

# Daily Current Affairs

## 14 April 2024

### Jain Acharya Lokesh Muni

- **American President's Volunteer Service Award** was established in 2003 during George Bush's presidency. The award is given to individuals who have provided **at least 500 hours of voluntary service** in the United States and whose work has positively impacted communities and inspired those around them.



- Jain Acharya Lokesh Muni has become the **first Indian monk** to be honoured with the American President's Gold Volunteer Service Award.
- The award recognizes Acharya Lokesh Muni's contribution to the public good and humanity. Acharya Lokesh Muni is a follower of the Jain religion founded by Lord Mahavira.



- He is a thinker, writer, poet, and social reformer who has been continuously working to build national character, develop human values, and establish non-violence, peace, and mutual cooperation in society.
- Acharya Lokesh Muni founded the **Ahimsa Vishwa Bharati in Gurugram, Haryana.**
- The Ahimsa Vishwa Bharati focuses on the four global pillars of non-violence, peace, harmony, and brotherhood in line with Lord Mahavira's teachings and Indian cultural norms.

## Digital Services Exports

- In 2023, India emerged as a frontrunner in **digital services exports**, surpassing China, as outlined in the **World Trade Organisation (WTO)** report.
- The report highlights significant growth in digitally delivered services globally, with India's exports reaching **\$257 billion, marking a 17 percent** increase from the previous year. This growth outpaced that of Germany and China, which registered only 4 percent each.



- The report underscores a robust growth trajectory for digitally delivered services, despite a decline in global goods trade. Notably, in Europe and Asia, exports surged by **11 percent and 9 percent**, respectively.
- Overall, digitally delivered services accounted for **\$4.25 trillion in global exports**, representing **13.8 percent of world exports** of goods and services.
- The breakdown of **digitally delivered services** reveals that business, professional, and technical services constituted the majority, followed by computer services, financial services, and intellectual property-related services.
- This diversification underscores the broad spectrum of digital trade offerings. The report highlights the **increasing integration of artificial intelligence (AI)** in

various sectors, contributing to enhanced efficiency, innovation, and economic growth.

- AI-driven technologies are expected to revolutionize the economy, offering opportunities for cost savings, personalization, and job creation.

## John Dirks Gairdner Global Health Award

- **Dr. Gagandeep Kang, an Indian researcher, has been awarded the 2024 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award** for her achievements in global health research.
- **The Gairdner Foundation announced** its 2024 Canada Gairdner Award winners, recognizing some of the world's most significant biomedical and global health research and discoveries.



- **The Foundation awarded Dr. Kang** “for extensive cohort-based epidemiological, environmental and clinical trial research on enteric diseases in children and their effects on life course, with significant impact on vaccine development and health policy in India and internationally.”
- **Dr. Kang’s research group** has established substantial community-based birth cohort studies addressing childhood enteric infections, growth, and development for over 20 years.
- Her work has generated extensive information on the **complex interactions between the environment and infections in children**, and the influence of prior infections on subsequent responses to vaccination.
- Kang conducted the **largest single birth cohort study on rotaviral infections** in the world, demonstrating that protection after a natural infection is lower in

India than in developed countries, which has important implications for disease control through vaccination.

- She has led studies that contributed to the development and introduction of two Indian rotavirus vaccines into the national immunization program.

## World's Largest Renewable Energy Park

- **Adani Green Energy Limited**, an Adani Group company, is building the world's largest renewable energy park in Khavda, Kutch district of Gujarat.
- The park is spread over **538 square kilometers**, which is about five times larger than the total size of the French capital, Paris. According to Vineet Jain, Managing Director of Adani Green Energy, the total capacity of the Khavda plant **will be 30 GW**.



- Adani Group will invest **Rs 1.5 lakh crore** in this project. Currently, 2 GW of renewable energy is being produced from this park, and 4 GW capacity will be added by March 2025.
- Thereafter, 5 GW capacity will be increased every year.
- The share of solar energy in the proposed capacity of **30 GW is 26 GW**, while wind energy will **be 4%**. **When the park is fully operational, it will generate 81 billion units of electricity**, which can supply the entire demand of countries like Belgium, Chile, and Switzerland.
- **Gujarat Industries Power Company Limited (GIPCL)** has been appointed as the nodal agency for the Hybrid Renewable Energy Park. The project to build this park was prepared as part of Prime Minister Modi's efforts to reduce carbon emissions, and work on the project has been ongoing since 2021.





## Taliban To Restore Land Rights

- **India has welcomed** the Taliban regime's decision to restore private land rights to Afghan Hindus and Sikh minorities as a positive development.
- The Taliban administration has set up a commission to ensure the **return of property rights to the Hindu and Sikh communities**, which were seized by warlords during the previous dispensation in Kabul.



- **India has not yet recognized the Taliban regime** and has been advocating for a truly inclusive government in Afghanistan, while also emphasizing that Afghan soil should not be used for terrorist activities.
- India has been pushing for unimpeded humanitarian aid to address the **worsening humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan** while re-establishing its diplomatic presence in Kabul in June 2022.
- India withdrew its officials from the embassy in August 2021 due to security concerns following the Taliban's takeover.



- Since the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, the country has faced significant challenges.
- The new regime has implemented strict Islamic laws, limiting women's rights and access to education and employment. The **economy has crumbled**, with widespread poverty and food insecurity affecting millions. International aid has been largely suspended, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis.

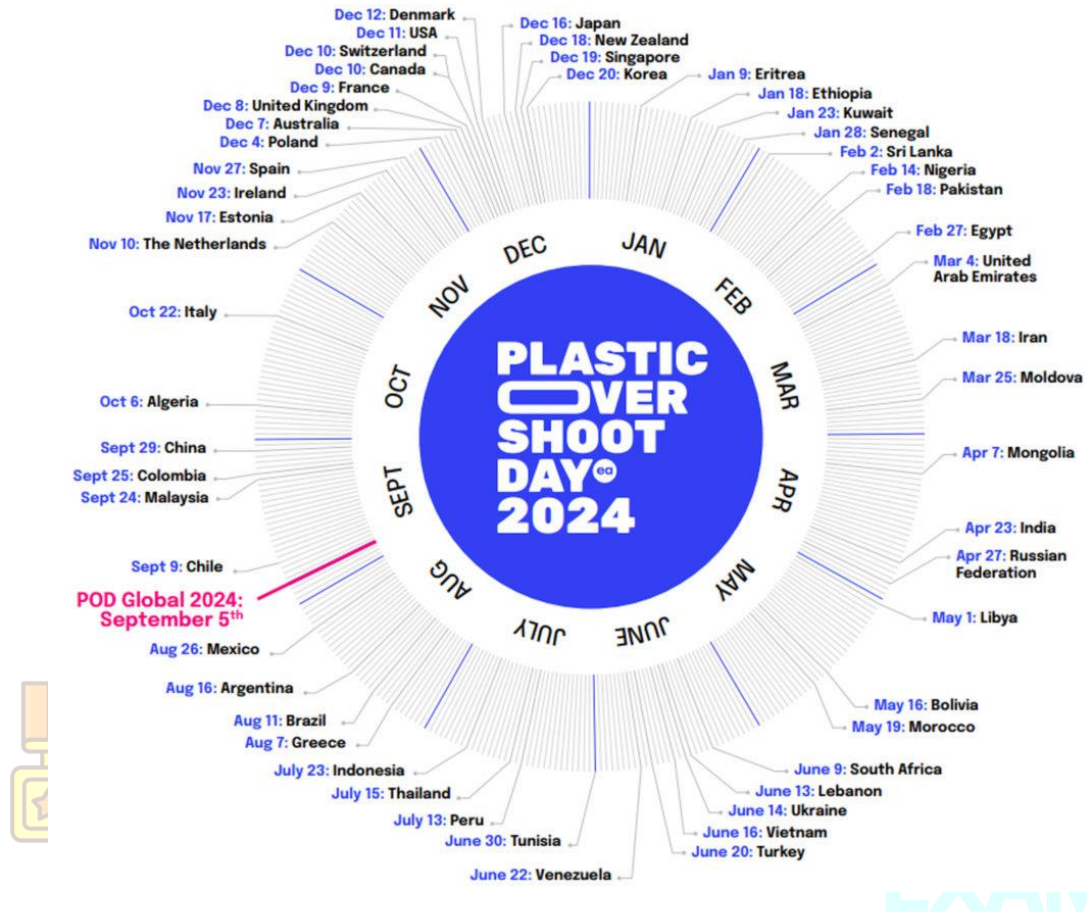
## Plastic Overshoot Day Report

- According to the **Plastic Overshoot Day report by Swiss non-profit EA Earth Action**, India has one of the lowest per capita plastic waste production rates globally.



- However, global plastic waste generation has **increased by 7.11% since 2021**, with an estimated 220 million tons of plastic waste generated this year. **India is**

classified as a “low-waste-producing” polluter but is projected to have 7.4 million tons of mismanaged waste in 2024, which is considered high.



- Twelve countries including China, India, the US, and Brazil are responsible for 60% of the world’s mismanaged plastic waste.
- **Belgium tops the list** for plastic waste production per person, while **Oman leads in mismanaged plastic waste.**
- The report warns that by April 2024, almost **half of the world’s population** will be living in areas where plastic waste exceeds the ability to manage it.
- The report stresses the need for **aggressive reductions in plastic production** and better waste management to combat the plastic pollution crisis. Plastic Overshoot Day is the date when humanity’s demand for plastic exceeds the Earth’s ability to regenerate it in a sustainable manner. This day symbolizes the overconsumption and harmful impact of plastic on the environment.
- It serves as a **reminder to reduce plastic usage**, recycle, and find alternatives to single-use plastics. Plastic pollution poses a threat to marine life, ecosystems, and human health. Taking action to reduce plastic waste is essential in order to protect the planet for future generations.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. AT World Cybercrime Index India Secured \_\_\_\_ Rank

- A. 7<sup>th</sup>
- B. 8<sup>th</sup>
- C. 9<sup>th</sup>
- D. 10<sup>th</sup>

**ANSWER: D**

2. Jagjit Pavadia Re-elected For Third Term To

- A. INCB
- B. WTO
- C. WHO
- D. IMF

**ANSWER: A**

3. World's Largest Renewable Energy Park Will Be Built In

- A. Kerala
- B. Gujarat
- C. Haryana
- D. Punjab

**ANSWER: B**

4. Which Institution Secured 45<sup>th</sup> Rank In Engineering & Technology Of Quacquarelli Symonds

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. IIT Kanpur
- C. IIT Madras
- D. IIT Roorkee

**ANSWER: A**

5. Which Bank Became The First Private Bank To Open A Branch In Lakshadweep

- A. Axis bank
- B. HDFC bank
- C. YES bank
- D. ICICI bank

**ANSWER: B**



**6. According To Recent Asian Development Bank Report, What Is The Expected Growth Rate Of Indian Economy In 2024-25**

- A. 8.1%
- B. 7.8%
- C. 7.0%
- D. 6.9%

**ANSWER: C**

**7. Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State**

- A. Kerala
- B. Telangana
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Karnataka

**ANSWER: A**

**8. Who Has Become First Indian Monk To Be Honoured With The American President's Gold Volunteer Service Award**

- A. Acharya Lokesh Muni
- B. Raghaveshwara Bharathi
- C. Vijayendra Saraswati
- D. Bharathi Tirtha

**ANSWER: A**

**9. Cnemaspis Vangoghi, Belongs To Which Species**

- A. Lizard
- B. Spider
- C. Fish
- D. Frog

**ANSWER: A**

**10. Which IIT Signed MoU With Canada Based Biotechnology Company (Conlis Global) For Bone Grafting Technology**

- A. IIT Roorkee
- B. IIT Madras
- C. IIT Kanpur
- D. IIT Hyderabad

**ANSWER: C**

**11. What Is 'Sungrazer', Recently Mentioned In The News**

- A. Comet
- B. Communication satellite
- C. Black hole
- D. Invasive plant

**ANSWER: A**

**12. AT World Cybercrime Index 2024, Rank Of India In Cybercrime Globally**

- A. 8th
- B. 9th
- C. 10th
- D. 11th

**ANSWER: C**

**13. What Is 'Mange Disease'**

- A. Skin Disease Of Animals Caused By Mite Infestations**
- B. Viral Disease Caused By The Bite Of An Infected Animal
- C. Communicable Disease That Primarily Affects Cattle
- D. Fungal Disease That Affects Landscape Of Plants

**ANSWER: A**

**14. What Is The Role Of A Defence Attaché**

- A. To Oversee Diplomatic Relations
- B. To Represent Their Country's Defense Establishment In Foreign Embassies
- C. To Lead Military Operations In Foreign Countries
- D. None Of The Above

**ANSWER: B**

**15. Senkaku Island, Is Located In Which Sea**

- A. Red Sea
- B. South China Sea
- C. East China Sea
- D. Black Sea

**ANSWER: C**

**16. Theme Of 'International Day Of Human Space Flight 2024**

- A. Encouraging Scientific Curiosity
- B. Way For Space
- C. Conservation Of Outer Space
- D. Beginning Of The Space Era For Mankind

**ANSWER: A**

**17. City Of Miraj, Awarded A GI Tag For Its Craftsmanship In Musical Instruments, Is Located In Which State**

- A. Gujarat
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Odisha
- D. Maharashtra

**ANSWER: D**

**18. Which Institution Established Digital India Trust Agency As A New Tool To Combat Cybercrime**

- A. RBI
- B. CBI
- C. SEBI
- D. NABARD

**ANSWER: A**

**19. Which Ministry Has Drafted Model Rules For Childbirth Registration**

- A. Ministry of External Affairs
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs
- C. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D. Ministry of Urban Development

**ANSWER: B**

**20. Which Among Following Is Not Among Ashtamahasthanas**

- A. Lumbini
- B. Rajgriha
- C. Vajrayana
- D. Taxila

**ANSWER: D**