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25th APRIL 2024 DESCRIPTIVE

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WORLD MALARIA DAY 2024: APRIL 25TH

- **World Malaria Day** is celebrated every year on **April 25th**.
- It is observed to highlight the need for investment and sustained political commitment to the prevention and control of malaria.
- **Theme:** “Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world.”
- **In 2007**, the World Health Organization (WHO) adopted World Malaria Day at the 60th session of the World Health Assembly.

Malaria:

- It is spread by the bite of an infected female anopheles mosquito. Infected mosquitoes spread the Plasmodium parasite.
- It is a preventable and treatable infectious disease.
- In 1897, Sir Ronald Ross found that malaria among humans is spread by female mosquitoes. Hydroxychloroquine is an anti-malarial drug.
- **About World Health Organization (WHO):**
- **Founded:** 7th April 1948
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Director-General:** Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus



T RABI SANKAR RE-APPOINTED

AS RBI DEPUTY GOVERNOR FOR ONE YEAR

- The government has re-appointed **T. Rabi Sankar** as Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India for a **period of one year** with effect from May 3.
- Sankar, a career central banker who joined the RBI in 1990, was initially appointed as **Deputy Governor** on May 3, 2021 for a **three-year** period.
- Prior to his elevation as Deputy Governor, Sankar was an Executive Director with the RBI from December 2019 onwards.
- Sankar is in charge of the departments of currency management, government and bank accounts, information technology, external investments and operations, payment and settlement systems, fintech, foreign exchange and internal debt management, amongst others.
- **Present RBI consist four Deputy Governors they are:**
- Swaminathan Janakiraman, T. Rabi Sankar, M. Rajeshwar Rao and Dr. M.D. Patra
- **About RBI:**
- **Founded:** 1st April 1935
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Governor:** Shaktikantha Das (25th)



RBI IMPOSES CURB ON KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK



- The RBI barred **Kotak Mahindra Bank** from signing up new customers through its online and mobile banking channels, and issuing fresh credit cards, among the toughest curbs imposed on a scheduled bank.
- This action comes in response to the RBI's alleged discovery of "serious deficiencies and non-compliances" in certain areas of the bank's operations.
- While the directive aims to address compliance and risk management concerns, existing customers, including credit card users, can still avail of the bank's services.

- This process is done under **Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.**
- This is not the first instance of the RBI taking regulatory action against financial institutions. In the last five years, several notable cases have emerged.
- Recently the RBI imposed business restrictions on Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL) on January 31, citing repeated violations of norms and non-compliance with rules. PPBL was barred from accepting fresh deposits and doing credit transactions after February 29.

About Kotak Mahindra Bank:

- **Founded:** 21st November 1985
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **MD& CEO:** Ashok Vaswani
- **Tagline:** Let's Make Money Simple.

SPRINT LEGEND USAIN BOLT NAMED T20 WORLD CUP BRAND AMBASSADOR

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced **Jamaican** Olympic legend **Usain Bolt** as a brand ambassador for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup, which will be played from June 1 to 29 in the **West Indies** and **USA**.
- Bolt's global appeal alongside his out of this world athletic achievements and ability to transcend boundaries makes him a perfect fit for the biggest T20 World Cup ever.
- Bolt created history at the **2016 Rio Olympics** when he achieved the '**Triple-Triple**', three gold medals at three consecutive Olympic Games.
- His journey to worldwide stardom started at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing where he won the 100m, 200m and 4x100m, all in world record times.
- As an ambassador, Bolt will play a key role in promoting the event, starting with a cameo appearance in next week's release of the event's official anthem music video alongside iconic artists Sean Paul and Kes.
- The eight-time Olympic Gold Medallist will also attend T20 World Cup matches in the West Indies and be part of fan engagement events promoting the sport within the United States.



TCS ENTERS INTO STRATEGIC AGREEMENT WITH AWS

- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has entered into a strategic partnership with **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** to accelerate its customers' cloud transformation journey at scale.
- This new strategic transformation agreement with AWS will enable TCS to facilitate full-stack digital transformation of its customers by leveraging data and generative artificial intelligence (AI) solutions on AWS.
- Through this multi-year tie-up, TCS will provide its customers with tools to create modern architectures, deliver business value using state-of-the-art cloud-native capabilities and drive modernization.
- These include a clear cloud modernization roadmap, access to modernization platforms and tools, exclusive investment models and technology betas, and proof-of-concept (POC) projects.

**TCS and AWS
Sign Strategic
Agreement to Accelerate
Cloud Transformations**



- This program is globally distributed all verticals, particularly within banking and financial services, life sciences, healthcare, travel, transportation, hospitality, manufacturing, automotive, and communications and telecom.
- As part of this collaboration, AWS will support TCS in upskilling and certifying 25,000 members of its workforce on AWS, creating a modernization champion team with modernization specialists.
- **About AWS:**
- **Founded:** 2006
- **Headquarters:** Washington D.C, United States
- **CEO:** Adam Selipsky

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RBI'S COMPILED MASTER DIRECTION **ON ARCS TO BE EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 24**

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released a master direction for **asset reconstruction companies (ARCs)**, saying the guidelines will be effective from **April 24, 2024**.
- ARCs are expected to have a minimum capital requirement of **Rs 300 crore**, compared to **Rs 100 crore** as on **October 11, 2022**.
- Existing ARCs have been provided a glide path to achieve the minimum required **Net Owned Fund (NOF) of Rs 300 crore as on March 31, 2026**.
- ARCs must have a minimum capital of **Rs 200 crore by March 31, 2024**.
- In case of non-compliance at any of the above stages, the non-complying ARC shall be subject to supervisory action, including prohibition on undertaking incremental business till it reaches the required minimum NOF applicable at that time.
- ARCs with a **minimum NOF of Rs 1000 crore** can act as resolution applicants.

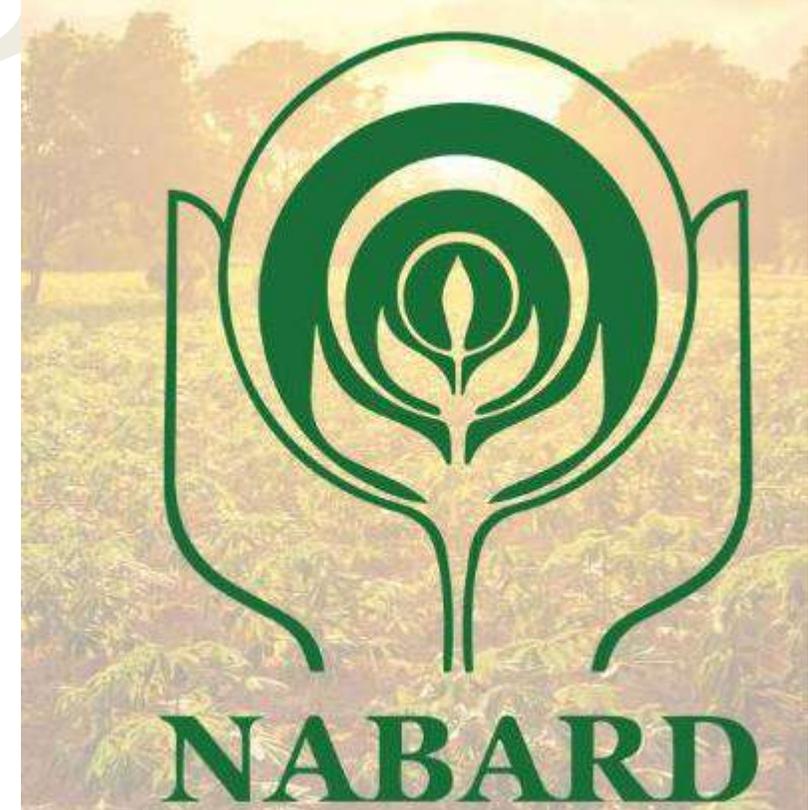


- They are allowed to deploy funds in government securities and deposits with scheduled commercial banks, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) or such other entities as may be specified by the central bank from time to time.
- ARCs can also invest in short-term instruments like money market mutual funds, certificates of deposit and corporate bonds/ commercial papers which have a short-term rating equivalent to the long-term rating of AA- or above by an eligible credit rating agency (CRA).
- Investments will be subject to a cap of 10 per cent of the NOF on maximum investment in such short-term instruments.

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NABARD UNVEILS CLIMATE STRATEGY 2030 FOR GREEN FINANCING

- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** unveiled its **Climate Strategy 2030** document on the occasion of Earth Day (22nd April).
- The document was released by **Shaji K V, Chairman NABARD**. This comprehensive strategy aims to address India's escalating need for green financing.
- India requires approximately **\$170 billion** annually to reach a cumulative total of over **\$2.5 trillion by 2030**, current green finance inflows are critically insufficient.
- As of 2019-20, India garnered about \$49 billion in green financing.
- With the majority of funds earmarked for mitigation, only \$5 billion was allocated towards adaptation and resilience, reflecting the minimal private sector engagement in these areas due to challenges in bankability and commercial viability.
- NABARD's Climate Strategy 2030 is structured around **four key pillars** to address this demand.
- **The pillars are:** (1) accelerating green lending across sectors, (2) playing a broader market-making role, (3) internal green transformation of NABARD, (4) strategic resource mobilisation.



- This strategic initiative not only reinforces NABARD's commitment to environmental stewardship but also positions it as a pivotal player in India's transition towards a resilient and sustainable economy.
- **Green Financing:** Green financing is to increase level of financial flows (from banking, micro-credit, insurance and investment) from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors to sustainable development priorities.
- **About NABARD:**
- **Founded:** 12th July 1982, India
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman:** Shaji K.V.

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**RELIANCE JIO BECOMES WORLD'S
LARGEST MOBILE OPERATOR IN DATA TRAFFIC**



- **Reliance Jio** has become the **world's largest mobile operator** in **data traffic consumption**, surpassing **China Mobile**.
- According to global analytics firm Tefficient, the Indian telecom operator's total traffic reached **40.9 exabytes** in the January-March quarter, compared to **China Mobile's 38**.

- Jio also has the second-largest 5G subscriber base globally, with 108 million users. More than 28 per cent of its total wireless data traffic is now consumed by 5G users.
- The company attributes its strong performance to the addition of JioBharat phone users and the popularity of its unlimited 5G promotional plans, which have impacted its average revenue per user (ARPU).
- Jio's fixed wireless home broadband offering, AirFiber, has seen healthy demand across 5,900 towns, resulting in record-high quarterly home connections.
- The average daily data usage for AirFiber subscribers is 13 Gigabytes, which is 30 per cent higher than JioFiber subscribers.
- By the end of the Financial Year 2024 (FY24), Jio's total subscriber base grew from 449 million to 482 million, with an average monthly data consumption of 28.7 GB per user. However, its ARPU has remained stagnant at Rs 182.

➤ **About Reliance Jio:**

➤ **Founded:** 2007

➤ **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

➤ **Founder:** Mukesh Ambani

INDIA'S LARGEST CLIMATE CLOCK UNVEILED AT CSIR HQ FOR EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS

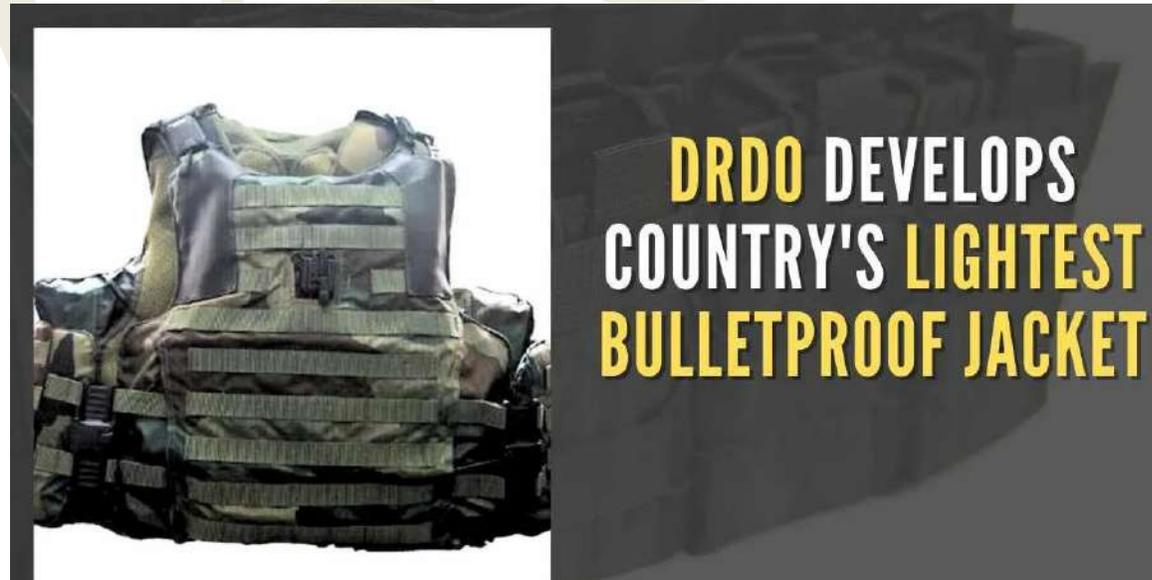
- In honor of Earth Day, the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** recently unveiled **India's largest Climate Clock** at its headquarters in **New Delhi**.
- This effort demonstrates the CSIR's commitment to raising awareness about climate change and its negative consequences.



- As part of the CSIR-Energy Swaraj Foundation MoU, many scientists and staff in CSIR have undergone the Energy Literacy Training.
- **Climate clocks** provided by the **Energy Swaraj Foundation** have been installed in most **CSIR labs**.
- Prof Chetan Singh Solanki of IIT, Bombay is the Founder of Energy Swaraj Foundation.
- **About CISR:**
- The Government of India established the **CSIR in 1942** with the primary purpose of promoting national scientific research and economic development.
- CSIR is an autonomous entity under the **Ministry of Science and Technology**, with 38 national laboratories, 39 outreach centers, three Innovation Complexes, and five units spread across India.
- **MD& CEO of CSIR:** Dr Thulani Dlamini

DRDO DEVELOPED THE LIGHTEST BULLETPROOF JACKET IN INDIA

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed the **lightest bulletproof jacket** for protection against the **highest threat level 6**.
- Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur has successfully developed the lightest Bullet Proof Jacket in the country for protection against **7.62 x 54 R API (Level 6 of BIS 17051) ammunition**.
- This bulletproof jacket was successfully tested at Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), **Chandigarh as per BIS 17051-2018**.
- This jacket is based upon a new design approach, where novel material along with new processes have been used.



- The front Hard Armour Panel (HAP) of this jacket defeats multiple hits (06 shots) of 7.62 x 54 R API (Sniper rounds) in both ICW (In-conjunction with) and Standalone design.
- The ergonomically designed front HAP is made up of monolithic ceramic plate with polymer backing which enhances the wearability and comfort during the operation.
- The areal density of ICW Hard Armour Panel (HAP) and standalone HAP is less than 40 kg/m² and 43 kg/m² respectively.
- **About DRDO:**
- **Founded:** 1958
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Chairman:** Samir V Kamat

**SREEJA AKULA BECOMES INDIA'S NUMBER 1 TT PLAYER BY
SURPASSING MANIKA BATRA**

**SREEJA AKULA BECOMES
INDIA'S NUMBER 1 TT PLAYER
BY SURPASSING MANIKA**



- In the latest ITTF Table Tennis World Rankings, **Sreeja Akula** jumped one place to **38th in the world ranking**.
- With this Sreeja Akula became the top ranked women's singles table tennis player in India. In this sequence, Sreeja Akula left **Manika Batra** behind.

- Manika, who was India's number one TT player for quite some time, slipped two places to 39th in the latest update.
- Sreeja has performed well so far in 2024. Sreeja has managed to win the World Table Tennis (WTT) Feeder Corpus Christi and WTT Feeder Beirut titles in January and March respectively. Apart from this, WTT reached the quarter finals of Star Contender in Goa.
- Sreeja achieved victory over then world No. 2 Wang Yidi of China in the group stage of the World Team Table Tennis Championships in Busan in February.
- Sreeja has also been a two-time national champion. Sreeja also won a Commonwealth Games gold medal in mixed doubles with Sharath Kamal in 2022.
- Recently, Sreeja had lost to defending Olympic champion and world No. 4 Chen Meng in the group stage of the ITTF World Cup 2024 in Macao, China.
- **Indians in top 100 in women's singles global rankings:**
- Apart from Sreeja and Manika, Yashaswini Ghorpade (world no. 99) and Archana Kamath (world no. 100) are the other Indians in the top 100 of the women's singles rankings.
- Olympians Sutirtha Mukherjee and Ayhika Mukherjee both slipped two places to 122nd and 137th respectively.
- **Best ranked Indian players in men's singles:**

- In men's singles, Sharath Kamal is still the best-ranked Indian player at world No. 37.
- Sathiyan Gnanasekaran has jumped one place to 60th. He left behind Manav Thakkar, who is ranked at number 61.
- Harmeet Desai has also lost one place and is now at 64th position in the rankings.
- **Ranking of Indian players in men's doubles:**
- Manav Thakkar and Manush Shah are ranked 12th in men's doubles. They are ahead of the experienced pair of G Sathiyan and Sharath Kamal, who are ranked 59th.
- **Ranking of Indian players in women's doubles:**
- Sutirtha and Ayhika Mukherjee are ranked 14th in the world in women's doubles rankings. Sreeja Akula and Diya Chitale are placed 28th while Manika Batra and Archana Kamath are placed 50th in the world rankings.
- **Ranking of Indian players in mixed doubles:**
- In the mixed doubles rankings, Sathiyan and Manika have slipped one place to 19th. Thakkar and Kamath remain at number 33 in the world rankings. While Chitale and Shah also maintained their ranking of number 38.

INDUSIND BANK SUCCESSFULLY EXECUTES RBI'S PROGRAMMABLE CBDC PILOT



- **IndusInd Bank** announced the successful execution of the Reserve Bank of India's programmable **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** pilot, marking the first such instance by any bank.
- The pilot project, done in collaboration with Circularity Innovation Hub India Private Limited (CIH), involved an alternate form of CBDC wherein the bank can program the end use of funds, specifically targeting farmers for carbon credit generation.
- As a part of this pilot, IndusInd Bank initiated the programmable CBDC disbursement to **50 farmers in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra** and will cover around **1,000 farmers** going ahead, marking a milestone in the adoption of innovative financial solutions for the agriculture sector.

- Additionally, Hindustan Agro and Jackfruit King Company spearheaded farmer engagement, linking sustainable practices to additional revenue streams.
- The Navi Mumbai-based Emertech Innovations developed a Blockchain-backed platform to provide end-to-end traceability and transparency in the generation of revenues from Circularity Credits and its traceable disbursement.
- This collaborative effort aims to promote Circularity Credits from recycling agricultural waste.
- **About IndusInd Bank:**
- **Founded:** 17th April 1994
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **MD& CEO:** Sumant Kathpalia
- **Chairman:** Sunil Mehta
- **Tagline:** We Care Dil Se, We Make You Feel Richer

PAPUA NEW GUINEA NAMES ITS FIRST DEFENCE ADVISOR TO INDIA



- **Papua New Guinea (PNG)** has appointed **Colonel Edison Napyo** as its first defence advisor to India
- Colonel Edison Napyo succeeds Commodore Philip Polewara, PNG's acting Chief of Defence Forces in India.
- India and Papua New Guinea formalized diplomatic relations in **1976**.
- Both countries are working together in international forums including the Commonwealth, the Non-Aligned Movement and the United Nations Organization. This appointment will boost the current minimal military exchanges and relations.

- India had sent 1 lakh 31 thousand doses to Papua New Guinea during the Corona epidemic.
- India opened its first High Commission in the island country of Papua New Guinea 28 years ago in 1996.
- Narendra Modi is the first Prime Minister to visit Papua New Guinea, before President Pranab Mukherjee had visited this country in 2016.
- Prime Minister Modi attended the third summit of the Forum for India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) during this period
- **Under Sagar Amrit Scholarship:** scholarship will be provided to 1000 students of PNG in the next five years.
- **About Papua New Guinea (PNG):**
- **Capital:** Port Moresby
- **Prime Minister:** James Marape
- **Currency:** Kina

EU LAWMAKERS AGREE TO EXIT ENERGY TREATY OVER CLIMATE FEARS

- The European Parliament backed the European Union's (EU) withdrawal from an international energy treaty over concerns it offers too much protection to fossil fuel companies.
- **The Energy Charter Treaty** was signed in **1994**, after the end of the Cold War, to offer guarantees to investors in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.
- During a parliament vote in Strasbourg, 560 lawmakers gave the green light for a withdrawal, while 43 voted against and 27 abstained. The exit will become official after the 27 EU states endorse the move.
- Eleven EU states have already announced or completed their exit including France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Poland.
- But some countries—such as Hungary, Malta and Slovakia want to remain members and support the "modernisation" of the treaty, and are free to do so.
- In 2022, a court ordered Italy to pay 200 million euros (\$213 million) to British oil company Rockhopper for refusing to issue an offshore drilling permit.
- The treaty, which the EU and Euratom, the European atomic energy community, signed onto came into effect in 1998 and currently has some 50 signatories.

- It aimed to encourage greater cooperation between post-Soviet eastern European energy sectors with western European ones.
- Europe's attempts to modernize the text failed, pushing many member states to withdraw at a national level. Britain announced its exit in February.
- **About European Union (EU):**
- **Founded:** 1 November 1993
- **Headquarters:** Brussels and Luxembourg
- **President:** Ursula von der Leyen

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UGANDA NAME ABHAY SHARMA AS COACH AHEAD OF T20 WORLD CUP

- **The Uganda Cricket Association (UCA)** has appointed former Indian first-class cricketer **Abhay Sharma** as the **head coach of the men's national team**.
- This announcement comes as the Cricket Cranes gear up for their inaugural appearance in the upcoming Twenty20 World Cup, jointly hosted by the **United States and the West Indies from June 1**.
- Sharma's extensive coaching pedigree, boasting stints with esteemed outfits such as India Under-19s, the Indian women's cricket team, and the Delhi Ranji Trophy team, underscores the UCA's commitment to bolstering its coaching setup with seasoned expertise.
- Sharma's appointment comes with a **three-year working contract**, signaling a long-term vision aimed at fortifying Uganda's cricketing infrastructure and nurturing talent for sustained success on the global stage.

➤ **About Uganda:**

- **Capital:** Kampala
- **PM:** Robinah Nabbanja
- **President:** Yoweri Museveni
- **Currency:** Shilling



DEEPANSHU AND ROHAN MAKE IT 1-2 IN THE JAVELIN THROW

- **Deepanshu Sharma and Rohan Yadav** won a **gold and silver** in the men's javelin throw at the **Asian under-20 athletics championships in Dubai**.
- While **Deepanshu** threw a distance of **70.29m**, his Uttar Pradesh State-mate **Rohan** had a best of **70.03m**.
- Priyanshu, also from UP, came close to winning another gold in the men's 1500m, but he was beaten at the finish by Qatar's Aitoulghazi.
- Similarly, Rithik Rathi, who competed for india in the discus throw category, won the silver medal by throwing a distance of 53.01 meters.
- It is noteworthy that in last year's Asian U20 Athletics championship, india bagged 19 medals including 6 gold medals, and stood 3rd in the medal list.
- Meanwhile Prachi Ankush Devkar finished fourth in the women's 3000m while Laxita Vinod Sandliea and Tanvi Malik progressed to the women's 800m final after the heats.
- Anushka Dattatray Kumbhar and Sai Sangeetha Dodla also entered the medal round in the women's 400m and while male quartermiler Aman Choudhary also made the final.
- Strangely, Aman had been named only in the 4x400m relay in the

Indian team list

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