

## Weekly Current Affairs (1<sup>st</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup> April 2023)

### Q1) Finland to become 31<sup>st</sup> member of NATO after Turkey's approval



- After the Turkey's support, The Nordic nation Finland becomes the **31<sup>st</sup>** nation to join the "North Atlantic Treaty Organization" (NATO).
- Welcoming the newest member state, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that both Finland and the NATO alliance were "stronger and safer" for it having joined after a ceremony in Brussels.
- Finland's decision to join NATO was prompted by security concerns following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.
- However, Finland's neighbour Sweden's proposal to join NATO has been declined by Turkey & Hungary.

#### About NATO

- The NATO also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is Intergovernmental military alliance between **31 member states – 29 European and 2 North American countries.**
- NATO was initially formed with **12 founding members** including US & UK and has added new members nine times with the new member to enter is Finland in 2023.
- **North Macedonia** became the 30<sup>th</sup> member of NATO in 2020.

Headquarter - **Brussels (Belgium)**

Formed - **4 April 1949 (signing North Atlantic Treaty)**

Secretary-General - **Jens Stoltenberg**

NATO in news:

- In 2022, NATO conducted its maritime exercise “**Neptune strike 2022**”
- NATO announced its annual nuclear exercise “**Steadfast Noon**” involving **14 countries**.

Q2) Israel launches new Ofek-13 spy satellite into orbit



- Israel has successfully launched the “Ofek-13” spy satellite into space by the Shavit launch vehicle from Palmachim Airbase spaceport.
- The satellite was manufactured by state-owned Aerospace Industries (IAI).
- Israel launched its first satellite, Ofek-1, into space in 1988.
- The Ofek-16 was launched into space in July 2020 and won Israel’s top security prize last year.

Prime Minister of Israel - **Benjamin Netanyahu**

President of Israel - **Neftali Bennett**

Capital of Israel - **Jerusalem**

Q3) PM Modi attended Combined Commander's Conference in Bhopal



- The PM Narendra Modi attended “Combined Commander’s Conference (CCC) 2023” held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- The theme for the 3-day conference of military commanders is “**Ready, Resurgent, Relevant.**”
- The commanders from the three-armed forces and senior officers from the Ministry of Defence participated in the conference.

Ministry of Defence - **Shri Rajnath Singh**

Chief of Defence Staff - **Anil Chauhan**

Chief of Indian Air Force - **V.R Chaudhari**

Chief of Army staff - **Manoj Pande**

Chief of Naval staff - **R. Hari Kumar**

Recent appointment

New Vice Chief of Indian Navy - **Sanjay Jasjit Singh**

Q4) India aims to become \$1 trillion tourism economy by 2047

- The Indian Government has set the vision to make India \$1 trillion tourism economy with 100 million international visitors by 2047, which marks the India's 100<sup>th</sup> Independence.
- India is observing "**Visit India Year 2023**" in order to give a boost to uniqueness of Indian tourism and make India a seamless, modern and smart tourism destination.
- Union Minister of Tourism **G.Kisan Reddy** the focus is being put on various government-led initiatives under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode, addressing the 2<sup>nd</sup> "G-20 Tourism Working Group (TWG) meeting" in **Siliguri, West Bengal**.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> "G-20 Tourism Working Group (TWG) meeting" was hosted in **Rann of Kutch**
- Mr. Reddy also informed that two mega adventure tourism trails would be launched in the Himalayas and the Ganga this year.
- These trails would be followed by others like the Narmada trail from Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh to Arabian sea, Cauvery river trail, West Coast trail from Kutch to Kanyakumari, and East Coast trail from West Bengal to Kanyakumari.

#### Additional Information

- India to becomes **\$26 trillion economy by 2047**.
- To promote tourism, the Kerala Tourism launched "**STREET**" project.

**STREET - Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experiential,  
Ethnic, Tourism hubs**

Q5) NASA to send 4 humans to live on Mars from June 2023



- The “National Aeronautics & Space Administration” (NASA) is training 4 people to live on Mars from June 2023.
- The four “**Martians**” will be part of NASA’s exploration trip to the Red Planets.
- Also, NASA has sending satellites, the InSight lander, a rover mission with the Perseverance rover, the Ingenuity small robotic helicopter, and related delivery systems, all of which are intended to provide the Red Planet with its first comprehensive examination.
- The first analogue mission will begin this year, followed by missions two and three in 2025 and 2026, respectively.

Additional Information

- India-origin NASA engineer **Amit Kshatriya** has been appointed as first head of NASA’s new Moon to Mars Program.
- NASA select **1<sup>st</sup> woman (Christina Hammock Koch) and along with 3 astronauts for “Artemis-II” Moon mission.**

NASA Headquarters: **Washington, D.C.(United States)**

NASA Founded: **29 July 1958, United States**

NASA Administrator: **Bill Nelson**

Q6) India ranks 144<sup>th</sup> in the Passport Index Points 2023

- India fell 6 places to the 144<sup>th</sup> position out of 199 countries with the mobility score of 70 in the annual passport index for the year 2023.

- According to the report, Indians can only travel through **59 countries without needing any Visa**.
- The UAE topped the individual passport rankings with a score of 181. It is followed by Sweden, Germany, Finland, Luxembourg, Spain with a joint mobility score of 174.
- S.Korea which is 12<sup>th</sup> in the individual rankings and mobility score of 174, has the highest score in Asia.
- The Passport Index 2023 has been published by the firm Arton Capital.

#### Recently Published indexes

- Henley Passport Index 2023

India's rank - **85<sup>th</sup>**

Top country - **Japan**

- World Happiness Index 2023

India's rank - **126<sup>th</sup>**

Top country - **Finland**

Bottom country - **Afghanistan**

- Global Terrorism Index 2023

India's rank - **13<sup>th</sup>**

Top country - **Afghanistan**

- Global Hunger Index 2022

India's rank - **107<sup>th</sup> (score- 29.1)**

Category - **Serious**

Top country - **Belarus**

Q7) Mumbai recognised among "2022 Tree City of the World" by FAO

- For the second consecutive year, India's commercial capital Mumbai has been included in the "World Tree City 2022" list for promoting best practices in urban forestry.
- The United Nations Food & Agriculture Organisation (UNFAO) and Arbor Day Foundation (ADF) conduct the TCW programme.
- The Tree Cities of the World recognition began in 2019, to recognise effort of cities globally that strive to balance the trees and environment.
- Mumbai was also part of TCW list of 2021, when it shared the honour alongside Hyderabad.

## About UNFAO

Formed -1945

Headquarter - **Rome (Italy)**

Head - **qu Dongyu**

Members - **194**

**India is a founding member of FAO.**

Q8) India targeting defence exports worth Rs. 40,000 crores by 2026

- While addressing the “Rising India Conclave” held in New Delhi on March 30, the Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** said that India aims to achieve defence equipment’s exports target worth Rs. 40,000 crores by 2026.
- In the last few years, defence exports have witnessed a quantum jump from 900 crore rupees to 14,000 crore rupees in the current financial year.
- The Minister stated that over 100 unicorns have come up due to start-up-based innovation ecosystem created in the country.
- He also highlighted the progress made by the country in all sectors.

Q9) ISRO successfully achieves Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV LEX)



- the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) successfully conducted the launching of “Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission” (RLV Landing Experiment (LEX) on 2 April 2023.
- The test was conducted in the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR), Chitradurga **in Karnataka.**
- The RLV was airlifted by US-based Chinook helicopter and dropping it from air for the landing mission.
- Under this mission, a winged body was carried to a height of 4.5 km by a helicopter and released for carrying out an autonomous landing of space vehicle on a runway.
- It was the first-of-its kind mission in the world.
- LEX utilized several indigenous systems. Localized Navigation systems based on pseudo lite systems, instrumentation, and sensor systems, etc. were developed by ISRO.



Q10) Eravikulam National Park becomes the first to house a fernarium



- Eravikulam National Park in Munnar, Kerala, which is home to the Nilgiri Tahr is now the first state to house a fernarium.
- A fernarium is a specialized botanical garden or greenhouse that focuses on growing and showcasing a variety of fern species.
- Eravikulam National Park is located in the Western Ghats of India, in the state of Kerala. The park was initially established as a game sanctuary in 1975 to protect the endangered Nilgiri Tahr, a type of mountain goat.
- In 1978, it was declared as a national park. This is also the land of “Neelakurinji”, the flower that blooms once in twelve years.

### **Recent Appointments:**

- New Executive Director (ED) of RBI - **Neeraj Nigam**
- **40<sup>th</sup>** President of “FICCI Ladies Org.” - **Sudha Shivkumar**
- Chairman of “Haifa Port” - **Ron Malka**  
(Israel’s former envoy to India)

2) The world’s 1<sup>st</sup> “liquid hydrogen-powered ferry” **MF Hydra** begins operation on 4 April 2023 in **Norway**.

Length - **82.4 metre**

3) The Bharat Dynamics (BDL) has successfully conducted a field firing test of **3<sup>rd</sup> gen. man-portable “Anti-Tank Guided Missile” (ATGM) Amogha-III.**

- It is an indigenous missile which has been developed under **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)**

Missile range - 2000-2500 metres



4) Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik disburses **Rs. 877 crore KALIA scheme to farmers** during the occasion of Odisha day on April 1.

**KALIA - Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation**

5) 4 food items from Varanasi region to get GI tag:

- 1) **Banarasi Paan**
- 2) **Banarasi Langda Mango**
- 3) **Ramnagar Bhanta (Brinjal)**
- 4) **Adamchini rice**

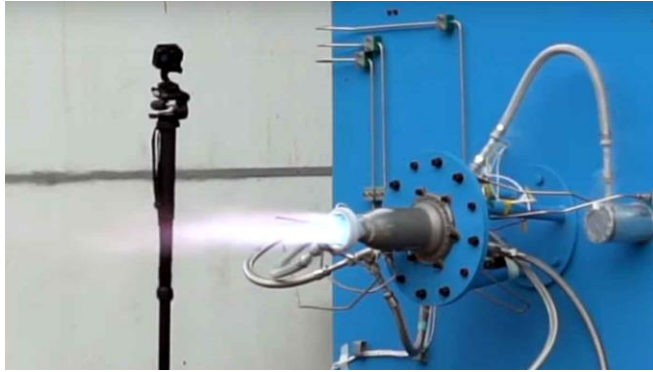
6) 2 more GI tag - 1) **Basohli Painting from Kathu distict of J&K**

2) **Ladakh Wood Carving of Ladakh**

7) Telangana govt. launched India's 1<sup>st</sup> **“Cool Roof Policy” 2023-28** to reduce heat impact on buildings.

- It is a 5-year policy that came into force form 1 April 2023 and continues till May 31 2038.

8) Skyroot Aerospace successfully test-fires **3-D printed "Dhawan-II" cryogenic engine for 200 seconds** developed for its heavier vehicle - Vikram II.



- In November 2022, Skyroot launched India's 1<sup>st</sup> **Privately developed rocket Vikram-S into the space.**
- Cryogenics is the study of the production and behaviour of materials at extremely low temperatures (below  $-150^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) to ignite heavier objects in space.

About Cryogenic Engines:

- A cryogenic engine or cryogenic stage is the end stage of space launch vehicles which makes use of Cryogenics.
- It uses **Liquid Oxygen (Lox) and Liquid Hydrogen (LH<sub>2</sub>)** as propellants.
- India's heaviest launch vehicles **GSLV & GSLV MK III** – use cryogenic fuel in the upper stage of the launch vehicle.

9) Daniil Medvedev won his 4<sup>th</sup> ATP title of the year beating Jannik Sinner to win the **Miami Open final.**

10) India Justice Reports 2022: Karnataka tops the list of 18 large and medium-sized states and UT's in providing access to justice.

- Tamil Nadu is second and Telangana is third. Uttar Pradesh is the bottom state.

- Among small states, Sikkim topped the list of 7 small states followed by Arunachal Pradesh. Goa is at the bottom.