



CURRENT AFFAIRS 13th April 2023

National News

1. India ranks 5th in countries with most AI investment.



- Stanford University's AI Index report states that India is ranked fifth in terms of investments received by startups offering AI-based products and services in 2022.
- AI startups in India received a total investment of \$3.24 billion, surpassing countries such as South Korea, Germany, Canada, and Australia.
- However, India is still behind the US, China, the UK, and Israel in terms of AI investments received.
- According to the same report, AI startups in India received a cumulative funding of \$7.73 billion from 2013 to 2022, which places it sixth among the countries with the highest AI investments during that period.
- However, nearly 40% of this funding was received in the year 2022 alone.
- The AI Index report by Stanford University revealed that 54% of the researchers working on Large Language Models (LLMs) are from American institutions.

- Nonetheless, for the first time, researchers from Canada, Germany, and India contributed to the development of LLMs last year.

2. Jallianwala Bagh Massacre 104th Anniversary.



- April 13, 1919, the Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place in Amritsar, Punjab, which is remembered as a tragic event and a symbol of the atrocities committed against the Indian people during the British colonial era.
- The massacre played a significant role in India's fight for independence, as it increased the nation's determination to achieve self-rule and break free from British subjugation.
- Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Day 2023 marks 104 years since the tragic incident that is seen as a turning point in Indian History.
- It was this that led to Gandhi's full commitment to the cause of Indian nationalism and independence from Britain.
- The British military officer, General Dyer, on April 13, 1919 entered the Jallianwala Bagh (Amritsar) with his troops, where people had gathered to peacefully protest against the arrest of the two nationalist leaders, Satya Pal and Dr Saifuddin Kitchlew. Without so much as a warning to the people to disperse, he ordered his troops to fire at the unarmed crowd.

- The onslaught lasted ten minutes till their ammunition was exhausted, after which the British soldiers left.
- A total of 1,650 rounds were fired, and more than 500 people were killed and murdered. The exact number of casualties remains unknown

3. Solar Energy Corporation of India gets 'Miniratna Category-I' status



- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has granted Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) status to the state-owned Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI), according to a statement. SECI, which was established in 2011, is the primary implementing agency for renewable energy schemes/projects of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy aimed at fulfilling India's international commitments.
- SECI has played a Central role in the rapid increase of RE generation capacity in the country and has contributed towards the nation's climate commitments, carbon emission reduction strategies and sustainable energy transition.
- SECI has awarded more than 56 GW of Renewable Energy (RE) project capacities to date.
- It also plays an active role in establishing projects through its own investments and as a Project Management Consultant (PMC) for other public sector entities.

- SECI has received a top credit rating of AAA from the domestic rating agency ICRA.

4. India's First Semi-High Speed Regional Rail Service Named 'RAPIDX'.



- The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NRTC) has named India's first semi-high-speed regional rail services as 'RAPIDX'.
- These trains will operate on the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors, which are being constructed to link important urban nodes across the National Capital Region (NCR).
- The name 'RAPIDX' has been selected because it is simple to read and pronounce in different languages.
- The brand's logo features a green leaf symbol that represents the brand's objective of decarbonization. The brand intends to reduce the number of vehicles on the road, thereby decongesting the National Capital Region (NCR).
- Furthermore, the brand aims to incorporate green energy into its operations by installing solar panels at stations and depots and gradually increasing the use of blended power in traction.

- The NCRTC is a joint venture company between the Union government and the states of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- According to the NCRTC, 'RAPIDX' will connect the people who choose to live in their hometowns in NCR, with the national capital through a modern, sustainable, convenient, fast, safe, and comfortable means of travel.

5. India's first 3D-printed post office to come up in Bengaluru.



- According to recent news reports, a 3D-printed post office is being built in Bengaluru, India, which will be the first of its kind in the country.
- Residents of Cambridge Layout are reportedly pleased with this development.
- The cost of constructing this post office is estimated to be 30 to 40 percent lower than that of a traditional building, and it is expected to be completed within 30 days.
- The 1100 square feet post office will cost around Rs 23 lakh to construct.
- The use of 3D printing technology can significantly reduce construction costs and expedite the building process, which would otherwise take several months.
- The proposed three-storied post office in Bengaluru has received clearance from the Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and IIT-Madras for its 3D printing. This will be India's first 3D-printed post office building.

6. China records world's first human death from H3N8 bird flu.



- The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that a woman from Guangdong, a southern province of China, has died from a rare strain of bird flu that is not commonly found in humans.
- Although three people have been confirmed to have been infected with the H3N8 subtype of avian influenza, this strain does not seem to transmit from person to person. The deceased woman was 56 years old.
- H3N8 is a subtype of the influenza A virus.
- It primarily affects birds, particularly wild waterfowl and shorebirds.
- It is not commonly found in humans, but rare cases of human infections have been reported.
- Symptoms in humans are similar to other types of flu, including fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, and fatigue.
- Human infections are usually linked to exposure to infected birds or contaminated environments.

- There is no evidence of human-to-human transmission of H3N8 bird flu.
- Genetic mutations could potentially increase the virus's transmissibility or virulence.

7. UP's Suhelwa sanctuary records first photographic proof of tigers



- According to a recent census report on tigers in the country, Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary has been identified as a new area where photographic evidence of tigers has been captured for the first time.
- The sanctuary was established in 1988 and is located in Shravasti, Balrampur, and Gonda districts of Uttar Pradesh. It spans across 452 sq km and is positioned on the border of India and Nepal.
- It is renowned for its natural resources and named after King Soheldev, with the Shivalik ranges of the Himalayas located nearby.
- Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary is a significant area within the Bhabar-Terai ecosystem region, which is renowned for its diverse range of flora and fauna.