

# IACE

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**27<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024 DESCRIPTIVE**

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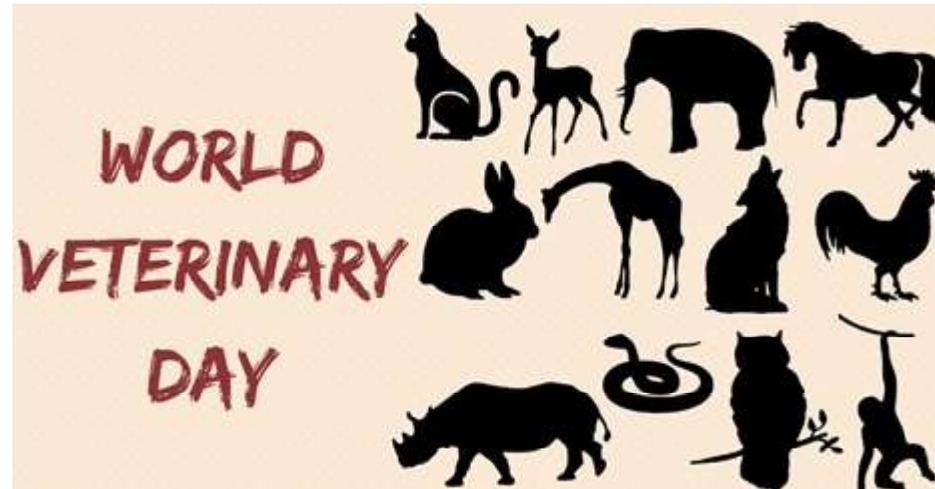
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World Veterinary Day is observed on the last Saturday of April



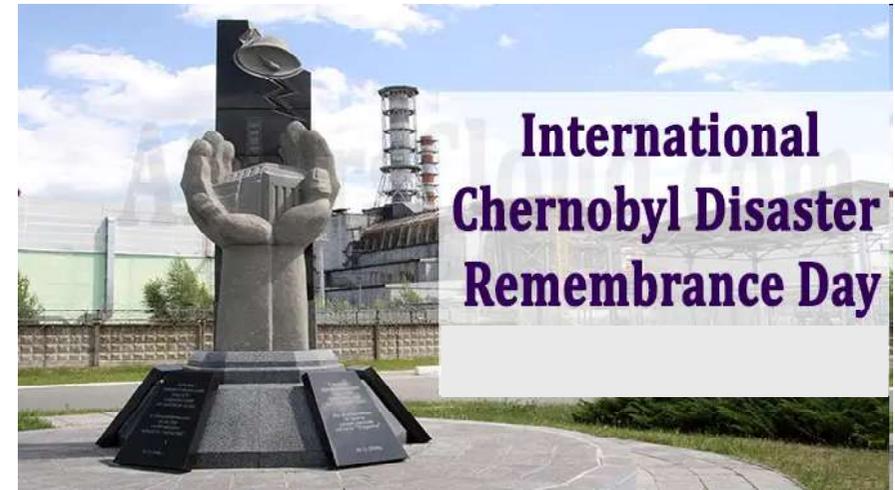
- **The World Veterinary Day (WVD)** is observed on **the last Saturday of April**, this year will be celebrated on April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- This day aims to raise awareness about the crucial role veterinarians play in maintaining the health and welfare of animals and humans alike.
- **Theme:** Veterinarians are Essential Health Workers.
- **The World Veterinary Association (WVA)** established World Veterinary Day in **2000**, and it was first celebrated on April 29 of that year.
- The WVA also presents the prestigious World Veterinary Day Awards to individuals or organizations that have made exceptional contributions to the field of veterinary medicine and animal welfare.

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## International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day: April 26<sup>th</sup>

- **The International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day** is celebrated every year on **April 26<sup>th</sup>**.
- This day is dedicated to remembering the victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and raising awareness about this catastrophic event.
- On **April 26, 1986**, the **Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine** (formerly part of the Soviet Union) **exploded**, releasing a massive radioactive cloud into the atmosphere.
- This disaster exposed approximately **8.4 million people** to harmful nuclear radiation.
- The affected regions in **Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia** were heavily contaminated, posing a serious threat to human health and the environment.
- In **1990**, the **United Nations General Assembly** adopted a resolution calling for **international cooperation** to address and mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.
- In **2016**, the **United Nations** officially established **the International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day** to recognize the persistent long-term consequences of the disaster and support the affected communities and territories in their efforts to achieve sustainable development.



## Tamil Nadu, Kerala to count Nilgiri Tahrs a first Synchronized Survey from April 29<sup>th</sup>



- **Five months** after the launch of the **Project Nilgiri Tahr**, **Tamil Nadu** is all set to estimate the **population of its State animal**.
- **Forest Departments of Tamil Nadu and Kerala** will jointly count the population of the mountain ungulate in a **three-day synchronised census** starting **from April 29**.
- Nilgiri tahr tracked one month after being fitted with radio-collar in **Mukurthi National Park**. The survey would be carried out by 700 people.

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- **The Grass Hills National Park and Mukurthi National Park of Tamil Nadu** shares its boundary with **Eravikulam National Park** and **Silent Valley National Park** of **Kerala** respectively.
- In order to finalise the methodology for synchronised census, a pilot survey was conducted at Grass Hills National Park of Anamalai Tiger Reserve.
- As per the last assessment done in 2015 by WWF-India, there are 3,122 Nilgiri Tahr in the wild in Tamil Nadu and neighboring landscapes of Kerala
- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin** launched '**The Nilgiri Tahr**' project for conserving Tamil Nadu's state animal by unveiling a plaque at a ceremony held at the secretariat in Chennai.
- It was also decided that **October 7** will be celebrated as **the Nilgiri Tahr Day** in honour of **Dr E R C Davidar**, whose birthday falls on this day. Davidar pioneered one of the first studies on **Nilgiri Tahr in 1975**.
- **The Eravikulam National Park** is home to the largest surviving population of **Nilgiri tahr**, with the **highest density in the world**.

## India's Gita Sabharwal appointed as UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia



- **The United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, has appointed Gita Sabharwal of India as the new UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia.**
- Sabharwal has nearly **three decades of experience** in development, supporting climate transition, sustainable peace, governance, and social policy, while leveraging digital technology and data to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Previously, **Sabharwal** served as the **UN resident coordinator in Thailand** and as **peacebuilding and development adviser for the United Nations in Sri Lanka.**

- Before joining the UN, Sabharwal was The Asia Foundation's deputy country representative for the Maldives and Sri Lanka and held positions as the poverty and policy adviser for the United Kingdom's Department for International Development in India and Vietnam.
- The UN resident coordinator is the highest-ranking representative of the UN Development System at the country level.
- Resident coordinators lead UN country teams and coordinate UN support to countries in implementing the **2030 Agenda**.

**About Indonesia:**

**Capital:** Jakarta

**President:** Prabowo Subianto

**Currency:** Rupee

## International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure held in New Delhi



- **The International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure’s 6th edition** has begun in **New Delhi**.
- **Theme:** “Investing today for a more resilient tomorrow”.
- **The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) hosts** an annual conference called the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI).
- This conference brings together governments, organizations, institutions, the media, and infrastructure stakeholders to discuss disaster and climate-resilient infrastructure.

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- The goal is to build a global community that is engaged in creating resilient infrastructure, which can withstand disasters and climate change. The conference is an opportunity to strengthen the global discourse on these important topics.

**About CDRI:**

- The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) was launched by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, at the **2019 UN Climate Summit**.

**Founded:** 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

**Headquarters:** New Delhi

- The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is an international coalition of countries, United Nations (UN) agencies, multilateral development banks, the private sector and academic institutions that aims to promote disaster-resilient infrastructure.

**'SUNFLOWERS WERE FIRST ONES TO KNOW' Film by FTII  
Student Selected At 77th Cannes Film Festival**



- **“SUNFLOWERS WERE FIRST ONES TO KNOW”, a film by Chidanand S Naik, a student of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), has been selected in the ‘La Cinef’ Competitive section of 77th Cannes Film Festival, France.**
- The festival is to be held from 15th to 24th May 2024. The section is an official section of the festival aimed at encouraging new talents and recognises films from film schools across the world.
- The film is among 18 shorts (14 live-action and 4 animated films) selected from a **total of 2,263 films** submitted by film schools all over the world.

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- This is the **only Indian film** selected in ‘**La Cinef**’ section of Cannes. The Jury will hand over La Cinef prizes at a ceremony preceding the screening of the awarded films on 23<sup>rd</sup> May in the Buñuel Theatre.
- **“SUNFLOWERS WERE FIRST ONES TO KNOW”** is a story of an elderly woman who steals the village’s rooster, which throws the community into disarray. To bring the rooster back, a prophecy is invoked, sending the old lady’s family into exile.
- This is the first time a **film by a student** from **1-year Television course** has been selected at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival.
- FTII is focus on practice based co-learning approach to education in the field of Cinema and Television have resulted in the Institute’s students and its alumni winning accolades in various National and International Film festivals over the years.
- This **FTII film** is a production of the **TV Wing One-year program** where **four students from different disciplines** i.e. Direction, Electronic Cinematography, Editing, Sound worked together for one project as a year-end coordinated exercise.

## Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference held in Bhutan



- **Bhutanese government** hosted the **Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference on Earth Day 2024** to mobilise **USD 1 billion** over the **next decade** for conserving tigers and their habitats across Asia.
- The two-day conference will be hosted by **Bhutan** under the patronage of the **country's queen, Jetsun Pema Wangchuck**.
- The conservation of tiger landscapes is vital to maintaining biodiversity, sequestering carbon, supplying resources to over 100 million people, and ensuring the overall health of the planet.
- The conference convened tiger range countries, visionary private and public sector donors, international development agencies, the Tiger Conservation Coalition, and other conservation organisations.

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- High-level representatives from ten tiger range countries delivered statements on the progress and ambitions for conserving their tiger landscapes.
- Since **2010**, the **Global Environment Facility** has provided more **than USD 197 million** in financing and mobilized another **USD 880 million**, in co-finance, for tiger conservation.

### **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA):**

- India has proposed to launch a mega global alliance under its leadership to protect big cats and assured support over **five years** with guaranteed funding of **USD 100 million**.
- The proposed International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) will work towards the protection and conservation of the seven major big cats — tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar and cheetah.
- The alliance was inspired by the arrival of cheetahs in **2022 from Namibia**.
- India is the only country in the world to have tigers, lions, leopards, snow leopards and cheetahs in the wild except for the pumas and jaguars.

## Yuki Bhambri and Albano Olivetti won BMW Open Tennis Doubles Title



- **Indian tennis player Yuki Bhambri and his French partner Albano Olivetti won the 2024 BMW Open tennis tournament title by defeating German pair of Andreas Mies and Jan-Lennard Struff.**
- **The event was held in Munich, Germany.**
- **The BMW Open tennis title, also popularly known as Bavarian International Tennis Championship, is an ATP 250 event which is played on the clay court.**
- **ATP 250 events mean that the winner gets 250 ranking points.**
- **Yuki Bhambri also became the first Indian tennis player to win the Bavarian International Tennis Championships, which has been held since 1899.**

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- This the **second ATP tour title** for **Yuki Bhambari**, last year he won the **Mallorca Open doubles title**, which was also a 250 ATP ranked tournament.
- This was the **first ATP title** for **Yuki Bhambri and Albano Olivetti as a pair**.
- The 33-year-old **German Jean Lennard Struff** won his maiden ATP title by defeating **Taylor Fritz of the United States of America** in the final of the **BMW Open singles tennis title**.
- **The Association of Tennis Professional (ATP)** is an association of **male professional tennis players** which organises ATP tours like **Masters 1000, ATP 500 and ATP 250**.
- According to the tennis global governing body International Tennis Federation (ITF), a tennis court has to be **rectangular in shape**.
- The international tennis tournament is played on **three types** of surfaces- Grass, Clay and Hard Court.
- There are **four grand tennis slam tournaments**: the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open.
- The **Australian Open and US Open** held in **Hard Court**, **French Open** in **Clay Court** and **Wimbledon Open** in **Grass Court**.

# Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) 2024



- Nearly **282 million or 21.5 percent** people faced high levels of acute food insecurity in **59 countries in 2023**, according to the **2024 Global Report on Food Crisis (GRFC)**.

## About Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) 2024:

- GRFC is produced annually by **the Food Security Information Network (FSIN)** and launched by **the Global Network against Food Crises**, a multi stake holder initiative that includes United Nations agencies, the European Union, the United States Agency for International Development, and non-governmental agencies working to tackle food crises.
- The report analyzed a population of **1.3 billion in 2023 across 59 countries**.
- **2023** was the **fifth consecutive year** of rises in the number of people suffering acute food insecurity, defined as when populations face food deprivation that threatens lives or livelihoods.

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- The report identifies conflicts, extreme weather events, and economic shocks as the **three main drivers** behind the exacerbation of food crises in the world.
- With food crisis escalating alarmingly in conflict hotspots in 2023, notably **Palestine** (Gaza Strip) and **Sudan**. Conflict / insecurity became the primary driver in **20 countries**, directly affecting **135 million** people.
- **The Gaza Strip** became the area with the **most severe food crisis** in the **last eight years** of GRFC reporting.
- **Sudan** is facing one of the worst food crises in the world, with almost a **third of the population** in need of emergency food aid.
- Meanwhile, **weather extremes** were the main driver for **18 countries**, with over **72 million people** facing high levels of acute food insecurity because of such extreme weather events.
- The 10 countries with the world's largest food crisis in 2023 were the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Sudan, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Yemen, the Syrian Arab Republic, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Myanmar. The situation improved in 17 countries in 2023.

KABIL signed a MoU with CSIR – NGRI to foster long-term collaboration in the field of critical and strategic minerals

- **Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI)** to foster a long-term collaboration in the field of **geophysical investigations** to bolster its ongoing projects and activities in critical and strategic minerals.
- The MoU was signed by Shri Sadashiv Samantaray, Director & CEO of KABIL and Dr. Prakash Kumar Director of CSIR-NGRI in **Bhubaneswar**.
- The collaboration will **focus on** Geophysical, Geochemical and Geological surveys, data analysis, interpretation and modelling, scientific knowledge sharing, technical support and advisory services.
- This collaboration will pave the way for driving innovation and actionable insights towards the ongoing KABIL projects.



- **KABIL** is a Joint Venture company of **three public sector undertakings** - National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) and Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited (MECL), under the aegis of Ministry of Mines, Government of India.

**About CSIR:**

**Founded:** 26<sup>th</sup> September 1942

**Headquarters:** New Delhi

**Director- General:** N Kalaiselvi

## China launched 3 member Shenzhou - 18 Crew to its Space Station



- A team of **three astronauts** launched aboard a rocket as part of **China's Shenzhou-18 mission**, heading towards the **Tiangong space station in low earth orbit**.
- This marks the most recent mission in **Beijing's space programme**, which is working towards sending **astronauts to the Moon by 2030**.
- The Shenzhou-18 spacecraft, also known as the "**Divine vessel**," along with its **three passengers**, launched atop a **Long March-2F rocket** from **the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China**.

- The spacecraft carries mission commander **Ye Guangfu** (43), who previously served on the **2021 Shenzhou-13 mission**, along with **crewmates Li Cong** (34) and **Li Guangsu** (36). Both Li Cong and Li Guangsu are former fighter pilots embarking on their inaugural spaceflight mission.
- The trio will require approximately **six and a half hours** to reach **Tiangong** after the spacecraft reaches orbit and conducts an automated rendezvous to dock with the space station, which orbits some **400 km (250 miles)** above the earth.

**About China:**

**Capital:** Beijing

**PM:** Li Qiang

**President:** Xi Jinping

**Currency:** Yuan

## Saudi Arabia's company Aramco to sponsor FIFA World Cup



- The world football governing body **Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)** announced a major sponsorship deal with the **Saudi Arabian oil giant Aramco**.
- Under the deal, **Aramco company** would sponsor major **FIFA tournaments until 2027**.
- Under the FIFA deal, the Aramco company would sponsor multiple FIFA events, including the **2026 Men's World Cup** and the **2027 Women's World Cup**.
- **The 2026 Men's World Cup** will be co-hosted by **Canada, the United States and Mexico**. The host country for the **Women's World Cup 2027** is yet to be decided.

- **The Aramco company** also has signed sponsorship deals with FIFA to sponsor Formula 1 motor car racing and is a partner of the International Cricket Council.
- **FIFA** will formally announce **Saudi Arabia** as the host of the 2034 Men's FIFA World Cup.
- **Saudi Arabia** will host the **2034 Asian Games** in its capital city **Riyadh**.
- The world women's professional tennis governing body, **the Women's Tennis Association (WTA)**, has signed an agreement with the **Saudis** to hold the finals of **the next three WTA editions in Riyadh**.

#### **About FIFA Men's World Cup:**

- **Uruguay** hosted the first World Cup in **1930**.
- The **22nd World Cup** would be co-hosted by **the United States, Mexico and Canada in 2026**.
- The **23rd World Cup** would be co-hosted by **Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay in 2030**. It would be hosted by six countries in three continents.
- The **24th World Cup** would be hosted by **Saudi Arabia in 2034**.

#### **About FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association):**

- It is the world governing body of men's and women's football.

**Founded:** 21<sup>st</sup> May 1904

**Headquarters:** Zurich, Switzerland.

**President:** Gianni Infantino.

## Narsingh Pancham Yadav has been appointed as the Chairman of Athletes Commission of Indian Wrestling Federation

- **Former Commonwealth Games gold medalist Narsingh Pancham Yadav** was elected the **Chairman of the Athletes Commission of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)**.
- In the election for the Athletes Commission, a total of **eight candidates** contested for the seven available seats. After voting, the following members were elected.
- Narsingh Pancham Yadav, Sahil (Delhi), Smita A S (Kerala), Bhartiya Bhaghei (Uttar Pradesh), Khushboo S Pawar (Gujarat), Nikki (Haryana) and Shweta Dubey (Bengal)
- Subsequently, the newly elected members unanimously chose **Narsingh Yadav as the Chairman of the Athletes Commission**.
- Narsingh Yadav came into the limelight before the **2016 Olympic Games**.
- The Court of Sports banned him for **four years** for some issues, but the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) cleared him, stating that the positive test was part of a conspiracy. Narsingh's ban ended in **July 2020**.



REC to lend Rs. 1,869 crore for 624 MW Kiru Hydro Project in  
**Jammu & Kashmir (J&K)**



- State-owned **Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Ltd** will provide a **term loan of Rs 1,869 crore** for **624 MW Kiru Hydro Electric Project in Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir**.
- The loan will be utilized for development, construction and operation of the project on **River Chenab**.
- REC has signed an agreement with **Chenab Valley Power Project Private Ltd (CVPPPL)**, under which REC will provide CVPPPL with a financial assistance of Rs 1,869.265 crore as term loan.
- The project envisages construction of a **135-metre high dam** and an underground **power house with 4 units of 156 MW each**.

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- **CVPPPPL** is a **joint venture** between **NHPC** (51 per cent) and **JKSPDC** (49 per cent) and the company was incorporated in **2011**.
- **REC** is an NBFC (non-banking finance company) under **Ministry of Power**.
- The loan book of **REC** stands at **Rs 4.97 lakh crore** and net worth at **Rs 64,787 crore** as on **December 31, 2023**.

**About REC Ltd:**

**Founded:** 25<sup>th</sup> July 1969

**Headquarters:** New Delhi

**Chairman & MD:** Vivek Kumar Dewangan

## Indian Historical Records Commission adopts a new logo & motto

- **The Indian Historical Records Commission (IHRC)** has adopted a new logo and motto in April 2024.
- **Logo:** The logo shape resembles **lotus petals**, the **Sarnath pillar** in the middle of the logo represents India's ancient past, while the **brown color theme** emphasizes IHRC's mission of preserving, studying, and honoring India's historical records.
- **Motto: Yatra Itihasam Bhavishyaam Prasakshantah** (Where history is preserved for the future) reflects the IHRC's commitment to identifying, collecting, cataloging, and safeguarding historical documents and manuscripts for present and future generations.
- The logo and motto entry submitted by **Shaurya Pratap Singh (Delhi)** has been selected as the winner in this competition.
- The IHRC is indeed overseen by the **Union Minister of Culture** and **established in 1919**.



## INC-4: Negotiations on a Global Plastics treaty started in Ottawa, Canada



- **The fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4) began in Ottawa, Canada.**
- The committee is working towards developing an international legally binding instrument to address plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.
- The goal is to finalize the text of the instrument at the next session, **INC-5**, in **November**. During INC-4, members will also plan intersessional work to further develop the text.
- This meeting is in **response to** a resolution adopted by the **fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2)**, which requested the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** Executive Director to convene an **INC to address plastic pollution**.

- INC-4 is the second-to-last stage of negotiations, following **three prior rounds**: INC-1 in Punta Del Este in November 2022, INC-2 in Paris in June 2023, and INC-3 in Nairobi in November 2023.
- INC-5 will take place in **Busan, the Republic of Korea**, from **November 25 to December 2, 2024**, and is intended to conclude the INC process.
- In February 2024, Canada hosted a Ministerial meeting with the other host countries of the INC process (France, Kenya, the Republic of Korea, and Uruguay) at the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
- In **March 2019**, the **4th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4)** passed a resolution on “**Addressing Single-use Plastic Products Pollution**”, which urges member states to take appropriate actions to promote the identification and development of environmentally friendly alternatives to single-use plastic products.
- **In 2016**, India made it mandatory for producers, importers, and brand owners to take responsibility for the plastic packaging waste that they create.

## Clarivate Announces Winners of the South Asia Innovation Awards 2024



- **Clarivate Plc** a leading global provider of transformative intelligence revealed the winners of the **South Asia Innovation Awards 2024** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- **16 companies in India** and **one in Sri Lanka** received awards for their exceptional innovation performance.
- The award methodology mirrors that of the annual Top 100 Global Innovators from Clarivate, which recognizes organizations leading the world in technology research and innovation
- **Some famous Indian companies received awards among 16 companies they are:** Jio Platforms Limited, Myntra Designs Private Ltd, Tata Steel Limited, TVS Motor Company, Tata Consultancy Services Limited and Reliance Industries Limited.

➤ **India Public Sector Undertakings Winner:** Indian Oil Corporation Limited

**Sri-Lanka Corporate Winner:** MAS Holdings

**About Clarivate:**

➤ Clarivate is a leading global provider of transformative intelligence. We offer enriched data, insights & analytics, workflow solutions and expert services in the areas of Academia & Government, Intellectual Property and Life Sciences & Healthcare.

**Established:** 3 October 2016

**Headquarters:** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States

**CEO:** Jonathan Gear

## Indian & Russian companies to manage China built airport in Sri Lanka



**Sri Lanka to hand management of China-built**

**airport to India, Russia companies**

- The government of **Sri Lanka** has decided to hand over the management of a **Chinese-built Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport** in **Hambantota** to an **Indian and Russian company**.
- The Sri Lankan government will lease the management of **the Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport or Hambantota Airport** to **Shaurya Aeronautics (Pvt) Ltd. of India** and **Airports of Regions Management Company of Russia**. The companies will manage the airport for **30 years**.
- The move by the Sri Lanka government to hand over the Hambantota airport is part of the government exercise to reduce its fiscal deficit.

- The Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport (MRIA) was built in **Hambantota in 2013** as **the second international airport in Sri Lanka**. Sri Lanka's first international airport is the **Bandaranaike International Airport in Colombo**.
- The Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport was funded by the **EXIM Bank of China**. It provided **\$209 million** for the project.
- The loan for the Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport was part of the \$4.2 billion loan taken by the Sri Lankan government to fund various infrastructure projects in the country.
- In 2022 Sri Lanka faced a financial crisis when its foreign exchange reserves fell to a record low and finally it defaulted on its external debt.
- The Indian company **ITC Hotels** has opened a **5-star hotel, ITC Ratnadipa**, in Colombo.
- The hotel was inaugurated by Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe in April 2024. With an estimated investment of **Rs 3000 crore**, it is the biggest investment by an Indian company in the Sri Lankan hospitality sector.

### **About Sri Lanka:**

**Capital:** Colombo (executive and judicial), Jayawardenepura Kotte (legislative capital)

**President:** Ranil Wickremesinghe,

**Currency:** Sri Lankan Rupee

## Sudhir Kakar, the 'Father of Indian Psychology' dies at 85



- **Sudhir Kakar**, the “**Father of Indian Psychology**”, died at the age of 85. Sudhir Kakar was a famous **writer and cultural critic**.

### **About Sudhir Kakar:**

- Sudhir Kakar was born in 1938 in **Nainital, Uttarakhand**.
- The famous psychoanalyst Kakar was also a great **table tennis player**.
- Kakar wrote several books and articles on the intersection of psychoanalysis with Indian culture, mythology and religion.

- Among his major books, '**The Inner World: A Psychoanalytic Study of Childhood and Society in India**' was quite famous.
- Sudhir Kakar received a **doctorate in economics from the University of Vienna.**

**Sudhir Kakar received many awards:**

- Cardiner Award (Columbia University)
- Boyer Award (for psychological anthropology) of the American Anthropological Association
- Goethe Medal (Germany)
- Order of Merit (Germany's highest federal award).