



CURRENT AFFAIRS 17th April 2023

National News

1. Nepal becomes founding member of International Big Cats Alliance.



- Nepal has become a founding member of the International Big Cats Alliance.
- During the launch of the alliance under India's initiative, Minister for Energy Shakti Bahadur Basnet handed over the letter mentioning Nepal will be associated with the alliance as a founding member to Indian Minister for Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the alliance aimed at the conservation of seven big cats namely tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma.
- India has assured support over five years with guaranteed funding of \$100 million for the alliance.
- The tiger population in Nepal reached 335 in 2022 from 121 in 2010 as a result of the government working in partnership with local communities, security agencies and conservation partners.

- Nepal successfully achieved its goal of doubling the tiger population by 2022 as per its commitment made during the first tiger summit in 2010 in St Petersburg.

2. Net direct tax collections at Rs 16.6 lakh crore in 2022-23, up 160% from 2013-14.



- The Finance Ministry has released time series data indicating a significant increase in net direct tax collections, which rose by 160% to reach Rs 16,61,428 crore in 2022-23 from Rs 6,38,596 crore in 2013-14.
- Gross direct tax collections also saw a massive increase of 173% to Rs 19,68,780 crore in 2022-23 from Rs 7,21,604 crore in 2013-14.
- According to the same time series data released by the Finance Ministry, the Gross Direct Tax Collections have shown a significant increase of 172.83% in the fiscal year 2022-23, reaching a provisional figure of Rs 19,68,780 crore from the Gross Direct Tax Collections of Rs 7,21,604 crore in the fiscal year 2013-14.
- This highlights a substantial increase in tax revenue over the years, indicating a positive trend for the economy.

3. MRF emerges as 'second strongest tyre brand in the world'.



- According to a recent report by Brand Finance, a U.K.-based brand valuation consultancy, MRF Ltd. has been ranked as the second-strongest tyre brand in the world.
- The report evaluated various parameters, and MRF scored high on most of them, including being the second fastest-growing tyre brand globally.
- With a score of 83.2 out of 100, MRF received a AAA- brand rating.
- The report also mentioned MRF as the most valuable Indian tyre brand and the only Indian tyre manufacturer in the top 10.
- Furthermore, MRF performed well in the Sustainability Perception Value category
- The 2023 report by Brand Finance assesses the value of brands in the automobile, auto component, tyre, and mobility industries.
- The report evaluates the net economic benefit that a brand owner would receive by licensing it in the open market as brand value.

- The report evaluates a brand's strength by considering various factors, including marketing investment, stakeholder equity, and business performance.
- This scorecard is then used to determine the proportion of a business's revenue that is contributed by the brand.

4. Bihu performance in Guwahati creates Guinness World Record



- Assam made a historic achievement by entering the Guinness Book of World Records with over 11,000 dancers and drummers performing the traditional 'Bihu' dance and playing the 'dhol' at a single venue.
- The performers, comprising both dancers and drummers, participated in the event at Sarusajai Stadium in Guwahati as part of the State Government's initiative to set a new world record in the Guinness Book
- More than 11,000 dancers and drummers performed the traditional Bihu dance, accompanied by various traditional musical instruments, including Taal, Dhol, Gogona, Pepa, Toka, and Xutuli, to mark Assam's entry into the Guinness Book of World Records.
- To ensure that the best performers were selected for the event, training sessions were conducted throughout the state.
- The main objective of the event was to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Assam to the world.

- As a reward for their participation, all performers, including master trainers and dancers, will receive a grant of INR 25,000.

5. European Space Agency's Juice mission launches to search for life on Jupiter's moons.



- The European Space Agency (ESA) launched the Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer mission (Juice) on Friday, 14 April, at 8:14 a.m. ET using an Ariane 5 rocket from Europe's spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.
- Juice aims to explore Jupiter and three of its largest moons. Following a successful separation from the Ariane 5 rocket, the ESA received a signal from Juice about an hour after launch, confirming that communication between the vehicle and Earth-based mission control is established.
- Juice will spend the next 17 days deploying its solar arrays, antennas, and other instruments before conducting three months of instrument testing and preparation.
- The spacecraft's ultimate destination is Jupiter, and it will take eight years for Juice to reach the planet, which is the largest in our solar system.

- During its long journey, the spacecraft will use gravitational slingshots by flying past Earth, our moon, and Venus to help propel it forward.

6. S Jaishankar inaugurates Buzi Bridge in Mozambique.



- Dr Jaishankar inaugurated the Buzi Bridge virtually, which is a part of the 132 km Tica-Buzi-Nova-Sofala Road project. The bridge has been constructed by India and is a symbol of the solidarity and friendship between India and Mozambique.
- According to the Indian High Commission in Mozambique, the bridge will make a difference to the lives of many people in Mozambique.
- The Buzi Bridge is an essential project that demonstrates India's commitment to the development of Mozambique's infrastructure.
- India has been a reliable partner in Mozambique's growth journey, and this bridge is another instance of India's contribution to the country's progress.
- During his visit to Mozambique, Dr Jaishankar, along with Mr Magala, took a ride on a train made in India from Maputo

to Machava, accompanied by CMD of Rail India Technical and Economic Service RITES Rahul Mithal.

- This journey highlights the significance of India's contribution to the development of Mozambique's rail infrastructure. Dr Jaishankar also met with President of Assembly Esperança Bias and discussed the historic cooperation between India and Mozambique, with a focus on counter-terrorism and disaster resilience

7. World Hemophilia Day 2023 observed on 17th April.



- World Hemophilia Day is celebrated every year on April 17th to honor the birth anniversary of Frank Schnabel, who established the World Federation of Hemophilia.
- The purpose of this day is to raise awareness and provide information about hemophilia and other bleeding disorders.
- Hemophilia is a rare medical condition where the blood fails to clot correctly due to the lack of specific clotting factors.
- This leads to prolonged bleeding, which can be hazardous and life-threatening in some situations.
- The theme for World Hemophilia Day in 2023 is “Access for All: Partnership, Policy, Progress – Engaging Governments to Integrate Inherited Bleeding Disorders into National Policy”.

- **This theme highlights the importance of partnership and collaboration between various stakeholders, including governments, in ensuring access to appropriate care and treatment for individuals with hemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders.**
- **The theme also emphasizes the need to integrate these conditions into national policies to improve diagnosis, treatment, and management of these disorders.**

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