

# Daily Current Affairs

## 27 April 2023



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## Important News: International

### 1. Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings

Why in news: The Times Higher Education World University Rankings/THE Rankings are annually published by the UK-based Times Higher Education magazine.



A. It includes 1,799 universities in 104 countries and territories, making them the largest and most diverse university rankings ever.

B. It is based on 13 carefully calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution's performance in four areas: teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.

C. The University of Oxford has emerged as the best institution among 1,799 universities in 104 countries. India is the sixth most prestigious performer country with 75 universities in the 2023 rankings.

D. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) is ranked top among Indian institutions for its performance score for teaching and research. Globally, IISc is placed in the 251-300 band. IISc is also the top-ranked Indian institution in the year 2022 rankings.

E. Himachal Pradesh's Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences (351-400 in total) has been ranked second



among Indian institutions, which has been ranked for the first time.

F.IIT Ropar which was the second highest ranked Indian institute in the year 2022 rankings is ranked sixth. In third place is Alagappa University of Tamil Nadu which is a public institution.

**(SOURCE - CNN)**

## Important News: National

### 2. Exercise Ajeya Warrior 2023

Why in news: Indian Army contingent will participate in the 7th edition of the bilateral training exercise 'Ajeya Warrior 2023.

A.It is a bilateral training exercise between the armies of India and the UK. This is the 7th edition of the exercise.

B.It aims to improve interoperability between the two forces while conducting operations in accordance with the UN mandate. And this exercise will see the participation of an infantry company of India and a unit of equal strength of the British Army.

C.The troops of the two countries will practice using each other's weapons, combat tactics, equipment, combat strategies and procedures to conduct joint military operations in difficult conditions.



D. In addition, there will also be many expert academic discussions on many topics of common interest, such as joint weapons concept, operation logistics, joint force experience sharing, etc.

E. A foot soldier is a unit of the armed forces consisting of 100 to 250 soldiers and is headed by a captain or a major.

**(SOURCE - THE INDIAN EXPRESS)**

### 3. Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) Scheme

Why in news: A total of 6,448 schools from 28 states and Union territories have been selected for upgradation under the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) scheme.



A. It is a centrally sponsored scheme announced in 2022.

B. Objective: Development of more than 14500 schools across the country by strengthening selected existing schools being managed by Central Government/State/UT Government/Local Bodies.

C. The duration of the scheme is from 2022-23 to 2026-27, after which it will be the responsibility of the States/UTs to maintain the benchmarks achieved by these schools.

C. The selected schools will act as model schools showcasing all the components of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) and provide mentoring to other schools in their vicinity.



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D.PM Shri Schools will be developed as Green Schools incorporating eco-friendly aspects. The pedagogy adopted in these schools is more experiential, holistic, integrated, sports/sports. Will be toy-based (especially in the foundational years), inquiry-driven, discovery-oriented, learner-centered, discussion-based, flexible, and enjoyable.

E.Assessment at all levels will be based on conceptual understanding and application of knowledge to real-life situations and will be competency-based.

F.Linkages with sector skill councils and local industry will be explored to enhance employability and provide better employment opportunities.

G.A School Quality Assessment Framework (SQAF) specifying key performance indicators to measure outcomes is being developed. Quality assessment of these schools will be done at regular intervals to ensure desired standards.

**(SOURCE - THE INDIAN EXPRESS)**

### **4.Prime Minister virtually inaugurates 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of 'Advantage Healthcare India 2023'**

Why in news – With the theme of 'One Earth, One Health', the purpose of the two-day AHCI event is to showcase India as the new hub of Medical Value Travel and its emergence as a major hub for world-class healthcare and wellness services.



A. The government organised the international summit on medical value travel to promote the export of Medical services from India.



The two-day event aims to showcase India as the New Hub of Medical Value Travel and how it has emerged as a major hub for world-class healthcare and wellness services and its significance in medical potential, further creating and exploring opportunities for healthcare collaborations between the participating countries.

B. The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), has co-branded the 6th edition of Advantage Healthcare India 2023 (One Earth One Health) with Indian G20 Presidency and the event is now scheduled to be held from April 26 – 27, 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

C. This summit will witness more than 200 exhibitors and 500+ hosted foreign delegates from 70+ countries of Africa, the Middle East, CIS, and SAARC.

D. The Health ministers from foreign countries like Bangladesh, Armenia, Bhutan, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Maldives, Nigeria, Russia and Somalia are expected to participate in the summit.

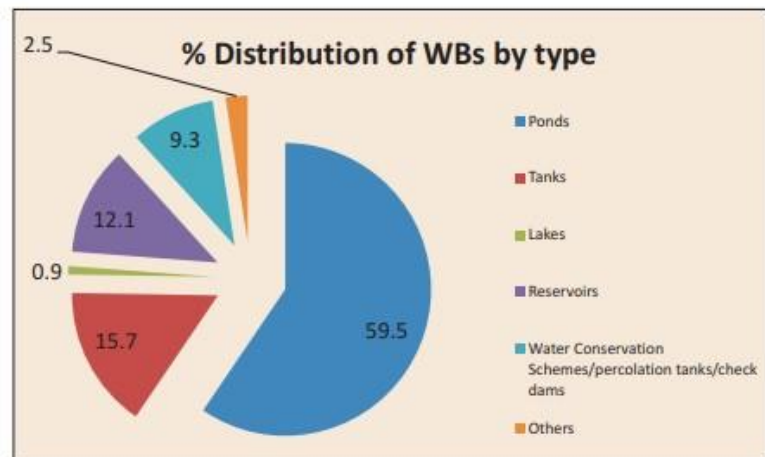
E. One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems. It recognizes that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and interdependent.

**(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)**



## 5. India's first water bodies census released by Ministry of Jal Shakti

**Why in news:** The Ministry of Jal Shakti has released the report of India's first water bodies census, a comprehensive data base of ponds, tanks, lakes, and reservoirs in the country. The



The census was conducted in 2018-19, and enumerated more than 2.4 million water bodies across all states and Union Territories.

A. As per the report, 24,24,540 water bodies have been enumerated in the country, out of which 97.1% are in rural areas and only 2.9% are in urban areas.

B. 59.5% of water bodies are ponds, followed by tanks (15.7%), reservoirs (12.1%) Water conservation schemes/percolation tanks/check dams (9.3%), lakes (0.9%) and others (2.5%).

C. Maharashtra State is the leading state for water conservation schemes. Whereas West Bengal has highest number of ponds & reservoirs, whereas Andhra Pradesh has highest number of tanks, Tamil Nadu has highest number of lakes.

D. 99.7% water bodies are public owned whereas the remaining 0.3% are under private ownership. This reflects the dominance of public entities in ownership of water bodies.





E. All natural or man-made units bounded on all sides with some or no masonry work used for storing water for irrigation or other purposes (e.g. industrial, pisciculture, domestic/drinking, recreation, religious, ground water recharge etc.) will be treated as water bodies in this Census.

**(SOURCE - PIB)**

## 6. SUPREME INITIATIVE

**Why in news:** The Ministry of Science and Technology has launched the Support for Upgradation Preventive Repair and Maintenance of Equipment (SUPREME) initiative to provide financial support for the upgradation and maintenance of analytical instrumentation facilities (AIFs).



A. AIFs are specialized laboratories that provide advanced research infrastructure and technical expertise for scientific investigations in various fields such as physical sciences, life sciences, materials sciences, and engineering.

B. The SUPREME initiative aims to provide financial support for repair, upgradation, maintenance, retrofitting, or acquiring additional attachments to increase the functional capabilities of existing analytical instrumentation facilities

C. The funding pattern in the scheme would be 75:25 for all private and government-owned institutions (except for state-funded institutions for which 100% funding would be considered).



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D. The duration of support will be for a period not exceeding 3 years.

E. Eligibility:

- Different facilities created under the projects/ Analytical instrumentation facilities (AIFs) created earlier from the support of DST, only will be considered for the funding support under this Scheme.
- Such facilities at institutions recognised by the University Grants Commission(UGC) are eligible to apply for grants under this initiative.

**(SOURCE - PIB)**



## Important News: State

### 7.SWAGAT initiative

Why in news: Prime Minister will participate in a programme marking 20 years of completion of the SWAGAT initiative in Gujarat.

A.The SWAGAT initiative (statewide focus on grievances by application of technology) started in the year 2003.

B.The objective is to act as a bridge between the citizens and the government by resolving their grievances and the components are State Reception, District Reception, Taluka Swagat, Gram Swagat, Lok Fariad programmes.

C.The unique feature helps the common man to communicate his grievances directly to the Chief Minister and its frequency is held on the fourth Thursday of every month

D.Complaint Rate More than 99% of the complaints submitted till date have been resolved and received the United Nations Public Service Award in 2010 for improving transparency

**(SOURCE - TIMES OF INDIA)**



## Important News: DAYS

### 8. International girls in ICT day

Why in news: International Girls ICT Day is an annual event celebrated on the fourth Thursday of April to encourage and empower girls and young women to pursue careers in the field of information and communication technology (ICT).



A. The day helps promote gender equality and diversity in the field of information and communication technology (ICT).

B. It raises awareness about the gender gap in the tech industry and inspires women to consider careers in ICT.

C. This year, it is being celebrated on April 27 with the theme "Digital Skills for Life".

D. According to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), despite the important role of ICT in our lives, a relatively small percentage of women globally opt for higher education in ICT-related fields.

E. The International Day of Girls in ICT was declared by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on April 8, 2011 to encourage women to pursue careers in information and communication technologies. More than 11,400 events were held in 171 countries and more than 3,77,000 girls and young women participated. **(SOURCE - INDIAN EXPRESS)**

