKul's patented Agnilet engine, a 3D-printed, single-piece, 6 kilonewtons (kN) semi-cryogenic engine.
- The Agnibaan rocket is a two-stage launch vehicle equipped to place payloads of up to 100 kg into a low earth orbit at a distance of 700 km.
- Established in **2017** by aerospace engineers **Srinath Ravichandran** and **Moin SPM**, along with IIT-Madras faculty member **Prof. Sathyanarayan R Chakravarthy**, Agnikul emerged as the first Indian company to sign an agreement with ISRO in December 2020.



Space-Tech Startup Agnikul to Flight Test 3D-printed Engine By Year-End

## SEBI gives nod for Beta version of T+0 settlement

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approved launch of same day settlement (T+0) for a limited set of 25 scrips with a limited number of brokers along with a slew of measures to bring flexibility for initial public offerings (IPOs), Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), and Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).
- The market regulator also approved a uniform approach for verification of market rumours—based on the submissions made by an Industry Standards Forum (ISF).
- Earlier, Sebi chairperson **Madhabi Puri Buch** had indicated March 28 as the timeline to launch T+0 settlement cycle.
- The market regulator also decided to give more FPIs exemption from the granular disclosures, relax the timelines for disclosure of certain material changes, and flexibility to FPIs in dealing with their securities after expiry of their registration.
- In case the concentrated holdings of FPIs in a listed company with no identified promoter meet certain thresholds, then they will be exempted from granular disclosures.
- The Sebi board also gave nod to ease of doing business proposals for initial public offerings (IPOs) along with measures to curb circumvention of regulations by Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).



## Navneet Kumar Sehgal became the new chairman of Prasar Bharathi

- Former IAS officer Navneet Kumar Sehgal assumed charge as the new Prasar Bharati Chairman.
- Navneet Kumar Sehgal is a 1988-batch retired bureaucrat of UP cadre.
- He will succeed A Surya Prakash who completed his term as Chairman in 2020.
- The post is being filled after a gap of 4 years. He has handled many key assignments in the Yogi Adityanath government.
- Prasar Bharati oversees the operations of Doordarshan and All India Radio.
- Prasar Bharati was formed in November **1997**. It is headquartered in **New Delhi**.



## India is agreed to support for Bhutan's 13th five year plan

- India is committed to increase support for Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan and will also consider the request to assist in its 'economic stimulus programme.
- India's development assistance will be geared towards the development of infrastructure, building connectivity in its broadest form which includes road, rail, air and digital connectivity, and in sectors like agriculture, healthcare, education, skilling and cultural preservation.
- Tobgay is on an official visit to India from March 14-18 2024, with his wife Tashi Doma, at the invitation of PM Narendra Modi.
- This is the Bhutanese PM's first overseas visit after assuming office in January 2024.
- India remained committed to partnering with Bhutan in its quest to become a high-income nation.



**JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE**  
**LAMITIYE-2024**  
**BETWEEN**  
**INDIA & SEYCHELLES**



## India and Seychelles to participate in the exercise “LAMITIYE”

- The Indian Army contingent departed for Seychelles to participate in a joint military exercise ‘Lamitiye-2024’ with Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF). . This exercise is the **10<sup>th</sup> edition** between the two countries.
- The 'Lamitiye' joint military exercise is being conducted in Seychelles from 18-27 March 2024.
- **'Lamitiye' means 'Friendship'** in Creole language.
- It has been organized in Seychelles since **2001**.
- 'Exercise Lamitiye-2024' includes **'Indian Gorkha Rifles'** and **'Seychelles Defence Force'**.
- 45 military personnel from both the defence forces are participating in this exercise.
- This exercise aims to enhance interdiction operations in peri-urban scenarios under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.
- The exercise will promote cooperation and interoperability between the two sides during peacekeeping operations.
- The exercise will also build and promote bilateral military ties besides exchange of skills, experience and simulated exercises between the two armies.
- **About Seychelles:**
  - Capital: Victoria
  - Currency: Seychellois Rupee
  - President: Wavel Ramkalawan

## Volcano eruption in Reykjanes peninsula in Iceland

- A volcano has erupted once again in Reykjanes Peninsula in Iceland, marking the fourth eruption since December.
- The volcano unleashed smoke and bright orange lava into the air.
- As a result, a state of emergency has been declared in southern Iceland, prompting an evacuation of nearby areas including renowned tourist attraction, Blue Lagoon.
- The eruption opened a fissure in the earth about three kilometres long between Stóra-Skógfell and Hagafell mountains on the Reykjanes Peninsula.
- **Iceland**, which sits above a volcanic hot spot in the **North Atlantic**, is one of the most active volcanic areas on earth.



## India and Kathmandu celebrates 22nd Golden Jubilee Scholarship Day

- The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu celebrated the 22nd Golden Jubilee Scholarship Day, with about 200 students taking part in the celebrations.
- India's Ambassador to Nepal, Naveen Srivastava, awarded the Ambassador's Golden Jubilee Scholarship Roll of Honour to the first batch of nine meritorious Golden Jubilee Scholarship scholars.
- Highlighting the 'special ties' between India and Nepal, Ambassador Srivastava stated that it is guided by the PM's Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas' .
- The envoy also underlined the opportunities that are to be created for the youth by engaging and collaborating in the startup ecosystem and incubation centres in India.
- He also underscored the growing collaboration between New Delhi and Kathmandu in the sphere of education, adding that it was empowering the youth.



## RCB wins its first title in World Premier League

- The Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) won the Women's Premier League 2024 title with an eight-wicket victory over Delhi Capitals in the final on 18<sup>th</sup> March.
- This is RCB's first-ever T20 title across both WPL and the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- The match was held at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.
- Smriti Mandhana led Royal Challengers rode on valuable contributions from Sophie Devine and Ellyse Perry to cross the finish line in the last over.
- Mandhana got the winning check of Rs 6 Crore and the ultimate trophy





**UNIQUE TALENT  
HUNT EVENT KIRTI  
WILL BE INAUGURATED  
IN CHANDIGARH**

## **Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) Programme Launched in Chandigarh**

- **Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur**, inaugurated the **Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI)** programme in Chandigarh.
- KIRTI aims to identify talented athletes between the ages of 9 and 18 enrolled in schools across India under the Khelo India mission.
- Olympic and World Javelin Throw Champion Neeraj Chopra endorsed the initiative, highlighting its potential to balance sports and studies.
- Objectives of KIRTI include nationwide talent identification through assessments conducted at Talent Assessment Centres, grassroots talent cultivation, and establishing a hierarchical structure for sports excellence.
- KIRTI plans to use IT tools and a scientific approach to identify talent in ten sports disciplines, including archery, athletics, boxing, football, hockey, kabaddi, kho-kho, volleyball, weightlifting, and wrestling.
- The Khelo India Scheme, led by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and conceived by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, aims to cultivate a sporting culture and advance athletic excellence across India.
- Through the Talent Identification and Development program, the Khelo India Scheme seeks to foster a thriving sports ecosystem, empowering individuals to excel in sports.
- The launch of the KIRTI programme signifies a significant step towards identifying and nurturing talented athletes from the grassroots level, contributing to India's success on the global sports stage.

## **‘Ethanol 100’ automotive fuel launched by Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in New Delhi**

- Under this initiative, the availability of Ethanol 100 is ready at select 183 retail petrol outlets across five states – Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, New Delhi, and Tamil Nadu.
- Ethanol 100 fuel has the potential to transform the transportation sector and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.



- In 2023, the Prime Minister announced E20 (20% ethanol blended fuel), and the E20 availability has increased to 12,000 outlets in under a year.
- These ethanol blending initiatives have increased farmers' income, increased rural employment, and reduced CO2 emissions equivalent to planting 1.75 crore trees.
- With 131 dedicated ethanol plants, Oil marketing companies (OMCs) have signed long-term agreements.
- These plants are expected to add an annual production design capacity of 745 crore litres.
- Ethanol100, a clean and green alternative to gasoline, is a mixture of 92 to 94% ethanol, 4 to 5% motor spirit, and 1.5% co-solvent highly saturated alcohol to provide colour to the flame.
- It claims low emissions of greenhouse gases and pollutants and helps combat climate change and improve air quality in our communities.
- Ethanol 100 proves ideal for high-performance engines with its high-octane rating typically between 100-105, ensuring better efficiency and power output while reducing environmental impact.

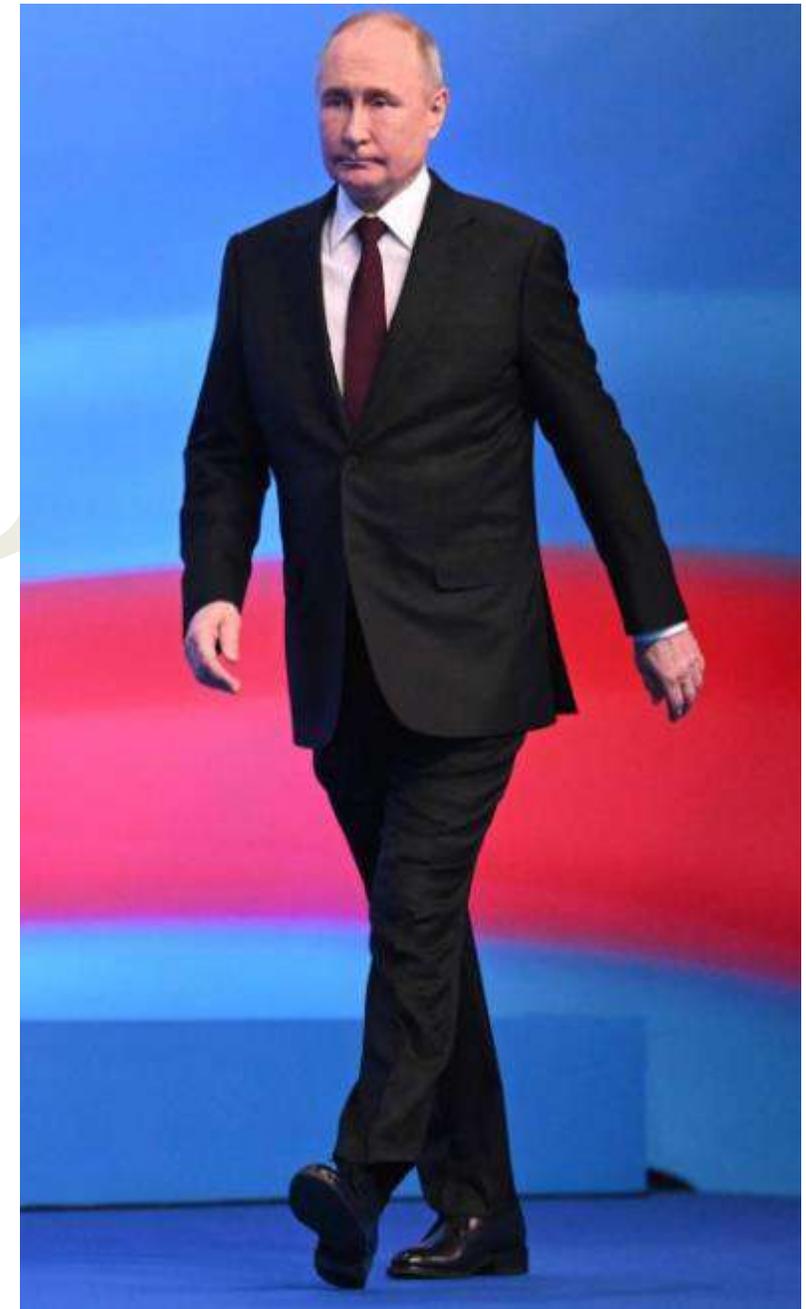
## **Sheetal Devi has been announced by Election Commission as its National Person with Disability (PwD) Icon**

- Her name was declared at an Exhibition Cricket Match between Indian Deaf Cricket Association Team and the Delhi and District Cricket Association team.
- This match was held in Delhi and organised by the Election Commission.
- Election Commission organised this match in association with the Board of Control for Cricket in India to promote voter education and inclusivity.
- Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu graced the event.
- A dedicated Voter's Guide for PwDs and Senior Citizen Electors was also launched by the Election Commission.
- **Sheetal Devi is a Para Archer and Arjuna Awardee.** She got Arjuna Award **2023** on 9 January 2024.
- **She is the first and only international para-archery champion without upper limbs.**



## For the fifth time, Vladimir Putin won the Russian Presidential Elections

- Russian President Vladimir Putin won the Presidential Elections for the fifth time.
- He got another six-year term with 87 per cent of the vote. The other candidates got less than 5 per cent votes.
- Communist candidate Nikolai Kharitonov finished second and Vladislav Davankov came third.
- Vladimir Putin will become the longest-serving Russian leader since Catherine the Great in the 1700s.
- **President of Russia:**
- The president of the Russian Federation is the executive head of state of Russia.
- The President of Russia is the supreme commander-in-chief of the Russian Armed Forces.
- A presidential candidate must be a citizen of the Russian Federation and should be at least 35 years old.
- After the constitutional changes in 2020, the president can serve more than two terms.



## **In the Grievance Redressal Assessment Index, the Home Ministry ranked among the top 10 ministries**

- In the Grievance Redressal Assessment Index (GRAI) in 2023-24, the Ministry has consistently been ranked among the top 10 ministries, performing well in all 15 specified indicators.
- With an average redressal time of eight days against the standard 30 days, the Home Ministry has performed exceptionally well by redressal 48,837 public complaints during 2023-24.
- Only 10% of complaints resulted in appeal which is one of the lowest among ministries and citizen satisfaction is also 40%.



**Grievance Redressal Index**