

# Daily Current Affairs

## 24 April 2024

### ‘ASEAN Future Forum’

- **External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar** said that India truly believes that a strong and unified **Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)** can play a constructive role in the emerging regional architecture of the Indo-Pacific.
- Speaking at the **First ASEAN Future Forum** virtually, Dr. Jaishankar said that the synergy between **‘India’s Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative’ (IIPOI)** and the ASEAN Outlook on **Indo-Pacific (AOIP)** provides a strong framework of cooperation, including and addressing challenges to comprehensive security.



- He further added that ASEAN is at the heart of **India’s Act East policy** and is a crucial pillar in India’s wider Indo-Pacific mission. He emphasized that the time has come for the global south to present its perspective and assume a greater role in international affairs.
- The External Affairs Minister remarked that it is vital that freedom of navigation, overflight, and unimpeded commerce are respected and facilitated by all. Highlighting the role of QUAD, Dr. Jaishankar said that QUAD leaders have been consistent in extending their unwavering support for ASEAN centrality.



## Rezwana Choudhury Bannya

- **Renowned Bangladeshi singer Rezwana Choudhury Bannya** received the prestigious **Padma Shri Award**.
- President of India Droupadi Murmu presented the Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and **Padma Shri Awards** for the year 2024 at the Civil Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.



- Rezwana Choudhury Bannya received the award for her contribution in the field of Art.
- An accomplished professional singer from Bangladesh, she is a devoted practitioner of Rabindra Sangeet. She sang **“Vaishnav Jan To”** to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

## “2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices”

- The Chinese authorities have arbitrarily **detained over one million Uyghurs and members of other minority groups**, over a period of five years, between 2017 to 2023, according to a report released by the United States.



- The “**2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices**” issued by the US said that the genocide and crimes against humanity have taken place during the year in China primarily against **Uyghurs and members of other ethnic** and religious minority groups in Xinjiang.



- The report said, the **human rights abuses in China** also include, crimes involving violence targeting members of national, racial, and ethnic minority groups, the prohibition of independent trade unions and systematic restrictions on workers’ freedom of association. The report further elaborated that there continued to be no government transparency or public statistics on executions.

## Rwanda Asylum Law

- UK parliament has passed **Rwanda asylum law** that will allow the government to send asylum seekers to Rwanda for their claims to be considered by the **East African nation**.
- British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak promised yesterday to start **sending asylum seekers to Rwanda within 10 to 12 weeks** as the upper house of the parliament finally passed the required legislation. Earlier it was delayed for weeks by attempts to alter the plan.



- Mr. Sunak said, the government had booked commercial charter planes and trained staff to take migrants to Rwanda.
- The policy, he hopes will boost his Conservative Party's flagging fortunes before an election later this year.
- **Tens of thousands of migrants, many fleeing wars** and poverty in Africa, West Asia and Asia, have reached Britain in recent years by crossing the English Channel in small boats on risky journeys organised by people-smuggling gangs.
- The critics say the plan to deport people to Rwanda rather than handle asylum seekers at **home is inhumane**.
- They cite concerns about the East African country's own human rights record and the risk asylum seekers may be sent back to countries where they face danger.

## EU Adopts New Visa Rules

- **European Union, EU has adopted** new visa rules that will allow frequent travellers from India to apply for **multiple-entry Schengen visa** with longer validity, easing travel to 29 European countries.
- Announced by the **EU delegation to India and Bhutan**, the rules will make it easier for regular Indian travellers to get the visa under the **new cascade regime**.

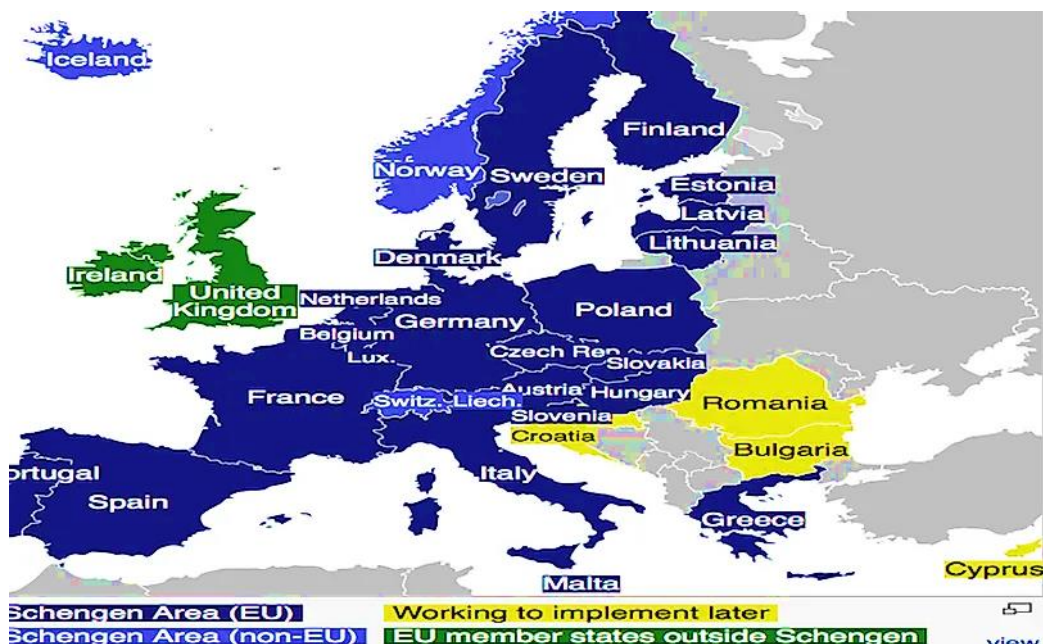


- Delegation's statement said, Indian nationals can now be issued long-term, **multi-entry Schengen visas valid for two years** after having obtained and lawfully used two visas within the previous three years.
- The **two-year visa will normally** be followed by a five-year visa, if the passport has sufficient validity remaining. It added that during the validity period of these visas, holders will enjoy **travel rights equivalent** to visa-free nationals.
- EU ambassador to India Hervé Delphin lauded the new rules saying the EU had taken another step towards enhancing people-to-people contact with India.
- The new favourable visa regime for Indians comes as part of **the India-EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM)**, first signed between the two partners on **29 March, 2016**.
- Schengen visas allow the holder to **travel freely in the Schengen area** for short stays of a maximum of **90 days in any 180-day period**.

# SCHENGEN AREA MEMBERS



- The visas are not purpose-bound, but they do not grant the right to work. The Schengen area consists of **29 European countries** of which 25 are EU states.
- The **EU states covered by Schengen area** are, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, The Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland and Sweden.
- **Countries that are not members** of the European Union, but members of the Schengen area include Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.



## Archery World Cup 2024

- **Archery World Cup 2024** will begin at **Shanghai in China**. The three-time **Olympian Deepika Kumari** will spearhead the Indian challenge at the Archery World Cup.



## ARCHERY WORLD CUP

- **India has sent a 16-member archery team** – eight men and eight women – for the first stage of the World Cup.
- **Deepika Kumari, who topped India's archery** selection trials in March, will feature in the women's recurve archery.



- **Dhiraj Bommadevara**, who has obtained India's only archery quota for the Paris 2024 Olympics and Tokyo Olympians, Tarundeep Rai and Pravin Jadhav will lead India's charge in men's recurve.
- India's eight-member squad in recurve archery also doubles up as the provisional squad for the **Paris 2024 Olympics**.

## Thrissur Pooram 2024

- The southern Indian state of Kerala is renowned for its rich cultural tapestry, encompassing a diverse array of religions, landscapes, rituals, and histories.
- Amidst this vibrant melting pot, one festival stands out as a true embodiment of Kerala's profound cultural heritage – the **Thrissur Pooram**.
- Thrissur Pooram is a **grand temple festival** celebrated with great fervor and enthusiasm, transcending religious boundaries.



- Although rooted in Hindu traditions, this seven-day extravaganza brings together people from all walks of life, united in a shared celebration of music, processions, fairs, and a spectacular display of fireworks.
- Initiated in **1796 by Shakthan Thampuran**, the ruler of Cochin from 1790 to 1805, Thrissur Pooram was born out of a desire to uphold the tradition of temple festivals.



Largest Temple Festival Thrissur Pooram 2024 Celebrated



- Originally, temples would participate in the **Arattupuzha Pooram**, but due to heavy rainfall one year, they were unable to attend.
- Shakthan Thampuran's vision paved the way for this grand celebration to take root in Thrissur. Thrissur Pooram festival is a collaborative effort involving multiple temples, each contributing to its grandeur.
- **The participating temples include** Thiruvambadi Sri Krishna Temple, Laloor Bhagavathy Temple, Sree Karthyayani Temple, Kanimangalam Temple, Nethila Kavu Bhagavathy Temple, Paramekkavu Bagavathi Temple, Panamukkumpally Sastha Temple, Pookattikkara – Karamukku Bhagavathy Temple, Chembukkavu Bhagavathy Temple, and Parakkottukavu Bhagavathy Temple.
- During the festival, a majestic procession of 50 decorated elephants, accompanied by traditional music, winds its way through Thekkinkadu Maidanam of Thrissur to the famous Vadakkunnathan Temple, where Lord Vadakkunnathan is revered.

## Ocean Decade Conference

- **India, led by Earth Sciences Secretary M. Ravichandran**, advocated for the establishment of a region-specific ocean observation center during the **2024 Ocean Decade Conference held in Barcelona, Spain.**
- The conference, organized by the Spanish government and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, aimed to assess progress toward the goals of the **United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)** and foster collaboration among stakeholders. conference took place in Barcelona, Spain, **Theme: "Delivering the science we need for the ocean we want."**



- To Review progress made in **achieving the objectives** of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and enhance cooperation among stakeholders.
- United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development Launched by the **United Nations in January 2021**.
- Provide a framework for global stakeholders to engage and collaborate in building science-informed policies.



**2021** United Nations Decade  
**2030** of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

- **Ten challenges** outlined, including understanding marine pollution, protecting biodiversity, and developing a sustainable ocean economy.
- India's Position at the Ocean Decade : Call for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems: India advocated for people-centered early warning systems for multiple hazards.
- Utilization of Traditional Knowledge: Emphasized involving local communities, NGOs, and industries to enhance ocean literacy and related programs.
- Regional Projects Design: Stressed the need for designing regional projects, such as ocean forecasting, tailored to user communities' needs.
- **Indian Ocean Regional Decade Conference** : Held in Hyderabad in February, convened to address ocean decade challenges and steps to address them.
- Decade Collaborative Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (DCC-IOR): Organized the conference as an official prelude to the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Thrissur Pooram 2024 Festival Celebrated In**

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

**ANSWER: B**

**2. Rezwana Choudhury Bannya Received**

- A. Padma Vibhushan
- B. Padma Bhushan
- C. Padma Shri
- D. None Of The Above

**ANSWER: C**

**3. Ocean Decade Conference Is Held In**

- A. Spain
- B. Argentina
- C. Egypt
- D. Oman

**ANSWER: A**

**4. India Recently Signed Agreement With Which Country To Operate A Large Research Hub In New Delhi**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**5. Capri City Is Located In Which Country**

- A. Iraq
- B. France
- C. Italy
- D. Russia

**ANSWER: C**

**6. Who Has Been Appointed As Director General Of The National Security Guard**

- A. Nayi Pankaj Kumar
- B. Suresh Chand Yadav
- C. Gajender Singh
- D. Nalin Prabhat

**ANSWER: D**

**7. Nagorno-Karabakh Region Is Located In Which Mountainous Region**

- A. South Caucasus Range
- B. Sayans Range
- C. Verkhoyansk Range
- D. Chersky Range

**ANSWER: A**

**8. Government of UP Constructed State's First-ever Glass Skywalk Bridge In Which District**

- A. Chitrakoot
- B. Varanasi
- C. Ayodhya
- D. Saharanpur

**ANSWER: A**

**9. Bhandasar Jain Temple Is Located In Which State**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**10. Mount Ruang Is Located In Which Country**

- A. Malaysia
- B. India
- C. Indonesia
- D. Russia

**ANSWER: C**

**11. What Does WHO Term Pathogens That Transmit Through Air**

- A. Waterborne Pathogens
- B. Infectious Respiratory Particles
- C. Swine Flu
- D. Parkinson Syndrome

**ANSWER: B**

**12. Shompen Tribe Primarily Resides In Which Region**

- A. Diu Island
- B. Netrani Island
- C. Lakshadweep Island
- D. Great Nicobar Island

**ANSWER: D**

**13. Which Country Signed USD 375 Million Deal With India In Defence Sector**

- A. Philippines
- B. Vietnam
- C. Egypt
- D. Malaysia

**ANSWER: A**

**14. What is 'VA-ResNet-50'**

- A. AI tool which can predicts fatal heart rhythm
- B. Newly discovered species of bamboo plant
- C. Vaccine of Tuberculosis
- D. Black hole

**ANSWER: A**

**15. Kuchipudi Dance Is A Classical Dance Form Of Which State**

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Uttar Pradesh

**ANSWER: B**

**16. Objective Of Operation Meghdoot**

- A. To establish a military base in Ladakh
- B. To capture strategic heights in the Himalayas
- C. To engage in a peacekeeping mission
- D. To secure the Siachen Glacier

**ANSWER: D**

**17. Veeranam Lake Is Located In Which State**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**18. The 1<sup>st</sup> Sports Event To Offer Equal Prize Money To Men & Women**

- A. BWF world championship
- B. US Open
- C. Australia Open
- D. NBA world championship

**ANSWER: B**

**19. Jansen's, Checkerboard And Moon Discovered In The Laccadive Sea, Belongs To Which Species**

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

**ANSWER: C**

**20. DS Majithia , Who Recently Passed Away, Was Associated With Which Armed Force**

- A. Indian Air Force
- B. National Security Guard
- C. Indian Navy
- D. Indian Coast Guard

**ANSWER: A**