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HEADLINES

- ❖ Earth Hour Day 2024: Last Saturday of March
- ❖ Vaughan Gething becomes the first black leader of European country Wales
- ❖ ISRO set to test Reusable Launch Vehicle 'Pushpak'
- ❖ COP28 President receives 'CERAWeek Leadership Award' for sustainable energy leadership
- ❖ DGCA imposes Rs 80 lakh penalty on Air India
- ❖ PM Modi honoured with Bhutan's Orde of the Druk Gyalpo award
- ❖ DBS Bank India announces \$250 million lending support for 'new start-ups'
- ❖ Paris 2024: Sharath Kamal India's flag bearer, Mary Kom chef de mission
- ❖ Simon Harries set to be Ireland's youngest PM
- ❖ Reserchers has discovered a new species of isopod in the deep sea of the kerala
- ❖ India and Brazil conducted inaugural 2+2 Dialogue

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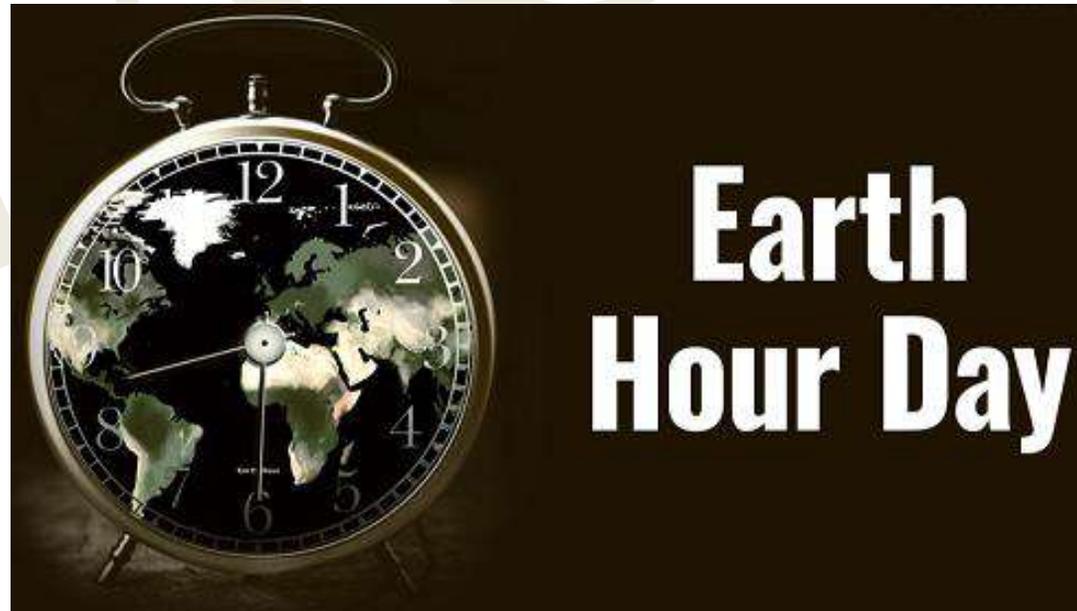
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- ❖ India Joins Hands with Mozambique and Tanzania for TRILAT-2024 Maritime Exercise
- ❖ Savings from Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) cross Rs.3.5 trillion
- ❖ India's Table Tennis Player Sathiyan Gnanasekhar has won the Men's Singles title at WTT Feeder

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Earth Hour Day 2024: Last Saturday of March

- The global environment and energy conservation movement '**Earth Hour Day**' was observed on the **last Saturday of March**, this year it celebrates on 23rd March at night from 8:30-9:30 pm.
- The world's largest conservation organization World Wide Fund (WWF) launched the biggest energy International conservation movement the '**Switching off lights for one Hour**' which is known as '**Earth Hour**' on **29th March 2008**.
- 2008 was the first year when the 'Earth Hour' was observed globally at night from 8:00 pm -9:00 pm. Since then, Earth Hour is held every year in the last week of March.
- Earth Hour, the biggest Earth movement, is an initiative towards raising awareness about global environmental challenges such as global warming, climate change, pollution, and other concerns.



Vaughan Gething becomes the first black leader of European country Wales

- Vaughan Gething was elected **first minister** as well as **first Black leader** of **Wales** in the **UK**.
- Gething was from **Labour Party** and he secured 27 of 51 votes in the legislature.
- Gething was **Wales' health minister** during the **COVID-19 pandemic** and economy minister since 2021.
- Wales, which has a population of about 3 million, is one of four parts of the United Kingdom, along with England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- Three of the UK's four governments now have nonwhite leaders. UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak (India), Scottish First Minister Humza Yousaf (Pakistan) and Northern Ireland is led jointly by Michelle O'Neill and Emma Little-Pengelly.
- **About Wales:**
- **Capital:** Cardiff
- **Currency:** Pound sterling.



ISRO LANDS INDIA'S FIRST REUSABLE LAUNCH VEHICLE 'PUSHPAK'



ISRO set to test Reusable Launch Vehicle 'Pushpak'

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will test its **Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV)**, called '**Pushpak**', at the Aeronautical Test Range in **Challakere**, near **Chitradurga** in **Karnataka**.
- The winged vehicle called Pushpak landed precisely on the runway after being released from 4.5 kilometre altitude.
- Which will help determine the vehicle's approach and landing manoeuvres using the integrated navigation, guidance and control system.
- After release at a distance of 4 km from the runway, Pushpak autonomously approached the runway along with cross-range corrections. It landed precisely on the runway and came to a halt using its brake parachute landing gear brakes and nose wheel steering system.
- The mission was accomplished by **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** along with the **Liquid Propulsion System Centre (LPSC)** and the **ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (IISU)**. Collaboration from various agencies including IAF, ADE, ADRDE and CEMILAC contributed to the success of the mission.
- **About ISRO**
- **Founded:** 15th August 1969
- **Headquarters:** Bengaluru, Karnataka
- **Chairman:** Sreedhara Somanath
- **Founder:** Vikram Sarabhai

COP28 President receives 'CERAWeek Leadership Award' for sustainable energy leadership

- **Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, the President of COP28, UAE** Special Envoy for Climate Change and Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and Managing Director and Group CEO of ADNOC is the recipient of the CERAWeek Leadership Award, presented in **Houston** at the world's preeminent energy conference, CERAWeek by **S&P Global**.
- As COP28 President, jaber demonstrated tremendous leadership in building the UAE Consensus from 198 Parties to raise ambition to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and limit global warming to 1.5°C and to translate those goals into practical action.
- The week-long event includes the CERAWeek Innovation Agora, serving as the center of technology and innovation programming at the conference.
- The 2024 program also feature expanded **"Agora Hubs"** dedicated areas focused on climate, hydrogen and carbon.



DGCA imposes Rs 80 lakh penalty on Air India

- **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** has imposed a fine of **Rs 80 lakh on Air India** for violating regulations pertaining to Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL), which mandate the work and rest rules, and fatigue Management System (FMS) of flight crew.
- The analysis of reports and evidence revealed that Air India operated flight(s) with both flight crew aged above 60 years flying together in a few instances, which is a violation of Sub Rule (2) of Rule 28 A of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.
- "The operator (Air India) was also found deficient in providing adequate weekly rest; adequate rest before and after ultra-long range flights and adequate rest on layover to flight crew.
- The DGCA has been quite vocal on the issue of compliance of FDTL regulations. On January 8, it issued a new set of FDTL rules which will come into effect from June 1.
- **About Air India:**
- **Founded:** 1932
- **Headquarters:** Gurugram, Haryana
- **Founder:** J. R. D. Tata
- **CEO:** Campbell Wilson



सत्यमेव जयते

Directorate General of Civil Aviation
(DGCA)

PM Modi honoured with Bhutan's Orde of the Druk Gyalpo award

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was honoured with **Bhutan's** highest civilian award, the '**Order of the Druk Gyalpo**,' making him the first foreign Head of Government to receive this prestigious recognition.
- The 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo' was presented by **Bhutan's** King **Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck** during Prime Minister Modi's recent two-day State visit, marking his third visit to the Himalayan nation since assuming office in 2014.
- The award was given in acknowledgment of "his outstanding contribution to the growth of India-Bhutan relations and for his distinguished service to the Bhutanese nation and people."
- Modi has announced **India** has decided to **double Bhutan's** assistance over **the next five years**, from **₹5,000 crore** in **2019-2024** to **₹10,000 crore** for the period till **2029**.
- **About Bhutan:**
- **Capital:** Thimphu
- **PM:** Tshering Tobgay
- **Currency:** Bhutanese ngultrum.



DBS Bank India announces \$250 million lending support for 'new start-ups'

- **Development Bank of Singapore India** announced a lending commitment of **USD 250 million for new-age start-ups**, the initiative is part of the bank's focus on fostering innovation and entrepreneurship within the country's thriving start-up ecosystem.
- The bank's lending commitment of USD 250 million for start-ups comes at an opportune time as the sector has been demonstrating improved operating metrics and a sharper focus on profitability in recent years
- The Indian start-up sector, a foundational pillar of the country's development goals, has seen significant expansion over the years with over 90,000 start-ups and more than 100 unicorns as of 2024.
- The bank celebrates modern-day founders, engaging with over 1000 start-ups and 50 incubators across India till date.
- **About DBS Bank:**
- **Founded:** 1994
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **CEO:** Piyush Gupta

**DBS Bank India
announces
\$250 mln
lending support
for startups &
new economy
companies**



Paris 2024: Sharath Kamal India's flag bearer, Mary Kom chef de mission

- Veteran **table tennis** player and reigning CWG champion **Sharath Kamal** will be India's flag bearer at the **2024 Paris Olympic Games** while legendary **boxer MC Mary Kom** was appointed the chef de mission of the country's contingent.
- **Luger Shiva Keshavan**, who has been appointed as the **deputy chef de mission**.
- Sharath Kamal symbolises "the unity and spirit of our contingent as they compete on the Olympic stage" and Mary Kom's unparalleled dedication to sports and inspiring journey makes her a natural choice to guide and mentor our athletes at the Olympics.
- The IOC, in **2020**, had changed its protocol to allow **one female and one male** athlete of each National Olympic Committee to bear the flag jointly during the opening ceremony of the Summer Games.
- **About IOC:**
- **Founded:** 23 June 1894
- **Headquarters:** Lausanne, Switzerland
- **President:** Thomas Bach



Simon Harries set to be Ireland's youngest PM

- **Simon Harris** to become the **Ireland's** next prime minister, after **Leo Varadkar** resignation.
- Harris (37) become the country's youngest prime minister if elected, succeeding Varadkar (38) was first appointed in **2017**.
- Harris, currently **Minister for Further and Higher Education** and best known domestically for his time as health minister during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Harris will be the only candidate if, as expected, he confirms his intention to run as prime minister and he has received support from nearly half of his parliamentary party.
- **About Ireland**
- **Capital:** Dublin
- **Prime minister:** Simon Harries
- **President:** Michael D. Higgins
- **Currency:** The euro



Reserchers has discovered a new species of isopod in the deep sea of the kerala

- Reserchers has discovered a new species **deep-sea isopod** at **Kollam coast, Kerala**. The tiny fish-parasitic crustacean, belonging to the genus **Brucethoa**, was recovered from the base of the gill cavity of the Spinyjaw greeneye, a marine fish.
- It is the **second species** within this **genus** to be documented in India. It has been named **Brucethoa ISRO** in honour of the **Indian space agency's successful space missions**.
- In this females of the species tend to be larger than males. Females grow to about 19 mm in length and 6 mm in width, while males are smaller at around half the size.
- Isopods are an order of invertebrates (animals without backbones) that belong to the greater crustacean group of animals, which includes crabs and shrimp.
- **About Kerala:**
- **Capital:** Thiruvananthapuram
- **Chief Minister:** Pinarayi Vijayan
- **Governor:** Arif Mohammed Khan.



Indian and Brazil conducted inaugural 2+2 Dialogue

- **India and Brazil** conducted their **first-ever '2+2' defence and foreign ministerial dialogue**, discussing cooperation in key areas.
- The talks focused on expanding cooperation in various areas, including energy, critical minerals, technology, and counter-terrorism.
- The '2+2' defence and foreign ministerial dialogue involves the participation of their respective counterparts, to discuss strategic and security-related issues, as well as diplomatic matters.
- India conducts '2+2' dialogues with key strategic partners: the US, Australia, Japan, and Russia. The US holds the oldest and most significant '2+2' talks partnership with India.
- **About Brazil:**
- **Capital:** Brasília
- **President:** Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva
- **Currency:** The Brazilian real.



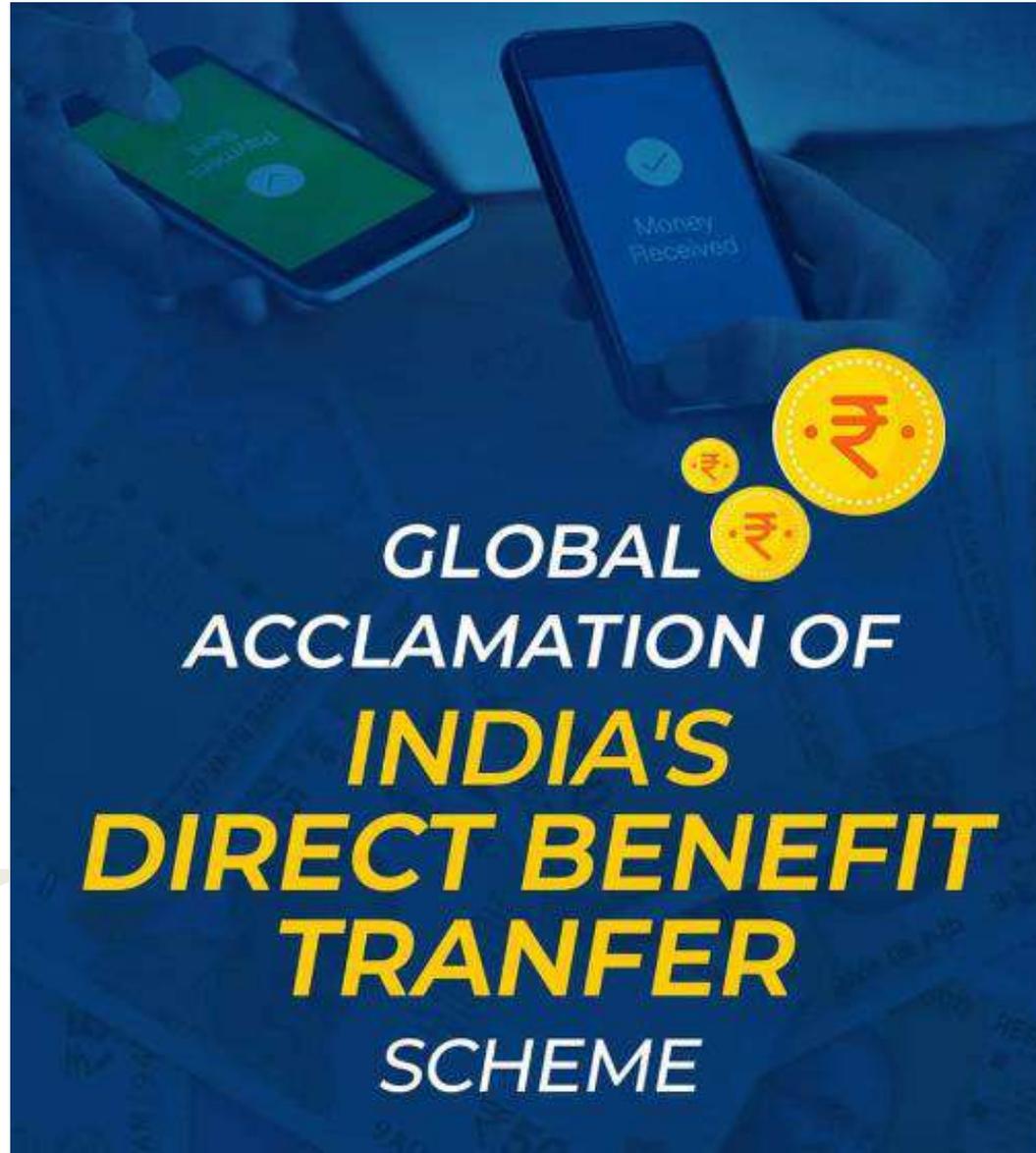


INDIA Mozambique
And Tanzania
CONDUCT
IMT TRILAT-2024 Exercise



India Joins Hands with Mozambique and Tanzania for TRILAT-2024 Maritime Exercise

- **Two Indian naval vessels, INS Tir and INS Sujata**, are to participate in the **India Mozambique Tanzania (IMT) Tri-Lateral Exercise**, scheduled from March 21 to March 29, 2024, this joint maritime exercise aims to strengthen cooperation between **India, Mozambique, and Tanzania** scheduled at **Nacala (Mozambique)**.
- The second edition of the exercise is divided into **two phases**.
- The **harbor phase**, scheduled from March 21 to March 24, will involve INS Tir and INS Sujata engaging with their counterparts at the ports of Zanzibar (Tanzania) and Maputo (Mozambique).
- The **sea phase** is scheduled from March 24 to March 27, focusing on countering asymmetric threats, visit board search and seizure procedures, boat handling, maneuvers, firing exercises, and joint exclusive economic zone (EEZ) surveillance.
- The **first edition of India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise** (IMT TRILAT), a joint maritime exercise among the **Indian, Mozambique and Tanzanian** navies commenced at **Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania**. INS Tarkash, a Chetak helicopter participated.
- Indian Navy is represented by the guided missile frigate, INS Tarkash, a Chetak helicopter and MARCOS (Special Forces).



Savings from Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) cross Rs.3.5 trillion

- Transfer of assorted subsidies and sops to the beneficiaries through the **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** resulted in gains of **₹63,700 crore in FY23**, taking the Centre's savings due to plugging of leakages to about **Rs 3.5 trillion** since **FY15**.
- The DBT-enabled savings during **FY15-FY23** are **75% higher than Rs 2 trillion** earmarked for **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes** for 14 sectors in ten years through 2030 to boost private investment and manufacturing.
- The Modi government has extended it to all key schemes, with DBT transfers totalling Rs 35.14 trillion via cash paid to their bank accounts and as in-kind benefits like food and fertiliser.
- Out of the cumulative DBT-enabled gains of about Rs 3.5 trillion, weeding out of 50.3 million fake ration cards under the public distribution system for food grains helped in saving **Rs 1.86 trillion** (53% of the total savings)
- Removal of 41.5 million fake beneficiaries and 11.3 million beneficiaries who gave up their subsidies under the LPG-Pahal scheme helped in savings to the tune of Rs 73,443 crore (21%).
- DBT transfers reached a record Rs 7.16 trillion in FY23, largely due to the free grains scheme and higher subsidies on fertiliser due to price rises.
- The **DBT benefits** stood at **Rs 5.3 trillion** so far in the current financial year. DBT beneficiaries stood at 1.64 billion (same beneficiary benefiting from multiple schemes) in FY24.
- Among others, the deletion of 710,000 duplicate beneficiaries under the job guarantee scheme (MGNREGS) yielded gains of Rs 42,534 crore (12%) and Rs 22,106 crore (6%) due to the removal of ineligible PM-KISAN beneficiaries.

India's Table Tennis Player Sathiyan Gnanasekhar has won the Men's Singles title at WTT Feeder

- Star table tennis player **Sathiyan Gnanasekaran** has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first Indian to clinch a **men's singles** title at a **World Table Tennis (WTT) Feeder Series** event held in **Beirut, Lebanon**, he defeated **Indian Manav Thakkar** with a score of 3-1.
- **Xia Lian Ni** picked up her second WTT Feeder title in **women's singles** and she defeat **South Korean Suh Hyo Won's** defensive barrier 11-9 11-5 11-5.
- In the **men's doubles** event, the Indian pair of **Manav Thakkar** and **Manush Utpalbai Shah** had to settle for the second position, losing 11-5, 7-11 11-13 12-14 against **Andy Pereira and Jorge Campos from Cuba**. This victory marked the first time a pair from Cuba has achieved WTT title success.

