



CURRENT AFFAIRS 01st & 02nd April 2024

National News

Government Forms 14th Task Force To Explore Use Of Biochar In Steel Production



The Indian government has taken proactive steps to address carbon emissions in the steel industry by establishing a task force to investigate the potential use of biochar. With the steel sector contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, this initiative aims to reduce carbon intensity and promote sustainability in steel manufacturing processes.

Indian Government's Stake Sale In State-Run Companies Falls Short In 2023/24



The Indian government aimed to raise funds through the sale of stakes in state-run companies in the fiscal year 2023/24. However, the achieved amount of 165 billion rupees fell short of the internal target by about 9%, reaching \$1.98 billion. This setback is attributed to the forthcoming general elections, causing a shift in focus away from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's privatization agenda.

State News

Utkal Diwas 2024, A Celebration of Odisha's Rich Culture and Heritage



Utkal Diwas, also known as Odisha Day or Utkala Dibasa, is a significant annual celebration held in the Indian state of Odisha. It is observed on 1st April every year to commemorate the formation of the state of Odisha on April 1, 1936. This day holds immense cultural and historical importance for the people of Odisha, as it represents the culmination of a long-standing struggle for a separate state, distinct from the combined Bihar and Orissa provinces during the British colonial era.

UP Leads with Most GI-Tagged Products



The northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh has taken the lead in having the highest number of Geographical Indication (GI) certified products in the country. With the recent addition of 15 new products, Uttar Pradesh now boasts a total of 69 GI-tagged products, surpassing Tamil Nadu's 58.

The holy city of Varanasi has emerged as a leader in GI-tagged goods production, with a remarkable 30 certified products – the highest from a single geographical area. GI certification ensures that these products are unique representations of a specific culture, society, or craft.

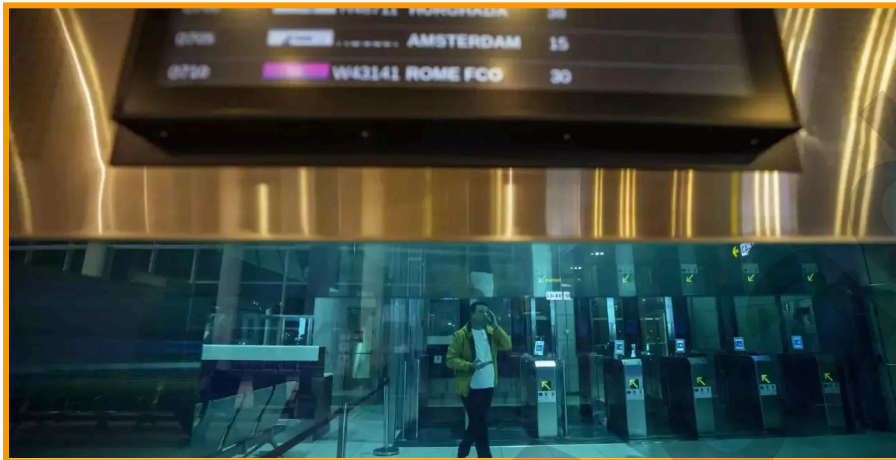
International News

UN Appoints Saudi Arabia To Lead Women's Rights Forum Despite Criticism



Saudi Arabia has been chosen to chair the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), despite widespread criticism due to its poor record on women's rights. The appointment of Saudi Ambassador Abdulaziz Alwasil has sparked outrage from human rights groups, given the stark disparity between the kingdom's actions and the commission's mandate to promote gender equality.

Romania And Bulgaria Partially Join Schengen Travel Zone



Romania and Bulgaria have taken a significant step in their integration with the European Union by partially joining the Schengen travel zone. While travelers arriving by air or sea now enjoy ID-check-free access, land border checks persist due to opposition from Austria.

International Year Of Millets 2023: A Recap



The International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023, concluded with a closing ceremony held at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) headquarters in Rome, Italy, on March 29th, 2024. The event served as a platform to assess the accomplishments and insights gained from the year-long celebration.

Banking News

RBI Celebrates 90 Years of Service on Foundation Day 2024



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the nation's central banking institution, is entering its 90th year on April 1st, 2024. To mark this significant occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is attending the event at Mumbai's National Centre for the Performing Arts.

HDFC Bank To Divest 100% Stake In Education Arm: Shares In Focus



HDFC Bank, a leading private sector lender in India, is pursuing the sale of its entire stake in HDFC Education and Development Services. This move comes as the bank seeks to maintain transparency and regulatory compliance while selecting a buyer through the Swiss challenge method. HDFC Bank disclosed its intention to divest its stake in HDFC Education and Development Services in a regulatory filing on March 30.

SBI Mutual Fund Acquires 3% Stake In Savita Oil Technologies



On March 26, 2024, Savita Oil Technologies announced a significant equity transaction via a block deal, wherein the company's promoter, Mr. Gautam N. Mehra, sold a 3% stake to SBI Mutual Fund. This resulted in a reduction of the promoter group's stake to 59.78%.

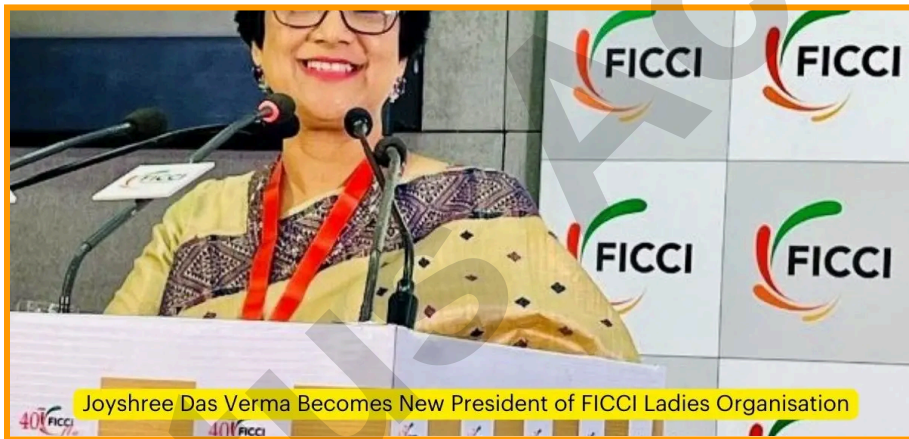
Appointments News

Moushumi Basu Takes Over as New President of JNU Teachers Association



The Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers Association (JNUTA) has appointed a new team of office-bearers for the term of 2024-2025, according to a statement released. Moushumi Basu, a professor at the School of International Studies, has been appointed as the next JNUTA president.

Joyshree Das Verma Becomes New President of FICCI Ladies Organisation



Joyshree Das Verma has taken over as the 41st National President of the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) for the year 2024-25. FLO is the oldest women-led and women-centric business chamber of South East Asia....