



CURRENT AFFAIRS 24th April 2023

National News

1. 2023 Locked Shields cyber-defense exercise held in Tallinn by NATO



- Over 3000 participants from 38 countries – including, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Allies and partners – participated in the 2023 edition of the annual exercise “Locked Shields,” hosted by the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence in Tallinn (Estonia).
- “Locked Shields” is the world’s largest cyber defence exercise.
- It started on 18 April 2023 and involved protecting computer systems from real-time attacks and simulating tactical and strategic decisions in critical situations.
- The exercise simulates the complexities of a large-scale cyber incident and will test the teams’ ability to execute strategic decisions and solve forensic, legal, and media challenges.
- With the latest technologies and relevant attack methods incorporated, Locked Shields 2023 will push the

boundaries of cyber defence and reveal the best teams and strategies for protecting against modern-day threats.

2. Khongjom Day in Manipur in 2023.



- **Khongjom Day was commemorated at Khongjom in Thoubal district of Manipur to honour the soldiers who fought in the 1891 Anglo-Manipuri War.**
- **Manipur's Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and Governor Ms. Anusuiya Uikey were among those who paid their respects to the heroes at the event, held at Kheba Ching in Khongjom.**
- **During his address, the Chief Minister emphasized that the youth have a responsibility to preserve and defend the dignity, freedom, and sovereignty of the country.**
- **He also asserted that independence should not be interpreted solely in the context of separatism and regionalism**
- **Khongjom Day is a significant event in the history of Manipur that commemorates the bravery of the state's soldiers who fought in the 1891 Anglo-Manipuri War. The battle took place at Khongjom in Thoubal district of Manipur and marked the beginning of colonial rule in the region.**

- Every year, on this day, Manipur pays tribute to the courageous soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the war.
- The event is typically held at Kheba Ching in Khongjom, where Manipur's Chief Minister and Governor, along with other dignitaries, pay their respects to the fallen heroes.
- The observance of Khongjom Day serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by the people of Manipur in their fight for freedom and independence

3. Kenya's Kiptum Wins London Marathon in 2nd Fastest Time.



- Kelvin Kiptum, a 23-year-old Kenyan athlete, collapsed to the ground after achieving victory in the London Marathon and posting the second-best time in history for the distance.
- Kiptum broke the course record with an impressive time of 2 hours, 1 minute, and 25 seconds, falling short of Eliud Kipchoge's world record by only 16 seconds.
- Amos Kipruto, Tamirat Tola, and Mo Farah, the legendary long-distance runner, were among the elite men's field that Kelvin Kiptum left behind in what was Farah's final marathon.
- Farah, at the age of 40, finished in ninth place with a time of 2 hours, 10 minutes, and 28 seconds.
- In the women's elite race, Sifan Hassan emerged victorious in a thrilling race featuring possibly the strongest field ever.
- Despite falling off the pace and experiencing hip discomfort around the 15-mile mark, the 30-year-old Olympic champion in the 5,000 and 10,000-meter events caught up to the leaders with three miles to go.

4. NHAI to Develop 10,000 km of Optic Fibre Cables Across India by FY 2025.



- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has announced plans to develop an integrated network of around 10,000 kilometers of optic fiber cables (OFC) infrastructure across India by the fiscal year 2025.
- The project will be implemented by NHAI's special purpose vehicle, National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML), which will create utility corridors along the national highways to develop the OFC infrastructure.
- The OFC network will provide internet connectivity to remote regions in India and facilitate the country's transition to modern telecommunication technologies such as 5G and 6G.
- Pilot tracks for the development of digital highways have already been identified by NHAI, with the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and Hyderabad-Bangalore corridor included in the plan.
- The OFC infrastructure development project is already underway, with a goal to complete it within a year.

- The OFC network will be leased out on a fixed-rate allocation system on an open-for-all basis through a web portal to eligible users.
- An official OFC allotment policy is being finalised in consultation with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
- The development of digital highways in India is expected to expedite the country's digital transformation and have a catalytic effect on its growth and development.

5. **Shantanu Roy to become new CMD of BEML Limited.**



- Shantanu Roy has been recommended as the next Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of BEML Limited, a Miniratna PSU under the Ministry of Defence.
- The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel selected him for the position from a list of three candidates, all of whom were from BEML Limited.
- Roy is presently serving as Director (Mining & Construction Business) in the same organization and has over 30 years of extensive experience in capital goods sectors for defense, mining & construction, transportation, transmission, renewable, and large power projects.
- Roy holds a graduate degree in electrical engineering from NIT-Raipur and an MBA in Financial Management.
- He has served as Executive Director of BEML Limited, responsible for the international business division, strategy & new initiatives, coordination, and northern

region operations, before assuming his current position in February 2023.

- As a six sigma black belt certified professional, he is well-versed in various models of project financing, mechanisms and processes for financial closure of large projects, international laws, arbitration rules, international legal & arbitration cases, and statutory & legal compliances.

6. International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace 2023 observed on 24 April.



- The International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace is celebrated annually on 24 April.
- The Day acknowledges the use of multilateral decision making and diplomacy in achieving peaceful resolutions to conflicts among nations.
- This day aims to promote the principles of multilateralism and diplomacy in resolving global challenges and conflicts.
- The observance also serves as a reminder of the importance of the United Nations and other multilateral organizations in facilitating cooperation and collective action among nations.
- Multilateralism is a philosophy or approach to international relations that emphasizes the need for cooperation and coordination among multiple countries and international organizations to address global issues and achieve common goals.
- It involves the idea that no single country can solve complex global problems such as climate change, international trade, or terrorism on its own, and that collective action and shared responsibility are necessary.

- **Multilateralism is based on the principles of equality, mutual respect, and diplomacy, and it seeks to foster a more inclusive and transparent global governance system that allows for broad-based participation and consensus-building.**
- **Multilateralism is often embodied through international agreements, treaties, and organizations such as the United Nations, World Trade Organization, or the International Monetary Fund, among others.**

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