

TEACHERS' VISION

WAY TO GOVERNMENT JOBS

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 11TH – 20TH APRIL 2023

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 1. Seed Traceability portal and mobile app launched:** Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication and Holistic Inventory) Portal and Mobile App, on 19 April 2023. It has been developed by the NIC in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on the theme of 'Uttam Beej - Samridh Kisan'.
- 2. Cabinet approves National Quantum Mission:** The Union Cabinet has approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM) at a total cost of ARs.6003.65 crore from 2023-24 to 2030-31. The new mission targets developing intermediate scale quantum computers with 50-1000 physical qubits in 8 years in various platforms like superconducting and photonic technology. Four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) will be set up in top academic and National R&D institutes.
- 3. Ministry of Steel to organize India Steel 2023 in Mumbai:** The Ministry of Steel is set to organize India Steel 2023, a major international exhibition and conference, from April 19-21, 2023 in Mumbai. The event is being organized in association with Commerce Ministry and FICCI. The conference will feature high-level keynote speakers, technical sessions, and panel discussions.
Government launches 'Sangathan-se-Samridh' scheme: The Government of India has launched a new scheme called 'Sangathan-se-Samridh' aimed at bringing marginalised rural women into the fold of Self Help Groups (SHGs). The scheme will provide support to around 75,000 SHGs across 11 states in India, with a focus on empowering women and promoting entrepreneurship. It will give financial assistance to help them start and expand their businesses.
- 4. PM Modi to inaugurate first Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi:** The first-ever 3-day Global Buddhist Summit will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on April 20th, 2023. The summit will also feature cultural programs, exhibitions, and a visit to the Buddhist sites in the region. The event is being organized by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- 5. Global Conference on Compressed Biogas to commence on 17 April:** According to the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, a two-day Global Conference on Compressed Biogas (CBG) will be held in New Delhi from 17 April, 2023. The theme of the conference is "Towards Progressive Policy Framework for a Robust CBG Foundation and Growth." It aims to appraise the industry about the initiatives taken by govt for the development of compressed biogas industry.
- 6. Govt to spend Rs 3200 crore on sports facilities under Khelo India:** Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Anurag Singh Thakur, on 14 April 2023, announced that govt will spend 3,200 crore rupees on sports facilities in 5 years under the Khelo India campaign. He also inaugurated sports facilities eg. new badminton courts, lighting systems, and Judo mats at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) National Centre of Excellence in Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh.

TEACHERS' VISION

WAY TO GOVERNMENT JOBS

- 7. Union Minister Parshottam Rupala to launch APPI:** Union Minister Parshottam Rupala will launch the 'Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI)' as well as the World Bank-funded 'Animal Health System Support for One Health (AHSSOH)' project in New Delhi on 14 April 2023. Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has inked a collaborative project on the Animal Health System Support for One Health with the World Bank.
- 8. Kolkata Metro carries out historic successful test run:** Kolkata Metro Railway carried out historic successful test run of two six-coach metro trains under Hooghly river's underwater tunnel, which is the country's first-ever underwater Metro, in April 2023. They underwent a trial run on the 4.8-km stretch between Esplanade and Howrah Maidan. Once this stretch is open then Howrah will be the deepest Metro station (33 m below surface) in India.
- 9. EAM Jaishankar launches 'Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project' in Uganda:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on 10 April 2023 launched the 'Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project' of Varanasi, during his visit to Uganda's Kampala. From April 13-15, Jaishankar will visit Mozambique. This will be the first-ever visit by an External Affairs Minister of India to the Republic of Mozambique.
- 10. India's first semi-high speed regional rail service named 'RAPIDX':** The National Capital Regional Transportation Corporation (NCRTC), on 11 April 2023, announced that the rapid rail between Delhi and Meerut will be called RapidX. The green leaf symbol is the highlight of the brand's commitment to decarbonization. It will be 82 km long and NCRTC will commission the entire Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor for the public by 2025.
- 11. Garuda Aerospace becomes first to receive Agri Drone Subsidy:** Garuda Aerospace, on 11 April 2023, became the first drone company to receive Agri Drone Subsidy for their agricultural drones. This subsidy is part of the Indian government's efforts to promote the use of agricultural drones. The Kisan Drones were given to 8 farmers under the Agri-drone subsidy. Govt is providing subsidies to promote the use of drone technology in the agriculture sector.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 12. Syria declared the world's largest narco-state:** Syria has been declared as the world's largest producer and exporter of drugs. Its economic survival now depends heavily on the production and export of Captagon, also known as the "poor man's coke". Captagon, a banned illicit drug recognized by the UNODC (2021), is a synthetic stimulant that combines amphetamine and caffeine.
- 13. India, Japan, and France announce common platform for Sri Lanka:** India, Japan, and France have announced a common platform for Sri Lanka creditors to help the country address its debt crisis. Sri Lanka has been facing a debt crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sri Lanka owes 7.1 billion dollar to bilateral creditors, with 3 billion dollar owed to China, followed by 2.4 billion dollar to the Paris Club and 1.6 billion dollar to India.
- 14. EAM Dr S Jaishankar inaugurates Buzi Bridge in Mozambique:** India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, inaugurated the Buzi Bridge in Mozambique, which has been built by India in April 2023.

TEACHERS' VISION

WAY TO GOVERNMENT JOBS

The Buzi Bridge is a 700-m-long suspension bridge that spans the Buzi River and connects the towns of Chibabava and Mafambisse.

- 15.** The project was executed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in collaboration with the Mozambique government.
- 16. Ghana: First country to approve Oxford's malaria vaccine for children:** Ghana has approved the use of Oxford's malaria vaccine for children, making it the first country in the world to do so. The vaccine is expected to reduce cases of severe malaria in children by up to 30%. Malaria is a major public health problem in Ghana, with an estimated 10 mn cases reported each year. This is the first time a major vaccine has been approved first in an African country.

BANKING, FINANCE AND ECONOMY

- 17. SB to launch new current accounts and savings accounts in FY24:** SBI is planning to launch new variants of the current a/c (with balances of ₹50,000 and 50 lakh) and the "Parivar" (family) savings a/c in FY24. To minimize the gap between deposit growth and credit growth. • Domestic deposits of SBI grew 8.86% year-on-year (y-o-y) by the end of 2022. While domestic advances were up 16.9% y-o-y. SBI also expects that its domestic deposits and domestic advances will grow about 12% and 16% y-o-y, respectively, in FY24.
- 18. Sixteenth Finance Commission will be constituted in November 2023:** The government official has informed that the union government may set up the 16th finance commission this FY 2023-24. Aim: To suggest the ratio in which tax is to be divided between the Centre and states for five years, beginning April 1, 2026. Finance Commission is a constitutional body that gives suggestions on Centre-state financial relations. The 15th Commission, under NK Singh, had kept the tax devolution ratio at 42%.
- 19. World Bank chief raises 2023 global growth outlook:** World Bank Group President David Malpass has informed that the lender has revised its 2023 global growth outlook slightly upward to 2% from a January 2023 forecast of 1.7%. But the slowdown from stronger 2022 growth will increase debt distress for developing countries. The upward revision was due to an improved outlook for China's recovery from Covid-19 lockdowns, with growth now pegged at 5.1% this year compared to 4.3%.
- 20. India's retail inflation fell to a 15-month low of 5.66 percent in March:** India's retail inflation fell to a 15-month low of 5.66 percent in March as compared to 6.95 percent reported in the year-ago period, showed data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO). The retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 6.44 percent in February 2023 and 6.95 percent in the year-ago period.
- 21. Industrial output of the country rises 5.6 percent in February 2023:** The industrial output of the country in February 2023 rose 5.6 percent, on a year-on-year basis. As per the data from the Ministry of Statistics released, the index of industrial production (IIP) expanded as the manufacturing sector's output increased by 5.3 percent in February, and Mining output rose by 4.6 percent. Power generation surged 8.2 percent during the month under review. For the month of January this year, IIP growth was revised to 5.5 percent from 5.2 percent. IIP grew 1.2 percent in February last year.

TEACHERS' VISION

WAY TO GOVERNMENT JOBS

22. International Monetary Fund (IMF) cut India's GDP growth forecast to 5.9% for 2023-24:

International Monetary Fund (IMF) cut India's GDP growth forecast to 5.9% for 2023-24 and 6.3% for 2024-25, a fallout of the heightened global economic uncertainty. This is the lowest growth estimate among the multilateral agencies and the first below 6% projection. The World Bank has estimated GDP growth for the current fiscal year at 6.3% and the Asian Development Bank at 6.4%. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had in its latest monetary policy statement raised its GDP growth forecast marginally to 6.5% from 6.4% earlier.

23. SEBI unveils new logo on Its Foundation Day: SEBI's new logo retains the organization's traditional blue color palette while reflecting the aspirations of a modern and prosperous India. On the occasion of Sebi Foundation Day, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) unveiled its new logo at a ceremony held in Mumbai. The new logo represents SEBI's commitment to facilitating economic growth through capital formation, while also incorporating the power of technology and data into policy-making Madhabi Puri Buch, the Chairperson of SEBI. SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) is a regulatory body for the securities and commodity market in India. It was established on April 12, 1988, and is owned by the Ministry of Finance. SEBI was given more power and authority with the SEBI Act following the Harshad Mehta scam in 1992. SEBI has implemented significant rules and regulations to shape the securities and commodity markets in India.

24. IndusInd Bank signs agreement with Citibank and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA): Citi Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have joined hands to provide a co-financing loan to IndusInd Bank Limited, a private commercial bank. This includes a \$30 million loan by Citi and a ¥13 billion loan by JICA. This high-impact social finance offering that Citi arranged for IndusInd Bank is expected to improve financial access for farmers and catalyae capital investment in the agricultural sector in India.

25. RBI announces framework for Acceptance of Green Deposits: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the framework for acceptance of Green Deposits of regulated entities (RE). Aim: To foster and develop a green finance ecosystem in the country. These deposits can be utilized for financing ventures such as renewable energy, green transport, and green buildings. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a framework to encourage Regulated Entities (RES) to offer green deposits to customers, protect depositors' interests, aid customers in achieving their sustainability objectives, address greenwashing concerns, and boost credit flow to green activities/projects.

APPOINTMENTS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

26. Miguel Diaz-Canel re-elected as President of Cuba for second term: Miguel Diaz-Canel has been re-elected as the President of Cuba for a second term. He won a landslide vote of 97.66 per cent of the National Assembly. Diaz-Canel, in 2018, succeeded Raul Castro as president and first secretary in 2021 of the Cuban Communist Party, respectively. He is the first non-Castro born after the 1959 revolution to hold both of those titles.

TEACHERS' VISION

WAY TO GOVERNMENT JOBS

- 27. Angela Merkel receives Germany's Grand Cross of the Order of Merit:** Angela Merkel, the former Chancellor of Germany, has been awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit. The award is the highest civilian honor in Germany and is given for outstanding achievements in the fields of politics, culture, business, and science. Merkel is the fourth German Chancellor to receive the award, following Konrad Adenauer, Helmut Schmidt, and Helmut Kohl.
- 28. Sonam Wangchuk conferred with Prestigious Santokbaa Humanitarian Award:** Sonam Wangchuk has been awarded the prestigious Santokbaa Humanitarian Award for his contributions to society. He is best known for his work on the Ice Stupa project, which aims to address water scarcity in the Himalayas. The Santokbaa Humanitarian Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to society in the areas of education, healthcare, and social welfare.
- 29. Karnataka Bank names Sekhar Rao as interim CEO:** Karnataka Bank, one of India's leading private sector banks, has appointed Sekhar Rao as its interim CEO with immediate effect. The move comes after the previous CEO, Mahabaleshwara MS, retired on March 31, 2023, after serving the bank for over four decades. Sekhar Rao was previously the Chief General Manager of the bank.
- 30. Utsa Patnaik awarded Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023:** The Malcolm Adiseshiah Award recognizes exceptional contributions to the field of social science in India. Utsa Patnaik, a renowned economist and author, has been selected as the recipient of the award for the year 2023. She has authored several books and papers. The award is given by the Madras Institute of Development Studies and the Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust.
- 31. Shakib al Hasan wins ICC Player of the Month award for March 2023:** Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and Rwandan female cricketer Henriette Ishimwe clinched the ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month awards for March 2023. Shakib Al Hasan became the first Bangladesh player to win the award twice. In the 12 matches played in March, Shakib scored 353 runs and scalped 15 wickets. He won his first Player of the Month award in July 2021.
- 32. RBI approves appointment of Sanjay Agarwal as MD & CEO of AUSF Bank:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 12 April 2023 approved the reappointment of Sanjay Agarwal as Managing Director & CEO and Uttam Tibrewal as Whole Time Director of AU Small Finance Bank (SFB) for a period of three years. AU Small Finance Bank Limited is an Indian Small finance bank, based in Jaipur, India. It was founded as vehicle finance company AU Financiers (India) Ltd.
- 33. Justice AK Singh appointed new Chief Justice of Tripura High Court:** The Union govt, on 11 April 2023, appointed Justice Apresh Kumar Singh as Chief Justice of Tripura High Court. He replaced Justice T Amarnath Goud, who was the acting chief justice of Tripura High Court since November 2022. Tripura High Court was established on 23 March 2013, after making amendments to the Constitution of India and the North-Eastern Areas Act, of 1971.

TEACHERS' VISION

WAY TO GOVERNMENT JOBS

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- 34. Crops seeds of IAEA/FAO project return from space:** The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) had launched a project to send crops to space to help mitigate the effects of global warming. After six months in space, the seeds were returned to Earth and are now being studied to determine the effects of space radiation and microgravity on crop growth and development.
- 35. ISRO to launch Singapore's TELEOS-2 satellite on April 22:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch Singapore's TeLEOS-2 satellite on April 22, 2023. The satellite will be launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. TELEOS-2 is a commercial Earth observation satellite and will be used for various applications such as urban planning, maritime security, and disaster management.
- 36. UAE's Rashid Rover to land on Moon on April 25:** United Arab Emirates (UAE), on 12 April 2023, announced that Rashid Rover, onboard the HAKUTO-R Mission 1 Lunar Lander, is scheduled to land on the Moon on 25th April 2023. The Rashid Rover is orbiting the Moon at about 100 km at the perilune and about 2,300 km at the apolune. The point closest to the moon's center is called perilune, and the farthest is known as apolune.

INDEXES AND REPORTS

- 37. India retains top status in International Flight Safety Standards:** India's International Aviation Safety Assessment rating will continue to remain in Category One. India received category one status after the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the United States conducted an audit of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). FAA determines whether a country complies with safety standards.
- 38. India ranks 77th at World's 'most criminal countries' ranking 2023:** World of Statistics, on 12 April 2023, shared the ranking of the world's "most criminal countries". On the list, Venezuela has been ranked 1, followed by Papua New Guinea, Afghanistan, South Africa, and Honduras respectively. India ranked 77 while the USA was at 55th number and the United Kingdom (UK) at 65th rank. Turkey, Germany, and Japan were ranked at 92nd, 100th, and 135th ranks.
- 39. India ranks 5th in countries with most AI investment:** According to Stanford University's annual AI Index report 2023, India ranked fifth in terms of investments received by startups offering artificial intelligence (AI)-based products.
- Total investments in AI startups in India stood at \$3.24 billion in 2022, placing it ahead of South Korea, Germany, Canada and Australia. Those ahead of India in the list are the US, China, the UK and Israel.

TEACHERS' VISION

WAY TO GOVERNMENT JOBS

SPORTS

- 40. Argentina to replace Indonesia as under-20 FIFA World Cup host:** Argentina will host the under-20 soccer World Cup. It has replaced Indonesia, which was supposed to host it earlier. FIFA announced the decision to remove Indonesia as host on March 29 2023 after the country's FA cancelled the draw to be held in Bali as its governor refused to host Israel's team.
- 41. Chennai to host 2023 Men's Hockey Asian Champions Trophy:** The 2023 Men's Hockey Asian Champions Trophy will be hosted in Chennai, India. The tournament is a major event in the field hockey calendar, featuring some of the best teams from across Asia. The Asian Champions Trophy is held every two years, and India has won the tournament twice in 2011 and 2016.
- 42. Aman Sehrawat clinches India's first gold medal in wrestling:** Aman Sehrawat clinched India's first gold medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2023 in Astana, Kazakhstan. Sehrawat topped the podium in men's 57 kg freestyle category on the penultimate day of the competition. He defeated Kyrgyzstan's Almaz Smanbekov 9-4 to win the gold medal. In 2023, he was the first Indian wrestler to win gold at the Under-23 world.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- 43. World Haemophilia Day: 17 April:** World Haemophilia Day is observed on 17 April every year to increase awareness about hemophilia disease and other inherited bleeding disorders. In 1989, World Haemophilia Day was started by the World Federation of Haemophilia (WFH) in honor of WFH founder Frank Schnabel's birthday. The theme for the Day 2023 is "Access for All: Prevention of Bleeds as the Global Standard of Care."
- 44. Himachal Pradesh Statehood Day: 15 April 2023:** Himachal Pradesh Statehood Day is observed on 15 April every year. It obtained statehood in the year 1971, although the province was created in the year 1948. The day is marked with a grand parade in the capital city of Shimla. Himachal became part C state on the 26th of January 1950 and became a union territory on the 1st of November 1956.
- 45. Ambedkar Jayanti: 14 April 2023:** Ambedkar Jayanti is observed on 14 April every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. He was born on 14 April 1891. He headed the committee drafting the Constitution of India. He served as Law and Justice minister in the first cabinet of Jawaharlal Nehru. In 1990, the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, was posthumously conferred on BR Ambedkar.
- 46. Maha to observe Savarkar's birthday as 'Swatantraveer Gaurav Din':** Maharashtra Government has announced that the birth anniversary of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, which falls on May 28, will be observed as 'Swatantraveer Gaurav Din'. It will also highlight Savarkar's contribution to India's freedom movement, propagate his ideology, and focus on his campaigns for social reforms. He was born in Maharashtra's Nashik district, on 28th May 1883.

TEACHERS' VISION

WAY TO GOVERNMENT JOBS

47. World Art Day: 15 April: World Art Day is celebrated every year on April 15, to promote the development, diffusion, and enjoyment of art. The International Association of Art, a partner of UNESCO, created the day to promote creative activity around the world. In honor of Leonardo Da Vinci's birthday, the particular date has been celebrated since 2012.

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIR QUIZ 1ST – 10TH APRIL 2023

- 1. Who among the following has recently assumed the charge of the Vice Chief of Naval Staff?**
(a) SN Ghormade (b) Ajit Kumar P (c) Sanjay Jasjit Singh (d) Yashwant Verma
- 2. Which country has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to as its guest at the annual Bastille Day parade on 14 July 2023?**
(a) Germany (b) Italy (c) France (d) Austria
- 3. _____ King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck recently arrived in India for a 3-day visit.**
(a) Belgium (b) Thailand (c) Bhutan (d) Japan
- 4. Fino Payments Bank renewed its association with which of the following teams for season 16 of the Indian Premier League?**
(a) Delhi Capitals (b) Rajasthan Royals
(c) Sunrisers Hyderabad (d) Royal Challengers Bangalore
- 5. Which country is set to launch the country's first operational earth observation satellite, Taifa-1, on 10 April 2023?**
(a) Qatar (b) Somalia (c) Kenya (d) Uganda
- 6. In which state will the Air Forces of India and the U.S. conduct the Cope India exercise from April 10 to 21, 2023?**
(a) Odisha (b) Kerala (c) West Bengal (d) Karnataka
- 7. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, how much per cent of rural households have access to clean drinking water through taps by March 2023?**
(a) 55% (b) 60% (c) 65% (d) 78%
- 8. Mircha' rice of which state has been awarded the GI tag in April 2023?**
(a) Odisha (b) Punjab (c) Rajasthan (d) Bihar
- 9. Which of the following has recently launched the Golden Licence Initiative to encourage investment and job creation in the country?**
(a) Lebanon (b) Bahrain (c) Kuwait (d) Brunei
- 10. Where will Apple iPhone maker's first company-owned store be opened in India?**
(a) Hyderabad (b) Kolkata (c) New Delhi (d) Mumbai
- 11. As per Airports Council International, which entered the club of the world's top 10 busiest airports by passenger traffic?**
(a) Sardar Vallabhbai Patel International Airport
(b) Indira Gandhi International Airport

TEACHERS' VISION

WAY TO GOVERNMENT JOBS

- (c) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport
(d) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport

12. Who among the following was named the richest sports owner in the recently released Forbes Billionaires 2023 list?

- (a) Steve Ballmer (b) Mukesh Ambani (c) Rob Walton (d) Shahid Khan

13. Recently, which of the following weightlifters has been banned for four years by India's National Anti-Doping Agency?

- (a) Harjinder Kaur (b) Bindyarani Devi (c) Santoshi Matsa (d) Sanjita Chalu

14. The World Trade Organization revised its global trade growth outlook for 2023 upwards to __ from last October's estimate of 1%

- (a) 2.5% (b) 2.1% (c) 1.7% (d) 1.4%

15. The President of India Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 'Gaj Utsav-2023' in which state in April 2023?

- (a) Gujarat (b) Kerala (c) Karnataka (d) Assam

ANSWERS

- | | | | |
|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1) C | 5) C | 9) B | 13) D |
| 2) C | 6) C | 10) D | 14) C |
| 3) C | 7) B | 11) B | 15) D |
| 4) B | 8) D | 12) B | |

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