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1. Mahavir Singh Phogat appointed as President of MMA-1 Federation (April 26, 2023)

Renowned wrestler and coach Mahavir Singh Phogat was appointed as the **President of MMA-1 Federation.**

An Overview of the News

- Phogat's appointment as the President of the MMA-1 Federation is **aimed at developing and promoting MMA in India.**
- Phogat's role as president will primarily involve identifying and nurturing young talent in the sport of MMA in India.

About Mixed Martial Arts (MMA)

- It is a full-contact combat sport involving **striking, grappling and ground fighting.**
- It incorporates techniques from various **combat sports around the world.**
- The term "**mixed martial arts**" was first used in **1993 by a television critic reviewing UFC 1.**
- **Valle Tudo** in Brazil and interstylistic competition in Asia were **precursors to modern MMA.**
- The Gracie family brought **Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu to America in the 1990s**, which led to the founding of the UFC in 1993.

About Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC)

- UFC is a major **American mixed martial arts (MMA) promotion company** and is **owned and operated by Zuffa**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Endeavor Group Holdings.
- As of 2022, the UFC is the **world's largest MMA promotion by events held globally.**
- The company follows the **unified rules of mixed martial arts** and has 12 weight classes, including eight for men and four for women.
- **Dana White** has been the president of the UFC since 2001 and has been instrumental in its success.

Established - **1993**

Founders - **Art Dewey, Bob Meyerowitz, Ryan Troutsdale, Campbell McLaren, David Isaacs, John Milius, and Rorian Gracie**

Headquarters - **Las Vegas, Nevada, US**

MMA-1 Federation President - **Mohammed Ali Budhwani**

2. Pakistani-Canadian journalist Tarek Fatah passed away (April 25, 2023)

Pakistani-Canadian journalist Tarek Fatah passed away

On 24 April, **Pakistani-Canadian journalist Tarek Fatah died of cancer at the age of 73.**

An Overview of the News

- Fatah was **born in 1949**, shortly after Pakistan's independence, and described himself as "**Midnight's Child**".
- He was known for his criticisms of Islamic extremism and the Pakistani establishment, and was also a supporter of gay rights.

About Tarek Fatah's Career:

- Tarek Fatah began his career in **journalism in Pakistan in 1970** as a reporter for the **Karachi Sun**. He later worked as an **investigative reporter for Pakistan Television**.
- **In 1977, Fatah was accused of treason by the Zia-ul-Haq government**, which forced him to flee to Saudi Arabia. He later settled in Canada in 1987.
- Fatah began his **broadcasting career in Canada** as a broadcaster for **Toronto radio station CFRB Newstalk 1010**. He then worked for several other media organisations across Canada.
- Fatah has won several awards for his work, including the **Donner Prize, the Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Book Award**.

Tarek Fatah wrote two books -

- Which deals with issues related to Islam and its relationship with other religions.
- The first book, "**Chasing a Mirage**", is critical of modern Islam and analyses the ways in which political and social factors have influenced its development.
- The second book, "**The Jew Is Not My Enemy**," explores the history of relations between the Muslim and Jewish communities.

3. Rajesh Kumar Singh takes charge as DPIIT secretary (April 25, 2023)

Rajesh Kumar Singh takes charge as DPIIT secretary

Senior IAS officer **Rajesh Kumar Singh** on 25th April assumed the charge of **secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.

An overview of the news

- Singh has replaced **Anurag Jain**, who was appointed **secretary in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**.
- Prior to this, Singh was the **Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying**.
- Singh is an Indian Administrative Service officer of **1989 Batch from Kerala cadre**.
- He has held many important positions in the Union Government as Commissioner - DDA, Joint Secretary - Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Joint Secretary - Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare and Chief Vigilance Officer - Food Corporation of India.

About Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

- In the year 2019, the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) was renamed as **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.
- It is administered by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- It is a **nodal government agency** to formulate and implement development strategies for the industrial sector, along with other socio-economic objectives and national priorities.

4. Kiptom wins London Marathon in 2nd fastest time (April 24, 2023)

Kiptom wins London Marathon in 2nd fastest time

Kelvin Kiptum, a 23-year-old **Kenyan athlete**, won the **London Marathon** and set the **second fastest time in history for the distance**.

An Overview of the News

- **Kiptum finished the race with a time of 2 hours, 1 minute and 25 seconds**, breaking the course record but only **16 seconds short of Eliud Kipchoge's world record**.
- Kiptum finished behind elite runners **Amos Kipruto, Tamirat Tola and Mo Farah**, who finished ninth at age 40 with a time of 2 hours 10 minutes and 28 seconds.

About the London Marathon

- It is an annual long distance running competition that takes place in **London, UK**. It was **first organised in 1981**.
- The event attracts elite athletes and amateur runners from around the world. **Participants walk 26.2 miles (42.2 km)** through the **streets of London**, passing famous landmarks such as **Buckingham Palace and Tower Bridge**.
- In addition to elite men's and women's races, there are also **wheelchair races** and mass participation events for amateur runners.

London:

- It is the **capital of England** and the **United Kingdom** and is a city with a **rich history that dates back to Roman times**.
- The iconic '**Big Ben**' clock tower is home to **Westminster Abbey** in the centre of London as well as the site of the **British Monarchy's coronation**.
- **Across the River Thames** from the centre of **London is the London Eye observation wheel**, which provides panoramic views of the **South Bank cultural precinct and the entire city**.

5. Tata Electronics appoints Randhir Thakur as CEO and MD (April 24, 2023)

Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd (TEPL) on 18 April appointed **Dr Randhir Thakur** as **CEO and Managing Director** to strengthen its semiconductor manufacturing capabilities.

An Overview of the News

- Dr. Thakur is a veteran in the manufacturing sector with significant contributions in the **development of advanced semiconductor technologies**.
- He has expertise in ecosystem leadership, process technology tools, driving mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, product development, while working closely with ecosystem partners and customers.
- Prior to joining TEPL, Dr. Thakur was associated with **global electronic chip and circuit manufacturing giant Intel**, serving as President of Intel Foundry Services.
- TEPL's primary manufacturing facility is located in the **Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu, India**.

List of new appointments in India in April 2023 -

- **Vishal Kavati** - Chief Technology Officer, National Payments Corporation of India
- **Anshuman Singhania** - President of the Automotive Tire Manufacturers Association
- **Sanjay Agarwal** - MD/CEO of AU Small Finance Bank
- **Apresh Kumar Singh** - Chief Justice of Tripura High Court
- **Amit Kshatriya** - Head of NASA's 'Moon to Mars Program'
- **Rajeev K Mishra** - Chairman and Managing Director of PTC India
- **Niraj Nigam** - Executive Director of RBI
- **Sudha Shiv Kumar** - President of FICCI Women's Organization (FLO)
- **Kenichi Umeda** - MD, Suzuki Motorcycle India

- **Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo** - takes charge as the President of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)
- **Subrahmanyam** - Warrant Officer in the Royal Air Force of the UK
- **Aleksandar Ceferin** - President of UEFA
- **Kalikesh Singh** - President of NRAI (National Rifle Association of India)

6. Star Sports signed Rishabh Pant as its 'Believe Ambassador' (April 24, 2023)

Star Sports signed Rishabh Pant as its 'Believe Ambassador'

On 21 April, The **Walt Disney Company owned Star Sports** signed Indian cricketer **Rishabh Pant as its latest 'Believe Ambassador'**.

An Overview of the News

- The company has cricketers including **Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer** as '**Believe Ambassadors**'.
- Star Sports had only two ambassadors **in 2017 and Virat Kohli is also a part of this association.**
- The '**Believe Ambassadors**' represent different parts of the country as well as different IPL teams.
- Star Sports will work closely with cricketers to develop new campaigns and properties to increase the popularity of the sport and drive fandom, especially among the youth.
- Viacom18-owned a JioCinemahas signed men's cricket India captain **Rohit Sharma as its brand ambassador.**

Rishabh Pant - **Brand Ambassador of JSW Steel, Himalaya Drug Company, Uttarakhand**

Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar - **Brand Ambassador of BMW in India**

Virat Kohli - **Brand Ambassador of Audi in India**

7. Air Marshal Sandeep Singh appointed Military Advisor to National Security Council (April 23, 2023)

Air Marshal Sandeep Singh appointed Military Advisor to National Security Council

Former Vice Chief of the **Air Staff Air Marshal Sandeep Singh (Retd)** has been appointed as the **new Military Advisor to the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)**. He will assume charge on April 24.

An overview of the news

- He will replace **General Anil Chauhan**, who was appointed **Chief of Defense Staff in October last year**.
- Sandeep Singh retired as the Vice Chief of the Air Force on January 31, 2023, after a military career of four decades.
- Sandeep Singh, an alumnus of the National Defense Academy, who was appointed as the new military advisor in the National Security Council Secretariat, was **commissioned into the Indian Air Force in December 1983 as a fighter pilot**.
- He has flown a number of aircraft, and has close to 4,900 hours of operational and test flying experience on **Su-30 MKI, MiG-29, MiG-21, AN-32, Avro, Jaguar and Mirage 2000**.
- He also played a key role in the **induction, production and arming of the Su-30 MKI aircraft in India**.
- In recognition of his services of an exceptionally high order, he was awarded the **Vayu Sena Medal in 2006, the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2013 and the Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 2022**.

8. Arun Sinha appointed as new chairman of NTRO (April 22, 2023)

Arun Sinha appointed as new chairman of NTRO

Arun Sinha was appointed as the **new chairman of the National Technical Research Organization (NTRO)** by the Government of India.

An Overview of the News

- Arun Sinha, a 1984 batch IPS officer of Kerala cadre, was the **acting chairman of NTRO** before becoming the chairman.
- NTRO is a **technical intelligence agency** based in India.
- It works under the **National Security Advisor** in the Prime Minister's Office and was **established in 2004**.
- The agency follows the same "**norms of conduct**" as other intelligence agencies in India such as the **Intelligence Bureau and the Research and Analysis Wing**.
- As a technical intelligence agency, NTRO specialises in the **interception and analysis of electronic communications**.
- The agency also conducts research and development of technology to support its intelligence gathering activities.

About National Technical Research Organization (NTRO)

Formed - **2004**

Headquarters - **New Delhi, India**

Motto - **Aano Bhadra Kritvo Yantu Vishwatah (Meaning - May good thoughts come to me from all four directions)**

Responsible Minister - **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**

Agency Executive - **Anil Dhasmana**

Parent Agency - **Cabinet Secretariat**

9. Rowan Wilson Appointed As New York's First Black Chief Justice (April 21, 2023)

Rowan Wilson Appointed As New York's First Black Chief Justice

Rowan Wilson was **appointed as the first black Chief Justice of New York** on April 18, 2023 by the State Senate.

An Overview of the News

- **Wilson has been an Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals** since 2017.
- Wilson's confirmation as the state's **first black chief justice followed the resignation of Judge Janet DiFiore in August.**
- Wilson's appointment comes two months after the initial nomination of **Governor Kathy Hochul** for the position was rejected by lawmakers.
- **In 2014, Kathy Hochul was elected Lieutenant Governor of New York,** serving alongside **Governor Andrew Cuomo.**
- After Cuomo's resignation in August 2021, **Hochul became the governor of New York and became the first woman in the state's history to hold the office.**

About New York

- It is located in the **northeastern part of the country**, in the state of New York and it is the **most populous city in the United States.**
- The city is served by three major airports: **John F. Kennedy International Airport, LaGuardia Airport, and Newark Liberty International Airport.**
- The city is divided into five boroughs: **Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Staten Island, each with its own unique character and charm.**

Mayor - **Eric Adams**

Capital - **Albany**

10. Miguel Diaz-Canel re-elected as the President of the Republic of Cuba (April 21, 2023)

Miguel Diaz-Canel re-elected as the President of the Republic of Cuba

Miguel Díaz-Canel has been re-elected as **President of the Republic of Cuba** for a **second five-year term** on April 19, 2023 by the **National Assembly of the People's Power**.

An Overview of the News

- **Salvador Valdés Mesa** has also been re-elected as **Vice President**.
- **Díaz-Canel** received **97.66% of the vote**, while **Valdés Mesa** received **93.4%**.
- The leadership body of the National Assembly was re-elected by parliamentarians.
- **Juan Esteban Lazo Hernández, Ana María Mari Machado and Homero Acosta Álvarez** were re-elected as **President, Vice President and Secretary of the National Assembly, respectively**.
- The deputies also elected 18 members to the Council of State, including eight re-elections and ten new appointments.

About Cuba

President - **Miguel Diaz-Canel**

Capital - **Havana**

Currency - **Cuban peso**

Prime Minister - **Manuel Marrero Cruz**

Official language - **Spanish**