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Ayushman Bharat Diwas 2024: April 30th

- Ayushman Bharat Diwas is marked on **April 30** every year. This day is observed to commemorate the launch of the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) scheme on September 23, 2018.**
- **Ayushman Diwas first celebrated in the year 2018.**
- AB-PMJAY is a healthcare initiative aimed at providing beneficiaries with financial **coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh for secondary and tertiary hospitalization care..**
- They made the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana to assist poor people, giving them free treatment in government hospitals and clinics. This initiative aims to transform India's healthcare landscape by making quality medical care more accessible to millions of citizens.
- The eligibility for being a scheme beneficiary depends on the deprivation criteria mentioned in the **Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) of 2011.**
- All Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana card holders are also eligible for the scheme.



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Sana, AI news anchor of India won Global Media Awards 2024

- **India Today Group's AI anchor Sana won two awards at the International News Media Association Global Media Awards held in London, United Kingdom**
- **Sana, an AI-powered news anchor developed by India Today Group, has won the first prize in the 'Best Use of AI in Customer-Facing Products' category.**
- The award recognizes Sana's role in transforming newsroom dynamics by combining human expertise with AI innovation to create an unparalleled news experience.
- Additionally, SANA has also been awarded the **'Best in South Asia for AI-Led Newsroom Transformation' award**, highlighting the collaborative efforts of SANA and India Today Group in fostering innovation and excellence in the region's media landscape.
- Sana's success is a testament to the transformative power of AI in shaping the future of journalism.
- Sana engages audiences with accuracy, empathy, and credibility, which symbolizes the synergy between human ingenuity and technological advancement. This marks a new era in storytelling and information dissemination.



V Senthilkumar won the Batch Open Squash title 2024



- **National men's Squash champion Velavan Senthilkumar** defeated **Melvil Scianimanico of France** to win the **Batch Open Challenger Squash**.
- This was the **eighth PSA (Professional Squash Association) title** for the **US-based Indian Velavan Senthilkumar**.
- The Batch Open was organized by **the world squash governing body Professional Squash Association** with the host **French Squash Federation at Jeu de Paume, Paris, France**.
- In semifinal **World No.58 ranked Velavan Senthilkumar** defeated Hong Kong's Andes Ling to set the title clash with Melvil Scianimanico.

Dubai begins construction of 'world's largest' airport

- **Dubai**, known for its futuristic and innovative approach, has recently launched a groundbreaking airport project to create the **world's largest capacity airport**.
- The government has approved the designs for the new passenger terminals **at the upcoming Al Maktoum International Airport**.
- Sheikh Mohammed has a bold vision of establishing a complete city around the **airport in Dubai South**. It will not only serve as an airport, but also as the world's airport, its port, its urban hub, and a new global center.
- With an **estimated cost of AED 128 billion** (approximately **\$34.85 billion** or nearly **Rs 2.9 lakh crore**) the **Al Maktoum International Airport project** is a strategic initiative of the **Dubai Aviation Corporation**.

Features of Airport:

- The new terminal is expected to be **five times larger than the current Dubai International Airport**, with a capacity to accommodate up to **260 million passengers annually**.
- Over the next decade, all operations at Dubai International Airport will gradually shift to Al Maktoum International Airport.



**Dubai's new airport
to be world's largest**

- The new airport, located in **Dubai South**, aims to become a global leader in the logistics and air transport sectors.
- It will have five parallel runways and **400 terminal or aircraft gates**. The airport is expected to create a demand for housing for around one million people, which will lead to the construction of an entire city around it.
- The project aims to secure a sustainable and progressive future for generations to come.

About United Arab Emirates (UAE):

Capital: Abu Dhabi

Currency: Dirham

Prime minister: Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

President: Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Pakistan's Foreign minister Ishaq Dar named as Deputy Prime Minister

- **Pakistan's foreign minister Ishaq Dar** has been appointed **Deputy Prime Minister**.
- Dar will continue in his role as foreign minister.
- The appointment comes a month after **Shehbaz Sharif** was elected PM after a national election marred by internet shutdown, arrests and violence.
- Pakistan struggled for over four months to lock in a stand-by arrangement with the IMF last summer when Dar was **finance minister**, and it took the intervention of PM Sharif to secure a last-ditch deal.
- Dar a chartered accountant and a veteran politician, belongs to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's **Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party**.

About Pakistan:

Capital: Islamabad

PM: Shehbaz Sharif

President: Asif Ali Zardari

Currency: Rupee



Critical Minerals Summit held in New Delhi, India



- **The Ministry of Mines** is organizing the “**Critical Minerals Summit: Enhancing Beneficiation and Processing Capabilities**” in partnership with **the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (Shakti), Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), and Indian Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD)**.
- **This two-day summit** will take place at **the India Habitat Centre in Lodhi Estate, New Delhi**.
- The Critical Minerals Summit is an essential event that aims to promote collaboration, share knowledge and drive innovation in the critical mineral beneficiation and processing industry.
- **The summit will feature technical sessions on eight key minerals:** Glaucosite (Potash), Lithium - Rare Earth Elements (Laterite), Chromium, Platinum Group, Graphite, Tungsten associated with Graphite, Rare Earths (RE), and Vanadium associated with Graphite.

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- These sessions will provide valuable opportunities for business-to-business collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Goal of the Critical Minerals Summit:

- Accelerate the domestic production of CRM
- To equip government and industry stakeholders with the knowledge, connections, and tools necessary to support India's economic growth and sustainability objectives.
- **The Minister of Coal & Mines:** Pralhad Joshi.

Alok Shukla gets 2024 Goldman Prize for his Hasdeo Arand movement



- **Chhattisgarh's environmental activist and convenor of Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan Alok Shukla** has been selected for the **2024 Goldman Environmental Prize**.
- The Goldman Environmental Prize, also popularly **known as the Green Nobel Prize**, is awarded annually to grassroots environmental champions worldwide.
- **Hasdeo Arand forest** area of **Chhattisgarh** is considered to be **the lungs of Chhattisgarh**. The area is rich in coal, and in 2010, the government auctioned two coal blocks to private companies for mining. To save the forest area and its ecosystem, **Alok Shukla** founded **Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti**.
- In 2022, the government cancelled the proposed auction of coal mines in the area.

- This year, **seven people from six inhabited regions** of the globe have been selected for the annual Goldman Environmental Prize.

Winners of the 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize they are:

- Alok Shukla from India (Asia)
- Marcel Gomes from Brazil (South and Central America)
- Murrawah Maroochy Johnson from Australia (Islands & Island Nations)
- Teresa Vicente from Spain (Europe)
- Andrea Vidaurre from United States of America (North America)
- Nonhle Mbuthuma and Sinegugu Zukulu from South Africa (Africa).
- Till now, **seven Indian** have been awarded the **Goldman Environmental Prize**.
- **Medha Patkar** was the **first Indian to get the Goldman Environmental Prize in 1992**. She was associated with **Narmada Bachao Andolan**, which mobilised people against the construction of the **Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat**.

About Goldman Environmental Prize:

- **The Goldman Environmental Prize** was founded by **American couple Richard and Rhoda Goldman in 1989**.
- The prize aims to honour grassroots environmental leaders, draw the international community's attention to environmental problems, and encourage action.
- The first Goldman Environmental Prize was announced in **1990**.
- Every year, grassroots environmental leaders are selected from **six regions** of the world: **Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, South and Central America and Islands and Islands Nations**.

Hema Malini, Saira Banu & Eight others to get Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Awards

- Legendary **Hindi film superstars Hema Malini and Saira Banu** as well as other prominent personalities from the fields of **art and culture**, will be honoured with the prestigious **Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award**.
- The award will be given on **31 August 2024 at a ceremony in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **10 eminent personalities** to be awarded the **Lacchu Maharaj award**
- The Lacchu Maharaj Award, Instituted in memory of the **famous kathak exponent Lacchu Maharaj**, was not given after 2014.
- Thus, the **Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Ballet Foundation** has decided to honour **10 personalities this year**. No award has been announced for the year 2020 due to COVID-19. The awardees are:
 1. Uma Sharma (Kathak) for the year 2015 from New Delhi
 2. Rama Vaidyanathan (Kathak) - 2016 from New Delhi.
 3. Uma Dogra (Kathak) - 2017 from Jaipur
 4. Hema Malini (Kathak, Film actress) - 2018 from Mumbai



5. Saira Banu (Kathak, Film actress) - 2019 from Mumbai
6. Sandhaya Puricha (Chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi and Bharatanatyam Exponent) - 2020 from Mumbai
7. Dr. Malabika Mitra (Kathak) - 2021 from Kolkata
8. Prachi Shah (Kathak, Film actress) - 2022 from Mumbai
9. Ashim Bandhu Bhattacharya (Kathak) -2023 from Mumbai
10. Pandit Rajendra Gangani (Kathak) - 2024 from Jaipur

➤ **Lacchu Maharaj** was awarded the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1957.**

Sunita Williams set for third space voyage as part of crewed test mission

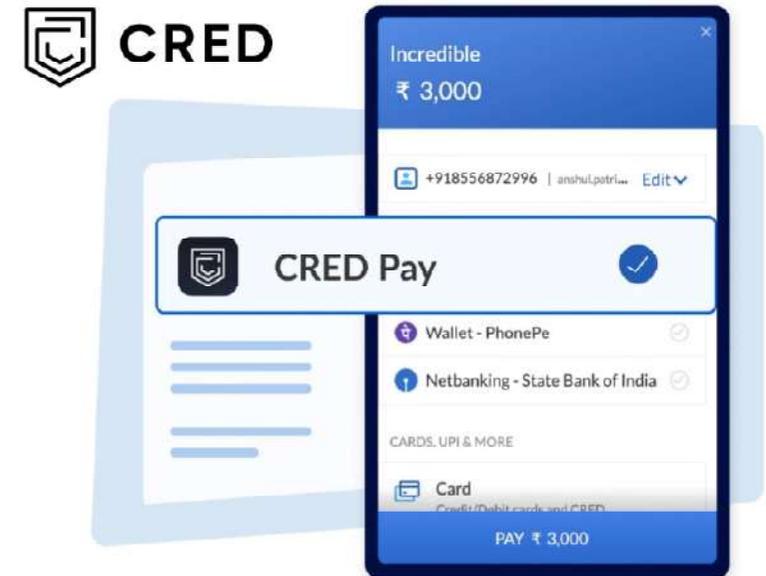


- **Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams** is set to undertake her **third space mission** alongside **Butch Wilmore** as they prepare to launch aboard **National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Boeing crew flight test** to the **International Space Station (ISS)** scheduled from **May 6**.
- The astronauts are scheduled to launch aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft atop a United Launch **Alliance Atlas V rocket** from **Space Launch Complex-41 at Cape Canaveral, Florida**.
- It aims to comprehensively evaluate the spacecraft's capabilities, from launch to docking, and conclude with its return to Earth in the western United States.
- Upon a successful crewed flight test, NASA will initiate the final stages of certifying Starliner and its systems for future crewed missions to the space station.

- Chosen by Nasa as an astronaut in **1998, Sunita Williams** boasts a seasoned career with **two previous space missions** under her belt - **Expeditions 14/15 and 32/33,**
- Expedition 14/15 lasted from December 9, 2006 till June 22, 2007 at Edwards Air Force Base, California.
- Expedition 32/33 lasted from 16 September 2012 till 18 November 2012.
- She has spent a total of **322 days in space over** the course of her **two missions.** Sunita Williams regained the title for the female astronaut with the highest total cumulative spacewalk time, logging 50 hours and 40 minutes.
- In September 2007 she was awarded **the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Vishwa Pratibha Award by the World Gujarati Society.** She became the **first person** of Indian descent, who was not an Indian citizen, to be presented the award.

Cred Launches Offline QR Code-based 'Scan and Pay' Service

- **Fintech company Cred** has launched a **UPI-based 'Scan and Pay' service** that enables members to use any **QR code for payments directly from their bank accounts.**
- The launch move marks Cred's foray into the **offline payments** space dominated by **PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm.**
- Cred has been pushing its UPI (Unified Payments Interface) payments feature aggressively.
- Regardless of the payment method used, Cred will offer users rewards for each transaction.
- Users may deduct these benefits from their credit card expenses.
- Large merchants can apply for a device that comes in various forms: A portable **"pocket" device**, a **"kiosk"** tailored for high-traffic areas, or a **dynamic QR code display unit.**
- The **"kiosk"** enables walk-in customers to independently place orders and conduct payments via UPI directly through the device.



Cred launches offline QR code-based 'scan and pay' payments

- Last year, the company launched **Cred Pay** allowing payment features like online merchant payments and bill payments.
- Cred is leveraging its existing user base and rewards program to drive adoption of its offline payments service and compete with the market leaders.

About Cred:

Founded: 2018

Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka

CEO: Kunal Shah

Iran unveils Kamikaze drone similar to Russian Lancer

- **The Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)** has introduced a new **kamikaze drone** resembling **Russia's Lancer drone**.
- **This drone**, yet to be named publicly, is designed for targeted attacks, akin to those witnessed in the **Ukraine conflict**.
- **The Iranian drone**, akin to the Lancer, boasts **flight durations of 30 to 60 minutes** and can **carry payloads ranging from 3 to 6 kg**, covering **distances of up to 40 km**.
- Equipped with electro-optical systems and a built-in warhead, it's optimized for combating ambushes.
- In recent years, the **IRGC** has heavily invested in munitions development, notably producing the **Shahed-131/136 kamikaze drones**, utilized by **Russian forces in Ukraine**.

About Iran:

Capital: Tehran

President: Ebrahim Raisi

Currency: Rial



Bambi Bucket, being used by an IAF helicopter to fight
Nainital forest fires



- **Indian Air Force's MI 17 V5 helicopter** was deployed to extinguish the raging forest fires in **Nainital district, Uttarakhand**.
- The helicopter used a “**Bambi Bucket**”, also known as a **helicopter bucket** or a **helibucket**, to **collect water from Bhimtal lake**, located near **Nainital**, and poured it over the burning forests.

About Bambi Bucket:

- **Bambi Bucket** is a specialised **aerial firefighting tool** which has been in use since the **1980s**.

- It is essentially a lightweight collapsible container that releases water from underneath a helicopter to targeted areas. The water is released by using a pilot-controlled valve.
- One of its key features is that it can be quickly and easily filled. The bucket can be filled from various sources, including lakes and swimming pools, which allows firefighters to swiftly refill it and return to the target area.
- Bambi Bucket is available in a variety of sizes and models, with capacities ranging from 270 litres to more than 9,840 litres.

About Uttarakhand:

Capital: Dehradun (winter), Bhararisain (summer)

Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhama

Governor: Gurmit Singh

India's service exports grow 11.4% in 2023: UNCTAD Report



- According to a recent report by **the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, **Indian service sector exports grew by 11.4 per cent to \$345 billion** in the calendar year **2023**(January-December) despite prevailing global uncertainties.
- However, **Chinese service exports declined by 10.1 per cent to \$381 billion in 2023.**
- India's services imports, however, dipped marginally by 0.4 per cent to \$248 billion last year.
- **India is the 7th largest exporter of services** in the world. The **United States** is the largest service exporter in the world, followed by the **United Kingdom**.

➤ **Highlights of the UNCTAD report**

- According to the UNCTAD, the service sector export in the world grew by **8.9% in 2023** and reached **US\$ 7.9 trillion in 2023**.
- The main reason for the growth in the service sector export was the growth in the **International travel sector**. The travel service sector export grew by 40%.
- The **transport sector recorded** a negative growth of **12 per cent**.
- According to the report, Services, many of which can be traded digitally, recorded a growth of **over 7%** in each quarter of 2023.
- Similarly, the total service sector imports in 2023-24 was **\$177.56 billion**.

Top 5 service exporting developed country in the world 2023

The United States of America (\$999 billion),

United Kingdom (\$584 billion),

Germany (\$440 billion)

Ireland (\$398 billion)

France (\$356 billion)

Top Service exporting developing countries

China (\$381 billion)

India (\$345)

Singapore (\$328)

Turkiye (\$101)

Hong Kong (\$99 billion)

- According to UNCTAD, India was the **9th largest service-importing country** in the world. The **United States** was the leading service importer country in the world, followed by **China**.

Top 5 leading service-importing developed countries in 2023

United States of America (\$719 billion)

Germany (\$ 508 billion)

United Kingdom (\$ 394 billion)

Ireland (\$ 389 billion)

France (\$323 billion)

Top 5 Service importing developing countries in the world in 2023

China (\$ 552 billion)

Singapore (\$295 billion)

India (\$248 billion)

Saudi Arabia (\$96 billion)

Brazil (\$83 billion)

About United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD):

Established: 1964

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Reports released by UNCTAD:

- World Investment Report,
- Trade and Development Report,
- Digital Economy report,
- Review of Maritime Transport,
- Technology and Innovation Report.
- Commodities and Development Report,
- Least Developed Countries Report.

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