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For the first time, Srinagar hosted a Formula-4 race

- After hosting its inaugural Formula 4 car racing demonstration event, Srinagar witnessed a historic moment.
- The race was held around the world-famous **Dal Lake**.
- The event enthralled locals and motorsport lovers alike, as professional Formula 4 drivers showcased their skills with exciting stunts.
- Foreign racing cars raced on a 1.7 km long track stretching from Lalit Ghat on the banks of Dal Lake to Nehru Park in the heart of the city.
- The Federation of Motorsports Clubs of India, affiliated with the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) organized this event, which was the first of its kind in the Kashmir Valley.
- The aim is to promote tourism in the region and also to inspire local youth to explore motorsports as a viable career path.
- Under the auspices of the Tourism Department, the collaboration between Formula 4 and the Indian Racing League underlined the growing prominence of Kashmir in the motorsports sector.



Pankaj Advani in Hall Of Fame at the World Billiards Museum



- Legendary Indian cueist Pankaj Advani achieved yet another milestone in his glorious career as he has been inducted into the Hall of Fame at the World Billiards Museum in Shangrao City in China.
- Last November, the 38-year-old Indian star won his 26th IBSF (the International Billiards and Snooker Federation) title after beating compatriot Sourav Kothari who had threatened his chances early on in the billiards' long-format contest.
- Advani's unparalleled skill, unwavering dedication, and remarkable achievements have strengthened his status as one of the greatest champions in the history of billiards.
- His journey to the Hall of Fame is a testament to his relentless pursuit of excellence and his remarkable contributions to the sport.

'Mission 414' campaign has been launched by the Election Commission in Himachal Pradesh



- To increase voter turnout, the 'Mission 414' campaign has been launched by the Election Commission in Himachal Pradesh.
- The main aim of the campaign is **to maximise voter turnout in 414 polling stations** which registered less than 60% voting in the last Lok Sabha polls.
- Special invitation cards made by children would be given to prospective voters.

- The average voter turnout in Himachal Pradesh in the 2019 Lok Sabha election was 72.42%.
- In Himachal Pradesh, 1,38,918 first-time voters will cast their vote for four Lok Sabha seats of Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, and Shimla (SC).
- The expenditure limit of candidates for Lok Sabha polls would be ₹95 lakh.
- Tashigang polling station in Lahaul and Spiti situated at an altitude of 15,256 feet is the highest polling booth in India.

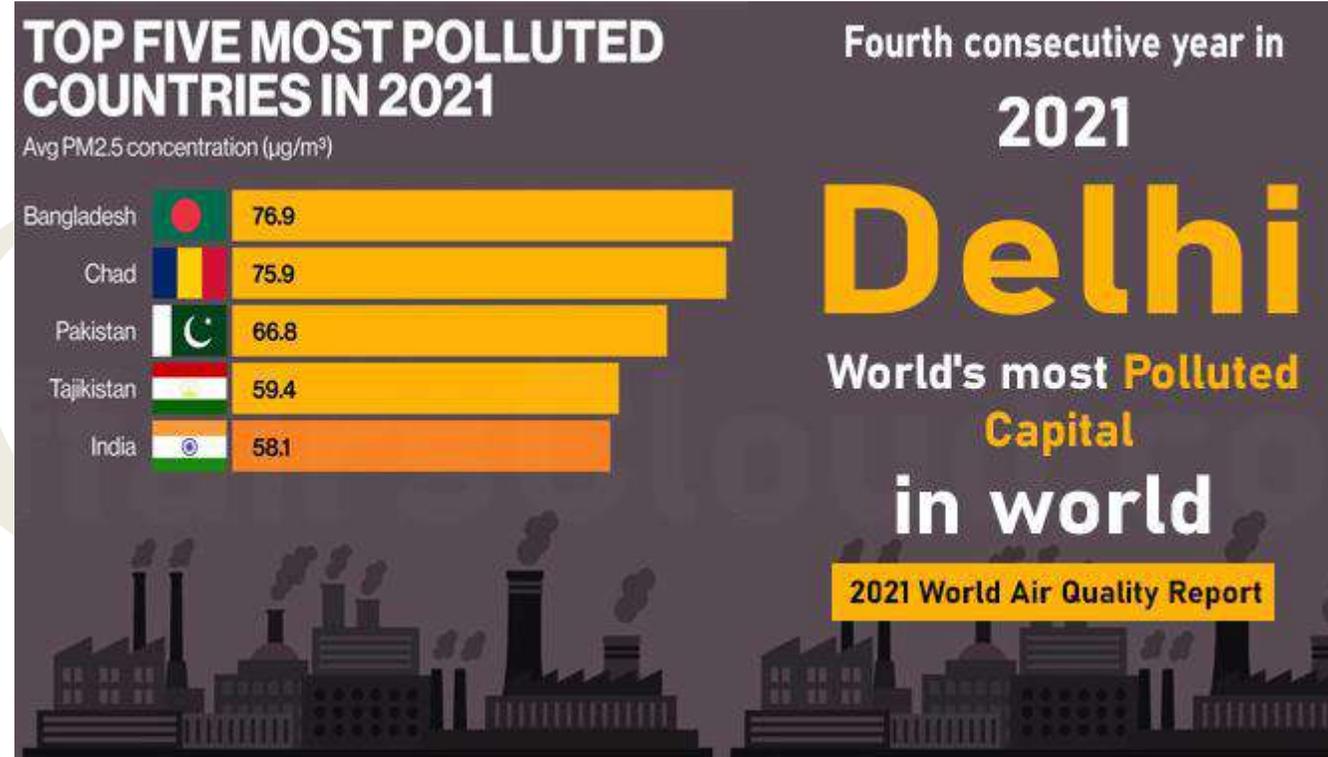
International Day of Happiness: 20 March



- International Day of Happiness is observed on 20 March.
- 2024 Theme: “Reconnecting for Happiness: Building Resilient Communities”.
- It was started by the United Nations in 2012. It was started to recognize happiness as a fundamental human goal.
- The first International Day of Happiness was observed in 2013.
- The UN resolution proclaiming International Day of Happiness was initiated by Bhutan.
- Bhutan is a country which values Gross National Happiness over GDP.
- India is ranked at 126th out of 146 countries in the World Happiness Index for 2023.

New Delhi has been ranked the most polluted capital city in the world for the fourth year in a row since 2018

- Delhi's PM2.5 levels increased from 89.1 micrograms per cubic meter in 2022 to 92.7 micrograms per cubic meter in 2023, according to the Air Quality Report 2023.
- **Begusarai**, in Bihar, is now the **most polluted metropolitan area in the world**.
- Its average PM2.5 concentration was 118.9 micrograms per cubic metre. It had not found place in 2022 rankings.
- **India's air quality was the third worst in the world**, behind Bangladesh and Pakistan.



- India's average annual PM2.5 concentration was 54.4 micrograms per cubic meter.
- According to the report, for over one billion people, PM2.5 concentrations in India are higher than the World Health Organization's annual guideline limit of 5 micrograms per cubic metre.
- In 2022, India was the 8th most polluted country. Its average PM2.5 concentration was 53.3 micrograms per cubic metre.

- Over 66% of India's cities reported annual PM2.5 averages of more than 35 micrograms per cubic metre.
- India is home to the world's top four most polluted cities in terms of air quality. Delhi comes in third place, behind Begusarai and Guwahati.
- Air Quality Report 2023 is a report of Swiss organisation IQAir.
- For 6th annual Air Quality Report, data of 134 countries regions and territories was analysed. This number was 131 in case of Air Quality Report 2022.

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As per the ILO study, 3.5 people for every 1,000 are engaged in forced labour

- According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), forced labour generates illegal profits worth \$36 billion annually.
- Since 2014, illegal profits have increased by 37%, fuelled by a growth in the number of people forced into labour as well as higher profits generated from the exploitation of victims.
- The report titled '**Profits and poverty: The economics of forced labour**' has been released by the ILO.
- Profits from forced labour are highest in Europe and Central Asia (\$84 billion), followed by Asia and the Pacific (\$62 billion).
- There were 27.6 million people engaged in forced labour every day in 2021.
- Between 2016 and 2021, the number of people in forced labour increased by 2.7 million.
- The report highlights that there is an urgent need for investment in enforcement measures to stop illegal profit flows and hold perpetrators accountable.

About International Labour Organisation:

- Established in 1919.
- Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland
- Member countries in this organization are 187.
- It received **Nobel Peace Prize** in the year of **1969**.



India's net direct tax collection has grown 19.88% to more than Rs 18.90 lakh crore till March 17



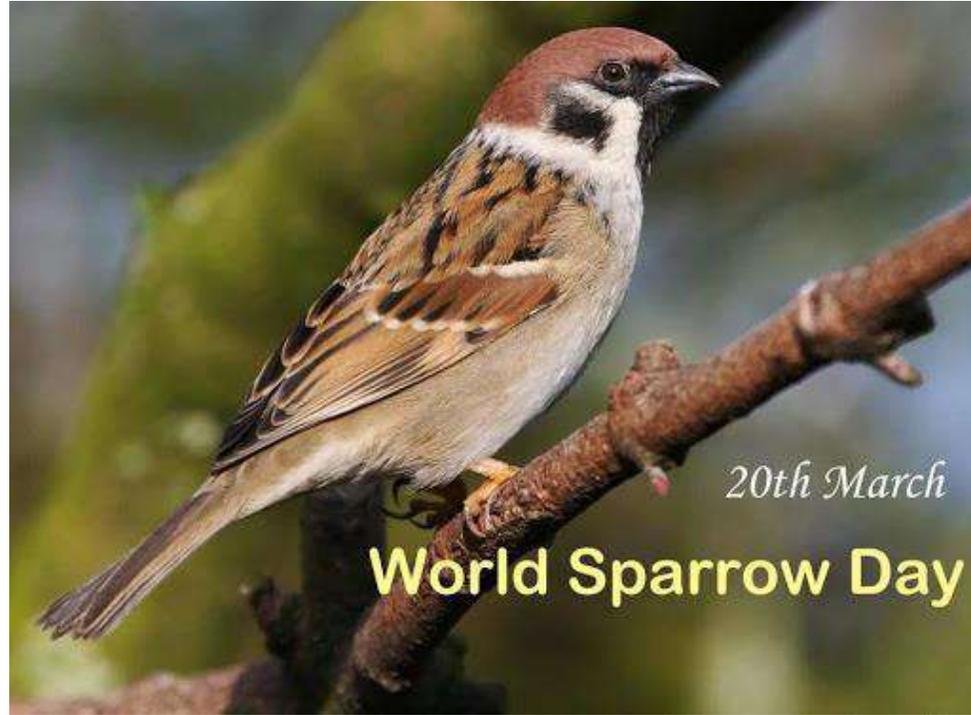
- As per the Income tax department data, the net direct tax collection stood at Rs 18,90,259 crore (as of March 17).
 - This includes Corporation Tax of Rs 9,14,469 crore (net of refund) and Personal Income Tax, including Securities Transaction Tax (STT) at Rs 9,72,224 crore (net of refund).
 - In the current fiscal till March 17, refunds amounting to nearly Rs 3.37 lakh crore have been released.
 - Before deducting refunds, the gross amount of direct tax collected was Rs 22.27 lakh crore.
 - The government estimated that it would get Rs 19.45 lakh crore in revenue for the entire fiscal year in its updated estimates for direct tax collection.
- From the budget estimate of Rs 18.20 lakh crore for the current fiscal year, the direct tax revenues prediction for FY24 was increased to Rs 19.45 lakh crore by the Finance Minister in the budget speech on 1 February.
 - As of March 15, gross direct tax receipts before refunds were Rs 22.25 lakh crore, 13.5% more than during the same period the previous year.

Jharkhand governor CP Radhakrishnan gets an additional charge of Telangana



- Jharkhand Governor CP Radhakrishnan became the in-charge governor of Telangana.
- He will also carry the additional responsibilities of the **Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry**.
- Radhakrishnan is the **third person from Tamil Nadu** to occupy the post of governor in Telangana for a consecutive term.
- Radhakrishnan assumed the governorship of Jharkhand in 2023.
- Recently, Tamilisai Soundararajan resigned as governor of Telangana and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry posts.
- The resignation of Tamilisai was accepted with immediate effect by the President.

International Sparrow Day is celebrated on March 20



- **World Sparrow Day** is observed every year on **March 20** to create awareness about the significance of the presence of sparrows for our ecosystem and biodiversity.
- The theme for World Sparrow Day is “**I Love Sparrows**”.
- The first World Sparrow Day was declared by The **Nature Forever Society** March 20, **2010** in India.
- **World Oral Health Day** is celebrated every year on **March 20**.
- Theme: **A happy mouth is a happy body**.

Insurance sector attracted Rs54000 cr FDI in last nine years

- The insurance sector has received close to Rs 54,000 crore as foreign direct investment (FDI) in the last 9 years.
- The government increased the permissible **FDI limit** from **26 per cent** in **2014** to **49 per cent** in **2015** and then to **74 per cent** in **2021**.
- The number of insurance players increased from **53** to **70** as of January 2024.
- Insurance penetration increased from 3.9 per cent in 2013-14 to 4 per cent in 2022-23 while insurance density rose from USD 52 in 2013-14 to USD 92 in 2022-23.
- Insurance penetration and density are two metrics, among others, often used to assess the level of development of the insurance sector in a country.
- Zurich Insurance-Kotak General Insurance deal could be one of the major FDI flows in the insurance sector. Zurich Insurance acquire a 70 per cent stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance, for Rs 5,560 crore.

Insurance Sector
Receive
Rs 54,000 Crore
FDI in Last 9 years



RBI imposed Rs 1.32 cr penalty on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank

- RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.3 crore on the Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB).
- It pertains to non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Interest Rate on Advances' and 'Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) - Revision in Reporting'.
- Central Bank imposes a monetary penalty of Rs 63.6 lakh on Development Credit Bank (DCB).
- The penalty for deficiencies in regulatory compliance and not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transactions or agreements entered into by them with their customers

About Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB)

Founded: 11 May 1921

Headquarters: Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu

CEO: K V Rama Moorthy



3rd edition of North East games 2024 has begun in Nagaland

- Nagaland Chief Minister **Neiphiu Rio** officially declared the 3rd edition of North East Games 2024 commenced at the Games Village, Sovima in Chümoukedima.
- The North East Sports Association has precisely planned the schedule and venues, spanning three districts—Chümoukedima, Dimapur, and Kohima—to transform the state's landscape into vibrant arenas of athletic skill and competitive spirit.
- The sports that are including football, volleyball, archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, boxing, Pencak Silat, Sepaktakraw, table tennis, wushu, and lawn tennis where the medal tally reflected the remarkable efforts and skills exhibited by the athletes.

About Nagaland

Capital: Kohima

Chief Minister: Neiphiu Rio

Governor: La. Ganesan



Finance minister notifies Rs 90 coin to commemorate 90 years of RBI

- The Government of India will issue a commemorative coin of **Rs. 90** on the occasion to mark the **90 years** of celebration of **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the coin is released by Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**.
- The metal composition of Rs 90 coin will consist of **Pure Silver (99.9%)**. The coin will weigh **40 grams** and have a diameter of **44mm**, featuring **200 serrations** along the edge.
- The face of coin shall bear the Lion Capital of Ashoka Pillar in the center with legend “**Sathyameva Jayathe**” inscribed below, the rupee symbol and denominated value “90” in the international numerals below the lion capital.
- This release will also signify the **third commemorative** coin dedicated to Reserve Bank of India, with previous issuances in **1985** to celebrate its **Golden Jubilee** and in **2010** on the occasion of its **Platinum Jubilee**.

About RBI

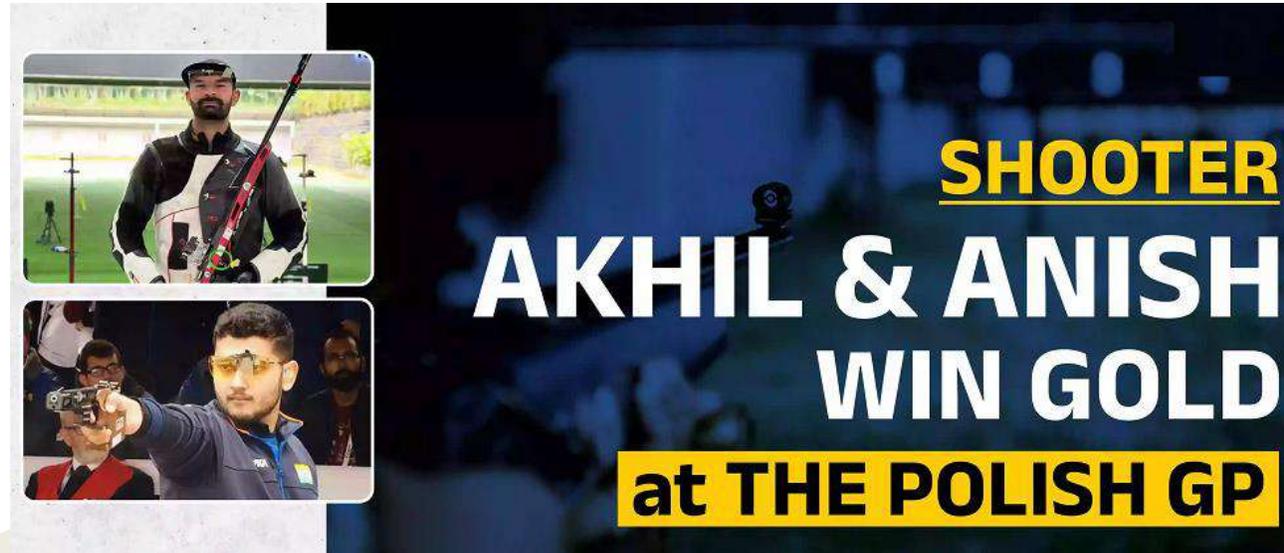
Founded: 1st April 1935

Headquarters: Mumbai

Governor: Shaktikanta Das (25th)



Shooters Akhil Sheoran and Anish Bhanwala have won gold medals in polish grand prix



- Paris Olympics quota winners **Akhil Sheoran** and **Anish Bhanwala** as well as **Niraj Kumar** shone the brightest as Indian rifle and pistol shooters ended their **Polish** Grand Prix campaign in Poland with **six medals**, including **two gold**.
- Anil Sheoran set a new world record of 468.4 points in the **men's 50m rifle 3-position** event. He broke the world record set by Czech Republic's Jiri Privratsky.
- **Ashi Chouksey** won the **silver medal** in the second women's 3P event. **Shriyanka Sadangi** won the bronze medal in the women's 3P event.
- Anil Sheoran won the gold medal while the Czech Republic's Patrik Jany won the silver medal.
- Anish Bhanwala won the gold medal at the 25 meter rapid fire pistol event held at the Jozef Zapadzki Grand Prix Wroclaw
- **Niraj Kumar** of **Indian Navy** won **two bronze medals** in the men's rifle **3P matches**.

Vinay kumar has been appointed as the new ambassador of India to Russia

- Vinay Kumar an IFS officer of 1992 batch has been appointed as the next ambassador of India to Russia.
- Kumar is currently India's ambassador to **Myanmar** and has also served in the past as ambassador to Afghanistan.
- he post had been lying vacant since the appointment of the earlier ambassador, **Pavan Kapoor**, as secretary (west) in MEA.
- India has longstanding and wide-ranging cooperation with Russia in the field of defence, and technical cooperation.



About Russia

Capital: Moscow

Prime Minister: Mikhail Mishustin

President: Vladimir Putin

Currency: Ruble