

# Daily Current Affairs

## 08 April 2024

### Bilquis Mir

- **Bilquis Mir, a canoeist from Jammu and Kashmir**, is set to make history as the first woman from India to represent the country as a jury member at the upcoming Summer Olympics in Paris.
- Bilquis Mir's journey to the **Olympic jury is a testament** to her determination and passion for the sport. She started her journey as a canoeist from the iconic **Dal Lake in 1998** and went on to represent India.
- Despite the challenges faced by a Kashmiri girl in taking up sports, especially a relatively unknown sport like canoeing, Mir persevered and found her true calling.



- In addition to her role as a jury member at the Paris Olympics, Bilquis Mir has also served as the **coach of the women's canoeing team** that will represent India at the upcoming Games.
- She also had the opportunity to be a jury member at the **2023 Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China**.
- Bilquis Mir's appointment to the Olympic jury is a significant achievement not only for her but also for aspiring athletes from Jammu and Kashmir and across India.

- Her journey serves as an inspiration, encouraging young girls to pursue their passions and break through the barriers that have traditionally hindered their participation in sports.
- As the **first Indian woman** to be selected as a jury member for the Olympics, Bilquis Mir will have the opportunity to contribute her expertise and experience to the prestigious event. This appointment not only recognizes her achievements but also reflects the growing representation of Indian women in the international sports arena.

## End Urea Imports by 2025

- India aims **to halt urea imports by the end of 2025** by boosting domestic production and promoting alternative fertilizers.
- This is in response to the nation's significant reliance on imports, which currently satisfy around **30% of its annual urea demand**.
- Urea production has risen steadily, reaching **284.95 lakh tonnes** in 2022-23. Despite this, **30% of demand** is still met through imports, with key sources being **Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE**.



- The government's approach involves reviving closed fertilizer plants across various states. **Plants at Gorakhpur, Ramagundam, Talcher, Barauni, and Sindri** are targeted for revival, with four already operational.
- Encouraging the use of alternative fertilizers like nano liquid urea and nano liquid DAP is a significant part of the strategy.
- Initiatives by entities like IFFCO and Coromandel International Limited are contributing to this effort.

- PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth' (**PM-PRANAM**) The **PM-PRANAM** scheme, launched in 2023, incentivizes states and UTs to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced fertilizer usage.



- The government heavily subsidizes fertilizers, with **Rs 1.64 lakh crore** allocated for fertilizer subsidy in 2024-25.
- Urea is provided to farmers at a statutorily notified **Maximum Retail Price (MRP)** under the Urea Subsidy Scheme (USS), while other fertilizers operate under the Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy

## Mexico Suspends Relations With Ecuador

- **Mexico has suspended relations** with Ecuador after arrest of former Ecuadorian Vice President Jorge Glas by Ecuadorean authorities from the Mexican embassy in Quito on Friday (5th April 2024) evening.



- **Jorge Glas, convicted twice for corruption**, had been holed up in the embassy in Quito since seeking political asylum in December, arguing he was being persecuted by the attorney general's office.
- Mexican President **Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador** said, Police forcefully entered Mexico's embassy in Quito before making the arrest.
- The **Mexican President called Glas's detention** an authoritarian act and a flagrant violation of international law and the sovereignty of Mexico. He said, he had instructed Mexico's foreign minister to suspend diplomatic ties with Ecuador.
- Earlier, Ecuador's presidency said that Ecuador is a sovereign nation and they are not going to allow any criminal to stay free

## Peter Pellegrini

- In Slovakia, populist candidate **Peter Pellegrini wins** the presidential election last night. Russian-friendly, Mr Pellegrini defeated the pro-Western candidate **Ivan Korcok**, with 53 percent of the vote, cementing the grip of pro-Russian Prime Minister Robert Fico over the country. The defeated candidate, former Foreign Minister Ivan Korcok is a stalwart supporter of Ukraine and critic of Fico.



## US & China

- The **United States and China** have agreed to hold "intensive exchanges on balanced growth", the US Treasury Department.
- The two sides have agreed to hold talks and create **two economic groups** focused on a wide range of issues, including addressing US complaints about

China's economic model, growth in domestic and global economies and efforts against money laundering.

- The agreement comes on the second day of an official visit to China by US Treasury Secretary **Janet Yellen**, during which she has urged Chinese leaders to change their domestic manufacturing policies.



## Microsoft Report

- **Microsoft has warned that China** is gearing up to disrupt the upcoming elections in India, the United States and South Korea by using artificial intelligence-generated content.
- The warning comes after **China conducted a trial run during Taiwan's** presidential election, employing AI to influence the outcome. Across the world, **at least 64 countries**, in addition to the European Union, are expected to hold national elections this year.



- These countries collectively account for approximately 49 per cent of the global population.
- According to Microsoft's threat intelligence team, **Chinese state-backed cyber groups**, along with involvement from North Korea, are expected to target several elections scheduled for 2024.
- Microsoft said that China will likely deploy **AI-generated content** via social media to sway public opinion in favour of their interests during these elections.
- The threat posed by political advertisements employing AI technology to produce deceptive and false content, **including "deepfakes" or fabricating events that never took place**, is significant in a crucial poll year. Such tactics aim to mislead the public regarding candidates' statements, stances on various issues, and even the authenticity of certain events.
- If allowed to go **unchecked, these manipulative attempts** have the potential to undermine voters' ability to make well-informed decisions



## Kazakhstan International Badminton Challenge

- Indian shuttlers **Anupama Upadhyaya and M. Tharun** have clinched Women's and Men's singles titles, at Kazakhstan International Badminton Challenge tournament in Astana.
- Anupama defeated Isharani Baruah 21-15, 21-16 in an all-Indian women's singles.
- In the Men's final, Tharun beat eighth-seeded Malaysian Soong Joo Ven 21-10, 21-19.
- However, in mixed doubles, Sanjai Srivatsa Dhanraj and Maneesha K pair lost to Malaysia's Wong Tien Ci and Lim Chiew Sien 21-9, 7-21, 12-21 in the summit clash.



## World Health Day

- **World Health Day** is being celebrated today to raise global health awareness. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared **'My health, my right'** as the theme this year to address the grave lack of essential health services to at least **4.5 billion people**, more than half of the world's population.



- **AIIMS New Delhi Professor, Dr. Rima Dada** said that key changes in lifestyle and adoption of practices such as yoga can help beat lifestyle diseases that have been growing at an alarming rate, especially among the youth.
- The World Health Day was **first celebrated in 1950** by the WHO to mark the organization's founding and draw global attention on the importance of health.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Anupama Upadhyaya And M. Tharun Seen In News Relates To**

- A. Badminton
- B. Tennis
- C. Cricket
- D. Long Jump

**ANSWER: A**

**2. First Woman From India To Represent Country As A Jury Member In Summer Olympics In Paris**

- A. Sofia Mir
- B. Bilquis Mir
- C. Sania Mirza
- D. PV Sindhu

**ANSWER: B**

**3. World Health Day Is Celebrated On**

- A. 6<sup>th</sup> April
- B. 7<sup>th</sup> April
- C. 8<sup>th</sup> April
- D. 9<sup>th</sup> April

**ANSWER: B**

**4. Recently, Which Country Developed World's Most Powerful Laser**

- A. Bulgaria
- B. Estonia
- C. Romania
- D. Sweden

**ANSWER: C**

**5. Sannati Buddhist Site Is Located In Which State**

- A. Karnataka
- B. Odisha
- C. Bihar
- D. Kerala

**ANSWER: A**



**6. Papikonda National Park, Is Located In Which State**

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Gujarat
- C. Kerala
- D. Tamil Nadu

**ANSWER: A**

**7. P-800 Onyx Missile, Is Developed By Which Country**

- A. China
- B. Japan
- C. Russia
- D. India

**ANSWER: C**

**8. BASEL III Endgame, Is Related To Which Sector**

- A. Environmental sector
- B. Health sector
- C. Agricultural sector
- D. Banking sector

**ANSWER: D**

**9. Pathimalai Cave Due To Ancient Rock Paintings, Is Located In Which State**

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

**ANSWER: B**

**10. What Type Of Comet Is “Mother Of Dragons” Comet**

- A. Halley Comet
- B. Tempel Comet
- C. Encke Comet
- D. Kuiper Belt Comet

**ANSWER: A**

**11. Name Of World's Oldest Man That Died At Age Of 114 Recently**

- A. John Tinniswood
- B. Juan Vicente Perez Mora
- C. Yukichi Chuganji
- D. Eugenie Blanchard

**ANSWER: B**

**12. What Is The Main Feature Of Hume, The New Conversational AI Introduced By The New York-based Research Lab**

- A. Image Recognition
- B. Emotional intelligence
- C. Advanced encryption
- D. Real-time audio translation

**ANSWER: B**

**13. What Was Total Value Of Transactions Processed By UPI In FY24**

- A. ₹150 Lakh Crore
- B. ₹199 Lakh Crore
- C. ₹126 Lakh Crore
- D. ₹180 Lakh Crore

**ANSWER: B**

**14. Who Has Assumed Charge As Principal Director General Of The Press Information Bureau**

- A. Manish Desai
- B. Neha Sharma
- C. Sheyphali B. Sharan
- D. Rajiv Kumar Sharma

**ANSWER: C**

**15. Where Is PepsiCo India Making A Hefty Investment For A New Flavour Manufacturing Facility**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**16. Which City In Uttar Pradesh Is Known As The "City Of Imarti"**

- A. Lucknow
- B. Kanpur
- C. Jaunpur
- D. Varanasi

**ANSWER: C**

**17. Which Organization Has Partnered With Panasonic For Lithium-ion Cell Manufacturing In India**

- A. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd
- B. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd
- C. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd
- D. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

**ANSWER: A**

**18. Which Port Emerged As India's Top Cargo-handling Port In Fiscal Year 2023-24**

- A. Mormugao Port
- B. Kandla Port
- C. Mumbai Port
- D. Paradip Port

**ANSWER: D**

**19. When Is Prevention Of Blindness Week 2024 Observed**

- A. April 15 to April 21
- B. April 1 to April 7
- C. March 25 to March 31
- D. April 8 to April 14

**ANSWER: B**

**20. Who Became The Oldest World No. 1 In ATP Rankings History**

- A. Novak Djokovic
- B. Roger Federer
- C. Rafael Nadal
- D. Andy Murray

**ANSWER: A**