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17th APRIL 2024 **DESCRIPTIVE**

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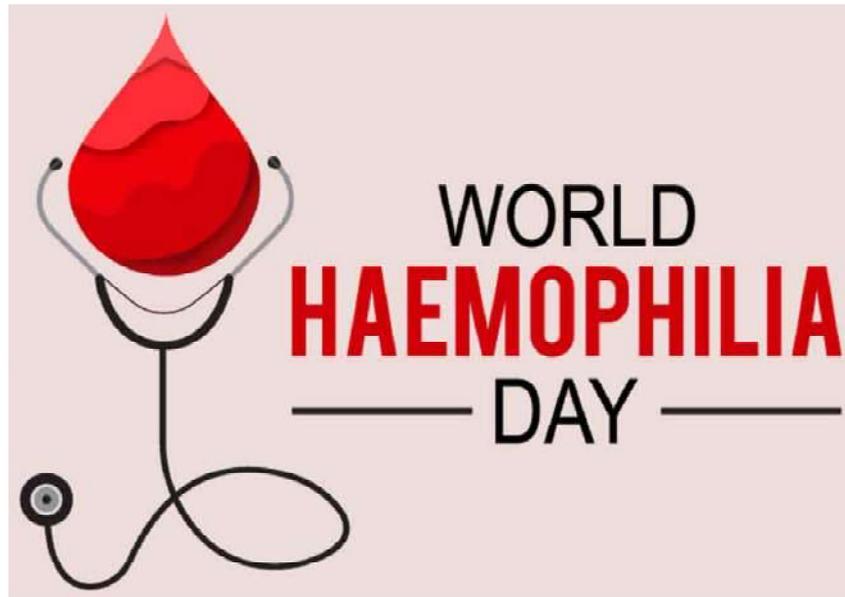
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World Haemophilia Day: April 17th

- **The World Haemophilia Day** is observed every year **on April 17th**.
- **Theme:** “Equitable access for all: recognizing all bleeding disorders”.
- This day celebrated to create awareness about diagnosis and access to focus on those individuals who stay without treatment, to raise funds for individuals who are experiencing this infection and can't manage the cost of treatment.
- Haemophilia is a genetic disease that can be passed down from parents to children. Generally, this illness is more normal in guys. This disease is carried by chromosomes, which prevent blood from clotting and cause bleeding.



- **The World Federation of Haemophilia** established **World Haemophilia Day** in **1989**. The date of April 17 was chosen to commemorate the birthday of the **World Federation of Haemophilia's founder, Frank Schnabel**.
- In fact, haemophilia was first discovered around the **10th century**, when people began to take a serious interest, particularly in male patients who died after suffering minor bleeding wounds. Abulcasis was the name given to this illness back then.
- In 1937 found there were **two types of haemophilia genetic disorders: A and B**, but prior to that time, no effective treatment was developed.

Nigeria becomes the first country to introduce a vaccine for meningitis

- Nigeria has taken a historic step in the fight against meningitis, becoming the first country in the world to introduce a new, highly effective vaccine aiming to initially cover over one million individuals aged **1 to 29 years**.
- The vaccine, called **Men5CV**, is recommended by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and offers protection against **five strains of the meningococcus bacteria** in a single shot.
- The rollout of the new shot is a significant advancement over previous vaccines, which often only targeted one or two strains.
- The pioneering use paves the way for other countries to follow suit and future recommendations for broader adoption are likely.



- Meningitis is a **dangerous inflammation of the membranes** surrounding the brain and spinal cord, according to United States' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- This disease can be caused by viruses, bacteria, fungi, or parasites and can lead to serious complications, including brain damage, hearing loss and learning disabilities.
- Bacterial meningitis, specifically caused by the meningococcus bacteria, is a particular concern in Africa.
- A region of 26 countries known as the “African meningitis belt” stretches across the continent, including Nigeria. Last year, the number of meningitis cases reported across Africa increased by 50 per cent, according to WHO.
- **Nigeria's** rollout moves the world one step closer to WHO goal of **eliminating meningitis by 2030**.
- The new vaccine offers a broader shield than its predecessors. It protects against strains A, C, W, Y and X of the meningococcus bacteria, all of which can cause meningitis and blood poisoning. This broader protection is crucial in regions like the meningitis belt, where multiple strains can circulate.
- **Funding** for the vaccine and its rollout comes from **Gavi**, the Vaccine Alliance, whose involvement ensures wider accessibility of this life-saving vaccine.
- Between October 1, 2023 and March 11, 2024, Nigeria experienced an outbreak of meningitis, resulting in 1,742 suspected cases, 101 confirmed cases confirmed and 153 deaths. The outbreak occurred across seven out of Nigeria's 36 states.

Delhi airport has been named among the world's top 10 busiest airports for 2023: Airports Council International (ACI) Report

- **The Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi** is ranked **tenth** in a list of the **world's top 10 busiest airports**.
- **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport** has **topped** the list. **Dubai** and **Dallas airports** are at the **second and third positions**, respectively.
- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport handled **10.46 crore** passengers in 2023.
- Dubai International Airport handled more than **8.69 crore passengers**.
- Other airports on the list are- London's Heathrow Airport (4th spot), Tokyo's Haneda Airport (5th), Denver International Airport (6th), and Istanbul Airport (7th).
- The global total passenger forecast for 2023 was **8.5 billion (850 crore)** It is 27.2 per cent higher than 2022.



- Delhi airport handled more than **7.22 crore** passengers in 2023. In 2022, the airport was in the ninth position.
- The top 10 airports represent 10 per cent of global traffic (806 million passengers).

About Airports Council International (ACI):

Founded: 1991

Headquarters: Montreal, Quebec, Canada,

Bramha Kumar appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Zimbabwe

- **Bramha Kumar** has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to **Republic of Zimbabwe**.
- An Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of batch 2005, Kumar is a Joint Secretary in Ministry of External Affairs at present.
- He will replace **Vijay Khanduja**, who was appointed the ambassador on November 9, 2020.
- Khanduja had earlier worked in various capacities serving as Director (UN Economic & Social) Division of the Ministry of External Affairs.

About Zimbabwe:

Capital: Harare

President: Emmerson Mnangagwa

Currency: Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG)



Veteran Carnatic musician, singer KG Jayan passed away

- Noted Carnatic musician K.G. Jayan passed away at the age of 90 in Thripunitura in Ernakulam district of Kerala.
- He was undergoing treatment for various ailments. His cremation will be held at the crematorium in Thripunitura.
- Born on November 21, 1934, Jayan and his brother K.G. Vijayan were known as the 'Jaya-Vijaya' duo in the world of music. The Jaya-Vijaya title was suggested by the late Malayalam actor Jose Prakash who worked with them in his plays.
- Together, they gave life to over 1,000 compositions in films, plays and devotional albums. Though Vijayan died in 1988, Jayan continued his musical journey through devotional songs and Carnatic concerts.
- Jayan won the **Padma Shri in 2019**. His other accolades include **Sangeetha Nataka Akademi award in 1991** and **Harivarasanam award in 2013**.



Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah appointed as the Prime Minister of Kuwait

- **The Emir of Kuwait** announced the appointment of **Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah** as the **new Prime Minister**, succeeding **Sheikh Mohammed Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah**, who resigned in April. This latest development followed the election of a new parliament, which marks the fourth since December 2020.
- Over the years, Sheikh Ahmad held various positions at **Kuwait's Finance Center** and the **Central Bank of Kuwait**.
- In addition, he served as the chairman of the board for Burgan Bank before taking up different ministerial positions, including Minister of Finance, Minister of Communications, Minister of Planning, Minister of State for Administrative Affairs, Minister of Health, and Minister of Oil.

About Kuwait:

Capital: Kuwait City

PM: Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah

Currency: Kuwaiti Dinar



International Humanitarian Conference for Sudan and neighbouring countries was held in Paris, France

- An International humanitarian conference for Sudan and neighbouring countries was held in the French capital, Paris, on 15 April 2024 to raise funds for the people of Sudan who have been caught in a war between Sudan's army and the rebel paramilitary force Rapid Support Forces.
- The conference was organized in response to the United Nations' funding appeal on 7 February 2024.
- **France, Germany and the European Union** organized the International Humanitarian Conference for Sudan and neighbouring countries are participating in this event.
- Ministers and representatives of over 58 states, including neighbouring and regional countries and donors, attended the conference.
- It was also attended by representatives of various regional organizations such as the African Union, many United Nations programmes and agencies, representatives of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Arab Development Bank. Around 50 international and Sudanese NGOs also participated in the conference.
- At the Paris conference, the **international donors** announced they would provide more than **2 billion euros**, including around **900 million euros** provided by the **European Union and its Members**.

- According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Sudan needs at least \$2.7 billion this year to provide food, health care, and other supplies to 24 million people in Sudan, almost half the 51 million Sudanese population.
- Since independence in 1956, Sudan has been plagued with civil war and political instability. The latest civil war started in 2023.
- In December 2022, a peace agreement brokered by Saudi Arabia and the United States was signed under which the **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)** was to be merged with **Sudan's Armed Forces** and power to be transferred to a civilian government and the peace deal broke down in April 2023.
- The ongoing conflict in Sudan has come with terrible consequences for the people of Sudan and neighbouring countries. Around 14,000 Sudanese have lost their lives, and around 33,000 have been wounded in a year-long fresh civil war. Around 9 million people have fled the country and taken shelter in neighbouring countries of Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan.
- **Sudan** has the **largest number** of **internally displaced persons** in the world. More than half of the Sudanese people need humanitarian assistance, while 18 million people are suffering from acute food insecurity.

About France

Capital: Paris

PM: Gabriel Attal

President: Emmanuel Macron

Currency: The euro



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Jonatan Christie won the male singles title 2024 at Asian Badminton Championship

- **Indonesian Badminton player Jonatan Christie** won his **first Asian Badminton Championship** by defeating the **Chinese player Li Shi Feng** in the final of the 2024 Badminton Asia Championships.
- The **41st Badminton Asia Championships** was held in the coastal city of **Ningbo**, located in the **Zhejiang province of China**.
- The Badminton Asia Championships is a BWF Super 1000 event. It means that the winner of the event in both singles, doubles earns 1000 points.
- It was also the last qualifying event before the Summer Paris Olympic to be held from 26 July to 11 August 2024.
- The current All England Open champion, Jonatan Christie, was in good form and won his match in straight sets 21-15, 21-16. Jonatan Christie lost in the final of the 2022 Badminton Asia Championship held in Manila, Philippines.



Following were the winners of the 41st Badminton Asia Championship 2024:

Singles Men: Jonatan Christie (Indonesia) by defeating Li Shi Feng (China)

Singles Women: Wang Zhi Yi (China) by defeating Chen Yu Fei(China)

Doubles Men's: Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang (China) by defeating Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin (Malaysia)

Doubles Women's: Baek Ha-Na and Lee So-Hee (South Korea) by defeating Zhang Shu Xian and Zheng Yu (China)

Mixed Doubles: Feng Yan Zhe/Huang Dong Ping (China) by defeating Seo Seung Jae/Chae Yu Jung (South Korea).

About Badminton Asia:

- Badminton Asia is **the governing body** of the badminton sport in Asia. It is a member of the badminton's world governing body, the Badminton World Federation (BWF).
- It was established in **1959** as the **Asian Badminton Confederation**. In **2015**, its name was changed to the **Badminton Asia Confederation** and finally to **Badminton Asia**.
- Badminton Asia has **43 Member Associations**. The Asian region is divided into five subregions: Central Asia, West Asia, South Asia, East Asia, and South-East Asia.

Headquarters: Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia

President: Kim Jong Soo

Wisden names England's Nat Brunt as world's leading female cricketer

- **Nat Sciver-Brunt** has become the **first England woman** to be honored as **Wisden's leading cricketer** in the world.
- **Joe Wisden** has **topped** Nat Sciver-Brunt in its awards list. Harry Brook and Mark Wood are also among the five cricketers of the year named by Wisden.
- **Sciver-Brunt** has regained the top spot in women's cricket after a stellar form in **2023**.
- **Australian captain Pat Cummins** was included as the leading cricketer in the **men's category**. Under the leadership of Pat Cummins, Australia enjoyed success in both the World Test Championship and the 50-over World Cup.
- Pat Cummins will replace Ben Stokes, who has won the prestigious title three times in the last four years.
- **Ben Stokes** had received this honor **thrice in four years in 2020, 2021 and 2023**.



- **Pat Cummins** is the **first Australian** to be named as Wisden's leading cricketer since Michael Clarke in 2012.
- **Travis Head** has won the **Wisden Trophy**. The Head Award is awarded for outstanding individual performance by a man or woman in a Test match during the previous calendar year.
- Head has been awarded the Wisden Trophy for his 163 runs against India in the World Test Championship final.
- **Hayley Mathews** has been named the world's leading T20 cricketer.
- Wisden released the list of top 5 cricketers: which includes Mitchell Starc, Usman Khawaja, Ashley Gardner, Harry Brook and Mark Wood.
- Sciver-Brunt's star power was acknowledged by Mumbai Indians at the start of the year, when her £320,000 Women's Premier League deal made her the United Kingdom's highest-paid female athlete.
- Sciver-Brunt scored three ODI centuries in five innings. Which also included two Ashes centuries in a span of 72 hours.

About England:

Capital: London

PM: Rishi Sunak

Currency: Pound sterling

BharatPe elevates Nalin Negi as its CEO

- Fintech firm **BharatPe** has elevated its **interim CEO** and **chief financial officer Nalin Negi** as **full-time chief executive officer**.
- Negi was given charge of interim CEO in January 2023 after then CEO **Suhail Sameer** stepped down from the post.
- Negi joined BharatPe in **2022**, with over 28 years of experience in building and scaling businesses in the fintech and banking domains.
- Under Negi's leadership, BharatPe recorded 182 per cent increase in revenue from operations in FY'23 and October 2023 was the first earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) positive month.

About BharatPe:

Founded: April 2018

Headquarters: New Delhi

CEO: Nalin Negi



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Indian Air Force's oldest pilot Dalip Singh Majithia passed away

- The oldest living pilot of the **Indian Air Force, Squadron Leader Dalip Singh Majithia**, died at the age of **103** at his farm in **Uttarakhand**.
- Born on July 27, 1920 at Shimla, Squadron Leader Majithia joined the **Indian Air Force (IAF) volunteer reserve** in **1940** during World War-II.
- In June 1941, Dalip Singh Majithia was assigned to the No. 1 Coastal Defence Flight (CDF) based at St Thomas Mount in Madras, where he spent the next 15 months.
- Majithia was posted to 151 Operational Training Unit (OTU) at Risalpur to undergo conversion training on the Harvard and Hurricane aircraft, in preparation for deployment to the warfront.
- In March 1943, Majithia joined No. 6 Squadron in the rank of flying officer under the command of the 'Baba' Mehar Singh, another famous name in the annals of IAF's history.



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- Dalip Singh Majithia was stationed in Burma as Flight Commander of No. 4 Squadron.
- Majithia served as the IAF's Liaison Officer to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Australia.

About Indian Air Force:

Established: 8th October 1932.

Headquarters: New Delhi

Air Chief Marshal: Vivek Ram Chaudhari

All lenders to give KFS from 1st October: RBI

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** stated in a latest update that all lenders will have to provide **key facts statement (KFS)** about the loan agreement terms, including all-inclusive interest cost to borrowers for retail and MSME loans, from October 1.
- This is being done in order to enhance transparency and reduce information asymmetry on financial products being offered by different regulated entities (REs), thereby empowering borrowers to make an informed financial decision.
- Currently, KFS is specifically mandated with respect to loans by commercial banks to individual borrowers, digital lending by RBI-regulated entities (REs) and microfinance loans.
- The harmonised instructions shall be applicable in cases of all retail and MSME term loan products extended by all regulated entities.

About RBI:

Founded: 1st April 1935

Headquarters: New Delhi

Governor: Shaktikanta Das



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IMF predicts that India's GDP projection raises to 6.8% for FY2024-25

- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF)** updated to the **World Economic Outlook report** has revised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth projection to **6.8 percent** for the **financial year (FY) 2024-25**, which is an increase of **30 basis points** from its January **forecast of 6.5 percent**.
- In **FY 2025-26 at 6.5 percent** due to the continuing strength in domestic demand and a rising working-age population.
- In addition, the report projected **global growth** to continue at the same pace of **3.2 percent in FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26**.
- This means that India remains the fastest growing economy in the world, with a growth projection of 6.8 percent, which is higher than China's growth projection of **4.6 percent** during the same period.
- The IMF predicts that the same growth rate will continue in **2023 and 2025**.



- The IMF has revised its growth projection for the **US economy** from the earlier prediction of **2.1% to 2.7%** this year. It also expects the **US economy** to grow at a solid rate of **2.5% in 2023**.
- On the other hand, the **Chinese economy**, which was once known for its double-digit annual growth, is expected to slow down from **5.2% in 2023 to 4.6% in 2024** and **eventually to 4.1% next year**.
- **Japan's economy**, which is currently the **fourth-largest in the world**, is expected to slow down from **1.9%** in the previous year to **0.9% in 2024**. It lost its third-place position to Germany last year.
- GDP measures the total value of all goods and services produced in a country within a given time period, such as a quarter or a year.

About International Monetary Fund (IMF):

Founded: July 1944

Headquarters: Washington DC, United States of America

Managing Director: Kristalina Georgieva

Reports released by IMF are:

Global Financial Stability Report

The World Economic Outlook

Government of India to launch laboratories for testing of high grade cotton

- The Union Government aims to establish dedicated laboratories to test high-grade cotton in **six key states - Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat, and Karnataka**. This will help the government elevate India's **Kasturi cotton** to a global brand status, mirroring the quality standards set by renowned global cotton brands like **Supima and Giza**, known for their exceptional softness, strength, and durability.
- Aligned with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), these labs will ensure adherence to national quality benchmarks.
- Despite being a major producer of cotton, India has only recently begun branding its cotton products. In contrast, **Egypt** has successfully positioned its **Giza cotton brand internationally**.
- The Indian variant, Kasturi Cotton Bharat, upholds stringent standards, limiting trash content to 2 per cent to ensure premium quality and enabling 100 per cent traceability.



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- The Ministry of Textiles aims to address this by finalising a comprehensive testing action plan focusing on enhancing overall quality standards to promote Indian textiles globally.
- This technology upgradation plan will enable real-time testing, emphasising credibility and accuracy, thereby ensuring the global acceptance of Indian textiles, particularly Kasturi cotton.
- Presently, the testing facilities under the textiles ministry, including those operated by the **Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), lack NABL accreditation.**
- The government has identified five key focus areas, including skill development, infrastructure enhancement, and investment attraction to strengthen India's textile ecosystem.
- It has launched initiatives like PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM-MITRA) parks, the production-linked incentive scheme, and others to attract significant investments, potentially creating millions of new jobs in the next few years.