

Weekly Current Affairs (22nd- 28th April 2023)

(29th & 30th April 2023)

Q1) Bengal notifies four more Biodiversity Heritage sites

- West Bengal has recently notified four more “Biodiversity Heritage sites” (BHS) taking the tally in the state to **8**.
- With this, Bengal now has the highest number of biodiversity heritage parks in the country.
- The four new sites are **Char Balidanga and the state Horticulture Research and Development Station Campus in Deypara**- both in Nadia, **Namthing Pokhar in the Darjeeling** and the **Amkhoi Fossil Park in Birbhum**.
- The Amkhoi Fossil Park near Illambazar in Birbhum district with an area of 10 hectares has unique geological and paleo botanical features. It is the first fossil park in West Bengal.
- The existing four BHS in Bengal include Chilkigarh Kanak Durga in Jhargram, Banerwar Shiv Dighi in Cooch Behar, Tonglu and Dhotrey in Darjeeling.
- In 2007, the “Nellur Tamarind Grove” in Bengaluru, Karnataka was recognised as first BHS of India.

Q2) Archery World Cup 2023 stage 1: India won 4 medals in Antalya



- The stage-1 of the **17th** edition of the “Archery World Cup 2023” concluded on 23rd April. The tournament was held in **Antalya, Turkey**.
- Indian Archery team ended the competition with 4 medals including 2 Gold, 1 Silver & 1 Bronze.
- Indian men’s recurve team comprising Atanu Das, Dheeraj Bommadevra & Tarundeep Rai won the Silver medal.

Medal tally

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	USA	2	2	0	4
2	India	2	1	1	4
3	China	1	1	1	3

Indian medalists

Jyoti Surekha Vennam	Gold
Jyothi Surekha Vennam & Ojas Praveen Deotale	Gold
Atanu Das, Dheeraj Bommadevra, Tarundeep Rai	Silver
Dheeraj Bommadevra	Bronze

Note: The 2023 World Cup consist of four events, and will run from 19 April to 10 September with the second stage to be held in **Shanghai, China from 16-21 May** and the final stage to be held in **Mexico** from 9-10 September.

Q3) India ranks 38th in the World Bank's Performance Index 2023



- India jumps six places to 38th out of 139 countries in the recently published “World Bank's Performance Index 2023.”
- India was ranked 44th in the year 2018.
- The Logistics Performance Index by World Bank helps developing countries to identify where improvements can be made to boost competitiveness.
- **Singapore** topped the index followed by Finland at second position.

Q4) London Marathon 2023: Kelvin Kiptum Wins in 2nd fastest time



- Kenya's runner Kelvin Kiptum has won the “2023 London Marathon” held in Newcastle, UK and recorded the second-fastest time in history over the distance.
- He set the course record with a time of 2 hours, 1 minute and 25 seconds and missed the fastest record by 16 seconds.

- The fastest record in a marathon was set by **Eliud Kipchoge of Kenya with a time of 1 hour, 59 minute and 40 seconds.**
- In the women's race, Ethiopian- born Dutch athlete, Sifan Hassan won her maiden marathon in 2:18:34.
- Switzerland's Marcel Hug won the elite men's wheelchair race with a time of 1:23:44.

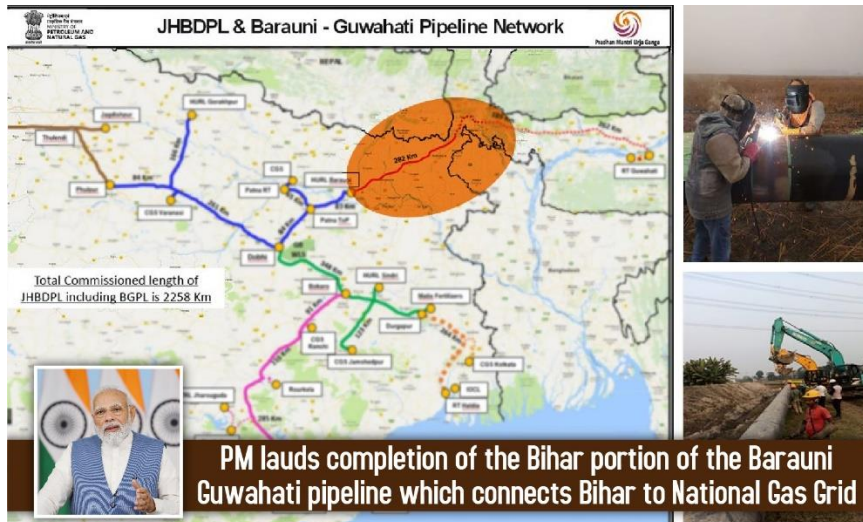
Q5) 2023 Locked Shields cyber-defence exercise begins in Tallinn by NATO



- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has recently concluded the world's largest cyber-defence exercise named "Locked-Shields 2023" in Tallinn, Estonia from 18 to 21 April 2023.
- The four-day long exercise saw participation of more than 3,000 IT specialists from more than 38 nations.
- The event is organized every year since 2010 by NATO "Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence" (CCDCOE).
- The purpose of this exercise is to boost the strategical and technical abilities of the participants in fighting cyber-attacks.

- The experts suggested that Kuno National Park does not have enough space for all Cheetahs hence it is relocated a few.
- Gandhisagar Sanctuary is situated in North western of Madhya Pradesh along the border of Rajasthan.

Q8) MoPNG successfully completed Barauni Guwahati Pipeline



- The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has successfully completed the Bihar portion of the Barauni Guwahati pipeline (BGPL) under the “Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project.”
- The project will connect six districts of Bihar to the national grid changing the energy landscape of India.
- The aim of this project is to cater the energy requirement of five states (Bihar, UP, Jharkhand, Odisha & West Bengal).
- Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga Project is also known as “Jagdishpur- Haldia & Bokaro- Dhamra Pipeline Ltd.” Project (JHBDPL).
- The PM Urja Ganga Project was launched in **2016**.

Q9) Mana village on Indo- China border in UK's Chamoli district declared as "India's first village" by BRO



- The Border Road Organization (BRO) of India has put a signboard saying "India's first village" in Mana, a village in Uttarakhand which was earlier referred as the "last village India."
- The Mana village is on the India-China border in Chamoli district.
- This decision is based on the initiative by PM Modi to declare all border villages in the country as the first villages and not the last as they are generally called.
- Mana village is situated near Himalayan temple, Badrinath. Devotees going to the temple usually go up to the village for sightseeing.

Q10) PM Modi to attend 20th anniversary of SWAGAT initiative in Gujarat.



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the 20th anniversary the **SWAGAT (State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology)** initiative in Gujarat via on 27 April via video conferencing.
- The scheme is an online grievance system launched in the year **2003** during the tenure of Modi as the Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- Aim of this initiative is to act as a bridge between the citizens and the government using technology by solving their day-to-day grievances in a quick, efficient and time-bounded manner.
- The Swagat initiative consists of four components namely state, district, taluka and gram. The Chief Minister will attend the public hearings of State Swagat.

Q11) India's first cable- stayed Anji Khad Bridge will be ready by May 2023



- India's first cable- stayed rail bridge "Anji Khad" in Jammu & Kashmir will be completed by May 2023 as per the Union Minister of Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav.
- Dimension: With a total of 96 cables spanning a length of 653 km.
- It connects J&K's Katra and Reasi via tunnels T2 and T3 on the Katra-Banihal tunnel.
- The cables weight 848.7 MT and total length of bridge is **725 m**
- It will connect J&K to the rest of the country with all weather-rail connectivity.
- The asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge crosses the deep gorges of Anji river, a tributary of **Chenab river**.
- The Italian company ITALFERR was responsible for detailed design and construction supervision, while the UK company COWI was responsible for proof-checking, based on the Indy design.

Q12) MP's Sanchi becomes first Solar city of India



- Sanchi, a world heritage site in the state of Madhya Pradesh is all set to become India's first solar city.
- The CM of Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Chauhan said that the state has made great progress in the energy sector and has become self-sufficient in power generation and supply.
- The solar city Sanchi would give MP a new identity in this field," he said.
- It is located in the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh. It lies in an upland plateau region just west of the Betwa river.
- Sanchi is an religious place with historical and archaeological significance.
- It has India's- best preserved group of Buddhist monuments, collectively designated a UNESCO world heritage site in 1998.
- Sanchi Stupa was built by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century B.C.

Q12) Prime Minister Modi inaugurates 91 FM Radio Transmitters across 18 States and 2 Union Territories



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently inaugurated 91 FM transmitters in 18 states and two union territories to improve FM radio connectivity in border regions and aspirational districts.
- The installation of these FM transmitters in 84 districts is expected to increase the coverage by about 35,000 km².
- The expansion of FM radio connectivity in India has focused on enhancing coverage in priority states, including Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Ladakh, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- The inauguration comes before the 100th episode of PM's monthly radio program "Mann ki Baat."

Other News

Q1) Dubai-based airline Emirates has unveiled the world's first **robotic check-in assistant named "Sara"**.

Q2) Neeli Bendapudi has won the prestigious "Immigrant Achievement Award 2023" for her contributions to higher education in the US.

Q3) Tibetan Spiritual Leader, Dalai Lama has received the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award after 64 years.

Q4) For the first time, **Australia** will host the "QUAD Leadership Summit" in Sydney in May 2023.

Q5) The 1st woman Rafale Pilot, Shivangi Singh will be a part of the multinational exercise “**Orion**” in **France**.

Q6) Rastriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) has bagged Steel Ministry’s “Ispat Rajbhasha Samman” for the year 2021-22.

Headquarter - **Visakhapatnam**

CEO - **Atul Bhatt**

Q7) India launches “Operation Kaveri” to evacuate stranded citizens from Sudan.

Q8) Rata Tata has been awarded with the highest civil honour of Australia, Order of Australia (AO).

Q9) NASSCOM appoints Anant Maheshwari as the new Chairman for the year 2023-24.