

# Daily Current Affairs

## 06 April 2024

### Erez Crossing

- Israel's security Cabinet has approved the **reopening of the Erez crossing** to allow the flow of more humanitarian aid into Gaza. Erez Crossing, also known as **Beit Hanoun**, is a border crossing between **Israel and the northern Gaza Strip**.
- It is being reopened for the first time since the terror attack by the **Palestinian group Hamas** on the 7th of October last year.



- The Israeli official said the **crossing is being opened** to allow more humanitarian aid to enter Gaza. The cabinet also approved using the **Israeli Port of Ashdod** to help transfer more aid to Gaza.
- Israel tightly controlled land crossings and has **banned all travel by air and sea** to and from Gaza. Before the start of the conflict, there were two functional crossings within the enclave: **Erez for the movement of people** and **Kerem Shalom for goods**.
- The conflict in Gaza escalated after the 7th of October attack by the Palestinian group Hamas, where about 2,500 terrorists breached the border into Israel from the Gaza Strip, leading to casualties and the seizure of hostages.
- Israel has characterised its actions as **targeting Hamas' infrastructure** with the goal of eliminating the entire terror group while making efforts to minimise civilian casualties.



## Strategic Petroleum Reserve

- India is embarking on establishing its **first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR)** by 2029-30.
- This initiative **aims to allow the operator the liberty** to trade all stored oil, aligning with models seen in countries such as **Japan and South Korea**.
- India's current SPR strategy involves partial commercialization, with plans to expand this approach with new SPR projects.



- India plans to construct two new SPRs, including an **18.3 million barrels** facility in **Padur, Karnataka**, and a **29.3 million barrels SPR** in **Odisha**.
- These projects will involve private partners who will have the **freedom to trade all stored oil locally**. The **government will retain the first right** to the oil in case of supply shortages.

- The Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL) has initiated a tender process to assess interest from local and global companies for the Padur SPR project.



- The completion timeline is projected at **60 months** from the initiation of the project. India, being the world's third-largest oil importer and consumer, seeks to bolster its SPR capacity to mitigate risks associated with global supply disruptions and price fluctuations.
- Additionally, expanding storage capacity aligns with India's ambition to join the **International Energy Agency (IEA)**, which mandates member countries to maintain a minimum of **90 days of oil consumption**. ISPRL estimates the Padur SPR project, along with associated pipeline and import facility, to cost approximately 55 billion rupees (\$659 million).
- The federal government is expected to contribute up to **60% of the total cost**. The tender evaluation criterion prioritizes bidders requiring the lowest federal financing or offering the highest premium for the 60-year lease.

## Digi Yatra System

- The **Manohar International Airport in Mopa, Goa**, has become the **14th airport in India** to launch the **Digi Yatra system**. This **biometric-enabled system** uses facial recognition technology to automate the entry and verification of passengers at various airport checkpoints, making the travel experience more seamless and convenient.



- The Digi Yatra system is already operational in 13 other Indian airports, including Delhi, Bengaluru, Varanasi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Mumbai, among others. The Digi Yatra system **allows passengers to link their Aadhaar number** to a Digi Yatra ID on their mobile app.
- At the airport, they can simply scan their boarding pass, and the facial recognition system will confirm their identity, allowing them to proceed through security and boarding without manual checks. This system aims to reduce waiting times, **quicken processing times**, and simplify procedures for passengers.



- It is an initiative of the **Union Civil Aviation Ministry** to make air travel more secure and hassle-free. The **Digi Yatra system** has been developed, installed, and operated by the **Digi Yatra Foundation**, which was set up in 2019 by the Airport Authority of India, Cochin International Airport, Bangalore International Airport, Delhi International Airport, Hyderabad International Airport, and Mumbai International Airport.

## Young Global Leaders Community

- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has announced the **20th edition of its Young Global Leaders Community: The Class of 2024**.
- The list includes nearly **90 individuals** under the age of 40 from diverse fields, including politics, business, civil society, the arts, and academia.



- **This year, five Indians** have been selected for the Young Global Leaders program. They are: Bhumi Pednekar (Art and Culture), Adwaita Nayar (Business) – Chief Executive Officer, Nyka Fashion , Arjun Bhartia (Business) – Director, Jubilant Group , Priya Aggarwal Hebbar (Business) – Non-Executive Director, Vedanta Limited , Sharad Vivek Sagar (Social Entrepreneurs) – Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Dexterity Global.
- The **WEF's Young Global Leaders program** was launched in **2005** and aims to identify the future generation of leaders who can contribute to addressing the world's most pressing challenges.



- The program includes a **three-year leadership** development curriculum, executive education courses, learning journeys, and opportunities to collaborate with peers.

# WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

A blue curved line graphic that starts above the 'W' in 'WORLD', loops around the 'E' in 'ECONOMIC', and ends below the 'M' in 'FORUM'.

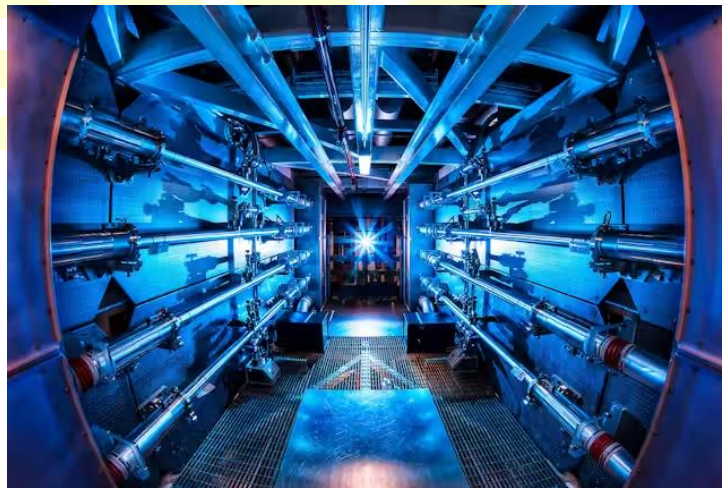
- The **World Economic Forum** is an international non-profit organization headquartered in **Cologne, Switzerland**. It was established in **1971** by **Klaus Schwab** with the goal of promoting public-private cooperation to address global issues.
- The WEF is known for its **annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland**, as well as its research and reports, such as the Global Gender Gap Report, Global Competitiveness Report, and Energy Transition Index.

## World's Most Powerful Laser

- A research center in **Romania** has revealed the **world's most potent laser**, based on the groundbreaking inventions of **Nobel Physics Prize winners Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland**.
- The laser, operated by the **French company Thales**, promises revolutionary applications across sectors from healthcare to space exploration.
- The heart of this groundbreaking laser lies in **Chirped-Pulse Amplification (CPA)** technology, developed **by Mourou and Strickland**.



- **This** technique enables the amplification of laser power while maintaining safe intensity levels. By stretching and compressing ultra-short laser pulses, CPA achieves unprecedented levels of intensity, paving the way for various applications, including advanced precision instruments in corrective eye surgery and industrial uses.



- **Mourou envisions the 21st century** as the era dominated by laser technology, akin to the electron's significance in the last century. With the ability to reach a peak power of **10 petawatts for a femtosecond** duration, the laser has immense potential across diverse fields.
- From compact and affordable particle accelerators for cancer treatment to addressing challenges like nuclear waste disposal and space debris cleanup, the laser's applications are limitless.

## Uttarakhand Assesses GLOF Risks

- The state government of **Uttarakhand** recently set up two expert panels to conduct risk-assessment and **monitor five glacial lakes** that have been facing risk of immediate danger.
- **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods** or GLOFs have been threatening them leading the government to label them as High-Risk Prone areas.
- The government is undertaking measures to mitigate potential hazards that might occur as a consequence of the threat connected with these lake bodies. Many lakes are fed by glacier waters regularly.

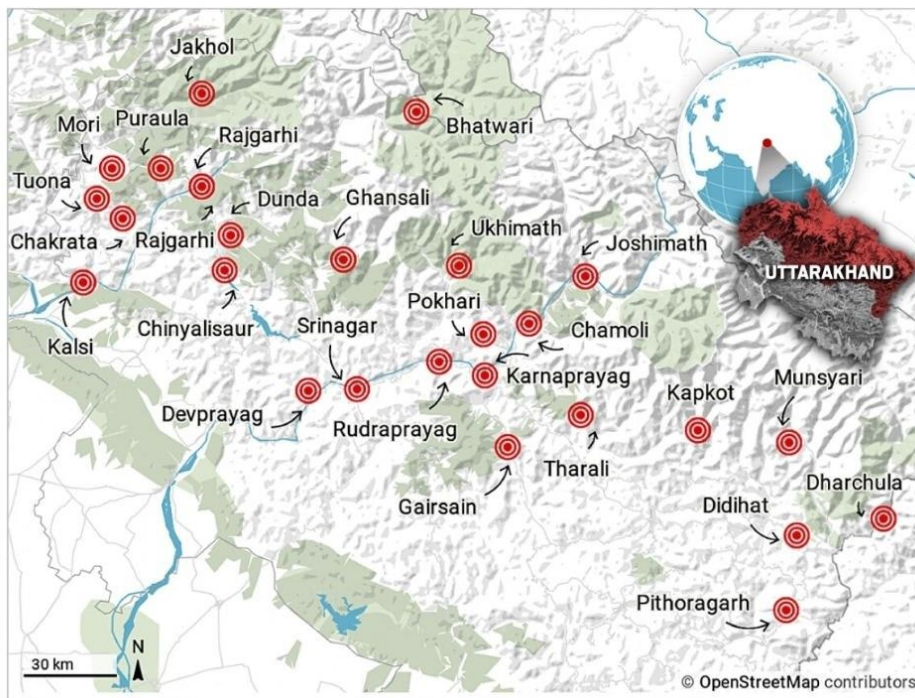


- In some lakes, this lake water sees a sudden rise due to **melting of the glaciers formed at the sides**, in front of the lake bed, within the water body or beneath the surface of the lake region.
- This **phenomena is known as Lake Outburst flood** primarily formed by glacial activity.
- **Latest Radio Technologies** have enhanced warning systems to assess GLOFs through 'extended line of sight' (ELOS) methodology. Ground Wave signals associated with ELOS transmit warning signals from one remote station to another in valleys such as Uttarakhand to avert any disaster.
- If a GLOF were to occur at any instant, these early warning signs help tackle the situation effectively.



# GLACIAL LAKES OUTBURST FLOOD: AREAS OF UTTARAKHAND AT RISK

A NEW STUDY ESTIMATES ABOUT ONE THIRD TEHSILS  
OF THE STATE ARE MORE VULNERABLE



## Rakesh Mohan

- The **World Bank Group** has appointed former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor **Rakesh Mohan** as a **member** of its Economic Advisory Panel.



- This panel will be chaired by **Lord Nicholas Stern**, the IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government at the London School of Economics. World Bank Group Chief Economist Indermit Gill will co-chair the panel.
- **Rakesh Mohan is currently** serving as the president emeritus and distinguished fellow at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), a New Delhi-based think tank.
- He is also a part-time member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council. **World Bank's Economic Advisory Panel** will focus on strategic issues for the World Bank Group in relation to their objectives, research agenda, and actions. The panel will provide guidance and insights to help the World Bank Group achieve its goals.

## Zimbabwe Declares State of Disaster

- **Zimbabwe, along with Zambia and Malawi**, has declared a state of disaster due to a severe drought sweeping across southern Africa.
- **President Emmerson Mnangagwa** cited an "El Nino-induced drought" causing below-normal rainfall, affecting over 80% of the country.
- This **drought, exacerbated by climate change**, has led to dire food shortages and humanitarian crises across the region.



- **President Mnangagwa** made the emergency declaration, emphasizing the need for **\$2 billion in humanitarian aid** to address the crisis. He stressed the urgency of securing food for all Zimbabweans, with approximately **2.7 million people at risk of hunger**.
- The government appeals to UN agencies, local businesses, and faith organizations to contribute to humanitarian assistance efforts. Millions of

people in Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Zambia are in need of food assistance due to devastated harvests.



- With more than **60% of Zimbabwe's population** residing in rural areas, where they grow their food, the situation is dire.
- The **UN's World Food Programme** has initiated a food assistance program, but aid may not reach all vulnerable populations.



SSB Crack  
EXAMS



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

- The **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** estimates that 20 million people in southern Africa require food relief, with needs extending into early 2025.
- Areas of highest concern include Zimbabwe, southern Malawi, parts of Mozambique, and southern Madagascar. The impact of El Nino is expected to prolong the crisis, highlighting the necessity of sustained international support and intervention.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Young Global Leaders Community Is Announced By**

- A. World Economic Forum
- B. World Bank
- C. IMF
- D. WHO

**ANSWER: A**

**2. Strategic Petroleum Reserve Will Be Established In**

- A. Karnataka
- B. Gujarat
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Kerala

**ANSWER: A**

**3. Digi Yatra System Is Related To**

- A. Railways
- B. Airways
- C. Waterways
- D. Roadways

**ANSWER: B**

**4. Ahobilam Shrine Is Located In Which State**

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Maharashtra

**ANSWER: A**

**5. Recently, President Of India Launched India's First Home Grown Gene Therapy For Cancer At Which Place**

- A. IIT Madras
- B. IIT Bombay
- C. IIT Hyderabad
- D. IIT Delhi

**ANSWER: B**

**6. Kathia Wheat, Recently Got A GI Tag, Belongs To Which State**

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Rajasthan

**ANSWER: C**

**7. Perungamanallur Massacre Is Associated With Which State**

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Karnataka
- D. Odisha

**ANSWER: A**

**8. Which Ministry Launched 'MyCGHS App' For Ios Ecosystem Of Devices**

- A. Ministry of Agriculture
- B. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- C. Ministry of Rural Development
- D. Ministry of Power

**ANSWER: B**

**9. What is 'KSTAR', recently seen in news**

- A. Anti drone system
- B. South Korea's fusion reactor
- C. South Korean naval vessel
- D. Food coloring agents

**ANSWER: B**

**10. Forest And Wildlife Department Of Delhi Is Establishing A Tissue Culture Laboratory At Which Wildlife Sanctuary Of India**

- A. Benog Wildlife Sanctuary
- B. Asola-Bhati Wildlife Sanctuary
- C. Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary
- D. Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary

**ANSWER: B**

**11. What Target Has India Set For Export Of Marine Products In 2023-24**

- A. \$9.1 billion
- B. \$7.7 billion
- C. \$8.6 billion
- D. \$11.1 billion

**ANSWER: A**

**12. Indian Laurel Tree Mainly Found In Which Forests**

- A. Dry And Moist Deciduous Forests
- B. Tropical Thorn Forests
- C. Tropical Evergreen Forests
- D. Montane Forests

**ANSWER: A**

**13. PRATUSH Telescope Developed By Which Organization**

- A. DRDO
- B. ISRO
- C. Ministry of Earth Sciences
- D. CSIR

**ANSWER: B**

**14. Venomous Jellyfish Blooms Have Been Sighted At Which Place**

- A. Paradip coast, Odisha
- B. Visakhapatnam coast, Andhra Pradesh
- C. Utkal coast, Odisha
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: B**

**15. India Is Planning To Create Its First Privately Managed Strategic Petroleum Reserve By Which Year**

- A. 2025-26
- B. 2026-27
- C. 2024-25
- D. 2029-30

**ANSWER: D**

**16. Bindyarani Devi Belongs To Which Sports**

- A. Hockey
- B. Swimming
- C. Boxing
- D. Weight lifting

**ANSWER: D**

**17. What Is Havana Syndrome**

- A. Set Of Mental Health Symptoms That Are Said To Be Experienced By United States Intelligence
- B. Abnormal Rise In Temperature Leading To Outbreak Of Bacterial Diseases
- C. Neglected Tropical Disease Caused Due To Under-nourishment
- D. It Is A Genetic Disorder

**ANSWER: A**

**18. Jobs For Resilience Report', Is Released By Which Organization**

- A. World Bank
- B. IMF
- C. ILO
- D. WTO

**ANSWER: A**

**19. Which Company Became 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Company Certified With ASI Performance Standard V3**

- A. Hindalco
- B. NALCO
- C. SAIL
- D. BALCO

**ANSWER: D**

**20. Viratnagar Capital Of Matsya Mahajanpada Located In Which Region**

- A. Malwa
- B. Peshawar
- C. Jaipur
- D. Bundelkhand

**ANSWER: C**