



CURRENT AFFIARS

April 2024



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Banking & Finance

1. Karnataka Bank raises Rs 600 cr through qualified institutional placement

- **Karnataka Bank said it has raised around Rs 600 crore through qualified institutional placement by issuing shares to institutional investors.**

- The qualified institutional placement opened on March 21 and closed on March 27. The institutions which bought shares in the QIP include HSBC Mutual Fund, Morgan Stanley Asia Singapore PTE, HSBC Global Investment Funds, SBI Life etc.

2. Canara Bank launches loans for healthcare, savings accounts for women

- Canara Bank on 3 April, launched healthcare focused loan product Canara Heal, which will meet the shortfall in hospitalization expenditure while settling through TPA healthcare insurance claims of self and/or dependents. Bank also launched a customized savings account for women ' Canara Angel ' with unique features like Cancer Care policy.

- It also launched pre-approved personal loan Canara ReadyCash and an Online Loan against term deposit product Canara MyMoney.

- **Canara bank exchanged Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with both MediAssist Healthcare Services Ltd and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Ltd. for enhancing healthcare accessibility and affordability of product for its customers.**

3. RBI defers implementing rules on exchange-traded forex derivatives to May 3

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deferred the implementation of norms on exchange-traded currency derivatives (ETCDs) linked to Indian rupee until May 3 following concerns by investors.**

- The norms were scheduled to take effect starting 5 April. Now, rupee-denominated currency contracts traded on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the BSE require underlying exposure.

- Though traders are not required to provide evidence of underlying exposure for positions up to \$100 million , they must confirm the existence of such exposure.

- As hitherto, participants with a valid underlying contracted exposure can continue to enter into ETCDs involving the rupee up to a limit of \$100 million without having to produce documentary evidence of the underlying exposure.

- As per RBI the regulatory framework for participation in ETCDs involving the rupee is guided by the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act,1999, and regulations framed thereunder, which mandate that currency derivative contracts involving rupee "both over-the-counter and exchange traded "are permitted only for the purpose of hedging of exposure to foreign exchange

4. Bandhan Mutual Fund announces launch of the Bandhan Innovation Fund

- Bandhan Mutual Fund (MF) announced the launch of the **Bandhan Innovation Fund**. The scheme will open for subscription on April 10 and will invest in companies with substantial R&D investment, high skilled-employee costs, potentially higher margins or growth, unique products or services, non-linear business models, and a notable brand presence.

- "The fund will allocate its investments across a spectrum of innovators: 35-45 per cent to leading innovators with substantial industry R&D investments; 35-45 per cent to rising innovators utilising

innovation for a competitive edge; and 10-15 per cent to emerging innovators," the fund house said in a release.

5. RBI Projects Consumer Price Index Inflation For This Fiscal At 4.5%

- **Shaktikanta Das announced the Bi-Monthly Monetary policy said the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent. Consequently, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate remains at 6.25 per cent and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate and the Bank Rate at 6.75 per cent.**

- The Governor said, real GDP growth for 2024-25 is projected at 7.0 per cent with Quarter 1 at 7.1 per cent; Quarter 2 at 6.9 per cent; Quarter 3 at 7.0 per cent; and Quarter 4 also at 7.0 per cent.
- CPI inflation for 2024-25 is projected at 4.5 per cent. Mr. Das said, that two years ago, around this time, CPI inflation had peaked at 7.8 per cent in April 2022.

6. RBI proposes to make CBDC-R accessible to non-bank payments system operators

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed to make Central Bank Digital Currency-Retail (CBDC-R) accessible to a broader population by allowing non-bank payment system operators to offer CBDC wallets.**
- Non-bank payment system operators include third-party payment applications like PhonePe, Google Pay, etc.

CBDC programme: -

- The RBI launched the CBDC pilot programme in 2022. The Indian CBDC, also known as digital rupee, is a tokenised digital version of the rupee issued by the RBI.
- The main objective is to mitigate the risks and trim costs in handling physical currency, costs of phasing out soiled notes, transportation, insurance and logistics.

7. RBI projects GDP growth at 7%, inflation at 4.5% for FY 2024-2025

- **While announcing the bi-monthly monetary policy, the Reserve Bank of India has said, the Consumer Price Index inflation for 2024- 25 is projected at 4.5 per cent.**
- The real GDP growth for 2024-25 is projected at 7.0 percent with Quarter 1 at 7.1 percent; Quarter 2 at 6.9 percent; Quarter 3 at 7.0 percent; and Quarter 4 also at 7.0 percent.
- Consumer Price Index (CPI) is one of the price indices used to measure the change in the retail prices of goods and services consumed by a defined population group in a given area.
- The National Statistical Office (NSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation compiles CPI separately for rural, urban, and combined sectors on a monthly basis.

8. Consumer confidence for year ahead improves further: RBI survey

- Consumer confidence for the year ahead has improved further on the back of higher optimism, which resulted in the Future Expectations Index (FEI) rising by 2.1 points to 125.2, the highest level since mid-2019, according to a Reserve Bank of India survey conducted in March 2024.

- Households' sentiments on the general economic situation and employment prospects recorded notable improvements for both the current period as well as the upcoming year. The Reserve Bank released the results of the March 2024 round of its bi-monthly Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS) along with the monetary policy review. Female respondents accounted for 50.8%
- The RBI in a statement said the survey collects current perceptions and one-year-ahead expectations of households on general economic situation, employment scenario, overall price situation, own income and spending across **19 major cities**. The latest round of the survey was conducted during March 2-11, 2024, covering 6,083 respondents.

9. RBI penalises IDFC First Bank, LIC Housing Finance for non-compliance

- **RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs. 1 crore on IDFC First Bank for non-compliance with certain directions on 'Loans and Advances' Statutory and Other Restrictions'. The Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation for FY22 revealed that the bank had sanctioned term loans to a public sector undertaking for financing infrastructure projects without undertaking due diligence.**
- **The central bank also fined LIC Housing Finance Rs. 49.7 lakh for breach of norms.** The housing finance company did not comply with certain provisions of the Fair Practices Code when it did not disclose the rate of interest and approach for gradation of risk and rationale for charging different rate of interest to different categories of borrowers in loan application forms.

10. RBI cancels four NBFCs' certificate of registration

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on April 5 said it has cancelled certificate of registration of four non-banking finance companies (NBFCs). These NBFCs are Kundles Motor Finance Pvt Ltd, Nithya Finance Ltd, Bhatia Hire Purchase Pvt Ltd, and Jiwanyoti Deposits and Advances Limited,**
- In a separate notification, the central bank said five NBFCs have surrendered their licences due to exit from NBFC business. These NBFCs are Growing Opportunity Finance (India) Pvt Ltd, Invel Commercial Pvt. Ltd, Mohan Finance Ltd, Saraswati Properties Ltd, and Quicker Marketing Pvt Ltd, release said.

11. Union Bank raises Rs 42,000 cr from DIFC to fund overseas business growth

- **State-owned Union Bank of India said it has raised \$500 million (about Rs 4,200 crore) from foreign markets to fund overseas business growth. The fund was arranged by Dubai International Financial Centre, Dubai Branch, Union Bank of India said in a regulatory filing. A syndicated term loan of \$ 500 million would be drawn in two tranches with tenure of 3 and 5 years.**

12. Private equity firm Bain Capital to sell remaining Axis Bank holding

- **Private equity firm Bain Capital will offload its remaining 1.08 per cent stake (33.37 million shares) in Axis Bank. The price range for the share sale has been set at Rs 1,071 - Rs 1,076 per share, a discount of up to 0.47 per cent to Axis Bank's last close of Rs 1,076 per share. BofA Securities India is the sole investment bank handling the transaction.**

13. SBI, Standard Chartered do a CDS trade under new RBI norms

- **Marking the first such transaction after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued fresh guidelines for the instrument, State Bank of India and Standard Chartered Bank India carried out a Credit Default Swap (CDS) trade worth Rs. 25 crore. The trade involved a 1-year rupee CDS featuring REC.**

- Credit default swaps are derivative instruments that provide a form of insurance against the risk of default of the issuer of a bond.

14. HDFC becomes first private bank to open branch in Lakshadweep

- **HDFC Bank opened a branch at Kavaratti Island in Lakshadweep, making it the only private sector bank to have a branch in the Union Territory.** HDFC Bank has branches in the cold climates of Kashmir, the southern tip of Kanyakumari and now the island of Lakshadweep - a prominent tourist place. As of December 31, 2023, the HDFC Bank's distribution network was at 8,091 branches.

15. PSU banks beat private peers in market capitalisation gains during Q4

- **State-owned banks beat their private-sector peers, posting the highest gains in their market capitalisation in Q4 FY24, on the back of improved financial metrics. The government's focus on long-term projects also largely benefits state-owned lenders, S&P Market Intelligence said in a note.**
- **15 of the 20 largest banks in India logged gains in market capitalisation, with 13 of them posting double-digit increases.** Market capitalisation of all PSU banks, on the list of the country's 20 largest banks, improved from the previous quarter. **Indian Overseas Bank led the country's 20 largest banks with a 38.5% sequential increase in market cap to Rs. 1.13-lakh crore.**
- **Punjab & Sind Bank and Bank of Maharashtra ranked second and third, with gains of 38.4 per cent and 38.1 per cent, respectively.** On the other hand, only ICICI Bank and Yes Bank saw an improvement among private banks, posting single digit growth in market capitalisation.

16. RBI rejects two applications for small finance bank

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has rejected two more applications, including that of Dvara Kshetriya Gramin Financial Services, for setting up small finance banks. Earlier in July 2023, it had rejected three applications. RBI had received about a dozen applications to set up banks under the guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Universal Banks and Small Finance Banks (SFBs).**
- The guidelines for 'on tap' licensing of Universal Banks and SFBs in the private sector were issued on August 1, 2016, and December 5, 2019, respectively. In a statement, the RBI said the examination of two more applications for setting up a small finance bank has been completed as per the procedure laid down under extant guidelines.

17. Revolut gets RBI nod to issue Prepaid Payment Instruments in India

- **Revolut India on 12 April said that it has received an in-principal authorization from the Reserve Bank of India to issue Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) including prepaid cards and prepaid wallets in the country.** Revolut, a London-based neobank and financial technology company, has been gearing up for its entry into India, working closely with the RBI over the past 2 years.
- This approval builds upon the existing licences which Revolut India has successfully obtained from RBI to operate as a Category-II Authorised Money Exchange Dealer (AD II) and to be able to provide multi-currency forex cards and cross-border remittance services.

18. Japan-based MUFG to acquire 20% stake in HDFC Bank's non-banking arm at close \$10 bn valuation

- **The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (MUFG) is getting ready to acquire a 20 per cent stake in HDB Financial Services, a non-banking subsidiary of HDFC Bank, at a valuation of \$9-10 billion.** HDFC Bank, the country's largest private lender, **currently owns around 95 per cent of HDB Financial**

Services, with the remaining 5% held by employees under an Employee Stock Ownership plan.

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19. CAMS gets RBI's nod to operate as an online payment aggregator

- **Computer Age Management Services Ltd** said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted **authorisation to the company to operate as an online payment aggregator**. It has received it after the business became regulated consequent to the issue of 'Guidelines on Regulation of Payment Aggregators and Payment Gateways' (Guidelines) in March 2020.

20. Bank of India signs pact with IMGC for mortgage guarantee on home loans

- **Public sector lender Bank of India and Indian Mortgage Guarantee Corporation have signed a pact to provide mortgage guarantee-backed home loan products in the affordable housing segment**. It will cover salaried and self-employed home loan customers. IMGC will mitigate the risk of defaults for the bank, allowing it to potentially offer more favourable loan term to borrowers.

21. UCB advances to priority sector up over 27% in FY23, shows RBI data

- **The advances of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) to the priority sector surged more than 27 per cent in the financial year 2023, compared to the previous year, the Reserve Bank of India's annual 'Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks' Outlook 2022-23' showed.**
- The RBI report put the advances for UCBs in FY23 at Rs 2.2 trillion, up from Rs 1.73 trillion in FY22.
- A majority of the advances of UCBs was given to MSMEs (micro, small & medium enterprises), amounting to Rs 1.3 trillion in FY23 against Rs 1 trillion in FY22.
- **Of the total lending by UCBs to the priority sector, almost 40 per cent was to the MSMEs in FY23 compared to 34.27 per cent last year. Within MSMEs, micro enterprises had the highest share at 17.23 per cent.**

22. India's outward FDI rises to \$3.91 billion in March, shows RBI data

- **India's outward foreign direct investment commitments rose significantly to \$3.91 billion in March 2024, compared to \$2.63 billion in March 2023. Sequentially, they were also higher than \$3.67 billion in February 2024,** according to Reserve Bank of India data. Outbound FDI, expressed as a financial commitment, comprises three components: equity, loans, and guarantees.

23. RBI issues draft norms for offline payment aggregators, moots '15-cr net worth

- **The Reserve Bank of India has issued two draft directions on regulation of Payment Aggregators (PA), pertaining to physical Point-of-Sale (PoS) activities of these players, net worth and licensing requirements. The payments ecosystem in India includes online PAs (PA - O) and those which facilitate face-to-face or proximity payment transactions ((PA - P).**
- The draft guidelines mandate PA-P banks to comply with the final norms within three months of issue whereas non-bank entities providing PA-P services will need to inform RBI about their intention to seek authorisation within 60 days of the circular being issued and submit an application by May 2025.
- **Non-banks providing PA-P services will need a minimum net worth of Rs. 15 crores at the time of application and a minimum net worth of Rs. 25 crores by March 31, 2028.** It also said that for face-to-face/proximity payment transactions done using cards, shall store the card-on-file data from August 1, 2025.

24. Fitch affirms 'BBB-' rating for SBI, Canara Bank; outlook stable

- **Fitch Ratings affirmed the long-term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) of both State Bank of India (SBI) and Canara Bank at 'BBB-' and said the outlook looks stable. Fitch has also affirmed SBI's**

Viability Rating (VR) at 'BB' and Government Support Rating (GSR) of 'BBB'- . The PSU bank stock was trading 1% lower at Rs 749.

- The IDR rating of BBB- denotes that the banks have adequate capacity for payment of financial commitments. Fitch has projected bright profitability prospects for both lenders.

25. RBI now allows gold hedging in overseas markets

- The RBI has decided to permit resident entities to hedge exposure to price risk of gold using OTC derivatives in the IFSC, in addition to the derivatives on exchanges in the IFSC. The banking regulator issued a circular on April 15 in this regard. This is to provide further flexibility to resident entities to hedge their exposures to the price risk of gold.
- Earlier, resident entities were permitted to hedge their exposure to the price risk of gold on exchanges in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) recognised by the International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA).

26. RBI to allow foreign investors in IFSC to invest in Sovereign Green Bonds

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a move that's set to accelerate India's green initiatives. Foreign investors operating within the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) can now invest in Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs). India raised two tranches of sovereign green bonds amounting to Rs 16000 crore across two maturities in 2023.**

- Based on an announcement in the Union Budget for 2022-23, the government issued Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) in January 2023. Subsequently, SGrBs were issued as part of the government borrowing calendar in 2023-24. These bonds, known as sovereign green bonds, are issued by the central bank to finance green initiatives.

27. RBI imposes Rs 60.3 lakh penalty on five co-operative banks

- **The Reserve Bank has imposed penalties totaling Rs 60.3 lakh on five co-operative banks for contravention of various regulatory norms.**
- A penalty of Rs 43.30 lakh has been imposed on Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank for non-compliance with RBI directions on 'ban on loans and advances to directors and their relatives, and firms/concerns in which they are interested'.
- The central bank has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 5 lakh each on The Kangra Co-operative Bank (New Delhi), Rajdhani Nagar Sahkari Bank (Lucknow), and Zila Sahakari Bank, Garhwal (Kotdwar, Uttarakhand). Besides, a penalty of Rs 2 has been imposed on District Co-operative Bank (Dehradun).

28. RBI Policy Committee Flags Inflation Concerns; March Retail Inflation at 10-Month Low

- **The majority of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) monetary policy committee members expressed caution on upside risks to inflation, particularly emanating from uncertainties in food prices, at the panel's policy review, showed the minutes of the meeting on April 19. In March, India's retail inflation eased to a ten-month low of 4.85 per cent, as against 5.09 per cent in February.**
- This data was released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on April 12.
- The inflation numbers were lowest since May 2023, when it was at 4.31 per cent.
- **The RBI projected CPI inflation for 2024-25 at 4.5 per cent with Q1 at 4.9 per cent; Q2 at 3.8 per cent; Q3 at 4.6 per cent; and Q4 at 4.5 per cent.**

29. Three Indian banks in top 50 banks in Asia-Pacific by assets

- **Indian banks have been among the best-performing lenders among peers in Asia. Three Indian lenders made it to the list of top 50 banks by assets in the Asia-Pacific region in 2023, up from two in 2022. The aggregate assets of the lenders rose sharply by 50.5% y/y to \$1.51 trillion in 2023. The State Bank of India is at 20th position, HDFC Bank at 33 and ICICI Bank at 48.**
- The aggregate assets of the lenders rose sharply by 50.5% to \$1.510 trillion in 2023. A large part of the increase was due to the merger of HDFC Bank Ltd. with its parent Housing Development Finance Corp. Ltd. in July 2022. HDFC Bank's assets jumped 51.3% to \$466.35 billion after the merger, propelling the bank up 13 places to 33 in the top 50 ranking.

30. Airtel Payments Bank Launches NCMC-Enabled Debit And Prepaid Cards

- **Airtel Payments Bank has announced the launch of its NCMC (National Common Mobility Cards) enabled debit and pre-paid cards in association with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). These cards are powered by RuPay.**
- The bank said customers can use any of the cards to make payments at all merchant establishments, online (e-commerce), as well as offline NCMC transit transactions at metros, buses, parking, etc across the country.
- The card also facilitates the issuance of concessions and monthly passes wherever supported by the transport operator.

31. CRED Secures In-Principle Approval For Payment Aggregator License

- **Fintech firm Cred has received in-principal approval from the RBI for the payment aggregation (PA) business. Once it gets the final approval, the Peak XV-backed Bengaluru-based startup, which primarily runs a credit card bill payment platform for creditworthy customers, can double down on the merchant payments business too, joining the ranks of Razorpay and Cashfree.**
- According to the RBI, Payment Aggregates (PAs) are entities that facilitate e-commerce sites and merchants' acceptance of various payment instruments from customers to complete their payment obligations without the need for merchants to create a separate payment integration system.

32. RBI declines Annapurna Finance's universal bank request

- **The Reserve Bank of India, in a cautious move, declined Annapurna Finance Limited's application for a universal bank license made in January 2023.** The regulator, expressing hesitation about awarding a full-service bank license to the Odissa-based lender, largely focusing on microfinance loans, gave Annapurna Finance the option to become a small finance bank.
- UBs are financial entities like commercial banks, financial institutions, NBFCs, etc. that undertake multiple financial transactions. Any individual/entity with at least 10 years of experience in banking and finance at the senior level or private entities with 10 years of successful track record are eligible to apply for on-tap licensing as UBs.
- Secondly, aspiring entities ought to have assets of Rs. 5000 crore or above. Thirdly, the required net worth is Rs. 500 crore that has to be maintained at all times. However, large industrial houses are restricted to only invest in UBs up to 10% only. UBs and SFBs are subject to Banking Regulation Act, RBI Act, and all statutes as applicable to banking entities.

33. SBI Card introduces inaugural travel-centric core credit card 'MILES'

- **SBI Card introduced its inaugural travel-centric core credit card, 'SBI Card MILES.** The card promises comprehensive travel benefits, including the conversion of Travel Credits to Air Miles and Hotel Points, enhanced rewards on all travel bookings, and access to airport lounges. The bank has partnered with more than 20 leading airline and hotel brands.

34. PayU gets RBI's in-principle approval to operate as payment aggregator

- Prosus-backed fintech PayU, received an in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a payment aggregator. In January last year, the banking regulator had asked the fintech company to reapply for a payment aggregator licence. The company's complex corporate structure was one reason why the RBI asked it to reapply for the licence.

35. RBI directs Kotak Mahindra Bank to cease issue of fresh credit cards, bars onboarding of new online customers

- The Reserve Bank of India has directed Kotak Mahindra Bank to cease issue of fresh credit cards, with immediate effect. The Apex Bank has restricted the onboarding of new customers via online and mobile banking channels. According to the RBI press release, these actions are necessitated based on significant concerns arising out of RBI's IT Examination for 2022 and 2023.
- The continued failure on the part of the Bank to address these concerns in a comprehensive and timely manner. It added that for two consecutive years, the said bank was assessed to be deficient in its IT Risk and Information Security Governance, contrary to requirements under Regulatory guidelines.
- It said that during the subsequent assessments, the bank was found to be significantly non-compliant with the Corrective Action Plans issued by the Reserve Bank for the years 2022 and 2023, as the compliances submitted by the said Bank were found to be either inadequate, incorrect or not sustained.

36. RBI's compiled master direction on ARCs to be effective from April 24

- **RBI released a master direction for asset reconstruction companies, saying the guidelines will be effective from April 24, 2024**
- ARCs are expected to have a minimum capital requirement of Rs 300 crore, compared to Rs 100 cr as of October 11, 2022. Existing ARCs have been provided a glide path to achieve the minimum required Net Owned Fund of Rs 300 cr as of March 31, 2026.
- ARCs with a minimum NOF of Rs 1000 crore can act as resolution applicants.
- They are allowed to deploy funds in government securities and deposits with scheduled commercial banks, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) or such other entities as may be specified by the central bank from time to time.
- ARCs can also invest in short-term instruments like money market mutual funds, certificates of deposit and corporate bonds/ commercial papers which have a short-term rating equivalent to the long-term rating of AA- or above by an eligible credit rating agency. Investments will be subject to a cap of 10% of the NOF on maximum investment in such short-term instrument.

37. RBI directs Talkcharge to stop PPI, wallet issuance; refund balances

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed fintech firm Talkcharge Technologies to stop the issuance and operation of its Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) or wallets, and refund the balances held in them to customers by May 17 this year.**

- This has come after the central bank observed that the firm is issuing wallets without its permission.
- The RBI had directed the Gurugram-based firm to refund the prepaid amount lying in the wallets to the customers in an order dated April 2, 2024.
- The regulator also pointed out that the company had issued a legal notice to its customers demanding the return of cashback while threatening them that failure to do so would result in the matter being reported to the RBI.

38. Crisil's ESG ratings unit gets Sebi's approval for ESG scoring

• **The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has approved Crisil ESG Ratings & Analytics as a Category 1 provider of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) ratings. Crisil ESG Ratings, a unit of Crisil, was incorporated after Sebi amended the SEBI (Credit Rating Agencies) Regulations, 1999, to include provisions on ESG Rating Providers (ERPs) last year.**

- The rating provider launched its ESG scoring business in 2021 and now tracks over 1,000 companies across 65 sectors.
- The company said this business will now be transferred to the subsidiary Crisil ESG Ratings.
- **ESG scores indicate a company's sustainability and ethical practices, guiding asset managers and investors in selecting companies that meet their ESG criteria.**
- Sebi has established two rating entity categories based on their financial status and roles.
- The goal was to guarantee transparent, practical, accurate methodologies aligned with the Indian environment. As per Sebi, the accredited rating agency is required to publish its evaluation methodology for all ESG ratings on its official website.
- Besides, the principal shareholder of an ESG rating agency is mandated to retain a minimum ownership interest of 26% in said agency for at least five years subsequent to receiving regulatory approval.

39. AU SFB launches multiple products like credit cards with exclusive features

- In a bid to increase fee income, **AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) launched an array of products including Rupay credit card and ATM insurance.**
- Among the latest offerings are two innovative credit cards: the AU SPONT Rupay Credit Card and Secured Credit Card - NOMO (No Missing Out), developed in collaboration with NPCI and VISA, respectively.
- **First time in Indian banking industry, AU SFB has launched ATM Insurance, for the convenience of customers to buy insurance through AU SFB's ATMs** with their debit card. AU SFB have also launched WhatsApp Insurance where customer will get policy instantly using WhatsApp platform.

40. IndusInd Bank successfully executes RBI's programmable CBDC pilot

- **IndusInd Bank announced the successful execution of the Reserve Bank of India's programmable Central Bank Digital Currency pilot, marking the first such instance by any bank.**
- It is done in collaboration with Circularity Innovation Hub India Private Limited, involved an alternate form of CBDC wherein the bank can program the end use of funds, specifically targeting farmers.
- As a part of this pilot, IndusInd Bank initiated the programmable CBDC disbursement to 50 farmers in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra and will cover around 1,000 farmers going ahead, marking a milestone in the adoption of innovative financial solutions for the agriculture sector.

41. RBI proposes tighter norms for LSPs offering multiple loan products

• **The Reserve Bank of India has issued a draft circular proposing the framework for aggregation of loan products by lending service providers (LSPs) in order to ensure complete transparency for borrowers in the credit intermediation process.**

• The central bank said it has observed that many LSPs -- and regulated entities (RE) acting as LSPs -- offer aggregation services for loan products through outsourcing arrangements with several lenders. Herein, the Digital Lending App/ Platform (DLA) of the LSP/RE matches the borrower to one of the lenders.

• As per the proposed norms, regulated entities will need to ensure that LSPs provide a digital view of all the loan offers available as per the borrowers' requirements, from all willing and partner LSPs. While the LSP may adopt any mechanism to ascertain the willingness of the lenders to offer a loan, it shall follow a consistent approach which has been disclosed on website.

42. RBI lays out norms for voluntary conversion of SFBs into universal banks

• RBI came out with guidelines for the voluntary conversion of small finance banks into universal banks.

• The 'Guidelines for 'on-tap' Licensing of SFBs in Private Sector', dated December 5, 2019, provide a transition path for SFBs to become universal banks.

• **To be eligible for conversion into a universal bank, the RBI stipulates that only listed SFBs will qualify.**

• **Those intending to convert must have a minimum net worth of Rs 1,000 crore. Also, the SFBs must have a scheduled status and a satisfactory track record of at least five years with a gross non-performing asset (NPA) of 3 per cent or less and a net NPA of 1 per cent or less in the past two financial years.**

• These instructions are issued under Section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

• SFBs must have reported a net profit in the past two financial years and met the prescribed capital adequacy norms.

• The RBI requires SFBs to provide a detailed rationale for their desire to convert into universal bank. Those with a diversified loan portfolio will be preferred.

• The application for transition from SFB to universal bank shall be assessed in accordance with the Guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Universal Banks in the Private Sector dated August 1, 2016, as applicable, and RBI (Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies) Directions, 2023, dated January 16, 2023, as amended from time to time.

43. Hitachi Payment Services announces launch of upgradable ATM

• **Hitachi Payment Services, one of leading names in payments and commerce solutions, announced the launch of the "country's first upgradable ATM." The company said that the upgradable ATM can be transformed into a high-performance cash recycling machine at any point in time.**

• "Manufactured under the Make in India initiative, these new upgradable ATMs provide more flexibility.

• The upgradable ATM will allow banks to safeguard their investment and expand their services to include cash deposit facilities at offsite locations later, based on their business needs and local market conditions.

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Economy

1. Credit cards breach the 100 million mark in India, shows RBI data

- **In February 2024, the total number of credit cards issued by banks in India surpassed the 100 million mark, with an addition of 1.1 million cards from the previous month. According to the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India, the outstanding number of credit cards in the system stood at 100.60 million.**
- HDFC Bank emerged as the leader in credit card issuances, with 20.40 million cards. HDFC Bank's credit card transactions dropped to Rs 40,288.51 crore from Rs 43,711.47 crore in January. Similarly, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, and SBI Card all reported decreases in transactions compared to the previous month.

2. UAE, Russia, and Saudi Among the Top Importers of Indian Engineering Goods

- **A near-doubling of engineering goods exports to Russia in April-February 2023-24 and an increase in shipments to free trade partner countries the UAE and Australia have led to a 1.23 per cent growth in exports (year-on-year) from this segment, at \$98.03 billion, despite an overall decline in goods exports during the period.**
- Exports to the US and China, two important markets for Indian engineering items, however, declined in the eleven-month period this fiscal, as per an analysis by EEPIC India. Engineering exports to the US in April-February 2023-24 declined 7 per cent to \$15.95 billion, but the region remained the top destination. Shipments to China, the eleventh in size, fell 1 per cent.
- **India's engineering exports achieved year-on-year growth for the third straight month in February 2024 and the rate of growth at 15.9 per cent was the highest in fiscal 2023-24. In February 2024, engineering exports were at \$ 9.94 billion the second highest export in fiscal 2023-24 after December 2023, the analysis noted.**
- The UAE was the second largest market for India with engineering exports rising 16 per cent in the first eleven months to \$5.22 billion. Saudi Arabia was the third largest market with exports of engineering items spiking 75 per cent to \$4.62 billion in April-February 2023-24. India's overall goods exports in April-February 2023-24 contracted 3.45% to \$394.99 billion.

3. Second highest monthly Gross GST Revenue collection in March at '1.78 lakh crore; Records 11.5% y-o-y growth (18.4% on net basis)

- Gross Good and Services Tax (GST) revenue for March 2024 witnessed the second-highest collection ever at '1.78 lakh crore, with an 11.5% year-on-year growth. This surge was driven by a significant rise in GST collection from domestic transactions at 17.6%. GST revenue net of refunds for March 2024 is Rs. 1.65 lakh crore which is the growth of 18.4% over the same period last year.
- Strong Consistent Performance in FY 2023-24: FY 2023-24 marks a milestone with total gross GST collection of Rs. 20.18 lakh crore exceeding Rs. 20 lakh crores, an 11.7% increase compared to the previous year. The average monthly collection for this fiscal year stands at Rs. 1.68 lakh crore, surpassing the previous year's average of Rs. 1.5 lakh crore.

Breakdown of March 2024 Collections:

- Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST): Rs. 34,532 crores;
- State Goods and Services Tax (SGST): Rs. 43,746 crores;
- Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST): Rs. 87,947 crores, including Rs. 40,322 crores collected on

imported goods;

- Cess: Rs. 12,259 crores, including Rs. 996 crores collected on imported goods.

4. Jobs generated under MGNREGS up 4.8%

- **Work generation under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) increased 4.81% to 3.1 billion person-days in 2023-24 from 2.96 billion in the previous financial year, though individual demand for work remained nearly the same at 332.7 million, as against 331.5 million in 2022-23, showed the rural development ministry data.**
- The number of households that got work under the flagship rural jobs scheme increased 5.76% to 230.4 million in 2023-24 from 217.9 million in FY23. Household demand for work under the scheme went up 2.7% to 265.6 million in 2023-24 from 258.5 million in 2022-23.

5. World Bank Projects India's Economy to Grow At 7.5 Per Cent In 2024

- **The Indian economy is projected to grow at 7.5 per cent in 2024, the World Bank has said, revising its earlier projections for the same period by 1.2 per cent. According to the report, South Asia is expected to remain the fastest-growing region in the world for the next two years, with growth projected to be 6.1 per cent in 2025.**
- According to the World Bank's most recent South Asia Development Update, overall growth in South Asia is forecast to be strong at 6 per cent in 2024, driven mostly by robust development in India and recoveries in Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

6. Adani Green becomes India's first company with 10,000 MW RE capacity

- Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has commissioned 2,000 MW of solar capacity at the giant Khavda solar park in Gujarat that has made it the first company in India with over 10,000 MW of renewable energy capacity. The company now has an operating portfolio of 10,934 MW, largest in India. It has brought 2,848 MW of renewables capacity on stream in FY24.

7. Securitisation volumes for FY24 grows 4% to Rs. 1.88-lakh crore: ICRA

- **The overall securitisation volumes for FY24 grew 4 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) to Rs. 1.88-lakh crore despite the exit of the previous year's largest originator ' HDFC, following its merger with HDFC Bank, according to ICRA. The securitisation volumes are projected to comfortably cross Rs. 2-lakh crore in FY25 due to an increase in participation by banks as originators.**
- The rating agency noted that securitisation volumes in Q4 (January-March) FY24 witnessed a healthy growth of 26 per cent over the preceding quarter, rising to Rs. 48,000 crores. ICRA assessed that the share of pass-through certificates (PTCs) rose to 57 per cent of the market for FY24 against 40 per cent observed in the past couple of years, mainly due to the exit of HDFC.

8. ADB ups India GDP forecast to 7% for FY25 on investments, consumer demand

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) upgraded India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for 2024-25 (FY25) to 7 per cent from 6.7 per cent earlier, citing better prospects of robust public and private investment and strong services sector growth. The forecast is part of the latest edition of ADB's flagship economic publication, Asian Development Outlook April 2024.
- The ADB's projection is in line with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) estimate of 7 per cent growth in FY25. The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee last week said an expected normal south-west monsoon should support agricultural activity.

9. Moody's Analytics projects India's economy to expand by 6.1% in 2024

● Moody's Analytics has projected a slight uptick in the Indian economy's growth for calendar year 2024 to 6.1 per cent from 6 per cent in March this year, lower than the growth clocked in 2023. The rating agency's arm said that India's recent consumer price inflation at around 5 per cent was without clear evidence of a trend towards slowing price pressures.

● The report also said that the Asia-Pacific region is faring relatively well compared to the rest of the world. **The report forecasts 3.8 per cent growth for the APAC economy in 2024, in contrast to the global economy's 2.5 per cent growth.**

● The Moody's report also said that while China and Japan are held back by weak domestic demand, the performance of India and ASEAN economies is flattered by a delayed post-pandemic rebound. The agency said that output in India remains 4 per cent lower than it would have been without the pandemic and its various aftershocks' from supply snags to military conflicts abroad.

10. Industrial production grows 5.7 per cent in Feb

● **India's industrial production grew 5.7 per cent in February 2024, according to official data released. The factory output measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) witnessed a growth of 6 per cent in February 2023. The data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed that the manufacturing sector's output grew 5 per cent in February 2024.**

● In February this year, mining production rose 8 per cent, and power output increased 7.5 per cent. The IIP grew 5.9 per cent during April 2023-February 2024 compared to a 5.6 per cent expansion in the year- ago period.

11. India's exports estimate to reach 776.68 billion dollars in financial year 2023-24

● India's overall exports are estimated to reach 776.68 billion dollars in financial year 2023-24, surpassing last year's highest record. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a release that that the overall exports in the preceding financial year, 2022-23, were 776.40 Billion dollars.

● The Ministry added that overall imports in the FY 2023-24 are estimated to be 854.80 Billion dollars, exhibiting a negative growth of minus 4.81 per cent compared to the preceding financial year. It further said that the overall trade deficit is estimated to significantly improve by 35.77 per cent, from 121.62 Billion dollars in FY 2022-23 to 78.12 Billion in FY 2022-23

12. WPI inflation scales 3-month high of 0.53% in March 2024

● India's wholesale inflation, based on the Wholesale Price Index, remained in positive territory for the fifth month after remaining in the negative zone for seven months until October. The annual rate of inflation based on all India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) numbers is 0.53 per cent (provisional) for March 2024 (over March 2023).

● The positive rate of inflation in March 2024 is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, electricity, crude petroleum and natural gas, machinery and equipment and other manufacturing. The government releases index numbers of wholesale prices on a monthly basis on the 14th of every month (or the next working day).

13. India's electronics exports increase 23.6% to \$29.12 billion in FY24

● **India exported electronics goods worth \$29.12 billion in 2023-24 (FY24), up 23.6 per cent compared to a year ago, even as the country's total exports contracted 3 per cent. According to commerce department officials, the top five export market of electronics good are ' the US, United Arab Emirates, Netherland, United Kingdom, and Italy.**

- During FY24, exports also ventured into new markets, such as Montenegro, Cayman Islands, El Salvador, Turkmenistan, Mongolia, Honduras and St Vincent.

14. IMF Raises India's GDP Growth Projection to 6.8% for FY 2024-25

- The International Monetary Fund, raised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth projection to 6.8 per cent for the financial year (FY) 2024-25. In its update to the World Economic Outlook, the IMF has raised 30 basis points from its January forecast of 6.5 per cent.
- **In its report the IMF said that growth in India is projected to remain strong at 6.8% in FY 2024-25, and 6.5% in FY 2025-26** with the robustness reflecting continuing strength in domestic demand and a rising working-age population. It also said that the Global growth, estimated at 3.2 per cent in 2023, is projected to continue at the same pace in FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26.

15. NaBFID posts net profit of Rs 1,601 cr in FY24; loans stood at Rs 35,342 cr

- The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development reported a net profit of Rs 1,601.64 crore for the financial year ended March 2024 (FY24), up from Rs 1,046.39 crore in FY23. The year gone by (FY24) was the first full year of its business operations.
- **The government-owned lender's total income grew to Rs 3,083.97 crore in FY24, up from Rs 1,127.06 Cr in FY23.**
- The Government of India (GOI) set up NaBFID in April 2021 as India's fifth All India Financial Institution in the country to support the development of long-term non-recourse infrastructure financing in India. The authorised share capital of the Institution is Rs. 1 lakh crore, and GOI has already infused an initial capital of Rs. 20,000 crores along with a grant of Rs. 5,000 crores.

16. UNCTAD forecasts India's GDP growth at 6.5% in 2024

- **Indian economy is likely to carry forward the momentum in 2024, growing 6.5% compared with 6.7% in the previous year, United Nations Trade and Development noted in its latest report, revising India's growth forecast by 0.3 percentage points.** India's economy is buoyed by strong public investment and service sector growth, with a forecasted expansion of 6.5 per cent in 2024.

17. In electronics exports, Tamil Nadu jumps to top on Apple's India push

- **Driven by the aggressive India push from global major Apple, the southern state of Tamil Nadu has become the top state in terms of electronic goods exports in the financial year 2023-24, surpassing Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh. The state posted a 78 per cent increase in exports from \$5.37 billion in 2022-23 to \$9.56 billion in 2023-24.**
- In 2023-24, Karnataka became the number two exporting state with \$4.62 billion, contributing to 16 per cent of the national exports, followed by Uttar Pradesh with \$4.46 billion worth of exports and 15 per cent of the national share. The other top states in the list are Maharashtra (\$3.09 billion), Gujarat (\$2.75 billion), Delhi (\$1.51 billion), Haryana and Telangana.

18. India's economy to grow at 8-8.3 pc in current fiscal: PHDCCI

- **India's economy is estimated to grow at 8-8.3 per cent in the current fiscal, industry body PHDCCI said. The country's GDP will grow at an average of 6.7 per cent over the next 23 years to become a USD 34.7 trillion economy by 2047, with a per capita income of USD 21,000, it added.**

19. Net direct tax collection surges to over Rs 19 lakh cr during last fiscal

- India's net direct tax collections for FY 2023-24 surged 17.7 per cent to 19.58 lakh crore rupees compared to 16.64 lakh crore rupees in the previous financial year and surpassed the budget estimate for FY24 by 1.35 lakh crore rupees, or 7.4 per cent. The budget estimate for direct tax mop-up for the previous fiscal was fixed at 18.23 lakh crore rupees.
- **It was later revised upwards to 19.45 lakh crore rupees, and the provisional actual collections even exceeded the revised estimate by 13,000 crore rupees, the finance ministry said in a release.** The gross collection of direct taxes (before adjusting for refunds) for 2023'24 also registered a healthy growth of 18.5 percent, to 23.37 lakh crore rupees in FY23.
- In personal income taxes, gross mop-up stood at 12.01 lakh crore rupees, growing 24.26 percent on-year, while in net terms it grew 25.23 percent to 10.44 lakh crore rupees registered in the preceding year. The government has issued direct tax refunds of 3.79 lakh crore rupees in 2023-24, which is an increase of 22.74 percent compared to 3.09 lakh crore rupees it issued in.

20. Net FDI in India dips to \$14.55 billion in April 2023-February 2024

- In the same period last year (April 2022-February 2023), FDI inflows were at \$ 39.61 billion, while outflows had touched \$12.90 billion during the same period.
- Repatriation/disinvestment by those who made direct investments in India rose to \$38.30 billion in the 11-months of FY24 from \$27.17 billion in April 2022-February 2023, according to RBI data.
- **According to the 'State of Economy' report in RBI's monthly bulletin for April 2024, more than 60 per cent of the FDI equity flows were directed towards manufacturing, computer services, electricity and other energy, retail and wholesale trade, and financial services.**
- The major source countries were Singapore, Mauritius, the US, the Netherlands, Japan and the UAE, accounting for around 80 per cent of the flows. India ranked fourth among Emerging Market Economies (EMEs) in the 2024 FDI Confidence Index, reflecting continued optimism over its growth potential.

21. Credit card spends rise 27% to Rs 18.26 trillion in FY24: RBI data

- **Credit card spending surged 27 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to Rs 18.26 trillion in the financial year 2023-24 (FY24) from nearly Rs 14 trillion in the year-ago period, according to the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**
- In March 2024, credit card spending rose nearly 10.07 per cent to Rs 1.64 trillion from Rs 1.49 trillion in February.
- Among the top card players, the use of HDFC Bank's credit card was at Rs 43,471.29 crore in March, 8.57 per cent higher than Rs 40,288.51 crore in February. Similarly, Axis Bank posted 8.05 per cent growth in transactions to Rs 18,941.31 crore in March from Rs 17,528.97 crore in February.
- HDFC Bank is the leader in credit card issuances with the lender's cards in circulation standing at 20.59 million. Other major players include SBI Card with 18.89 million cards, ICICI Bank (16.95 million) and Axis Bank with 14.21 million cards.

22. FPI limit in G-sec unchanged at 6% of outstanding stocks of securities: RBI

- **RBI kept the investment limit by Foreign Portfolio Investors in government securities unchanged at 6 percent of the outstanding securities stocks for 2024-25.**

- Moreover, the central bank, in a statement, announced that it would maintain the FPI limits for investment in state government securities and corporate bonds **at 2% and 15%**, respectively, of the outstanding securities.
- **The allocation of incremental changes in the g-sec limit over the two sub-categories 'General' and 'Long-term' shall be retained at 50:50 for 2024-25.**
- Further, the aggregate limit of the notional amount of Credit Default Swaps sold by FPIs shall be 5 percent of the outstanding stock of corporate bonds. Accordingly, an additional limit of Rs 2,54,500 crore has been set.

23. Deloitte India pegs FY25 GDP growth at 6.6%, raises FY24 prediction

- **Consultancy major Deloitte raised its India GDP growth forecast for FY24 to 7.6-7.8% from its earlier forecast of 6.9-7.2%, anticipating higher consumption expenditure and economic activity.**
- The company said it expects India's GDP growth to be around 6.6% in FY25 and 6.75% in FY26.
- Deloitte's upward revision comes after several other entities including the IMF, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and S&P Global raised their forecasts for India's GDP growth in FY24. High growth numbers in the quarter caused India's National Statistical Office to raise its GDP growth estimate for FY24 from 7.3% in its first forecast to 7.6% in its second.

24. Economic think-tank NIPFP projects India's FY25 GDP growth at 7.1%

- **Economic think-tank National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) said it has estimated India's GDP growth at 7.1 per cent for the current fiscal, using high-frequency models.**
- The economic think tank said that in 2023-24, states' capex growth is robust due to significant capex transfers from the Centre.
- While the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Fitch Ratings have estimated India's growth at 7 per cent, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), S&P Global Ratings and Morgan Stanley projected a 6.8 per cent growth rate for FY25.

KP CLASSES

National

1. Vedanta's BALCO, first Indian company to be certified with ASI Performance Standard

- **Chhattisgarh-based Bharat Aluminum Company Limited (BALCO), a unit of Vedanta Aluminum, has emerged as the first Indian company to achieve the Aluminum Stewardship Initiative (ASI) Performance Standard V3 Certification for the manufacture and supply of a wide range of primary aluminum products at its facility in Korba.**

- The ASI Certification program was developed through an extensive multi-stakeholder consultation process and is the only comprehensive voluntary sustainability standard initiative for the global aluminum value chain. The ASI Performance Standard V3 defines 11 principles and 62 criteria under three sustainability pillars ' Environment, Social, and Governance.
- It aims to address sustainability areas in the aluminum value chain, such as biodiversity, indigenous peoples' rights, circularity and greenhouse gas emissions. The independent, third-party audit of Balco was carried out by CETIZION Verifica, stated the company.

2. Kodaikanal Solar Observatory celebrates 125 years of studying the Sun.

- The 125th anniversary of the iconic Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO) was celebrated on 1 April 2024 by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), to remember the history of KSO, felicitate its scientists, and honour its legacy was a milestone for astronomy in India.

- **Established on 1 April 1899** by the British, the Observatory has one of the longest continuous daily records of the Sun in the world, and this unique database has been digitised and is publicly available for astronomers from across the globe.
- Starting with these celebrations, IIA has planned a number of events over the coming months to highlight the Observatory's rich history, its diverse achievements, and its ongoing research. which in turn, arose from the **Madras Observatory established in 1792.**
- **Currently, KSO is operational as a field station under the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, which is an autonomous institution under the Department of Science and Technology. 1st April is also celebrated by Indian Institute of Astrophysics as its Foundation Day, commemorating when it was constituted as an institution under the Department of Science & Technology in 1971.**

3. India plans to cease importing urea by the end of 2025

- As a result of a significant push for domestic manufacturing, India will no longer import urea by the end of 2025, according to the Ministry Chemicals and Fertilisers.
- The government is currently working to promote alternative fertilisers including nanoliquid urea and nanoliquid di-ammonium phosphate.
- Using different fertilisers improves the health of the soil and crops.

4. **Miraj Sitar to Kutch Bandhani: GI tags cross 600 in FY24**

- The total number of geographical indications registered in India has crossed the 600-market in 2023-24 with as many as 63 GI registrations being issued by the Intellectual Property Office on a single day - March 30, 2024. Of the 1,158 applications filed over the past 20 years, 635 are now GI registered.
- With this, UP has now overtaken Tamil Nadu as the state with the highest number of GIs registered at 69, while TN now has 58 GIs. Out of the 63 GIs issued on March 30, 2024, by the IP office, Assam registered the highest number of GIs during FY24 at 19, followed by UP and Maharashtra with 16 each, Gujarat with five, Meghalaya with four and Tripura with two.
- **The sitars and tanpurās of Miraj, a small town in Maharashtra's Sangli district known for its craftsmanship in making musical instruments, have been awarded the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tags.**

5. **India eyes 100 GW nuclear power by 2047: AEC chairman**

- **India aims to increase its nuclear power production to 1 lakh MW by 2047, a significant jump from the current 8,000 MW.** This goal was highlighted by Atomic Energy Commission Chairman A K Mohanty at the release of a report on energy transitions. The report emphasized the need for nuclear power in India's energy transition.
- He said the breeder reactors would contribute 3 GW of nuclear power, while 17.6 GW would come from light water reactors built with international cooperation and another 40-45 GW would come from the pressurized heavy water reactors.

6. **'Experimental Licence Module for 100 5G Labs' launched at IIT Madras**

- **In a move to smoothen the processes for 100 5G Labs across academic institutions in India, one of the "Experimental Licence modules for 100 5G Labs" was launched during a 5G workshop at IIT Madras.** This initiative aims to simplify the experimental licence requirements for these institutions, facilitating smoother operations and fostering innovation in the 5G domain.
- The primary objective behind this initiative is to cultivate competencies and engagement in 5G technologies among students and start-up communities. These labs will be using 5G frequency bands for carrying out various experiments. **This license is currently being issued on 'Self-declaration Mode' from the Saralsanchar portal of DoT through the National Single Window System.**

7. **Citron becomes the first multinational carmaker to export EVs from India**

- **French carmaker Citron became the first multinational car manufacturer in India to export domestically made electric vehicles to the international market.** The company announced the commencement of exports of locally manufactured -C3. The initial shipment of 500 units of the Made-in- India Citron -C3 to Indonesia was ceremonially flagged from Kamarajar Port

8. **NIIF invests \$200 million in Ibus to boost digital infrastructure in India**

- The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) announced a USD 200 million (about Rs 1,660 crore) investment in digital infrastructure player Ibus Network and Infrastructure. Ibus will be deploying the funds to scale operations in an organic way by expanding its capacities and for inorganic growth.

9. **Adani Group Builds World's Largest Renewable Energy Park in Gujarat**

- Adani Green Energy Limited is developing a 30 GW renewable energy plant on barren land at Khavda in Kutch of Gujarat over an area of 538 sq km after which it would become the planet's largest power plant

regardless of the energy source. The area of the project in Khavda is five times the size of Paris and almost as large as Mumbai.

- The project was started in December 2022 and the first production was made on December 31, 2023. Adani Green Energy Limited will invest about Rs 1.5 lakh crore and Adani group will invest about Rs 2.3 lakh crore in renewable energy and manufacturing capacity by 2030.

10. Japanese consortium to invest \$370 mn in Natural Gas Transition Platform

- A Japanese consortium will invest \$370 million to acquire a minority stake in a platform that invests in companies developing city gas distribution networks in India, global infrastructure investor I Squared Capital. Osaka Gas, Sumitomo Corp and a Japanese government-private sponsored investment fund, will invest in Indian companies that develop natural gas infrastructure.

- **The platform, called the Natural Gas Transition Platform, has investments in last-mile city gas distribution businesses including THINK Gas and AG&P Pratham that are developing city gas infrastructure across 19 geographical areas covering 325,000 square kilometres**

11. CDP-SURAKSHA, a Digital Platform for Horticulture Subsidies launched

- The CDP-SURAKSHA is essentially a digital platform. SURAKSHA stands for 'System for Unified Resource Allocation, Knowledge, and Secure Horticulture Assistance.' The platform will allow an instant disbursement of subsidies to farmers in their bank account by utilising the e-RUPI voucher.

- **Under the Cluster Development Programme, the Indian government has launched a new platform for providing horticultural farmers with subsidies. It has been launched by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. It has database integration with PM-KISAN, cloud-based server space, NIC, UIDAI validation, eRUPI integration, local government directory, geo tagging & geo fencing.**

12. IIT Madras launches India's 1st mobile medical devices calibration facility

- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras launched India's first medical devices calibration facility on wheels. The initiative boosts the United National Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-3), which calls for health and well-being for all.**

- Calibration is key for life-saving medical devices as it will help check the accuracy of medical instruments for precise disease diagnosis, which will lead to improved treatments. The infrastructure in the mobile unit includes state-of-the-art equipment that will test the safety of medical devices as per international standards.

13. Hindustan Zinc becomes 3rd largest silver producer globally

- **Vedanta group firm Hindustan Zinc said it has become the third largest producer of silver globally.**

- As per a survey, its Sindesar Khurd Mine in Rajasthan now stands as the world's second-largest silver-producing mine, moving up from last year's fourth spot, the company said in a statement.

- **Hindustan Zinc, a Vedanta Group company in zinc, lead and silver businesses, is the world's second-largest integrated zinc producer and now the third-largest silver producer.** The company has a market share of 75 per cent of the growing zinc market in India with its headquarters in Udaipur along with zinc, lead mines and smelting complexes spread across Rajasthan.

14. Fin Min notifies FEMA tweaks to pave the way for new FDI limits in space sector

- The Finance Ministry notified amendments to the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019 to operationalise the new foreign direct investment limits for satellite-related activities. Up to 100 per cent FDI is now allowed under the automatic route for manufacturing of components and systems or sub-systems for satellites, ground segments and user segments.
- **Up to 74 per cent FDI is now permitted under the automatic route for satellite manufacturing and operation, satellite data products and Ground Segment and User Segment. FDI of over 74 per cent in these activities will require the government's approval.**
- Up to 49 per cent will be permitted under the automatic route for launch vehicles and associated systems or sub-systems and the creation of spaceports for launching and receiving spacecraft. Beyond this limit, government approval will be required.

15. SJVN Green Energy forms JV with Assam Power Distribution Company

- State-owned power producer SJVN Limited on said its wholly-owned arm SJVN Green Energy has incorporated a joint venture company with Assam Power Distribution Company to generate electricity from renewable sources. SJVN Green Energy will hold 51 per cent of SGEL Assam Renewable Energy.
- The joint venture company, SGEL Assam Renewable Energy, shall carry out business in the field of power generation from all renewable energy sources including hydropower by setting up power plants, SJVN said in a regulatory filing said.

16. Gi Tag To Kashi's Tirangi Barfi, 5 Other Items Of Up

- **Six more products from Uttar Pradesh have been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.**
- These include the famous 'Tirangi Barfi' of Kashi, a tricoloured sweet that was sold to prove a point by freedom fighters during the Quit India Movement. With these additions, UP retains its position as the state with the most GI-tagged products in India, reaching a total of 75.
- **The other products that received the certification in Uttar Pradesh include Banaras Metal Casting Craft, Lakhimpur Kheri Tharu Embroidery, Bareilly Cane and Bamboo Craft, Bareilly Zardozi Craft, and Pilkhuwa Hand Block Print Textile. Tamil Nadu follows behind with 58 GI products.**

17. PM inaugurates 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav on occasion of Mahaveer Jayanti

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative stamp and coin at the inauguration of the 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav, on the occasion of Mahaveer Jayanti at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- Bhagwan Mahavir, the 24th Tirthankar, illuminated the path of peaceful co-existence and universal brotherhood through Jain principles like Ahimsa (Non-Violence), Satya (Truthfulness), Asteya (Non-Stealing), Brahmacharya (Chastity) and Aparigraha (Non-attachment).

18. Indian Historical Records Commission (IHRC) Adopts a New Logo and Motto

- The Indian Historical Records Commission (IHRC), an apex advisory body on archival matters, acts as an all-India forum of creators, custodians and users of records to advise the Government of India on the management of records and their use for historical research.
- Established in 1919, the IHRC is headed by the Union Minister of Culture.

- **The logo signifies the theme and uniqueness of IHRC entirely. The pages in the shape of lotus petals represent IHRC as the resilient nodal institution for maintaining historical records. The Sarnath pillar in the middle represents India's glorious past. Brown as the colour theme reinforces the organization's mission of preserving, studying and honouring India's history. The motto translates as "Where history is preserved for the future."**

19. REC Limited avails SACE-Covered Green Loan for ~ 60.5 Billion Japanese Yen

- **In a significant step towards sustainable development in India, REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise and leading NBFC under the Ministry of Power, has successfully availed a Green Loan of Japanese Yen (JPY) 60.536 billion to finance eligible green projects in India.**
- The green loan facility benefits from an 80% guarantee by Italian Export Credit Agency, SACE (Italy) under their innovative Push Strategy programme.
- The arrangement between SACE and REC is a breakthrough and a first-of-its-kind collaboration between an Indian government entity and SACE.
- The green loan facility sets a benchmark in the Indian public sector landscape, for similar green financing transactions, highlighting a growing commitment to sustainable financing. The facility also marks SACE's first JPY-denominated loan transaction and first green loan transaction in India.
- Loan has loan participation from banks across Asia, USA and Europe, namely Credit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank, Bank of America, Citibank, KfW IPEX-Bank & Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation as Mandated Lead Arrangers. Credit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank would be acting as the Export Credit Agency Coordinator, Green Loan Coordinator & Documentation bank.

20. SJVN sets milestone with Inauguration of First Multi-purpose Green Hydrogen Pilot Project of the Nation

- **SJVN Limited has achieved a significant milestone with the inauguration of India's first Multi-purpose Green Hydrogen Pilot Project at SJVN's 1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station in Jhakri, Himachal Pradesh.**
- The green hydrogen produced from the project will be utilized for High Velocity Oxygen Fuel Coating Facility of NJHPS for meeting its combustion fuel requirements
- The first Multi-purpose (Combined Heat & Power) Green Hydrogen Generation Plant of the nation has been inaugurated by Chairperson and Managing Director, Smt. Geeta Kapur on April 24, 2024. The state-of-the-art Green Hydrogen Pilot Project is set to produce 14 kilograms of Green Hydrogen daily during 8 hours of operation.

21. NABARD unveils Climate Strategy 2030

- **NABARD unveiled its Climate Strategy 2030 document on the occasion of Earth Day.**
- The comprehensive strategy aims to address India's escalating need for green financing. Despite the pressing demand, where India requires approximately \$170 billion annually to reach a cumulative total of over \$2.5 trillion by 2030, current green finance inflows are critically insufficient.
- NABARD's Climate Strategy 2030 is structured around four key pillars to address this demand: (i) Accelerating Green Lending across sectors, (ii) Playing a broader Market-Making Role (iii) Internal Green Transformation of NABARD, and (iv) Strategic Resource Mobilization.

22. APSEZ's Vizhinjam Port gets nod to run as India's first transshipment hub

- **The Centre has given sanction to Adani's Vizhinjam Port in Kerala to operate as a transshipment port -- a first for the country.**

- A transshipment port is a crucial hub where cargo is transferred from one big vessel to several smaller ones before they reach the final port of discharge. It will now help India in its ambition to become a manufacturing hub.

KP CLASSES

International

1. Bulgaria and Romania partially join Europe's Schengen area

- **After a 13-year wait, Bulgaria and Romania have partially joined Europe's Schengen area of free movement. The two countries reached an agreement late last year to join the continent's free-travel area by air and sea after Austria opposed full membership, including land crossings, saying Romania and Bulgaria needed to do more to prevent irregular migration.**

- Created in 1985, the Schengen area allows more than 400 million people in the European Union to travel freely without internal border controls. One of the main aims of the Schengen area is to protect its citizens through increased cooperation between the police forces, customs authorities and external border control authorities of all the member states.
- Countries in Schengen area are: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

2. El-Sisi sworn in for third term as Egyptian president

- Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi sworn in for his third term as President. Sisi had won the Presidential election with 89.6 % of the vote in December last year. He is set to remain president until 2030. As Egypt has battled a deep economic crisis with the help of billions in overseas loans and investments, he pledged to build a modern and democratic state.

3. Democratic Republic Of Congo Appoints Judith Suminwa Tuluka As African Nation's First Woman Prime Minister

- **The Democratic Republic of Congo appointed Judith Suminwa Tuluka as the African nation's first woman Prime Minister.** President Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of Congo made the appointment. The authorities face a raft of challenges including a worsening conflict and humanitarian crisis in eastern regions and the management of Congo's considerable mineral wealth.

4. India removes export curbs on essential goods for Maldives

- India has removed export curbs on specified quantities of certain commodities like eggs, potatoes, onions, rice, wheat flour, sugar, and dal for Maldives in the current fiscal year. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), in a notification, said these exports have been permitted to Maldives under the bilateral trade agreement between countries during 2024-25. Maldives is an island and atoll in the Indian Ocean. Maldives capital city is Male.

5. The US and the UK sign agreement on AI safety testing

- The United States and the United Kingdom have recently signed an agreement to work together on developing tests for the most advanced artificial intelligence(AI) models.
- Under this agreement, both the countries will share vital information about the capabilities and risks associated with AI models and systems, fundamental technical research on AI safety and security, etc.

6. Zimbabwe launches new gold-backed currency - ZiG

- **Zimbabwe has introduced a new gold-backed currency called ZiG - the name stands for "Zimbabwe Gold". It is the latest attempt to stabilise an economy that has lurched from crisis to**

crisis for the past 25 years. The ZiG replaces a Zimbabwean dollar, the RTGS, that had lost three-quarters of its value so far this year.

- The new ZiG banknotes come in denominations of between 1 and 200. Zimbabweans have a historic mistrust of the central bank, dating back to 2008, when it was printing Z\$10tn notes while inflation had run out of control.
- It then abolished its own currency and for many years only used foreign banknotes such as the US dollar and the South African rand.

7. US, UK forge an alliance to standardise testing public safety in AI models

- **The United States and Britain have announced a new partnership in which they will be working together to address concerns about the safety of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies.** Under the formal partnership, Britain and the United States plan to conduct joint testing exercises on publicly accessible AI models.

8. Russia launches first Angara-A5 space rocket from Far East cosmodrome

- **The flagship Angara A5 -- a powerful spacecraft designed to carry heavy payloads into low Earth orbit -- took off from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in the Russian Far East.** The Angara family of rockets, developed to replace the Soviet-designed Proton rockets, is central to Russia's strategy to secure its independence in accessing outer space and to reduce reliance.

9. Sweden Becomes 38th Signatory to the Artemis Accords

- **Sweden became the 38th country to sign the Artemis Accords.**
- Currently, United States, India and Japan are the only leading spacefaring nations to sign the accords. The accords are a series of non-binding arrangements aimed at setting down norms to be followed in outer space.

About Artemis Accords: -

- The Artemis Accords were initially announced by NASA and the US Department of State in 2020 and it now has 38 signatories, including India and Japan.
- It provides for the implementation of key obligations from the 1967 Outer Space Treaty and reinforces commitment to the Registration Convention, the Rescue and Return Agreement and also best practices of responsible behaviour.

10. 10 MDBs Jointly Launch Global Co-financing Platform

- **10 multilateral development banks have joined forces to launch a digital initiative that aims to transform the development finance landscape, potentially unlocking substantial additional financing.**
- The Global Collaborative Co-financing Platform, will be a digital marketplace that brings together a curated list of projects seeking co-financing from participating institutions
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the World Bank, along with the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Council of Europe Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and New Development Bank are joining at this initial stage for collaboration.

Sports

1. Italy's Jannik Sinner Clinches Men's Single Title of Miami Open Tennis in US

- **Italy's Jannik Sinner won the Men's Singles title of Miami Open tournament in the United States.** Second seed Sinner defeated 11th seed Bulgarian player Grigor Dimitrov 6-3, 6-1 in the final. Sinner's third title of the season means he will move to a career-high second in the ATP world rankings, ahead of Spain's Carlos Alcaraz.
- Unseeded American player Danielle Collins has won the Women's Singles title. In a major upset, Collins defeated fourth-seeded Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan in straight sets 7-5, 6-3 in the final.

2. Rohan Bopanna with his Australian partner Matthew Ebden creates history in men's doubles final at Miami Open.

- **Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden clinched a historic victory in the men's doubles final at the Miami Open.** The 44-year-old Bopanna became the oldest man to win an ATP Masters 1000 title and the second Indian to reach the finals of all nine ATP Masters 1000 events. With this win, he also regained the top spot in the ATP rankings.

3. Mirabai Chanu Becomes The Only Indian Weightlifter To Qualify For Paris Olympics

- **Tokyo Olympics medallist Mirabai Chanu became the only Indian weightlifter to qualify for the Paris Olympics this year after competing successfully at the IWF World Cup in Phuket, Thailand.** The 29-year-old Olympic silver medalist finished third in Group B of the women's 49kg (and 11th overall) at the event to book her berth at the 2024 Paris Games.

4. Sumit Nagal becomes first ever Indian to win main draw match in Monte Carlo Masters

- **Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal stuns 35th ranked Matteo Arnaldi and becomes first ever Indian to win main draw match at Monte Carlo Masters. He defeated Arnaldi. The unseeded 95th-ranked Nagal, is only the third Indian to feature in the main draw in Monte Carlo after Vijay Amritraj in 1977 and Ramesh Krishnan in 1982. He became the first-ever male Indian singles player to win a Masters 1000 match on clay.**

5. Mendis and Bouchier named ICC Players of the Month for March

- **Kamindu Mendis claims the ICC Men's Player of the Month award after his historic efforts at the crease helped Sri Lanka comfortably win the first Test in their ICC World Test Championship showdown against Bangladesh.**
- England's Maia Bouchier wins the ICC Women's Player of the Month prize thanks to a sparkling series of scores in New Zealand as the tourists secured a win.

6. Sunrisers break own record for highest total, score 287 runs in 20 overs

- **Sunrisers Hyderabad on April 15 broke their record of scoring the highest runs in the IPL, as they hammered 287 runs in 20 overs while playing against Royal Challengers Bangalore at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.** In the innings, 22 whopping sixes were shot, along with 19 boundaries, by the power hitters of Sunrisers Hyderabad ' Travis Head (102), Abhishek Sharma (34).

7. India's 17-Year-Old D Gukesh Wins Candidates Chess Tournament: Creates History

- **In Chess, 17-year-old Indian prodigy, Dommaraju Gukesh made history as the youngest-ever player to win the FIDE Candidates tournament in Toronto.** In the final round, Gukesh held fellow title

contender Hikaru Nakamura of USA to a draw with black pieces but his fate was sealed on the other board where Ian Nepomniachtchi and Fabiano Caruana battled for 109 moves before draw.

- Gukesh became the youngest-ever Candidates Tournament champion, beating Garry Kasparov's record, who was 20 years when he won this tournament in 1984. After Vishwanathan Anand, he becomes the second Indian to qualify for the World Chess Championship. With this amazing victory, Gukesh will challenge the reigning Champion Ding Liren of China in the World Chess Championship.

8. Indonesia's Christie takes Asia badminton crown

- **Indonesia's Jonatan Christie clinched the Badminton Asia Championships crown, seeing off Li Shi Feng in two sets in China. Christie defeated home favourite Li 21-15, 21-16 in the tournament finale in the Chinese city of Ningbo.** The men's doubles title was claimed by Chinese pair Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang, who dispatched Malaysian duo Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin.
- Earlier China's Wang Zhi Yi swatted aside compatriot Chen Yu Fei 21-19, 21-7 to claim the women's singles title. South Korean partners Baek Ha-na and Lee So-hee took the women's doubles title by beating China's Zhang Shu Xian and Zheng Yu 23-21, 21-12.

9. Balraj Panwar secures India's 1st Paris Olympics quota in rowing in men's single scull event of 2024 World Asian

- **Balraj Panwar secured India's first Paris Olympics quota in rowing by securing 3rd position in the men's single scull event of the 2024 World Asian and Oceanian Olympic & Paralympic Qualification Regatta at South Korea.** The 25-year-old rower from Indian Army demonstrated remarkable performance by clocking 7 minutes and 1.27sec in the 2000-metre race securing the quota.

10. Rajasthan Royals' Yuzvendra Chahal creates history, becomes first-ever bowler to take 200 IPL wickets

- **Star Rajasthan Royals leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal created history, becoming the first bowler ever to take 200 wickets in the Indian Premier League.** Chahal got to the landmark in the game against Mumbai Indians at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur. Chahal, who made his IPL debut in 2013 got to the feat in his 153rd game.

11. Max Verstappen canters to victory at Chinese Grand Prix: F1

- **Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the first Chinese Grand Prix in five years, the fifth round of the 2024 Formula 1 World Championship, in Shanghai.** Verstappen beat McLaren's Lando Norris and Red Bull team-mate Sergio Perez in a race that was twice interrupted by the safety car.

12. Former Wrestler Narsingh Yadav Elected Chairman of WFI's Athletes' Commission

- **Former Commonwealth Games gold-medallist Narsingh Pancham Yadav was elected chairman of the Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) Athletes' Commission.**
- A total of eight candidates were in fray for the seven positions and after polling, conducted on ballot paper, seven members got elected.

- They then chose Narsingh as chairman of the commission

13. India legend Yuvraj Singh named ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 ambassador

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced India legend Yuvraj Singh as an ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 ambassador, which will be played in the West Indies and USA from June 1 to 29.

Agreements & MoUs

1. UNICEF India with IIHMR Delhi and IIT Mumbai launch digital health course to bridge tech-knowledge gaps

- **UNICEF India, the International Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) Delhi, and the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) jointly launched a comprehensive health course.** The course is a major step toward fulfilling UNICEF India's commitment to the Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH), launched during India's G20 Presidency in 2023.

- It aims to improve healthcare delivery by using digital technologies effectively, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the GIDH. The course is designed to address the growing demand for digital health education and to bridge the gap in training among healthcare professionals.

2. Fostering Space Collaboration: SIA-India and ABRASAT Partnership

- **SIA-India, India's leading space association, and ABRASAT, Brazil's prominent Satellite Communications Association, have forged a partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).** This collaboration aims to enhance cooperation and progress in the space sector of both countries.

- The MoU signifies the mutual commitment of both associations to strengthen their strategic collaboration in space. It lays the groundwork for innovative projects and technological collaboration. It also aims to explore new market dynamics, infrastructure development, and private investments, providing a platform for industry players to capitalize on emerging prospects.

3. SJVN partners with IIT Patna to improve Tunneling Project Performance using Advanced Geological Models

- **SJVN Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Patna (IIT Patna)** to use advanced geological models in SJVN's tunnelling projects, thus significantly reducing time and cost overruns.

- The collaboration also aims to evaluate the intricate relationship between overburden and deformation, thereby enhancing the evaluation and design of support systems crucial for tunnelling projects. By harnessing integrated geotechnical data and 3D geological models, SJVN and IIT Patna aim to identify and analyze potential risks and hazards.

4. Central Bank of India partners with Veefin Solutions to commence supply chain finance

- **Mumbai-based public sector bank Central Bank of India has partnered with Veefin Solutions, India's digital lending platform,** to commence supply chain financing (SCF) operations. Veefin Solutions will be the bank's sole technology vendor, supplying an end-to-end SCF stack to support its SCF solutions.

- This agreement will allow the bank to provide entirely digital onboarding, sanctioning, and 247 disbursement procedures to its corporate and SME customers via Veefin's Loan Origination System (LOS) and SCF Loan Management System, according to an exchange filing. VV Natrajan is the GM, Central Bank of India

5. BEML, BEL join hands to develop indigenous train control management system

- **Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU)** to jointly develop an indigenous Train Control Management System (i-TCMS), aimed at what they called "revolutionising" rail communication technology in the country.

- The primary objective of this partnership is to identify potential areas of cooperation between BEML and BEL, with a focus on exploring the joint development of high-value products and solutions tailored to the requirements of Indian Railways and Metro systems, it said.

6. J&K Bank joins hand with Paymart India to unveil Virtual ATM Facility

- **J&K Bank partners with Paymart India Pvt Ltd to launch an innovative Virtual ATM (VATM) facility, boosting banking convenience for consumers across its operations, particularly in J&K and Ladakh.** The collaboration aims to introduce cardless cash withdrawals for the Bank's customers through local retailers. Baldev Prakash is the MD & CEO of J&K Bank. Amit Narang, CEO, Paymart General Manager (S&IT) Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat

7. Mphasis inks pact with AWS to set up Gen AI Foundry for financial services

- **Indian IT services firm Mphasis has signed a multi-year global strategic collaboration agreement with Amazon Web Services** to establish the GenAI Foundry.
- The foundry will empower financial institutions and help maximise the impact of the technology. The foundry will initially serve the financial services industry, with plans to expand across other sectors.

8. SIDBI partners fintech platform KarmaLife for micro loans to gig workers

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has entered into an agreement with a fintech Onion Life Private Limited** to use the latter's technology platform KarmaLife for a pilot to provide micro loans to gig workers. This is expected to support the gig workers' financial inclusion to formal institutional credit.
- KarmaLife will help gig workers access micro loans through a mobile app and eliminates the hassle of extensive paperwork or physical documentation. This streamlined process will make it easier for gig workers to manage the liquidity needs of their enterprise activities.

9. Air India, BIAL sign agreement to develop Bengaluru airport as hub

- **Air India and Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL)** announced that they have signed a pact to develop the Bengaluru airport as an aviation hub, encompassing the construction of a dedicated domestic lounge, expansion of international services, and establishment of a maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) facility.
- **Air India is wholly owned by the Tata Group, while AIX Connect and Air India Express are its wholly-owned subsidiaries.** Vistara, a 51:49 joint venture between the Tata Group and Singapore Airlines, is currently undergoing a merger into Air India. The Bengaluru airport is operated by Fairfax-run BIAL.

10. SINE, IIT Bombay Collaborates with Canara Bank for Financing of Startups

- **The Society For Innovation & Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT Bombay and Canara Bank entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to provide financial support to startups. Under its Canara Start-Up Scheme, Canara Bank is providing financial support for the creation, promotion, diversification, and modernization of industrial units across India.
- SINE, as a technology business incubator, offers comprehensive incubation and acceleration support from start to finish for technology startups.

11. India, EU launch initiative for EV start-ups

- **The European Union (EU) and India launched an Expression of Interest (EoI) for startups working in Battery Recycling Technologies for Electric Vehicles (EVs) for a matchmaking event.**

The matchmaking aims to enhance the cooperation between European and Indian Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and startups in the clean and green technologies sector.

- The intended exchange of knowledge and expertise will be instrumental in advancing the circularity of rare materials and transitioning towards carbon neutrality in both India and the EU. **Twelve innovators, six each from India and the EU will be selected and get a pitching opportunity during the Matchmaking Event, scheduled for June 2024.**

12. ICICI Lombard ties up with Policybazaar to offer insurance products

- **ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company announced that it has entered into a strategic partnership with Policybazaar to offer products on the platform.** The partnership entails inclusion across multiple business lines of the Policybazaar platform including 'Policybazaar.com' for retail audiences, 'PB for Business' for corporates, and 'PB Partners' for channel partners.

13. PhonePe partners with eSewa, HAN Pokhara to promote UPI in Nepal

- **Fintech firm PhonePe said it has partnered with Nepal's digital wallet service eSewa and the Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN) Pokhara** to promote digital payments through UPI on the Himalayan country's payment processor Fonepay Network. The partnership is a part of the Fewa New Year Festival which will be held from April 11-14 in Nepal.

14. KABIL and CSIR-IMMT sign MoU for Technical and Knowledge cooperation for Critical Minerals

- **Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT)** for Technical & Knowledge cooperation for Critical Minerals.

- Under the MoU, KABIL will leverage the technical expertise and services of CSIR-IMMT to undertake various projects, including the design and analysis of metallurgical test work-plans, development and review of process flowsheets, and the selection of process technologies for mineral processing, beneficiation, and metal extraction.

- **KABIL is a JV company of three Indian public sector undertakings - National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) and Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited (MECL), under the aegis of Ministry of Mines, Government of India.**

15. Tata Motors and Shell partner to expand EV charging network in India

- **Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TPEM) and Shell India Markets (SIMPL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to collaborate on establishing new public charging stations across India.

- The collaboration will leverage Shell's existing network of fuel stations and data from Tata Passenger on how people charge their Tata electric vehicles (EVs).

- This collaboration is expected to address the challenge of limited charging infrastructure, which is a major hurdle for the wider adoption of electric vehicles in India. This will enable them to strategically place chargers where they are most needed. The agreement also includes exploring the development of user-friendly payment systems and loyalty programmes.

16. Hindustan Zinc, VEXL Environ Projects sign pact to set up pilot project for waste management

- **Vedanta group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) entered into a pact with Bhopal-based VEXL Environ Projects** for setting up a pilot project for converting waste products into usable resources. The pact aligns with Hindustan Zinc's waste management strategy of reducing, recycling, reusing and reclaiming.
- Hindustan Zinc announced the signing of a "Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a pilot plant for pioneering sustainable solutions through waste utilisation and wealth creation," HZL said in a statement. This collaboration underscores the company's commitment to a circular economy, where waste becomes a valuable resource.

17. Karnataka Bank collaborates with FISDOM to provide 3-in-1 accounts via Mobile app

- **Karnataka Bank, a renowned private sector bank, has partnered with FISDOM to offer 3-in-1 accounts (savings, demat, and trading) through its mobile banking app, KBL Mobile Plus.** This strategic partnership will strengthen the present value proposition by allowing users to invest in equities and mutual funds. Sekhar Rao, Executive Director, Karnataka Bank Subramanya S V, CEO & Co-founder, FISDOM

18. Elon Musk-led Tesla signs strategic deal with Tata Electronics for semiconductor chips

- **Elon Musk-led Tesla has reportedly inked a strategic deal with Tata Electronics** to acquire semiconductor chips for its global operations. This move highlights Tesla's growing interest in India beyond local revenue generation. Tesla, the world's largest automotive company by market value, is keen to expand its footprint in India.

19. Jana Small Finance Bank partners with Kotak Mahindra Life to offer insurance products

- **Jana Small Finance Bank said it has partnered with Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Ltd** to offer life insurance products to the customers of the bank. The partnership will help 52 lakh customers of the bank with a wide range of life insurance products offered by Kotak Life, including long-term savings and retirement solutions

20. CleanMax teams up with Apple to drive renewable energy adoption in India

- **iPhone maker Apple has formed a joint venture with renewable energy firm Cleanmax to deploy solar solutions in India.**
- The JV has installed 14.4 megawatts of rooftop solar installations across six industrial sites in India which will help Apple in addressing the emissions associated with its corporate operations in India.
- The partnership aims to bolster renewable energy projects across India, marking a significant step forward in the nation's green energy landscape. The collaboration is grounded in an innovative business model, where the environmental benefits accruing from the financed projects will assist Apple in addressing the emissions associated with its corporate operations in India.

21. SIDBI inks MOU with Jeevika Bihar, UMED Maharashtra to extend Prayaas to rural livelihood mission

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in association with Women's World Banking (WWB) inked an MoU with Jeevika, Bihar State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM) and UMED, Maharashtra-SRLM to extend Prayaas scheme to SHG individual women through cluster level federations (CLFs).**

- This partnership will help in unlocking the potential of CLFs and will establish a new and scalable credit distribution ecosystem. SIDBI in the pilot phase will partner 35-40 CLFs across Bihar and Maharashtra with a target of serving affordable credit of up to `Rs 2 lakh to 5,000 women entrepreneurs.

22. AFMS & IIT Kanpur to collaborate on developing technologies to address health problems faced by soldiers in difficult terrains

- **The Armed Forces Medical Services signed a Memorandum of Understanding for collaborative research and training with Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. AFMS and IIT Kanpur** will team up to undertake research and develop new technologies to address health problems faced by soldiers in difficult terrains.

23. NPCI Bharat Billpay inks tie-up with SBI to facilitate NCMC recharge

- **NPCI Bharat Billpay announced a tie-up with SBI** under which travellers will be able to recharge their National Common Mobility Card through the lender's app. Customers can easily top-up their NCMC cards with up to INR 10,000 online through Bharat BillPay-enabled platforms, supporting various methods such as prepaid, debit, and credit cards.

24. Russia-India signs agreement to operate large research hub in New Delhi

- The Higher School of Economics, located in Russia, and the University of Delhi signed an agreement on strategic cooperation and joint actions, and a large research hub will begin operating at the partner university here. New Delhi hosted the Indo-Russian Education Summit last week, becoming the largest event of its kind in the history of India-Russia bilateral relations.

25. AFMS and IIT Delhi Sign MoU for Collaborative Research and Training

- IIT Delhi has a robust biomedical research ecosystem which is ideal for providing the technical expertise required for research into the diverse medical challenges faced in the Armed Forces, including rehabilitation of amputees. Under the ambit of this MoU, faculty exchange program, joint academic activities and development of joint PhD programmes will also be planned.
- **Armed Forces Medical Services signed a Memorandum of Understanding for collaborative research and training with Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Delhi.** The scope of this MoU includes undertaking research and innovation to develop novel medical devices and focus on solving health issues specific to serving soldiers in varied terrains.
- IIT Delhi has a robust biomedical research ecosystem which is ideal for providing the technical expertise required for research into the diverse medical challenges faced in the Armed Forces, including rehabilitation of amputees. Under the ambit of this MoU, faculty exchange program, joint academic activities and development of joint PhD programmes will also be planned.

26. DARPG signs Memorandum of Understanding with Ministry of Civil Service, Cambodia on cooperation in the field of Human Resource

- **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) under Ministry of Personnel, Public Administration and Pensions signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ministry of Civil Service, Cambodia** on cooperation in the field of Human Resource Development in Civil Service.
- The MoU advances the cordial and friendly ties between India and Cambodia in the field of Human Resource Development in Civil Service over the next 05 years. It will also facilitate a dialogue between India's Personnel Administration agencies and the agencies of the Ministry of Civil Service of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

27. Cognizant, Microsoft announce partnership to expand adoption of GenAI

- Nasdaq-listed IT services firm Cognizant and Microsoft announced an expanded partnership to drive the adoption of generative AI among enterprises. As part of the partnership, Cognizant purchased 25,000 Microsoft 365 Copilot seats for Cognizant associates, along with 500 Sales Copilot seats and 500 Services Copilot seats to enhance productivity and streamline workflows.
- **Cognizant and Microsoft** will collaborate to deliver industry-specific solutions, using Copilot Studio, a platform that allows users to create and customize their own industry-and-business-function specific Copilots, leveraging generative AI large language models, business applications, and enterprise data.

28. Rashtriya Raksha University signs MoU with French Starburst Aerospace

- **Gandhinagar-based Rashtriya Raksha University and Starburst Aerospace of France** entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to advance aerospace, defence, and homeland security innovation. The MoU includes the creation of a venture capital fund of 100 million euros for aerospace, defence and security technology and provides export promotion support for startups.
- The partnership between Starburst and RRU is a reflection of the progress in the India-France Strategic Partnership in defence and space. The strategic alliance between RRU, Starburst, and Security and Scientific Technical Research Association (SASTRA), a not-for-profit company set up by RRU, is aimed at fostering innovation and driving advancements in the aerospace sector.

29. C-DOT and IIT, Jodhpur sign agreement for 'Automated Service Management in Network of 5G and beyond Using AI'

- **C-DOT, the premier Telecom R&D Centre of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India and Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur (IIT-J)** signed an agreement for 'Automated Service Management in 5G and Beyond Networks Using AI'.
- The agreement is signed under the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) of the DoT, which is designed for providing funding support to domestic companies and institutions involved in technology design, development, commercialization of telecommunication products and solutions to enable affordable broadband and mobile services in rural and remote areas.
- The primary objective is to develop AI frameworks for automated network management, fault detection, and diagnostic techniques by utilizing continuous information generated within the network like 5G.

31. Hindujas inks new India-UK healthcare pact with King's College London

- **The Hinduja Group and King's College London announced a new partnership aimed at improving healthcare outcomes in India and the UK**, through training and research capacity building as well as scholarships for Indian students. It is signed with the aim of driving forward the development of new technologies to address global healthcare challenges.

32. Indian Bank ties up with Tata Power Solar to boost solar energy adoption

- **Tata Power Solar Systems, announced its strategic partnership with Indian Bank to bolster the adoption of solar rooftop among residential consumers.**
- The collaboration aims to facilitate financing solutions under the popular PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana scheme for installations up to 3 KW, as well as extend support for installations ranging from 3 to 10 KW under scheme.
- Under the framework of the PMSGMY initiative, residential consumers can avail loans up to Rs 2 lakh at an annual interest rate of 7%, in compliance with government regulations.

- With a nominal margin money requirement of 10% and collateral-free financing, homeowners can embark on their solar journey with ease.
- Furthermore, the tenure for repayment extends up to 10 years.
- For installations exceeding 3 KW up to 10 KW, TPSSL and Indian Bank present a tailored financing solution that accommodates the diverse needs of homeowners.
- Eligible applicants can access loans up to Rs 6 Lakh, with a margin money requirement of 20%. Interest rates ranging from 8.4% to 10.8% per annum ensure competitive financing options.

33. NTPC inks pact with RINL for supply of limestone

- **A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between NTPC Limited and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), for the supply of 9 lakh metric tonnes of limestone (lime chips, a by-product of the RINL, for the NTPC units across the country for five years.**

- Limestone is a raw material for the flue-gas desulphurisation system which is being installed at the coal-based thermal plants of the NTPC for reduction of sulphur dioxide emission.
- This MoU will cater to the needs of various plants of the NTPC.

34. ADIF and IIT Guwahati incubation center sign MoU to boost startup ecosystem

- **The Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) and IIT Guwahati Technology Incubation Centre (IIT Guwahati TIC) said they had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote entrepreneurship and provide support to technology startups.**
- The two-year MOU aims to strengthen the startup ecosystem by facilitating collaboration between ADIF's network of startups and entrepreneurs, and IIT Guwahati's pool of innovators, faculty, and incubation facilities.

Schemes

1. Mudra loans see record surge, top '5-lakh-cr mark in FY24

- **Small business loans under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana witnessed record growth in disbursements in FY24 and also crossed the milestone of Rs. 5 lakh crore, according to latest Government data.** Loan disbursement under PMMY reached a record high of Rs 5.20 lakh crore in the year ended March 2024, marking a significant increase from Rs 4.40 lakh crore in previous financial year.

About Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY): -

- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) is a flagship scheme of Government of India. The scheme facilitates micro credit/Loan up to Rs. 10 lakhs to income generating micro enterprises engaged in the non-farm sector in manufacturing, trading or service sectors including activities allied to agriculture such as poultry, dairy, beekeeping, etc.
- The loans under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana can be availed through eligible Member Lending Institutions (MLIs), which include:
 - Public Sector Banks
 - Private Sector Banks
 - State operated cooperative banks
 - Rural banks from regional sector
 - Micro Finance Institution
 - Non-Banking Finance Company
 - Small Finance Banks (SFBs)
 - Other financial intermediary approved by Mudra Ltd.
- The scheme has been classified under three categories as 'SHISHU', 'KISHORE' and 'TARUN' to signify the stage of growth / development and funding needs of the beneficiary micro unit/ entrepreneur.
- **Shishu: Covering loans upto Rs.50,000/-.**
- **Kishore: Covering loans above Rs.50,000/- and upto Rs. 5 lakhs.**
- **Tarun: Covering loans above Rs. 5 lakhs and upto Rs. 10 lakhs.**

Appointments & Resignations

1. Ms Sheyphali Sharan takes charge as Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau

- **Ms Sheyphali B. Sharan has assumed charge as the Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau** upon superannuation of Shri Manish Desai yesterday. Ms. Sharan is an officer of the 1990 batch of Indian Information Service.

2. Fintech start-up Perfios appoints ex-Adobe BFSI head Sridhar Narayan as Chief Business Officer

- **Fintech-focused software start-up Perfios** has appointed former Adobe India's financial services head **Sridhar Narayan as its Chief Business Officer**. Prior to joining Perfios, Sridhar has led the banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) business at Adobe India. Previously, he spent a decade at Microsoft, SRI, and IBM in the past.

3. Bank of Maharashtra names Subhasish Roy as Chief Risk Officer

- In a strategic move aimed at bolstering its risk management capabilities, **the Bank of Maharashtra named Subhasish Roy as its Chief Risk Officer**. The decision, effective from April 1, 2024, marks a significant milestone for the bank as it seeks to enhance its operational resilience and fortify its position in the financial landscape.

4. Punjab & Sind Bank names Arnab Goswamy as Chief Financial Officer

- In a strategic move aimed at reinforcing its financial management, **Punjab & Sind Bank has appointed Arnab Goswamy as its Chief Financial Officer, replacing Mahima Agarwal** for a three-year term beginning on April 3, 2024. Bringing a wealth of experience to his new position, Arnab Goswamy is a seasoned finance professional with esteemed credentials as a Chartered accountant.

5. Rakesh Mohan appointed a member of World Bank economic advisory panel

- The World Bank Group has appointed former RBI deputy governor **Rakesh Mohan member of the Economic Advisory Panel**, according to a statement released by New Delhi-based think tank Centre for Social and Economic Progress. Currently, Mohan is serving as president emeritus and distinguished fellow at CSEP and is also part-time member of the PM economic Advisory Council.
- The World Bank panel will be chaired by Lord Nicholas Stern, the IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government at the London School of Economics, while World Bank Group Chief Economist Indermit Gill will co-chair the panel.

6. Future Generali India Insurance appoints Ramit Goyal as chief distribution officer

- **Future Generali India Insurance Co (FGII) has elevated Ramit Goyal as its chief distribution officer** with effect from April 1. Goyal takes over from Raghavendra Rao, who superannuated on March 31 after 14 years of service, the company said in a statement. Earlier, Goyal held key roles in other companies including Tata AIG, Godrej & Boyce and Daewoo Anchor Electronics.

7. Meenesh Shah elected as chairman of NCDFI

- **The National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd. (NCDFI), in its Board elections elected Dr. Meenesh Shah as the Chairman.**

- NCDFI is a national-level apex dairy cooperative registered on December 7, 1970 and is governed under the provisions of the Multi State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2023.

- National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) is the institutional member of NCDFI.

8. Wipro MD Thierry Delaporte resigns, Srinivas Pallia to succeed as CEO

- **IT giant Wipro has appointed Srinivas Pallia as its new CEO**, following the resignation of Thierry Delaporte. Srinivas Pallia, who was the CEO for the company's America region, will take over as the new new CEO and MD from April 7, 2024, for a period of five years.

9. Centre appoints Manoj Panda as member of 16th Finance Commission

- **The government has appointed Manoj Panda, former director at the Institute of Economic Growth as the full time member of the 16th Finance Commission. The 16th Finance Commission held its first meeting under the Chairmanship of Arvind Panagariya to discuss its terms of reference on February 14.**

- The other full-time members of the Commission include Ajay Narayan Jha, member of 15th FC and former secretary of Expenditure and Annie George Mathew, former special secretary of Expenditure. Soumya Kanti Ghosh, group chief economic advisor of State Bank of India was appointed as the part-time member of the Commission.

Finance Commission: -

- The Finance Commission is a constitutionally-mandated body established once every five years to devise a formula for distributing net tax proceeds between the Centre and the states as well as among states and local bodies.
- Currently, India shares 41 per cent of federal taxes with states as recommended by the 15th panel.

10. Paytm PB MD & CEO Surinder Chawla resigns due to personal reasons

- **Managing director and chief executive officer of the beleaguered Paytm Payments Bank, Surinder Chawla**, has resigned 'on account of personal reasons'. The company said the resignation would be effective from June 26 but did not name any potential successor to Chawla, who was appointed as the MD and CEO of the company in January 2023 after it received a nod from RBI.

11. Simon Harris becomes Ireland's youngest-ever prime minister

- **Simon Harris became Ireland's youngest ever prime minister**, succeeding party colleague Leo Varadkar with less than a year to boost the coalition government's bid to halt a first electoral victory by left-wing Sinn Fein. He would become the 16th person to lead the country

12. RBL Bank appoints Murali Ramakrishnan as independent director for 4 years

- **Private sector lender RBL Bank appointed Murali Ramakrishnan as Non-Executive Independent Director** with immediate effect for four years as per the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and SEBI Listing Regulations, subject to the approval of the shareholders of the Bank. In terms of Section 149(13) of the Companies Act, 2013.

13. Suryoday Small Finance Bank appoints Deepak Kumar Sharma as Additional Director

- **The Board of Directors of Suryoday Small Finance Bank have appointed Deepak Kumar Sharma as an Additional Director on the Board of the Bank**, with effect from April 11, 2024. It is the basis of the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee and subject to the approval of Shareholders of the Bank, is for a period of five consecutive years.

14. Sushil Sharma appointed as CMD of SJVN Limited

- **Sushil Sharma has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of SJVN Limited (formerly known as Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam).** Currently serving as Director (Projects) at the company, he was recommended for this role by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) out of a total of nine candidates.

- SJVN Limited, a Mini Ratna, Category-I and Schedule 'A' CPSE under administrative control of Ministry of Power, Govt. of India, was incorporated on May 24, 1988, as a joint venture of the Government of India (GOI) and the Government of Himachal Pradesh (GOHP).

15. Anurag Kumar (IPS) appointed as Joint Director in CBI

- **Anurag Kumar (IPS) has been appointed as Joint Director in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).** According to an order issued from the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) on April 12, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposal of Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) for Induction of Kumar, to the post of Joint Director in CBI

16. Mary Kom steps down as Chef-de-Mission for upcoming Paris Olympics

- Six-time world champion boxer **M C Mary Kom stepped down as India's chef-de-mission for the upcoming Paris Olympics**, saying she is "left with no choice" due to some personal reasons. Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President PT Usha announced that Mary Kom had asked to be relieved from her position in a letter addressed to her.

- The IOA had announced her appointment on March 21. The celebrated boxer, who is also a bronze-medallist from the 2012 London Olympics, was to be the logistical in-charge of the country's contingent at the July 26-August 11 Games. Mary Kom has also won gold in the 2010 Asian Games besides being a multiple-time Asian champion.

17. Kuwait's Emir appoints Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah as new prime minister of Kuwait

- **Kuwait's Emir has appointed Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah as the new PM of Kuwait.** This decision follows the resignation of former PM Sheikh Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. Sheikh Ahmad is a Kuwaiti economist and has served as Minister of Finance and Communications from 1999 to 2005, before serving as Minister of Health, Oil and Information from 2006 to 2011.

18. BharatPe elevates Nalin Negi as CEO

- **Fintech firm BharatPe said it has elevated its interim CEO and chief financial officer Nalin Negi as full-time chief executive officer.**

- Negi was given charge of interim CEO in January 2023 after then CEO Suhail Sameer stepped down from the post. Negi joined BharatPe in 2022.

19. Georgieva selected for second term as IMF managing director

- **The International Monetary Fund's executive board selected Bulgarian economist Kristalina Georgieva** to serve as managing director for a second five-year term, starting on Oct. 1, 2024. Georgieva is the second woman to head the IMF and the first person from an emerging market economy. She is the IMF's 12th managing director since its founding in 1944.

20. Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi appointed as next Chief of Naval Staff

- **The Government has appointed Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, PVSM, AVSM, NM, presently serving as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff**, as the next Chief of the Naval Staff with effect from the afternoon of April 30, 2024. The present Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R Hari Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM retires from service on April 30, 2024.
- Born on May 15, 1964, Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi was commissioned into the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy on July 01, 1985. VAdm DK Tripathi has commanded Indian Naval Ships Vinash, Kirch and Trishul.

21. RBI approves Ajith Kumar's appointment as Dhanlaxmi Bank chief

- The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of **Ajith Kumar K.K as the Managing Director & CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank** for three years with effect from the date of taking charge. In January 2024, the RBI had conveyed its approval for extending the term of J K Shivan as Managing Director & CEO of the Bank till his successor assumes the office.

22. HDFC Life Chairman Deepak Parekh Resigns; Keki Mistry To Chair The Board

- **HDFC Life Insurance's chairman Deepak S Parekh stepped down from his role.** The company also said that they have appointed **Keki M Mistry as the Chairman of the Board.** Mistry has been associated with the company since December 2000 and is currently acting as Non-Executive Director.

23. Nalin Prabhat appointed D-G of National Security Guard

- **Senior IPS officer Nalin Prabhat has been appointed as the Director-General of National Security Guard (NSG),** the country's counter-terrorism force. Prabhat, a 1992 batch IPS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, is presently working as Additional Director General in CRPF. Sashtra Seema Bal (SSB) chief Daljit Singh Chawdhary was holding the additional charge of the NSG.

24. Pine Labs' Setu names former SAP India executive Raisinghani as its CEO

- **Pine Labs-owned API infrastructure company Setu appointed Anand Raisinghani as the company's new chief executive officer (CEO).** Raisinghani, who succeeds Sahil Kini at the company, will work in the space of open banking, account aggregation, API platforms, embedded finance, and data gateway. He is a former executive at SAP India where he was the vice-president (VP).
- The company has received a Certificate of Registration from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an Account Aggregator.
- Founded in 2018, Setu is an application programming interface (API) company offering services across account aggregation, data gateway, identity verification, embedded finance, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), WhatsApp Business, and BBPS. Pine Labs acquired the company in 2022 for around \$75 million.

25. Government approves one-year extension to RBI Deputy Governor Rabi Sankar

- The government has extended the term of **RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar for a period of one year**, according to sources.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the re-appointment of T Rabi Sankar, Deputy Governor Reserve Bank of India, for a period of one year with effect from May 3, 2024, they said.
- He was appointed as the RBI Deputy Governor in May, 2021 for a period of three years. RBI is served by 4 Deputy Governors at any point in time. **Currently, the deputy governors are**

- **Dr. M.D. Patra**
- **M. Rajeshwar Rao**
- **T. Rabi Sankar**
- **Swaminathan J**

26. Axis Bank reappoints Amitabh Chaudhry as chief for a further period of 3 years

- **The Board of Axis Bank approved the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as Managing Director & CEO of the Bank, for a further period of three years** with effect from January 1, 2025 up to December 31, 2027. Chaudhry, age 59 years, joined Axis Bank as MD & CEO with effect from January 1, 2019. This re-appointment is subject to approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

27. Arun Alagappan appointed as executive chairman of Coromandel International

- **Agricultural solutions major Coromandel International, a part of Chennai-based Murugappa Group, has appointed Arun Alagappan as executive chairman of the company.**
- Alagappan has been the executive vice chairman of the company since February 2021.
- His appointment comes as A. Vellayan retires from the position of chairman and non-executive director.

28. FSIB recommends Ashutosh Kumar for SBI MD, Asheesh Pandey for Indian Bank

- **FSIB, the headhunter for directors of state-owned banks and financial institutions, recommended Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh for the post of Managing Director of State Bank of India.**
- Singh is currently serving as deputy managing director at SBI.
- The final decision on the FSIB recommendation would be taken by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister.
- **FSIB also recommended Asheesh Pandey for the post of Managing Director of Chennai-based Indian Bank.**
- Pandey, who is currently serving as executive director of Bank of Maharashtra, will replace S L Jain on his superannuation.
- FSIB is headed by former Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) Secretary Bhanu Pratap Sharma.

29. Sunil Kumar Yadav (IRS) appointed as Director of MoHUA

- **Sunil Kumar Yadav (IRS) has been selected for the appointment as Director in the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA).**
- The has been selected for the appointment to the post under the Central Staffing Scheme for a period of five years from the date of taking over charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier

Awards

1. REC wins SKOCH ESG Award 2024 in Renewable Energy Financing Category

- **REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been bestowed with the SKOCH ESG Award 2024 in the 'Renewable Energy Financing' category.** The award underscores REC's dedication to sustainable financing, paving the way for a greener future and accelerating the transition to renewable energy.
- The SKOCH ESG Awards recognize organizations that demonstrate outstanding performance in Environmental, Social, and Governance practices. The SKOCH ESG Award and Assessment serve as an important benchmark for evaluating organizations' commitment to India 2047.
- REC is a 'Maharatna' Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and is registered with RBI as Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC), and Infrastructure Financing Company (IFC). REC Ltd. provides loans of various maturities to State, Central and Private Companies for creation of infrastructure assets in the country.
- REC Ltd. continues to play a key strategic role in the flagship schemes of the Government for the power sector and has been **a nodal agency for Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGAYA), DDUGJY, National Electricity Fund (NEF) Scheme** which resulted in strengthening of last-mile distribution system, 100% village electrification and household electrification.
- **REC has also been made the nodal agency for certain States and Union Territories for the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).** The loan book of REC stands at Rs 4.97 Lakh Crores and Net Worth at Rs. 64,787 crores as on 31st December, 2023.

2. EIL conferred with CIDC Vishwakarma Award

- **Engineers India Limited (EIL) has been conferred with the prestigious CIDC Vishwakarma Award by the Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC)** in the category of 'Construction Health, Safety & Environment' for Rajasthan Refinery Project, Barmer.
- The awards were presented during the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards ceremony held in New Delhi on April 4, 2024.

3. Chandrayaan-3 mission receives prestigious US Space Exploration award

- **India's Chandrayaan-3 mission team was recently awarded the prestigious 2024 John L. 'Jack' Swigert Jr. Award** for Space Exploration, acknowledging their efforts to elevate the standards of space exploration. With the successful Chandrayaan-3 mission in August last year, India became the first country to land on the south pole of the moon.
- Comprising both the lander (Vikram) and the rover (Pragyan), India's lunar mission, Chandrayaan-3, successfully touched down on the southern pole of the Moon at 6:04 pm on August 23. With this achievement, India joined the ranks of the US, China, and the former Soviet Union as the fourth nation to demonstrate the capability of soft landing on the lunar surface.
- John L. 'Jack' Swigert Jr. Award for Space Exploration is an honour bestowed by the United States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in recognition of outstanding contributions to space exploration. It is named after John L. 'Jack' Swigert Jr., an American astronaut who flew on the Apollo 13 mission in 1970.

4. Global recognition to Gagandeep Kang for research on enteric diseases in children

- **Gagandeep Kang, Director, Enteric, Diagnostics, Genomics and Epidemiology, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, was awarded the 2024 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award** given for scientifically based research that has improved the health and well-being of those facing health inequities worldwide.
- The Gairdner Foundation announced the 2024 laureates of the Canada Gairdner International Award, John Dirks Canada Global Health Award and the Canada Gairdner Momentum Award. Dr. Kang's work focused on enteric diseases in children in India and throughout the world.

5. JCB Lit Prize announces 2024 jury: Jerry Pinto, Shaunak Sen and others

- The JCB Prize for Literature, one of the most coveted fiction awards of India, has announced its jury for the 7th edition: writer Jerry Pinto (chair), filmmaker Shaunak Sen, art critic Deepthi Sasidharan, translator Tridip Suhrud, and artist Aqiu Thami. **Last year's prize was won by Perumal Murugan's Fire Bird (Rs 499, Penguin), translated from Tamil by Janani Kannan.**

6. Kannada poet Mamta G. Sagar wins international award

- **Mamta G. Sagar, a Bengaluru-based Kannada poet, writer, academic and activist, has recently won the World Literary Prize from the World Organization of Writers (WOW)** for her contributions to the world of literature. Dr Sagar is facilitator at Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design, and Technology.
- She is known for her involvement in diverse forms of transdisciplinary creative writing and cultural industries, received the award on April 6 at a ceremony in Abuja, Nigeria.

7. Ananth Technologies founder Pavuluri Subba Rao gets Aryabhata award for contribution to astronautics

- **Ananth Technologies Founder, CEO and Chairman Pavuluri Subba Rao has been conferred with the 'Aryabhata Award' instituted by the Aeronautical Society of India (ASI).** He was also presented with ASI's 'Distinguished Fellow' title. He received the award recognition of Rao's 'tremendous lifetime contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India.'

8. Ratan Tata receives prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award

- Industrialist and philanthropist **Ratan Tata, was honoured with the prestigious Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) Humanitarian Award 2021**, for his commitment towards social development and corporate leadership. The award was presented by Achyuta Samanta, the founder of the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology and KISS and an MP from Kandhamal.

9. Laureus Sports Awards: Novak Djokovic, Aitana Bonmati win big

- **Tennis great Novak Djokovic won the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year honour for a record-extending 5th time after 2012, 2015, 2016 and 2019**, while Spain's World Cup-winning **football star Aitana Bonmati won the World Sportswoman of the Year award** at a star-studded ceremony in Madrid. Spain's FIFA World Cup-winning team were voted as the Laureus Team of the Year.
- England's star footballer Jude Bellingham won the Laureus Breakthrough of the Year award for his early impact at Real Madrid. Meanwhile, legendary gymnast Simone Biles was recognised for her sensational comeback to the sport last year.

List of Award Winners: -

- Laureus Sport for Good Award: Fundacin Rafa Nadal
- Laureus World Sports person of the Year with a Disability Award: Diede de Groot
- Laureus World Action Sports person of the Year Award: Arisa Trew
- England's star footballer Jude Bellingham won the Laureus Breakthrough of the Year award

KP CLASSES

Ranks & Reports

1. India to lose 5.8% of daily working hours amid heat stress in 2030: UNESCAP

- **India is expected to lose around 5.8 per cent of daily working hours due to rising temperatures by 2030**, leading to erosion in productivity and lower collection of fiscal revenue, said a recent report released by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

- The report also mentions that climate change will contribute to the spread of disease, leading to lower government revenues and higher spending requirements as fiscal expenditure is required for mitigating such adverse effects and building resilience. The report also notes that the Asia and Pacific region, **including India, is home to 600 million youth aged between 15-24 year.**

2. Unicorns list: US has 703, China 340. India is 3rd globally with these many

- **According to the Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024, India for the first time recorded a decline in unicorn creation since 2017. India in 2023 had 67 unicorns, which is one less than 68 such startups last year, according to the latest Hurun Global Unicorn Index. The US led the list with 703 unicorns, up 37 from 2022, and China with 340 unicorns.**

- **UK and EU ranked No 4 and No 5 in the list, respectively.** The total value of the world's unicorns have reached US\$5 trillion, equivalent to last year's GDP of Japan. **The report noted that the top 10 unicorns were in China and the US. Indians have founded more offshore unicorns than any other country, cofounding 109 unicorns outside of India compared with 67 in India.**

3. Climate Change Poses Challenges For Monetary Policy: RBI

- Frequent weather shocks caused by climate change pose challenges for the monetary policy as well as downside risks to economic growth, a Reserve Bank report said.

- Global average temperatures are on a rise, with accompanying increase in extreme weather events, and the economic and social impact of global warming is becoming increasingly evident, said RBI's Monetary Policy.

- The report said that climate change has increased the frequency and ferocity of weather shocks, posing challenges for monetary policy. **In the absence of any climate mitigation policies, the long-term output will be lower by around 9 per cent by 2050 vis--vis a no climate change scenario with full pass-through of the physical risks of climate change to the economy.**

4. WTO pares down projected merchandise trade volume growth to 2.6% for FY24

- **World Trade Organization revised downwards its projection for merchandise trade volume growth to 2.6% for 2024 from 3.3% estimated in October.**

- However, **the multilateral trade body, in its latest bi-annual 'Global Trade Outlook and Statistics', said after a contraction of 1.2% in 2023, demand for traded goods will rebound in 2024.**

- **In October last year, it had projected merchandise trade volume to grow 0.8 per cent in 2023.**

- **According to the report, India's rank among leading merchandise exporters (excluding intra- EU trade) improved by a notch to 13 in 2023 from the preceding year, though its share remained unchanged at 2.2 per cent.**

- India's rank among leading exporters of commercial services (excluding intra-EU trade) remained **unchanged at 5 in 2023 from the preceding year, with its share remaining the same at 5.4 per cent.**
- However, **India's rank dropped a notch to 6 among major importers of commercial services. Its share declined to 4.2 per cent from 4.8 per cent** in the preceding year.

5. JNU India's highest-ranked university: QS World University Rankings

- **As many as 69 Indian universities have made it to the latest 'QS World University Rankings' with a total of 424 entries across 55 subjects, a 19.4 per cent jump from the previous year's 355.**
- With this, **India became the 2nd most represented country in Asia after China whose 101 institutions were on the list compiled by global higher education experts QS Quacquarelli Symonds.**
- The **Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) emerged as the highest ranked Indian university in the list. Under the subject of Development Studies, JNU was ranked 20th in the QS World University Rankings. IIM Ahmedabad grabbed the next best rank of 22nd in the subject of Business & Management Studies. IIM Bangalore stood first in Accounting & Finance subject.**
- The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IITB) secured 25th rank in the subject of Engineering- Mineral & Mining. Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IITM) secured 29th spot in Petroleum Engineering.
- **A total of 69 Indian universities made it to the rankings with 424 entries across all subjects. It was 19.4 per cent higher than the previous year's 355 entries.**

6. India ranks number 10 in cybercrime, Russia tops list followed by Ukraine

- **An international team of researchers has compiled the 'World Cybercrime Index' that ranks roughly 100 countries and identifies key hotspots according to various categories of cybercrime, including ransomware, credit card theft and scams. India ranked number 10 in cybercrime, with frauds involving people to make advance fee payment being the most common type.**
- Russia topped the list, and was followed by Ukraine, China, the US, Nigeria and Romania. North Korea was at the seventh position, while the UK and Brazil were at the eighth and ninth positions, respectively, according to the research published in the journal PLoS ONE.
- The major categories that the researchers identified were - technical products and services such as malware and compromising systems; attacks and extortion including ransomware; data and identity theft including hacking, compromising accounts and credit cards; scams such as advance fee fraud; and cashing out or money laundering involving illegitimate virtual currency.

7. India outpaces China in digital services exports: WTO report

- **India has secured its place as the world's 4th largest exporter of digitally delivered services, contributing more than a fifth to the global trade in services. As per recent Global Trade Outlook and Statistics report by World Trade Organisation, India's exports of digitally delivered services reached \$257 billion in 2023, marking a 17% increase compared to previous year.**
- This growth outpaced that of Germany and China, which saw 4% growth each. **The report highlights that globally, exports of digitally delivered services surged to \$4.25 trillion in 2023, marking a 9% year-on-year increase. This accounted for 13.8% of world exports of goods and services.**

8. India lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000

- **India has lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000, equivalent to a six per cent decrease in tree cover during this period**, according to the latest data from the Global Forest Watch monitoring project. Between 2001 and 2022, it said, forests in India emitted 51 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent a year and removed 141 million tons of carbon dioxide.
- The Global Forest Watch, which tracks forest changes in near real-time using satellite data and other sources, said the country lost 4,14,000 hectares of humid primary forest (4.1 per cent) from 2002 to 2023, making up 18 per cent of its total tree cover loss in the same period.
- **The data showed that 95 per cent of the tree cover loss in India from 2013 to 2023 occurred within natural forests. The GFW data showed that five states accounted for 60 per cent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2023.**
- Assam had the maximum tree cover loss at 324,000 hectares compared to an average of 66,600 hectares. Mizoram lost 312,000 hectares of tree cover.
- Arunachal Pradesh 262,000 hectares, Nagaland 259,000 hectares, and Manipur 240,000 hectares. **From 2001 to 2022, Odisha had the highest rate of tree cover loss due to fires with an average of 238 hectares lost per year. Arunachal Pradesh lost 198 hectares, Nagaland 195 hectares, Assam 116 hectares, and Meghalaya 97 hectares.**

9. Delhi Airport Among Top 10 Busiest Airports In World

- **The Delhi airport, also known as Indra Gandhi International (IGI) airport has been ranked among the top 10 busiest airports across the globe for 2023.** The Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport topped the list followed by Dubai and Dallas airports at the second and third position, according to the ranks prepared by Airports Council International (ACI) World.
- Among the top ten busiest airports five are alone from the US. The biggest jump in the top 10 rankings was recorded for Tokyo Haneda, leaping from 16th position in 2022 to the 5th spot in 2023.

10. Extreme weather conditions may pose risk to inflation: RBI Bulletin

- The Reserve Bank of India's April bulletin has said that conditions are shaping up for an extension of a trend upshift in real GDP growth, backed by strong investment demand and upbeat business and consumer sentiments. **The article titled 'State of the Economy' says that CPI inflation settled at 4.9 percent in March after averaging 5.1 percent in the preceding two months.**
- Another article 'Food and Fuel Prices: Second Round Effects on Headline Inflation in India' claims that impact of food shock on core inflation has reduced over time while that of fuel shock has increased recently. It adds that the second-round effects of food and fuel inflation on headline inflation have become subdued, especially after the adoption of inflation targeting.
- The bulletin has also published an article on 'India's Foreign Exchange Reserves in High Volatility Episodes: 'An Empirical Assessment'. This article analyzes the trend in India's foreign exchange reserves during major high-volatility episodes like Global Financial Crisis, Eurozone debt crisis, the US-China trade war, the recent Russia-Ukraine conflict & US monetary policy.
- It indicates that the Reserve Bank has managed to contain rupee volatility and keep forex markets largely stable in all high-volatility episodes. It adds that rupee volatility has remained lowest among currencies of major emerging and advanced economies, despite unprecedented headwinds, especially during the Russia- Ukraine war.

11. Indian passport 'second cheapest' in the world, next only to UAE's; offers visa-free access to 62 countries: Study

- A recent study has revealed that the **Indian passport ranks as the 2nd cheapest passport to obtain worldwide**. It holds the distinction of being the most cost-effective in terms of "cost per year" of validity. An Indian passport holder can travel to 62 nations visa-free. Australian firm Compare the Market AU conducted comparison of passport acquisition costs across countries.
- The UAE passport clinches the top spot as the most affordable passport globally, surpassing all others in terms of both acquisition cost and the number of countries offering visa-free access. **According to the study, Mexico has the most expensive passport in the world followed by Australia.**

12. India's population estimated at 144 crore, 24% in 0-14 age bracket: UNFPA report

- **India's population is estimated to have reached 144 crores, with 24% in the 0-14 age bracket, according to a recent report by UNFPA.** United Nations Population Fund's State of World Population - 2024 report -- "Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope: Ending Inequalities in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights" -- revealed India's population is estimated to double in 77 years.
- **India leads globally with an estimated population of 144.17 crore, followed by China at 142.5 crore, according to the report.**
- India's population was recorded at 121 crores during the last census, conducted in 2011. **The report further detailed that an estimated 24 per cent of India's population is aged 0-14 while 17 per cent is within the 10-19 age range.**

13. Reliance Jio becomes world's largest mobile operator in data traffic

- **Reliance Jio has become the world's largest mobile operator in data traffic consumption, surpassing China Mobile.**
- According to global analytics firm Tefficient, the Indian telecom operator's total traffic reached 40.9 exabytes in the January-March quarter, compared to China Mobile's 38.
- Jio also has the second-largest 5G subscriber base globally, with 108 million users.

14. Karnataka, Gujarat exhibit strong commitment to clean energy transition

- The 2024 Indian States' Electricity Transition (SET), a joint report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and Ember, reveals that both the states (Karnataka and Gujarat) are making big strides in decarbonisation and are adequately prepared to accelerate the transition with robust market enablers facilitating future growth.

More about the Report:

- States such as Kerala, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra showed strong progress in one or more of the three dimensions ' Decarbonisation, Readiness and Performance of the Power Ecosystem and Market Enablers. Odisha exhibits preparedness to embrace electricity transition through the readiness of its market enablers.
- Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh moved slower than others again in SET 2024, despite the changes to our assessment parameters. The first edition of the SET report in 2023 analysed 16 states to help identify areas that require action and attention at the state level. This year's report builds on that work by expanding the scope to 21 states.

Important Days

1. World Autism Awareness Day | 2 April

- Ever since the United Nations General Assembly designated **2 April as World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD)** in 2007, the United Nations has observed the day as a means to affirm and promote the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for autistic people on an equal basis with others.
- **The theme of World Autism Awareness Day this year is 'Empowering Autistic Voices'** which aims at providing more support and power to the individuals with this condition, in order to ensure they lead a meaningful life and even pursue successful careers.

2. Prevention of Blindness Week | 1-7 April

- The Indian government designates **April 1 to April 7 as Prevention of Blindness Week**. This observance serves as a poignant call to individuals, emphasising the importance of prudent lifestyle choices and regular eye examinations to mitigate the risk of eye ailments, including age-related macular degeneration.

- Jawaharlal Nehru and Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur founded the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness in 1960 under the Societies Registration Act of 1860.
- It is an entirely voluntary organisation that accepts donations and contributions and actively collaborates with Sight Savers, Rotary International and other significant companies.

3. International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action | 4 April

- **On 8 December 2005, the General Assembly declared that 4 April of each year shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.** This year, the annual event will be further strengthened by the preliminary launch of the National Mine Action Strategy, developed in partnership with the GICHD.
- On 4 April 2024, The National Mine Action Authority (NMAA), in partnership with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), will commemorate the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on 4 April 2024, under **the theme 'Protecting Lives, Building Peace.'**

4. International Day of Conscience | 5 April

- **Each year on 5 April, the International Day of Conscience is celebrated.** The United Nations established this day to draw attention to the importance of self-examination and acting morally. The day also offers an opportunity to reflect on the progress made in promoting peace and social justice and to identify areas where more work needs to be done.
- **This year, the International Day of Conscience is marked with the theme 'Promoting the Culture of Peace with Love and Conscience.'**

5. National Maritime Day | 5 April

- Every year, **April 5 is observed as National Maritime Day to spread awareness about international trade and economy.** On this day, the "NMD Award of Excellence" is also presented to honour the individuals for their lifetime distinguished and exceptional achievements in the Indian maritime sector at the senior level.

- **This day was first observed on April 5, 1964**, informing people and spreading awareness about intercontinental commerce and the economy worldwide. **The theme for National Maritime Day 2024 is "Navigating the future: safety first!"** The maritime sector plays an immense role when it comes to international trade and the economy.

6. International Day of Sport for Development and Peace | 6 April

- **The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP), which takes place annually on 6 April**, presents an opportunity to recognize the positive role sport and physical activity play in communities and in people's lives across the globe. **The global theme for 2024 is 'Sport for the Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies'.**

7. International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda | 7 April

- **On 7 April, UNESCO commemorates the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2003.** The date marks the beginning of the genocide perpetrated against members of the Tutsi minority by the Hutu extremist-led government. The 2024 commemorations will mark the 30th anniversary.

8. World Health Day | 7 April

- **World Health Day is observed on 7th April every year globally.** This annual event draws attention to a specific health topic that affects people all over the world. **This day marks the anniversary of the founding of WHO in 1948.**

- **The theme for World Health Day 2024 is 'My health, my right.'**

- The day was aimed to raise awareness around various health issues worldwide and to mobilise support to address them. Over the years, the celebrations have aimed to create awareness around a specific health theme to highlight a priority area of concern for the World Health Organization.

9. World Homoeopathy Day | 10 April

- **Every year on April 10, the world celebrates World Homoeopathy Day**, a day dedicated to honouring the birth anniversary of Dr Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homoeopathy. This day serves as a platform to raise awareness about homoeopathy, its principles, and its contributions to global healthcare. **The theme for World Homeopathy Day is 'Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family.'**

10. World Parkinson's Day | 11 April

- **In 1817, Dr. James Parkinson was the first person to discover the first case of Parkinson's Disease. In 1997, European Association for Parkinson's Disease announced that April 11 will be observed as World Parkinson's Day every year.** The World Health Organisation also co-sponsored the event.

- World Parkinson's Disease Day aims to support people with Parkinson's disease and their caregivers, who often face severe difficulties in managing the Parkinson's disease's physical, emotional, and social effects.

11. International Day of Human Space Flight | 12 April

- **The International Day of Human Space Flight is celebrated on April 12.** The day is celebrated to honour the first person, Yuri Gagarin, to go to space. The day is also dedicated to the beginning of the space era for mankind, the contribution of space science and technology, and ensuring to conservation of outer space for peaceful purposes.

- **On April 7, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly finalised April 12 as the day.** On October 4, 1957, a human-made satellite named, Sputnik I, was sent to space. This was the first ever human effort to explore space. After understanding the technologies, on April 12, 1961, Yuri Gagarin from the Soviet Union became first human to travel around the earth in space. On June 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first person on Earth to set foot on Moon

12. World Chagas Disease Day | 14 April

- **World Chagas Disease Day is observed annually on April 14 to increase awareness about this neglected disease.** It is considered neglected because it receives little attention on the public health agenda. **The World Health Assembly at WHO approved and endorsed on May 2019, with the first celebration held on April 14, 2020. Theme 2024: Early diagnosis, treatment and follow-up.**
- Chagas disease, also called American trypanosomiasis, is a communicable parasitic disease that has infected 6-7 million people and claims around 12,000 lives every year across the globe, according to WHO. It is caused by the parasite protozoan *Trypanosoma cruzi*. The disease is named after physician Carlos Chagas who first detected it in a Brazilian child in 1909.

13. World Quantum Day 2024 | 14 April

- **India celebrates World Quantum Day 2024 on April 14, 2024,** with aspirations to become a global leader in various fields of Quantum Science and Technology.
- Quantum Mechanics, the study of atoms and sub-atomic particles, has now advanced to such an extent that it has now moved to the engineering domain and is leading to novel and varied applications.
- Researchers worldwide have utilized its principles to develop technologies such as LEDs, lasers, and ultra-precise atomic clocks used in the Global Positioning System. Considerable attention is now being paid to controlling and manipulating quantum systems for Quantum Computing, Quantum Communications, and Quantum Sensing applications.
- To advance the awareness and appreciation of quantum science and technology among the public worldwide, an international initiative was taken in 2022, commemorated annually as the World Quantum Day on April 14th. The National Quantum Mission (NQM) received Cabinet approval on April 19, 2023 with a total outlay of Rs 6003.65 Crore for a period of eight years.

14. World Art Day | 15 April

- **World Art Day 2024 is celebrated every year on 15 April.** It is dedicated to the birthday of the famous artist Leonardo da Vinci, who is considered to be the symbol of freedom of expression and peace. The history of World Art Day dates back to 2012, when the International Association of Art held a special ceremony in Guadalajara, Mexico, to celebrate the day.
- The significance of World Art Day is to promote and highlight the importance of art in the lives of human beings. **The theme of World Art Day 2024 is 'A GARDEN OF EXPRESSION: Cultivating Community Through Art.'**

15. World Hemophilia Day | 17 April

- **World Hemophilia Day is a global healthcare event observed on April 17 every year.** This event is organised by the World Federation of Hemophilia. This day tries to create awareness about this condition that can help people have access to diagnosis, treatment and comprehensive care. **The theme for 2024 is "Equitable access for all: recognizing all bleeding disorders".**

16. International Day For Monuments and Sites | 18 April

- **World Heritage Day, also monikered as the International Day for Monuments and Sites (IDMS), is observed on April 18 every year to honor and protect out cultural legacy.** The International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) created World Heritage Day, also referred to as The International Day for Monuments and Sites, in 1982. **This year, the theme of World Heritage Day is 'Discover and Experience Diversity'.**

17. Chinese Language Day | 20 April

- **April 20th marks the Chinese Language Day. Chinese was established as an official language of the United Nations in 1946.** It seek to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization.

18. World Liver Day 2024 | 19 April

- **World Liver Day is celebrated universally on April 19.** The day concentrates around spreading awareness of liver-related issues and diseases. The liver is one of the crucial body organs, responsible for immunity, digestion, and metabolism.

19. World Creativity and Innovation Day | 21 April

- **Every year World Creativity and Innovation Day is celebrated on April 21** to raise awareness about the role of creativity and innovation in human development.

- This day encourages every individual to use their creativity and innovation for the overall development of humankind.

- The day is dedicated to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals that are set out by the United Nations.

- **The theme of this year's World Creativity and Innovation Day is 'Inspire'.**

20. National Civil Services Day | 21 April

- To acknowledge and honour the work of civil servants engaged in public service, the backbone of the nation's administration, **the Government of India celebrates National Civil Services Day on April 21 every year in India.** It is a day dedicated to highlighting the important role of civil services in promoting citizen-centred governance.

- The origin of day dates back to the speech by the first Home Minister of Independent India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. On April 21st, 1947, Patel addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers at Metcalf House in Delhi and referred to the civil servants as the steel frame of India in 1947 and the newly created Indian Administrative Service.

21. International Mother Earth Day | 22 April

- **Earth Day is celebrated on April 22 every year.** The day is also known as International Mother Earth Day. The purpose of the day is to raise awareness about various issues that threaten the environment and endanger the planet, such as the rapidly rising levels of pollution, deforestation, and global warming.

- **The planet will commemorate the 54th Earth Day on April 22, 2024,** at a time when pollution is at never-before-seen levels and temperatures on are breaking records every year.

- **The theme this year is "Planet vs. Plastics,"** which aims to increase public awareness of the detrimental effects that plastic pollution has on both human and environmental health.

22. World Book and Copyright Day | 23 April

- **Every year on April 23rd, the world unites to celebrate World Book and Copyright Day, also known as International Day of the Book or World Book Day.** This significant event transcends borders, promoting the joy of reading, the power of publishing, and the importance of protecting intellectual property through copyright laws. **The theme for 2024 is "Read Your Way,"**
- The symbolic choice of April 23rd coincides with the anniversaries of several literary giants whose works continue to inspire readers and writers across generations. These include William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes, and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega - names forever etched in the annals of literary history.

23. English Language Day | 23 April

- **United Nations (UN) English Language Day is a momentous occasion celebrated annually on April 23.**
- This date coincides with the birth and death anniversary of William Shakespeare, the most renowned playwright in the English language. The primary objective of these language days is to celebrate linguistic diversity and multiculturalism.

24. UN Spanish Language Day | 23 April

- **Spanish Language Day is an annual celebration of one of the six official languages of the United Nations, marked every year on April 23.** The celebration aims to promote and appreciate multilingualism and the significance of Spanish culture in the world, especially in the Americas.
- This day is formally known as the U.N. Spanish Language Day.
- Official languages are the languages in which all official United Nations documents are made available. **The current official and working languages of the United Nations are: Arabic; Chinese; English; French; Russian; Spanish.**

25. International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace | 24 April

- **April 24 is observed globally as the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace.** Endorsed by the United Nations, this day emphasizes the importance of diplomatic engagement and multilateral action in addressing global issues like climate change, poverty, and conflict.

26. World Immunization Week | 24-30 April

- **Every year for World Immunization Week, the last week of April, the global immunization community celebrates the lifesaving power of vaccines.**
- **The 2024 theme, Humanly Possible, celebrates 50 years of the World Health Organization's Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI).** The day also aims to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease.
- In May 2012, the World Health Assembly, the body that makes decisions for the World Health Organization (WHO), approved World Immunisation Week. More than 180 nations took part in the inaugural World Immunisation Week, which was held in 2012.

27. National Panchayati Raj Day | 24 April

- **Every year in April, India celebrates National Panchayati Raj Day to honour the establishment of the Panchayati Raj System, a devolved form of governance in country, which was introduced in 1993 by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act,** empowering local bodies, or Gramme

Panchayats, to govern themselves and make decisions regarding the development of their respective areas.

28. International Girls in ICT Day | 25 April

- **International Girls in ICT Day is celebrated every year on the last day Thursday of April.** This year, it falls on 25 April 2024. The main goal behind observing International Girls in ICT Day is to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the ICT sector.
- This year's theme for the Girls in ICT day celebrations is 'Leadership'.

29. World Malaria Day | 25 April

- **Each year on April 25th, the world unites for World Malaria Day** to raise awareness about this serious mosquito-borne illness.
- **This year the theme is "Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world."**
- This theme, which is in sync with this year's World Health Day theme "My Health, My Right", underscores the urgent need to stark inequalities.

30. International Delegate's Day | 25 April

- International Delegate's Day marks the anniversary of first day of the San Francisco Conference, also known as the United Nations Conference on International Organization.
- On 25 April 1945, delegates from fifty countries came together for the first time in San Francisco. Day aims to raise awareness of the role of the representatives and delegates of the Member States to UN.

31. International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day | 26 April

- **International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is observed every year on 26 April.**
- The day is dedicated to remember the victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. It creates awareness about the catastrophic accident, in which approximately 8.4 million people were exposed to the harmful nuclear radiations.
- The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant exploded on 26 April 1986, spreading a radioactive cloud over the Soviet territory now comprising Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia.
- The United Nations established the International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day in 2016.

32. World Intellectual Property Day [WIPO] | 26 April

- **The World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) will be celebrated on 26 April 2024.**
- The day is dedicated to promoting the role of intellectual property (IP) in stimulating innovation and creativity.
- **The theme for 2024 is 'IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity'.**
- The origins of WIPO can be traced back to 1883 when the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property was signed. In 1970, the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization entered into force, formally creating WIPO. WIPO became a specialized agency of the UN in 1974.

33. World Veterinary Day | 27 APRIL

- **World Veterinary Day 2024 is celebrated on April 27th, recognizing veterinarians' pivotal role in maintaining animal and human health.**
- Through disease control, public health initiatives, and animal welfare efforts, veterinarians uphold the well-being of diverse ecosystems.
- **This year's theme 'Veterinarians are Essential Health Workers'**

34. World Day for Safety and Health at Work | 28 April

- On April 29, 1971, the International Labour Organisation adopted the Occupational Safety and Health Convention.
- **In 2003, the International Labour Organisation announced that April 28 will be observed as World Day for Safety and Health at Work.**
- **The theme for this year's World Day for Safety and Health at Work is - Climate change and safety and health at work.**

KP CLASSES

Summit & Conferences

1. UAE's Masdar to Host World Future Energy Summit on April 16

• **Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company PJSC ' Masdar, the UAE's clean energy powerhouse, is set to host the World Future Energy Summit (WFES) from April 16 to 18 at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC).**

• WFES is the world's leading business event for future energy, clean technology and sustainability, with a packed programme of events, activations, discussions and forum.

• The Masdar Pavilion at WFES will serve as a center for innovation, collaboration, and knowledge exchange. It will feature engaging panels and presentations, including forums by Masdar's initiatives such as Y4S (Youth 4 Sustainability) and WiSER (Women in Sustainability, Environment and Renewable Energy).

2. Ministry of Defence holds first tri-service conference 'Parivartan Chintan'

• **The heads of all tri-service military institutions gathered in New Delhi on April 8, for the first- ever tri-service planning conference called the 'Parivartan Chintan'.** The conference takes place on the backdrop of the three services combining to set up integrated theatre commands, containing elements of the army, navy, and air force.

• The 'Chintan' will be the first-ever conference of the heads of tri-services institutions, the Department of Military Affairs, Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff and the three services, with officers from varied service brackets, through their diverse understanding & experience, recommending measures to achieve the desired 'joint and integrated' end state with celerity. It will be chaired by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan.

3. Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) to organise Clean Economy Investor Forum in Singapore

• **The 14-member Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) is set to host its first clean economy investor forum in Singapore on June 5-6.** India will also showcase selected 'investible sustainable infrastructure projects' at the forum, with focus on energy transition, sustainable aviation fuel, battery storage hydrogen, green data centres, transport and EV.

• **IPEF has four pillars ' trade, supply chain resilience, clean economy, and fair economy (tax and anti-corruption).** It was launched in May 2022 and currently includes 14 partners ' Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States and Vietnam.

4. World Future Energy Summit 2024 In Abu Dhabi

• On April 16th, 2024, the World Future Energy Summit and Exhibition (WFES) took center stage at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center (ADNEC), drawing renewable energy leaders from across the MENA region. This prestigious event served as a hub for global PV companies to unveil the latest advancements in solar technology and products.

5. 6th Edition Of International Conference On Disaster Resilient Infrastructure Begins In New Delhi

• **The 6th edition of International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure has begun in New Delhi on 24 April.**

• The event, hosted by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), is themed '**Investing today for a more resilient tomorrow**' and aims to bolster global infrastructure against disasters.

- The CDRI, an initiative launched by the Prime Minister of India in 2019, now encompasses 46 member countries. The ICDRI serves as a critical platform for dialogue and collaboration among governments, the global infrastructure community, multilateral development banks, and the private sector.

KP CLASSES

Science & Technology

1. President Droupadi Murmu To Dedicate CAR-T Cell Therapy To Nation At IIT Bombay

- **President Droupadi Murmu has recently dedicated CAR-T Cell Therapy to the nation at IIT Bombay.** The CAR-T Cell Therapy (used to treat cancer patients) has been developed in India by IIT Bombay-incubated Company Immunoadoptive Cell Therapy (ImmunoACT). The CAR-T Cell Therapy product has been developed as a collaborative effort between IIT Bombay and Tata Memorial Centre(TMC)

- Designed and developed at IIT Bombay, the therapy has undergone integrative process development and manufacturing at ImmunoACT. Clinical investigations and translational studies were conducted by teams at TMH.

2. Tata's made-in-India military-grade satellite successfully placed in orbit by SpaceX rocket

- **Tata Advanced Systems (TASL), Tata Sons' wholly-owned subsidiary, has launched India's first private sector-built sub-metre resolution earth observation satellite, TSAT-1A,** in collaboration with Satellogic. The satellite was launched from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, by SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

- TSAT-1A will provide high-resolution satellite images with low-latency delivery. The Indian armed forces are expected to be one of its major users. This is the first sub-metre high-resolution earth observation satellite by the private sector in India. The satellite, weighing less than 50 kg, is in low-earth orbit.

3. GUJCOST designated as Nodal Centre for ISRO's START programme

- **The Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST) has been designated as the Nodal Centre for the 'Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)' programme by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The START programme, a brainchild of ISRO, offers an introductory-level online training platform.**

- Encompassing a vast spectrum of space science research areas, including planetary exploration, astronomy, heliophysics, atmospheric science, and microgravity research. This initiative promises to ignite the curiosity of aspiring scientists and engineers. The inaugural online programme is themed 'Exploration of Solar System,'.

4. Meta Unveils Upgraded Meta AI Assistant Powered by Llama 3 AI

- **Meta announced a major upgrade to its AI assistant, Meta AI, which is powered by the company's latest natural language model, Llama 3.** According to Meta, the updated Meta AI is designed to be helpful, harmless, and honest. It can now be accessed across Meta's platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Messenger, as well as a dedicated website at meta.ai.

- Powered by Meta's state-of-the-art Llama 3 model, Meta AI is designed with new advancements in AI and natural language processing and is available for free use. It can understand language better and have more human-like conversations.

5. Microsoft launches lightweight artificial intelligence model Phi-3-mini

- **Microsoft launched a lightweight artificial intelligence model, as it looks to attract a wider client base with cost-effective options. The new version called Phi-3-mini is the first of the three small language models to be released by the company,** as it stakes its future on a technology that is expected to have a wide-ranging impact on the world and the way people work.

6. China launches 3 astronauts to Tiangong space station on Shenzhou 18 mission

- **A team of three astronauts launched aboard a rocket as part of China's Shenzhou-18 mission, heading towards the Tiangong space station in low earth orbit, according to Chinese space authorities.**
- This marks the most recent mission in Beijing's space programme, which is working towards sending astronauts to the Moon by 2030.
- The Shenzhou-18 spacecraft, also known as the "Divine vessel," along with its three passengers, launched atop a Long March-2F rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.

KP CLASSES

Defence

1. India, Maldives & Sri Lanka's 'Dosti-16' held in Maldives

- **Seeking to enhance maritime security and interoperability, coast guard personnel from India, the Maldives and Sri Lanka have embarked on a four-day trilateral exercise to identify emerging maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean Region. Indian Coast Guard ship Samarth and ICGS Abhinav took part at the exercise 'DOSTI-16'. Bangladesh is participating as an observer.**

2. IAF's Biggest Exercise 'Gagan Shakti' At Pokhran Field Firing Range In Jaisalmer District To Continue Till April 10

- **The Indian Air Force is conducting its biggest exercise 'Gagan Shakti' at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer district. This exercise which began on 3 April, will continue till April 10.** In the exercise, all the major fighter aircraft and modern helicopters of the Air Force are demonstrating their striking capabilities.
- The exercise is being conducted at various locations across the country, including the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer. Many fighter planes and helicopters including Tejas, Rafale, Sukhoi 30, Jaguar, Globemaster, Chinook, Apache, and Prachanda will participate in the exercise.
- **It was last held in 2018, during which the IAF completed over 11,000 sorties during the two- phase air manoeuvre.** The Indian Army is providing logistics support for this mega exercise, facilitating a comprehensive pan-India movement of approximately 10,000 IAF personnel and ammunition in order to validate the Operational Rail Mobilisation Plan aspects of the Indian Air Force

3. New Generation Ballistic Missile Agni-Prime successfully flight-tested by Strategic Forces Command & DRDO off the Odisha coast

- **Strategic Forces Command (SFC), along with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), conducted the successful flight-test of New Generation Ballistic Missile Agni-Prime from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on April 03, 2024.**
- The test met all the trial objectives validating its reliable performance, as confirmed from the data captured by a number of range sensors deployed at different locations, including two downrange ships placed at the terminal point.

4. Army Medical Corps celebrates 260th Raising Day

- **Army Medical Corps celebrated its 260th Raising Day on 03rd April 2024. Raised in the year 1764,** the Corps has rendered selfless service to the nation over centuries of progress, development, dedication & sacrifice, both in combat and in peace, living up to the Corps motto **of 'Sarve Santu Niramaya'** meaning 'let all be free from disease'.

5. Indian Army gets portable Igla-S Air defence system

- **The Indian Army has received the first batch of 24 Russia-made Igla-S Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS), along with 100 missiles, as part of a larger deal that includes domestic production in India.** The Igla-S system is being acquired to enhance the Indian Army's Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) capabilities.
- The Igla-S is a hand-held defence system that can be operated by an individual or crew. It is designed to bring down low-flying aircraft and can also identify and neutralise air targets such as cruise missiles and drones. India signed a contract with Russia in November last year for 120 launchers and 400 missiles.

6. Coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' conducted off Lakshadweep Islands

- **A two-day exercise involving all maritime security agencies of the country was conducted off the Lakshadweep Islands from April 1-2.** During the exercise, validation of the effectiveness of coastal security mechanisms while dealing with asymmetric threats emanating from the sea was undertaken.
- Assets of the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Police, fisheries, customs and other security agencies were engaged in the coastal security exercise -- Sagar Kavach 01/24. The exercise witnessed enhanced preparedness, response mechanism, surveillance capabilities and coordination between the coastal security stakeholders.

7. India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise DUSTLIK begins on April 15

- **The fifth edition of India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise Dustlik will commence at Termez District in Uzbekistan from April 15 onwards.** Participating contingents from the Indian Armed Forces and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan will undergo joint training sessions during the exercise.
- **The fourth edition of the joint military exercise between the Indian Army and Uzbekistan Army was held on February 20 last year at the Foreign Training Node, Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand.** The Indian Army contingent comprises troops from an infantry battalion from the Garhwal Rifles Regiment. **The first edition of the exercise was held in Uzbekistan in November 2019.**

8. DRDO & Indian Army conduct successful trials of indigenous Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile Weapon System

- **Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile Weapon System, indigenously designed and developed by Defence Research & Development Organisation, has been field evaluated in different flight configurations several times with the objective of proving the technology with superiority.** The Warhead Flight Trials were successfully conducted at the Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan.

9. SPACE, a premier testing & evaluation hub for sonar systems for Indian Navy, set up by DRDO, inaugurated in Kerala

- **A state-of-the-art Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (SPACE) was inaugurated in Idukki, Kerala.** The SPACE, set up by the Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory of DRDO, has been designed as a premier testing and evaluation hub for sonar systems destined for Indian Navy onboard various platforms including ships, submarines and helicopters.
- The SPACE marks a milestone in naval technology advancement. It will consist of two distinct assemblages - a platform which floats on the water surface, and a submersible platform which can be lowered to any depth upto 100 m using winch systems. Upon completion of operations, the submersible platform can be winched up and docked with the floating platform.

10. DRDO conducts successful flight test of Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile from Chandipur off Odisha coast

- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation conducted a successful flight test of the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha. his successful flight test has also established the reliable performance of the indigenous propulsion system developed by the Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), Bengaluru.**
- The missile is also equipped with advanced avionics and software to ensure better and more reliable performance. The missile is developed by Bengaluru-based DRDO laboratory Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), along with contributions from other laboratories and Indian

industries.

KP CLASSES

11. DRDO hands over first batch of indigenous Leading Edge Actuators & Airbrake Control Module to HAL for LCA Tejas Mk1A

- **DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency has handed over the first batch of the indigenous Leading Edge Actuators and Airbrake Control Module to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited**, marking a significant leap towards self-reliance in aeronautical technologies. The HAL, Lucknow has already made preparations for the production of these units for the current 83 LCA Tejas order.

12. Indian Navy Conducted Exercise Poorvi Lehar On East Coast

- **Indian Navy conducted Exercise Poorvi Lehar on the East Coast.** The exercise aimed at validation of procedures towards assessment of the Indian Navy's preparedness to meet Maritime Security challenges in the region. The exercise witnessed participation of Ships, Submarines, aircraft and Special Forces.

- It was conducted in multiple phases including combat training in a realistic scenario during the Tactical Phase and the successful conduct of various firings during the Weapon Phase towards reaffirming the Indian Navy's capability to deliver ordnance on target.

13. India fourth-largest military spender, overall global spending accelerates: SIPRI report

- **India was the fourth largest military spender globally in 2023. At \$83.6 billion, the country's military expenditure was 4.2 per cent higher than in 2022. Meanwhile, global military expenditure rose by 7 per cent to \$2,443 billion in 2023, the steepest annual rise since 2009, said the latest report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).**

- As per the report, the 10 largest spenders in 2023, led by the United States, China and Russia, all increased their military spending. The largest percentage increase in military spending by any country in 2023 was seen in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (+105 per cent). South Sudan recorded the second largest percentage increase (+78 per cent) amid internal violence.

14. DRDO develops lightest Bullet Proof Jacket of country for protection against highest threat Level of BIS ammunition

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO has successfully developed the lightest Bullet Proof Jacket in the country for protection against highest threat Level 6 of BIS ammunition.** Recently, this bullet proof jacket was successfully tested at TBRL, Chandigarh.

- Ministry of Defence in a statement said, this jacket is based upon new design approach, where novel material along with new processes have been used. It added that the front Hard Armour Panel (HAP) of this jacket defeats multiple hits. The ergonomically designed front HAP is made up of monolithic ceramic plate with polymer backing which enhances the wearability and comfort.

15. IAF successfully tests air-launched ballistic missile in Andamans, significantly boosts stand-off capabilities

- **The Indian Air Force (IAF) has achieved a significant milestone with the successful test firing of an air-launched ballistic missile capable of hitting targets over 250 kilometers away.**

- The missile, known as ROCKS or Crystal Maze 2, is of Israeli origin and was test-fired from a Su-30 MKI fighter jet in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- The Crystal Maze 2 is an extended stand-off range air-to-surface missile designed to strike high-value stationary and relocatable targets, including long-range radars and air defense systems.

- It is specifically effective in GPS-denied environments, similar to the conditions faced by India during

the Kargil War, and can also penetrate areas protected by air defense systems.

KP CLASSES

Books & Authors

1. Salman Rushdie to release 'Knife' memoir recounting stabbing

- **British-American author Salman Rushdie releases his memoir "Knife", recounting the harrowing experience of being stabbed at a public event in 2022** and how he overcame the near-fatal ordeal.
- Rushdie lost sight in one eye after the attack by a knife-wielding assailant, who jumped on stage at an arts gathering in New York state.

Obituary

1. Louis Gossett Jr., first Black man to win Best Supporting Actor Oscar, dies at 87

- **Louis Gossett Jr., the first Black man to win the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor, has died at the age of 87.** The actor made history by picking up the award for his role as the drill instructor Sgt. Emil Foley in the 1982 film An Officer And A Gentlemen. More recently, he received an Emmy nomination for his role in the HBO television adaptation of Watchmen.

2. Nobel laureate Peter Higgs, who proposed existence of 'god particle', dies at 94

- **Nobel prize-winning physicist Peter Higgs, who proposed the existence of the so-called 'god particle' that helped explain how matter formed after the Big Bang, has died at age 94. Higgs won the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physics** for his work, alongside Francois Englert of Belgium, who independently came up with the same theory.

3. Yakshagana exponent Subrahmanya Dhareshwar passes away at 67

- **Yakshagana thespian Subrahmanya Dhareshwar (67), who had earned the fame of 'Bhagavata Shrestha' for his scintillating voice, passed away.**
- A Karnataka Rajyotsava awardee, Dhareshwara was a professional 'bhagavatha' in Yakshagana melas (touring performing troupes) like Amrutheshwari, Hiremahalingeshwara, Panchalinga and Perdoor.
- Subrahmanya Dhareshwar had served 46 years in the field of Yakshagana, a unique dance form from coastal Karnataka, which involves distinct singing, dancing and drama style that has resemblance with the Theyyam art form of neighbouring Kerala.

Person in news

1. 8 Indians named in Time's 100 Most Influential List 2024

- **Eight individuals of Indian descent, including Alia Bhatt, Ajay Banga, and Sakshi Malik, have been honoured in Time magazine's prestigious list of the 100 most influential people of 2024.** The list, released, features a diverse array of leaders from various sectors, including finance, entertainment, technology, activism, and academia.

Indians named in Time's 100 Most Influential List 2024: -

- Ajay Banga- President of the World Bank
- Alia Bhatt- Actor
- Sakshi Malik- Wrestler
- Dev Patel- Actor
- Priyamvada Natarajan- Professor in Astrophysics
- Asma Khan-Indian-born British restaurateur and cookbook author
- Jigar Shah-Director of the US Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office

- Satya Nadella- Executive chairman and CEO of Microsoft

2. Saurav Ghosal Retires from Professional Squash at 37

- **Indian squash player Saurav Ghosal announced his retirement from professional squash.**

- During his career, Ghosal won 12 Professional Squash Association (PSA) titles and multiple medals at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) and Asian Games.

- The 37-year-old was also a former top 10 athlete in world squash rankings, reaching the level in April 2019 and staying there for six months. He is also the only Indian man to enter the top 10 in the World rankings. The nine-time Asian Games medallist played a significant role in leading India to gold medals in the teams event at 2014 and 2022 editions of the Asian Games.
- Ghosal has to his name 13 national titles, and three CWG medals.
- He also became the first Indian male player to secure a CWG squash medal in a singles competition at the same event.
- He has also won the World Doubles Championships gold medal after partnering compatriot Dipika Pallikal Karthik in the mixed event at the 2022 Glasgow competition.

Insurance

1. Magma HDI General Insurance joins hand with Suryoday Small Finance Bank as their 'Corporate Agent' for providing Health Insurance

- **Magma HDI General Insurance Company, a prominent player in India's general insurance sector, and Suryoday Small Finance Bank, renowned for its rapid growth in the small finance banking arena, have forged a Corporate Agency Agreement.** This partnership aims to offer Suryoday Bank's Commercial Vehicle Loan clients health insurance.
- By capitalizing on Suryoday Bank's extensive urban and rural network, this collaboration seeks to bridge the gap in health insurance accessibility. Suryoday Bank Commercial Vehicle Loan customers can now access customised health insurance solutions, which aligns with the bank's commitment to social inclusion.

2. Star Health Insurance collaborates with PhonePe to provide 'Star Comprehensive Insurance Policy'

- **Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Ltd. (Star Health Insurance), India's leading retail health insurance provider, joins hand with PhonePe. Under the agreement, Star Health's Comprehensive Health Insurance Policy will be available on the PhonePe app with a monthly and annual payment option, with coverage up to Rs.1 crore. This is an industry-first initiative.**
- The move allows customers to choose quality health insurance coverage with flexible payment choices, providing access to quality healthcare throughout the country. Users can also pay their premiums using the UPI AutoPay mandate with a monthly EMI option for increased convenience.

3. General Insurance industry grows 12.78% in FY24

- **According to data released by the General Insurance Council, premiums of general insurers grew by 14.24 per cent Y-o-Y to Rs 2.45 trillion in FY24. Non-life insurers posted a 12.78 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) growth in gross direct premium underwritten in 2023-24 (FY24), reaching Rs 2.89 trillion, compared to 16.4 per cent in the previous financial year.**
- **Public sector general insurers clocked an 8.99 per cent growth in premium to Rs 90,344.49 crore,** whereas their private sector counterparts witnessed a 17.53 per cent increase to Rs 1.55 trillion. Among companies, the industry leader, The New India Assurance Company, saw a 7.4 per cent Y-o-Y growth in premium to Rs 37,035.19 crore.
- Among other major insurers, HDFC Ergo General Insurance's premium increased by 11.61 per cent to Rs 18,567.56 crore, whereas United India Insurance Company's premium surged 12.51 per cent to Rs 19,851.71 crore and The Oriental Insurance's premium rose 17.1 per cent Y-o-Y to Rs 18,285.82 crore in FY24.

4. Irdai removes age limit of 65 yrs for buying health insurance policies

- **With a view to widen the market and foster adequate protection from healthcare expenses, insurance regulator IRDAI has removed the age limit of 65 years for individuals buying health insurance policies.**
- This marks a significant departure from the conventional constraints that limited individuals in securing comprehensive coverage.
- **As per the earlier guidelines, individuals were allowed to purchase a new insurance policy only till the age of 65. However, with the recent amendment, which has been effective from April 1, anyone, regardless of age, is eligible to buy a new health insurance policy.**

- There is no limit on AYUSH treatment coverage. Treatments under systems like Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy will receive coverage up to the sum insured without any cap. The proposed regulation seeks to handle the complaints and claims of senior citizens via a specialised channel, ensuring a more tailored and responsive approach to their requirement.

KP CLASSES

India & World

1. India renews agreement to export electricity to Nepal for next 3 months

• **India renewed the agreement to export electricity to Nepal for the next three months.**

- Under the agreement, which was to expire on March 31, **Nepal can import a total of 554 MW electricity from India between 6 am and 6 pm. Nepal's domestic electricity production currently stands at around 1,200 MW while the country's demand for electricity is 1,800 MW to 2,000 MW.**

2. India to join U.S. led carbon market project under IPEF initiative

- **India has decided to join at least one of the four cooperative work programmes launched under the 'clean energy pillar' of the US-led Indo Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) ' the one on facilitating and promoting carbon market activities. The IPEF, an initiative led by US President Joe Biden, was launched in May 2022, bringing together 14 regional partners.**

- The 14 countries are Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the US, and Vietnam. IPEF aims to have a common set of rules and standards around four pillars: connectivity and digital trade; resilient supply chains; clean energy; and corruption-free fair trade.

3. India secures second overseas port Sittwe in Myanmar after Chabahar in Iran

- **After Chabahar in Iran, India has gained the rights to operate a second overseas port, Sittwe, in Myanmar. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has approved a proposal for India Ports Global (IPGL) to take over the operations of the entire port located on the Kaladan River.** IPGL is a company 100 per cent owned by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

- Sittwe Port has been developed under a framework agreement between India and Myanmar for the construction and operation of a Multimodal Transit Transport Facility on the Kaladan River, connecting the Sittwe Port in Myanmar with the state of Mizoram in India.

4. India, Mauritius revise tax treaty, aim to plug evasion

- **India has signed a protocol amending the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with Mauritius to plug treaty abuse for tax evasion or avoidance.** In the amended protocol, **Article 27B has been introduced in the treaty defining the 'entitlement to benefits'**. The amendment to the India-Mauritius treaty was signed on March 7 at Port Louis and was made public recently.

- The amended pact has included what is called the Principal Purpose Test (PPT), which essentially lays out the condition that the tax benefits under the treaty will not be applicable if it is established that obtaining that duty benefit was the principal purpose of any transaction or arrangement.
- Mauritius has been a preferred jurisdiction for investments in India due to the non-taxability of capital gains from the sale of shares in Indian companies until 2016. The treaty was last amended in May 2016 allowing the right to tax capital gains arising from sale or transfer of shares of an Indian company acquired by a Mauritian tax resident.
- The DTAA was a major reason for a large number of foreign portfolio investors (FPI) and foreign entities to route their investments in India through Mauritius. Mauritius remains India's fourth largest source of FPI investments, after the US, Singapore, and Luxembourg.
- A Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) is a pact signed by two nations that encourages capital investment, trade in goods and services, and other economic activities between the two nations

by preventing International Double Taxation.

5. India, US to reactivate observation system for Indian Ocean

- **India and the US have decided to reactivate the Indian Ocean Observing System, a network of 36 moored buoys in the high seas to collect high-resolution ocean and atmospheric data for weather forecasts.** The moored buoys are part of the Research Moored Array for African-Asian-Australian Monsoon Analysis and Prediction program.

- It was born out of a collaboration between the Ministry of Earth Sciences and NOAA in 2008. The RAMA moored buoys also provide important verification data for air-sea flux products and satellite measurements.

6. India delivers 1st batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to Philippines

- **India delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and launchers to the Philippines**, two years after the two countries signed a deal worth almost \$375 million to equip the Philippine Marines with three batteries of the missiles. **This is the first export order for the BrahMos missile developed by India and Russia.**

- **India has set a defence export target of Rs. 35,000 crore by 2024-25.** The BrahMos supersonic cruise missile has a two-stage solid propellant booster engine as its first stage which takes it to supersonic speed. The second stage is the liquid ramjet engine which takes it closer to Mach 3 (3 times the speed of sound) speed in the cruise phase. The Indian Army has integrated multiple BrahMos regiments into its arsenal since 2007.

Apps & Portals

1. SEBI Launches New & More User-Friendly Version Of Complaint Redress System ' SCORES 2.0.

- **The Securities and Exchange Board of India ' SEBI has launched a new and more user-friendly version of its complaint redress system ' SCORES 2.0. According to SEBI, the timeline for redressal of complaints in SCORES 2.0 has been reduced to 21 calendar days.**

- Besides, there will be two levels of review, first by the 'Designated Body' and if the investor is dissatisfied, SEBI will undertake a second review. The market regulator has enabled integration with the KYC Registration Agency database for easy registration of the investor on SCORES.

2. Tata AIA unveils payment solution system on WhatsApp

- **Tata AIA Life Insurance Co. Ltd. (Tata AIA) has unveiled a premium payment service via WhatsApp, making it the first type in the industry.** Previously limited to UPI-based transactions, Tata AIA customers can now use a variety of payment options on WhatsApp. Policyholders can now conveniently make renewal payments via WhatsApp using credit card, debit card, or net banking.

- **Policyholders can now pay up to INR 1 crore premiums instead of the previous limit of INR 2 lakh.** Tata AIA introduced an industry-first digital payment function in June 2023, which allows for instant premium payments using WhatsApp and UPI-enabled payment alternatives. **Tata AIA offers 27 services to its customers through WhatsApp.**

- These include soft copies of the Policy document, premium certificate, claim initiation and updates, renewal premium payments, contact information updates, service request tracking, NEFT updates, unit statements, and fund value updates. The company also features a TASHA interactive service bot that replies to user concerns 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

3. Union Health Ministry launches myCGHS iOS app

- **Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the myCGHS app for iOS ecosystem of devices.** The app is designed to enhance access to Electronic Health Records, information, and resources for Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries.

- **The myCGHS iOS app is developed by the technical teams of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) Himachal Pradesh and NIC Health Team.** It is a convenient mobile application offering features aimed at enhancing information and accessibility for CGHS beneficiaries. The app features security features like 2-factor authentication and functionality of mPIN.

4. Britannia NutriChoice launches health monitoring app NutriPlus in India

- **Leading biscuit brand Britannia NutriChoice makes its entry into Indian health tech by launching a subscription-free NutriPlus app, developed in collaboration with Aktivo Labs,** aimed at enhancing consumers' well-being with evidence-based solutions. To mark World Health Day, Britannia plans to make the app accessible to consumers through the Google Play Store and iOS.

5. Swiggy launches 'Swiggy Pawlice' initiative for finding missing pets

- **The on-demand convenience platform unveiled an innovative addition to its app: Swiggy Pawlice.** This feature empowers pet parents to report a missing pet directly on the Swiggy app, harnessing the network of Swiggy's delivery partners as compassionate allies in the search efforts.

- Pet parents can report their missing pets directly through the Swiggy app, providing all necessary details and pictures. Swiggy's vast network of over 3.5 lakh delivery partners plays a crucial role in this initiative.

If a delivery partner spots a missing pet, they simply need to inform a dedicated team at Swiggy, providing details and location.

KP CLASSES

Acquisitions & Mergers

1. ABFRL to demerge Madura Fashion & Lifestyle into separate listed entity

- **The board of directors of Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail (ABFRL) authorised the management of the company to evaluate the vertical demerger of the Madura Fashion & Lifestyle (MFL) business from ABFRL into a separate, listed company.**

- The MFL business consists of four lifestyle brands: **Louis Philippe, Van Heusen, Allen Solly and Peter England.** These, along with casual wear brands American Eagle & Forever 21, sportswear brand Reebok, and the innerwear business under Van Heusen, will be demerged into a separate listed entity.

2. Fincare merges with AU Small Finance Bank

- **AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) amalgamated Fincare Small Finance Bank, marking the first such consolidation in the sector.** In an all-stock merger deal first announced on October 29, 2023, where the shareholders of Fincare SFB received 579 equity shares in AU SFB for every 2,000 equity shares held in Fincare SFB, the merger received final approval from RBI.

- As part of the financial inclusion drive, the Small Finance Banks are created to provide basic banking services like accepting deposits and lending to the unbanked sections such as small farmers, micro business enterprises, micro and small industries and unorganised sector entities.

3. CCI approves acquisition NFCL Assets and 100% shareholding of ZeroC by AMG India

- **The Competition Commission of India has approved the proposed acquisition NFCL Assets and 100% shareholding of ZeroC by AMG India using proceeds of investments received from the AMG Entities, BSI, Gentari, and Platinum Rock. AM Green B.V., AM Green Ammonia Holdings B.V., AM Green Ammonia B.V., AM Green Ammonia (India) Private Limited are collectively referred as AMG Entities.**

- Gentari International Renewables Pte. Ltd. (Gentari) is a newly incorporated company in November 2022, controlled by the PETRONAS Group. It is a clean energy company operating 3 core portfolios –
- Renewable energy;
- Hydrogen; and
- Green mobility. Greenko ZeroC Private Limited (ZeroC) is not engaged in any revenue generating business activities in India at present

4. CCI approves acquisition of Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares in Northern Arc Capital Limited by IFC

- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares (CCPS) in Northern Arc Capital Limited (Northern Arc/Target) by the International Finance Corporation (IFC).** The Proposed Combination involves the acquisition of fully paid Series C CCPS ('Subscription Shares') in Northern Arc by IFC.

- **The Subscription Shares represent approximately 6% of the total issued and paid-up share capital of Target on a fully diluted basis along with certain affirmative voting rights and board nomination rights.** IFC, an international organization is a member of the World Bank Group with its own Articles of Agreement, share capital, financial structure, and management.

5. CCI approves acquisition of Sharekhan and Human Value Developers

- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of 100% equity stake of Sharekhan Ltd. and Human Value Developers Pvt. Ltd. collectively by Mirae Asset Capital Markets (India) Pvt. Ltd. and Mirae Asset Securities Co. Ltd., respectively.**
- **Mirae Asset Securities Co. Ltd. is a public limited company currently listed on the Korea Exchange**, having wealth management, investment banking, sales and trading, and principal investment as its principal businesses, among others. Sharekhan Ltd. is currently engaged in the business of stock broking, commodities/currency derivatives broking and related product and services.

6. CCI approves subscription of compulsorily convertible preference shares of Pritam International Private Limited by India Advanta

- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved subscription of compulsorily convertible preference shares of Pritam International Private Limited (Target) by India Advantage Fund S5 I (IAF S5 I), HCL Corporation Private Limited** (HCL Corp), Mirabilis Investment Trust (Mirabilis), Mr. Aashil Apurva Shah and Mr. Ansh Ashit Shah (collectively referred to as 'Acquirers')
- The Proposed Combination involves the subscription of compulsorily convertible preference shares of Target by the Acquirers. **IAF S5 1 is registered with the Security Board of India (SEBI) as a category II Alternative Investment Funds (AIF) and carries on activities subject to the SEBI (AIF) Regulations, 2012.** Its investment objectives as set out in its fund documents.
- HCL Corp is a registered Non-Banking Financial Corporation and is part of the HCL Group. It is incorporated with the primary objective to carry on the business of holding investments in various entities within its group. **Mirabilis Investment Trust is registered under the Indian Trust Act, 1882**, and is not part of any group.

7. CCI approves acquisition of 10.39% shareholding of Annapurna Finance Private Limited by Pirmal Alternatives Trust

- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of 10.39% shareholding of Annapurna Finance Private Limited and subscription to its certain debentures by Pirmal Alternatives Trust.** Annapurna Finance Private Limited is a non-deposit-taking non-banking financial company registered with the Reserve Bank of India under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
- Pirmal Alternatives Trust is a trust belonging to Pirmal Enterprises Limited. Pirmal Alternatives Trust is a fund management business that provides customised financing solutions to high-quality corporates through - 'Pirmal Credit Fund', a performing, sector-agnostic credit fund.

8. CCI approves subscription to 14,25,79,161 equity shares of Max Life Insurance Company Limited by Axis Bank Limited

- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the subscription to 14,25,79,161 equity shares of Max Life Insurance Company Limited by Axis Bank Limited.** Axis Bank is an Indian private sector bank involved in the business of banking. Max Life Insurance is engaged in the business of providing life insurance and annuity products and investment plans in India.

9. CCI approves acquisition of shares of MG Motor India Private Limited by IndoEdge India Fund ' Large Value Fund (LVF) Scheme

- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of shares of MG Motor India Private Limited by IndoEdge India Fund ' Large Value Fund (LVF) Scheme.** The Acquirer is a large value fund for accredited investors, a scheme by IndoEdge India Fund (IndoEdge).

- The proposed combination relates to the acquisition of up to approximately 8% of the share capital (8.70% of the voting and economic rights) of the MG Motor India Private Limited (Target) along with certain rights by the IndoEdge India Fund ' LVF Scheme (Acquirer) (Proposed Combination).
- **IndoEdge is a contributory determinate trust registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India as a Category II Alternative Investment Fund, under the SEBI (AIF) Regulations, 2012.**

10. Xcelerat acquire stakeholder communications consultancy Stirrup Communication

- **Xcelerate, a Singapore-based GRC and ESG investment platform, has acquired a strategic equity stake in Stirrup Communication, India's leading stakeholder communications consultancy,** for an undisclosed amount, sources familiar with the transaction said. Stirrup Communication, boasting a current clientele of more than 250, ranging from the Tata Group to the Birla Group. Founder of Stirrup: - Arvind Agrawal

11. Piramal Alternatives invests Rs 110 crore in Biodeal Pharmaceuticals

- **Piramal Alternatives, the investment arm of Piramal Group, has announced an investment of Rs 110 crore in Biodeal Pharmaceuticals.** Biodeal is a contract development and manufacturing organisation. The investment is aimed at fuelling Biodeal's development of solutions, enhancing its production capabilities, and operations, positioning it as a leading nasal spray manufacturer

12. Private equity company Bain Capital sells residual stake in Axis Bank

- **Private equity (PE) firm Bain Capital sold its remaining 1.08 per cent stake in private sector lender Axis Bank.** The affiliate firms Bc Asia Investments and Integral Investments South Asia IV sold a total of 33.37 million shares at Rs 1,071 apiece to mop up Rs 3,575 crore. Among the buyers were a clutch of domestic as well as foreign funds.

13. IndusInd Intl Holdings buys 60% in Indian arm of Invesco

- **IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL) will acquire a 60% stake in Invesco Asset Management.** Invesco will retain a 40% stake in the fund house, while both IIHL and Invesco will have sponsor status. Invesco is the fifth-largest foreign asset manager and the 17th largest domestic asset manager in India with combined onshore and offshore advisory and assets under management.

14. Bharti Airtel signs deal to merge Sri Lankan unit with Dialog Axiata

- **Bharti Airtel said it has signed an agreement to merge the operations of its Sri Lankan unit with Dialog, the island nation's largest telecom provider and a subsidiary of Malaysia's Axiata Group Berhad. Dialog will acquire 100 per cent of the issued shares in Airtel Lanka.**
- **Bharti Airtel Lanka, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Indian telecom giant, began commercial operations in Sri Lanka in 2009.** Dialog will acquire 100 per cent of the issued shares in Airtel Lanka. In return, Airtel Lanka will be granted a stake in Dialog.

15. ITC Infotech to acquire Pune-based Blazeclan Technologies for Rs 485 crore

- **ITC Infotech has entered into a share purchase agreement for the acquisition of 100 per cent of the share capital of Pune-headquartered Blazeclan Technologies Private Limited for Rs 485 crore.** Blazeclan is a born-in-the-cloud consulting company providing cloud services on AWS, Azure, and GCP and provides cloud transformation solutions to customers globally

FinTech

1. Razorpay Launches UPI Switch With Airtel Payments Bank

- **Fintech major Razorpay, in partnership with Airtel Payments Bank, has forayed into UPI infrastructure service by offering UPI Switch to its customers.**

- The company will now provide its UPI Switch service to Airtel Payments Bank, enabling it to manage UPI transactions on the payments bank's platform. The solution can handle up to 10,000 transactions per second (TPS).

- Razorpay received a final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in December last year to operate as a payment aggregator, enabling it to onboard new merchants after a nearly one-year-old regulatory ban.

States & UT

Madhya Pradesh

1. With 954 hectares, MP leads in tree plantation under 'green credit' plan

- **Madhya Pradesh has taken lead in implementing the Centre's Green Credit Programme (GCP) which got over 500 land parcels spanning 4,980 hectares across 10 states approved for tree plantation in the past two months.** These states, along with three others, have together identified more than 10,000 hectares of land for the programme.

- Madhya Pradesh has, so far, reported the highest 954 hectares of approved degraded forest land for plantation/greening exercises followed by Telangana (845 hectares), Chhattisgarh (713 hectares), Gujarat (595 hectares) and Assam (454 hectares).

- Other five states where such land parcels have been approved by the administrator - **Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) - are Bihar, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Odisha.**

Andaman and Nicobar Island

1. In a first, people of Andaman's vulnerable Shompen tribe vote

- **For the first time in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, seven members of the Shompen tribe, a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTGs) of Great Nicobar Islands exercised their voting rights** for the lone Lok Sabha seat in the union territory. As per the 2011 census, the population of the Shompen was 229.

Committees

1. IFSCA sets up committee to transform GIFT City into climate finance hub

- **The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has established a standing committee to develop a framework for launching climate finance products, as part of efforts to transform Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) into a "climate finance hub." The committee is tasked with submitting a report to the government by the end of May 2024.**

KP CLASSES

QUICK LEARNERS

BANKING

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.00%

POLICY/EXCHANGE RATE & RESERVE RATIO	PERCENTAGE
Repo Rate	6.50%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF)	6.75%
Bank Rate	6.75%

APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENT	POST
Sheyphali B. Sharan	Principal Director General of Press Information Bureau
Sridhar Narayan	Chief Business Officer of Perfios
Subhasish Roy	Chief Risk Officer of Bank of Maharashtra
Arnab Goswamy	Chief Financial Officer of Punjab & Sind Bank
Rakesh Mohan	Member of the Economic Advisory Panel at World Bank Group
Dr. Meenesh Shah	Chairman of the National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd. (NCDFI)
Srinivas Pallia	CEO of Wipro
Manoj Panda	Full-time member of the 16th Finance Commission
Simon Harris	16 th Prime Minister of Ireland
Murali Ramakrishnan	Non-Executive Independent Director of RBL Bank
Deepak Kumar Sharma	Additional Director of Suryoday Small Finance Bank
Sushil Sharma	Chairman and Managing Director of SJVN Limited
Anurag Kumar	Joint Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah	Prime Minister of Kuwait
Nalin Negi	Full-time Chief Executive Officer at Fintech firm BharatPe
Kristalina Georgieva	Managing Director of International Monetary Fund
Dinesh Kumar Tripathi	Chief of Naval Staff
Ajith Kumar K.K	Managing Director & CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank
Keki M Mistry	Chairman of HDFC Life Insurance
Nalin Prabhat	Director-General of National Security Guard (NSG)
Anand Rai Singhania	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of API infrastructure company Setu
T Rabi Sankar	Deputy Governor of RBI
Amitabh Chaudhary	Managing Director & CEO of Axis Bank
Arun Alagappan	Executive Chairman of Coromandel International
Sunil Kumar Yadav	Director in the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)

IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
2nd April	World Autism Awareness Day	Empowering Autistic Voices
April 1st - April 7th	Prevention of Blindness Week	
4th April	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	Protecting Lives, Building Peace
5th April	International Day of Conscience	Promoting the Culture of Peace with Love and Conscience
5th April	National Maritime Day	Navigating the future: safety first!
6th April	International Day of Sport for	Sport for the promotion of peaceful and

	Development and Peace (IDSDP)	Inclusive Societies
7th April	International Day of Reflection	
7th April	World Health Day	My health, My right
10th April	World Homoeopathy Day	Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family
11th April	World Parkinson's Disease Day	
12th April	International Day of Human Space Flight	
14th April	World Chagas Disease Day	Early diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up
14th April	World Quantum Day	
15th April	World Art Day	A GARDEN OF EXPRESSION: Cultivating Community Through Art
17th April	World Hemophilia Day	Equitable access for all: recognizing all bleeding disorders
18th April	World Heritage Day	Discover and Experience Diversity
19th April	World Liver Day	Keep your Liver healthy and disease free
20th April	Chinese Language Day	
21st April	World Creativity and Innovation Day	Inspire
21st April	National Services Day	
22nd April	Earth Day	Planet vs. Plastics
23rd April	World Book and Copyright Day	Read your Way
23rd April	United Nations English Language Day	
23rd April	Spanish Language Day	
24th April	International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for peace	
24th-30th April (Last week of April)	World Immunization Week	Humanly Possible
24th April	National Panchayati Raj Day	
25th April	International Girls in ICT Day	Leadership
25th April	World Malaria Day	Accelerating the fight Against malaria for a more equitable world
25th April	International Delegate's Day	
26th April	International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day	
26th April	World Intellectual Property Day	IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity
27th April	World Veterinary Day	Veterinarians are Essential Health Workers
28th April	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	Climate change and safety and health at work

SPORTS

NAME OF THE SPORTS PERSON	RELATED FIELD
Jannik Sinner	Tennis
Grigor Dimitrov	Tennis
Rohan Bopanna	Tennis
Matthew Ebden	Tennis
Saikhom Mirabai Channu	Weightlifting
Sumit Nagal	Tennis
Kamindu Mendis	Cricket
Dommaraju Gukesh	Chess
Jonatan Christie	Badminton
Li Sin Feng	Badminton
Balraj Panwar	Rowing
Yuzvendra Chahal	Cricket

KP CLASSES

Max Verstappen	Racing (Formula 1 car racing)
Novak Djokovic	Badminton
Aitamon Bonamti	Footballer
Yuvraj Singh	Cricket

SCHEMES

NAME OF THE SCHEME	THEME
Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana	Facilitates micro credit/loans up to Rs. 10 lakhs to income-generating micro-enterprises engaged in the non-farm sectors.
Bandhan Innovation Fund	To invest in companies with substantial R&D investment, high skilled-employee costs, potential margins or growth, unique products or services, non-linear business models, and a notable brand presence.
Canara Start-Up Scheme	Provide financial support for the creation, promotion, diversification, and modernization of industrial units across India.

OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
Louis Gossett Jr.	Actor
Peter Higgs	Physicist
Subrahmanya Dhareshwar	Yakshagana thespian

DEFENCE

DEFENCE EXERCISE NAME	COUNTRIES INVOLVED
DOSTI-16	India, Maldives and Sri Lanka
Gagan Shakti	India
Sagar Kavach 01/24	India
Dustlik	India and Uzbekistan
Poorvi Lehar	India (Indian Navy, Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Coast Guard)

INDIA AND WORLD

COUNTRIES INVOLVED	FIELD OF CO-OPERATION
India and Nepal	Renewed the agreement to export electricity to Nepal for next 3 months
India and US-led Indo Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)	Connectivity and digital trade; resilient supply chains; clean energy; and corruption-free fair trade
India and Myanmar	Construction and operation of a Multimodal Transit Transport Facility on Kaladan River, connecting Sittwe Port in Myanmar with the state of Mizoram in India.
India and Mauritius	Amendment of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with Mauritius to plug abuse for tax evasion or avoidance.
India and USA	Reactivating the Indian Ocean Observing System, a network of 36 moored buoys in the high seas to collect high-resolution ocean and atmospheric data for weather forecasts.
India and Philippines	India delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and launchers to the Philippines

ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

ENTITY	ACQUIRED BY/MERGED WITH
Madura Fashion & Lifestyle (MFL)	Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail (ABRL) (Demerger)
Fincare Small Finance Bank	AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB)
NFCL Assets and ZeroC	AMG India
Northern Arc Capital	Internation Finance Corporation (IFC)
Sharekhan Ltd. And Human Value Developers Pvt Ltd.	Mirae Asset Capital

Pritam International Private Limited	HCL Corporation Private Limited and Mirabilis Investment Trust
Annapurna Finance Private Limited	Pirmal Alternative Trust
Max Life Insurance Company Limited	Axis Bank
MG Motor India Private Limited	IndoEdge India Fund
Stirrup Communication	Xcelerate (Singapore-based GRC and ESG investment platform)
Biodeal Pharmaceuticals	Pirmal Alternatives
Bain Capital	Axis Bank
HDB Financial Services	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (MUFG)
Invesco Asset Management	IndusInd International Holdings
Airtel Lanka	Dailog
Blazeclam Technologies Private Limited	ITC Infotech

AWARDS

AWARDEE	AWARDS NAME	RELATED FIELD
REC Limited	SKOCJ ESG Award 2024	Renewable Energy Financing Category
Engineers India Limited	CIDC Vishwakarma Award	Construction Health, Safety & Environment
Chandrayaan-3 mission team	John L. 'Jack' Swigert Jr.	Space Exploration
Gagandeep Kang	John Dirks Canada Gairder Global Health Award for 2024	Scientific research in health sector
Mamta G. Sagar	World Literary Prize by World Organization of Writers (WOW)	Literature
Pavuluri Subba Rao	Aeronautical Society of India (ASI)	Astronautics
Ratan Tata	Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) Humanitarian Award 2021	Social development
Novak Djokovic	World Sportsman of the Year	Sport
Aitana Bonamati	World Sportswomen of the year	Sport
Diede de Groot	Laureus World Sports person of the year with a disability Award	Sport
Arisa Trew	Laureus World Sports person of the Year Award	Sport
Lauresus Sport for Good Award	Fundacin Rafa Nadal	Sport

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCE

SUMMIT/ CONFERENCE NAME	THEME	LOCATION
World Future Energy		Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre
Parivartan Chintan		New Delhi
First clean economy investor forum of IPEF		Singapore
6th edition of International Conference of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure	Investing today for a more resilient tomorrow	New Delhi

RANKS AND REPORTS

NAME OF THE REPORT/INDEX	RELEASED BY	RANKING OF INDIA/STATE/COMPANY ETC	COUNTRY WHICH TOPPED THE LIST
Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024	The Hurun Research Institute	India - 3 rd	USA
Global Outlook and Statistics Reports	World Trade Organization		

KP CLASSES

QS World University Rankings	QS Quacquarelli Symonds	India: - 2 nd (Jawaharlal Nehru University: - 20 th)	China
World Cybercrime Index	PLoS ONE	India: 10 th	Russia
Global Forest Watch monitoring project		Assam had the maximum tree cover loss	
Top 10 busiest airports	Airports Council International (ACI) World	Indra Gandhi International Airport: - 10 th	
Country Military Expenditure Reports	Stockholm International Peace Institute (SIPRI)	India: 4 th	South Sudan
2024 Indian States' Electricity Transition	Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and Ember		

IMPORTANT STATIC & CURRENT INFO

INDIAN STATES, CAPITALS, CHIEF MINISTERS & GOVERNORS

STATE	CAPITAL	CHIEF MINISTER	GOVERNOR
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy	Justice (Retd.) S. Abdul Nazeer
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Lt. General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik
Assam	Dispur	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Gulab Chand Kataria
Bihar	Patna	Nitish Kumar	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Vishnu Deo Sai	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar	Bhupendra Patel	Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Chandigarh	Nayab Singh Saini	BandaruDattatraya
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu	Shiv Pratap Shukla
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Champai Soren	CP Radhakrishnan
Karnataka	Bengaluru	Siddaramaiah	Thaawarchand Gehlot
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Mohan Yadav	MangubhaiChhaganbhai Patel
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Eknath Shinde	Ramesh Bais
Manipur	Imphal	N Biren Singh	Sushri Anusuiya Uikye
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Phagu Chauhan
Mizoram	Aizawl	PU Lalduhoma	Dr Kambhampati Haribabu
Nagaland	Kohima	Neiphiu Rio	La. Ganesan
Odisha	Bhubaneshwar	Naveen Patnaik	Raghubar Das
Punjab	Chandigarh	Bhagwant Mann	Banwarilal Purohit
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Bhajan Lal Sharma	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	Gangtok	PS Golay	Lakshman Prasad Acharya
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	M. K. Stalin	R. N. Ravi
Telangana	Hyderabad	A Revanth Reddy	CP Radhakrishnan
Tripura	Agartala	Dr. Manik Saha	Indra Sena Reddy Nallu
UttarPradesh	Lucknow	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Pushkar Singh Dhami	Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh
West Bengal	Kolkata	Mamata Banerjee	C V Ananda Bose

UNION TERRITORIES, LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS & ADMINISTRATORS

UNION TERRITORY	LT. GOVERNOR & ADMINISTRATOR
Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT)	Admiral D K Joshi (Lieutenant Governor)
Chandigarh (UT)	Banwarilal Purohit (Administrator)
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Delhi (NCT)	Vinai Kumar Saxena (Lieutenant Governor)
Jammu and Kashmir (UT)	Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor)
Lakshadweep (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Puducherry (UT)	CP Radhakrishnan (Addl. Charge) (Lieutenant Governor)
Ladakh (UT)	Brig. (Dr.) BD Mishra (Retd.) (Lieutenant Governor)

UNION MINISTERS & PORTFOLIO

UNION MINISTER	PORTFOLIO
Narendra Modi	Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space
Rajnath Singh	Ministry of Defence
Amit Shah	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Cooperation
Nitin Gadkari	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
Nirmala Sitharaman	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ministry of Textiles Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution
Narendra Singh Tomar	Ministry of agriculture and Farmers welfare
Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Ministry of External Affairs
Arjun Munda	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Smriti Zubin Irani	Ministry of Women and child Development Ministry of Minority Affairs
Dharmendra Pradhan	Ministry of Education Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Pralhad Joshi	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry of coal Ministry of Mines
Narayan Tatu Rane	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
SarbanandaSonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
Dr. Virendra Kumar	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Giriraj Singh	Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Ministry of Civil Aviation Ministry of Steel
Ashwini Vaishnaw	Ministry of Railways Ministry of Communications Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Ministry of Jal Shakti
Kiren Rijiju	Ministry of Earth Sciences
Raj Kumar Singh	Ministry of Power Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
Hardeep Singh Puri	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Man-sukh L. Mandaviya	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Bhupender Yadav	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Labour and Employment
Mahendra Nath Pandey	Ministry of Heavy Industries
Parshottam Rupala	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
G. Kishan Reddy	Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
Anurag Singh Thakur	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Arjun Meghwal	Ministry of Law and Justice

KP CLASSES

Practise Questions

Banking & Finance

1. Recently, Karnataka Bank has raised how many crores through qualified institutional placement by issuing shares to institutional investors?

- a. Rs 600 crores b. Rs 800 crores c. Rs 900 crores
d. Rs 1,000 crores e. Rs 1,200 crores

2. Canara Bank on 3 April, launched healthcare focused loan product Canara Heal, which will meet the shortfall in hospitalization expenditure while settling through TPA healthcare insurance claims of self and/or dependents. Bank also launched a customized savings account for women Canara Angel with unique features like Cancer Care policy. Canara bank exchanged Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with which among the following for enhancing healthcare accessibility and affordability of product for its customers. I. MediAssist Healthcare Services Ltd II. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Ltd. III. Max Life Insurance

- a. I Only b. II and III Only c. I and II Only d. III Only
e. I, II and III

3. In March 2024, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deferred the implementation of norms on exchange-traded currency derivatives (ETCDs) linked to Indian rupee until May 3 following concerns by investors. As per RBI the regulatory framework for participation in ETCDs involving the rupee is guided by the provisions of which act?

- a. Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002
b. Deposit Insurance & Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961
c. The Banking Regulation Act, 1949
d. Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999
e. Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007

4. In April 2024, Bandhan Mutual Fund (MF) announced the launch of the Bandhan Innovation Fund to invest in companies with substantial R&D investment, high skilled-employee costs,

potentially higher margins or growth, unique products or services, non-linear business models, and a notable brand presence. The fund will allocate its investments across a spectrum of innovators: _____ to leading innovators with substantial industry R&D investments

- a. 20-25 per cent b. 35-45 per cent c. 30-40 per cent d. 15-25 per cent e. 50-60 per cent

5. Which of the following is/are the example(s) of Non-bank payment system operators? I. Google Pay II. PhonePe III. Paytm
Answer Code:

- a. I only b. II only c. I and II only d. II and III only
e. III only

6. Identify the incorrect statements regarding the Central Bank Digital Currency-Retail (CBDC-R). I. It was launched by the Reserve Bank of India in 2022. II. It is a tokenised digital version of the Indian rupee. III. Only the scheduled commercial banks can offer CBDC-R through CBDC wallets. Answer Codes:

- a. I only b. II only c. III only d. I and II only
e. II and III only

7. According to a Reserve Bank of India survey conducted in March 2024, Consumer confidence for the year ahead has improved further on the back of higher optimism, which resulted in the Future Expectations Index (FEI) rising by 2.1 points to 125.2, the highest level since mid-2019. Female respondents accounted for _____.

a. 42.5 % b. 44.7 % c. 32.6 % d. 50.8 % e. 53.2 %

KP CLASSES

8. In April 2024, RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs. 1 crore on which among the following bank for non-compliance with certain directions on Loans and Advances - Statutory and Other Restrictions?

- a. IDFC First Bank b. State Bank of India c. Bank of India d. Canara Bank e. ICICI Bank

9. In April 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled certificate of registration of four non-banking finance companies (NBFCs). Identify which among the following NBFCs certificate is/are get cancelled by RBI. I. Kundles Motor Finance Pvt Ltd II. Nithya Finance Ltd III. Bhatia Hire Purchase Pvt Ltd III. Jiwanjyoti Deposits and Advances Limited,

- a. II and IV Only b. I and III Only

- c. I, II and III Only

- d. I, II, III and IV e. I and IV Only

10. As per the Union Bank of India, it has raised how many crores from foreign markets to fund overseas business growth?

- a. Rs 4,200 crore b. Rs 3,100 crore c. Rs 1,600 crore d. Rs 6,200 crore e. Rs 7,800 crore

11. In March 2024, Private equity firm Bain Capital will offload its remaining 1.08 per cent stake (33.37 million shares) in which of the following banks?

- a. Federal Bank b. Axis Bank c. HDFC Bank d. ICICI Bank e. IndusInd Bank

12. Credit default swaps are derivative instruments that provide a form of insurance against the risk of default of the issuer of a bond. In April 2024, Marking the first such transaction after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued fresh guidelines for the instrument, _____ and _____ carried out a Credit Default Swap (CDS) trade worth 25 crore.

- a. Canara Bank and Standard Chartered Bank India

- b. State Bank of India and HDFC India

- c. State Bank of India and Standard Chartered Bank India

- d. Canara Bank and HDFC India

- e. State Bank of India and Canara Bank

13. In April 2024, which of the following has opened a branch at Kavaratti Island in Lakshadweep, making it the only private sector bank to have a branch in the Union Territory?

- a. Axis Bank b. ICICI Bank c. Federal Bank d. HDFC Bank e. HSBC Bank

14. State-owned banks beat their private-sector peers, posting the highest gains in their market capitalisation in Q4 FY24, on the back of improved financial metrics. Which of the following bank has led the countrys 20 largest banks with a 38.5% sequential increase in market cap to 1.13-lakh crore?

- a. State Bank of India b. Indian Bank

- c. Indian Overseas Bank d. Canara Bank e. Bank of India

15. In April 2024, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has rejected two more applications, including that of Dvara Kshetriya Gramin Financial Services, for setting up small finance banks. The guidelines for 'on tap' licensing of Universal Banks and SFBs in the private sector were issued on August 1, _____, and December 5, _____, respectively.

- a. 2015; 2019 b. 2016; 2018 c. 2016; 2019 d. 2017; 2021 e. 2011; 2019

16. Revolut India on 12 April said that it has received an in-principal authorization from the Reserve Bank of India to issue Prepaid

Payment

KP CLASSES

Instruments (PPI) including prepaid cards and prepaid wallets in the country. This approval builds upon the existing licences which Revolut India has successfully obtained from RBI to operate as a _____ Authorised Money Exchange Dealer and to be able to provide multi-currency forex cards and cross-border remittance services.

a. Category II b. Category I c. Category IV d. Category III

e. None of the Above

17. Recently, which among the following bank becomes the first private lender to open a branch at Kavaratti Island in Lakshadweep, making it the only private sector bank to have a branch in the Union Territory.

a. HDFC Bank b. Axis Bank c. Canara Bank d. ICICI Bank

e. Kotak Mahindra bank

18. In April 2024, which of the following company has said that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted authorisation to the company to operate as an online payment aggregator?

a. Karvy Corporate

b. KFin Technologies

c. Computer Age Management Services Ltd d. SBI Mutual Fund

e. ICICI Prudential Mutual

19. In April 2024, Which of the following bank and Indian Mortgage Guarantee Corporation have signed a pact to provide mortgage guarantee- backed home loan products in the affordable housing segment to mitigate the risk of defaults for the bank, allowing it to potentially offer more favourable loan term to borrowers?

a. Indian Bank b. Bank of India c. Canara Bank

d. State Bank of India e. Bank of Baroda

20. According to the Reserve Bank of India's annual Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks Outlook 2022-23 released in April 2024, The advances of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) to the priority sector surged more than _____ in the financial year 2023, compared to the previous year.

a. 7% b. 17% c. 27% d. 37% e. 47%

21. Reserve Bank of India has issued two draft directions on regulation of Payment Aggregators (PA), pertaining to physical Point-of-Sale (PoS) activities of these players, net worth and licensing requirements in April 2024. Non-banks providing PA-P services will need a minimum net worth of _____ at the time of application.

a. 5 crore b. 10 crore c. 15 crore d. 20 crore e. 25 crore

22. In April 2024, Fitch Ratings affirmed the long- term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) for which of the following banks at 'BBB-' and said the outlook looks stable? I. Indian Bank II. State Bank of India III. Axis Bank IV. Canara Bank

a. I only b. II and III only

c. II, III and IV only d. II and IV only

e. I, II, III and IV

23. In April 2024, which of the following has decided to permit resident entities to hedge exposure to price risk of gold using OTC derivatives in the IFSC, in addition to the derivatives on exchanges in the IFSC?

a. SEBI

b. Bombay Stock Exchange

c. National Stock Exchange d. RBI e. Nasdaq

24. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a move that's set to accelerate India's green initiatives. Foreign investors operating within the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) can now invest in Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs). India raised two tranches of sovereign green bonds amounting to _____ across two maturities in 2023.

- a. Rs 10000 crore b. Rs 12000 crore c. Rs 14000 crore
d. Rs 16000 crore e. Rs 18000 crore

25. In April 2024, The Reserve Bank has imposed penalties totalling Rs 60.3 lakh on five co-operative banks for contravention of various regulatory norms. Which among the following was NOT among the 5 banks? I. Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank II. Kangra Co-operative Bank, New Delhi III. Rajdhani Nagar Sahkari Bank, Lucknow IV. Bharath Co-Operative. Bank, Bengaluru V. Zila Sahakari Bank, Kotdwar

- a. I only b. II only c. III only d. IV only e. V only

26. In April 2024, The Reserve Bank has imposed penalties totalling Rs 60.3 lakh on five co-operative banks for contravention of various regulatory norms. Which among the following was NOT among the 5 banks? I. Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank II. Kangra Co-operative Bank, New Delhi III. Nagar Sahkari Bank, Lucknow IV. Bharath Co-Operative. Bank, Bengaluru V. Zila Sahakari Bank, Kotdwar

- a. I only b. II only c. III only d. IV only e. V only

27. Indian banks have been among the best-performing lenders among peers in Asia. Three Indian lenders made it to the list of top 50 banks by assets in the Asia-Pacific region in 2023, up from two in 2022. Which among the following is NOT among the top 50 banks by assets in the Asia-Pacific region in 2023? I. SBI II. Axis Bank III. ICICI Bank IV. HDFC Bank

- a. I and II only b. III and IV only c. II only d. III only
e. I, II and IV only

28. In April 2024, which of the following payments banks has announced the launch of its NCMC (National Common Mobility Cards) enabled debit and pre-paid cards in association with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) powered by RuPay?

- a. Airtel Payment Bank
b. India Post Payment Bank
c. Jio Payment Bank.
d. Paytm Payment Bank
e. NSDL Payment Bank

29. Payment Aggregates (PAs) are entities that facilitate e-commerce sites and merchants' acceptance of various payment instruments from customers to complete their payment obligations without the need for merchants to create a separate payment integration system. In April 2024, which of the following fintech firms has received in-principle approval from the RBI for the payment aggregation (PA) business?

- a. ACKO b. CRED c. Freecharge d. Square e. Sumup

30. The Reserve Bank of India, in a cautious move, declined Annapurna Finance Limiteds application for a universal bank license made in January 2023. Identity the correct statements regarding the Universal Banks. I. UBs are financial entities like commercial banks, financial institutions, NBFCs, etc. that undertake multiple financial transactions.

II. Any individual/entity with at least 15 years of experience in banking and finance at the senior level or private entities with 10 years of successful track record are eligible to apply for on-tap licensing as UBs. III. UBs and SFBs are subject to Banking Regulation Act, RBI Act, and all statutes as applicable to banking entities.

- a. II and III Only b. I Only c. I and III Only d. III Only
e. I, II and III

31. Which of the following has introduced its inaugural travel-centric core credit card, 'MILES', which promises comprehensive travel benefits, including the conversion of Travel Credits to Air Miles and Hotel Points, enhanced rewards on all travel bookings, and access to airport lounges?

- a. SBI Card b. Axis Card c. ICICI Card d. IOB Card
e. Canara Card

32. In April 2024, Which of the following fintech company has received an in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a payment aggregator after the banking regulator had asked the fintech company to reapply for a payment aggregator licence?

- a. PayPal b. PayU c. Paytm d. Pine Labs e. Bill Desk

33. In April 2024, The Reserve Bank of India has directed which of the following banks to cease issue of fresh credit cards, with immediate effect and restricted the onboarding of new customers via online and mobile banking channels based on significant concerns arising out of RBI's IT Examination for 2022 and 2023?

- a. Axis Bank b. Bank of Baroda
c. Punjab & Sind Bank
d. Kotak Mahindra Bank e. South India Bank

34. RBI released a master direction for asset reconstruction companies, saying the guidelines will be effective from April 24, 2024. According to the guidelines, ARCs are expected to have a minimum capital requirement of _____.

- a. Rs. 50 crore b. Rs. 100 crore c. Rs. 150 crore d. Rs. 200 crore
e. Rs. 300 crore

35. In April 2024, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed which of the following fintech firm has been asked to stop the issuance and operation of its Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) or wallets,

and refund the balances held in them to customers by May 17 this year?

- a. InCred b. Talkcharge c. Paisabazaar d. Lendingkart
e. Avail Finance

36. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has approved Crisil ESG Ratings & Analytics as a Category 1 provider of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) ratings. Crisil ESG Ratings, a unit of Crisil, was incorporated after Sebi amended the SEBI (Credit Rating Agencies) Regulations, 1999, to include provisions on ESG Rating Providers (ERPs) last year. The principal shareholder of an ESG rating agency is mandated to retain a minimum ownership interest of _____

in said agency for at least five years subsequent to receiving regulatory approval.

- a. 15% b. 20% c. 26% d. 49% e. 51%

37. In April 2024, which of the following small finance banks has announced that it has launched Indian banking industry's first ATM Insurance, for the convenience of customers to buy insurance with debit cards?

- a. Equitas Small Finance Bank
b. Suryoday Small Finance Bank
c. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
d. AU Small Finance Bank
e. ESAF Small Finance Bank

38. In April 2024, Which of the following banks has announced the successful execution of the Reserve Bank of India's programmable Central Bank Digital Currency pilot, marking the first such instance by any bank in collaboration with Circularity Innovation Hub India Private Limited?

- a. Bank of Baroda b. IndusInd Bank c. Axis Bank
d. ICICI Bank e. HDFC Bank

39. In April 2024, Which of the following organization has issued a draft circular proposing the framework for aggregation of loan products by lending service providers (LSPs) in order to ensure complete transparency for borrowers in the credit intermediation process?

- a. RBI b. SEBI c. EXIM Bank d. SIDBI e. IDBI

40. In April 2024, RBI came out with guidelines for the voluntary conversion of small finance banks into universal banks. To be eligible for conversion into a universal bank, the RBI stipulates that only listed SFBs will qualify. Those intending to convert must have a minimum net worth of _____.

- a. Rs 100 crore. b. Rs 500 crore. c. Rs 1,000 crore.
d. Rs 2,000 crore. e. Rs 5,000 crore.

41. In April 2024, which of the following announced the launch of the "country's first upgradable ATM", which can be transformed into a high-performance cash recycling machine at any point in time?

- a. NCR Corporation India Pvt Ltd.
b. Hitachi Payment Services Pvt Ltd.
c. Diebold Nixdorf India Pvt Ltd.
d. Ags Transact Technologies Ltd.
e. Diebold Systems Pvt Ltd.

Economy

1. In February 2024, the total number of credit cards issued by banks in India surpassed the 100 million mark, with an addition of 1.1 million cards from the previous month. According to the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India, the outstanding number of credit cards in the system stood at 100.60 million. Which among the following bank has emerged as the leader in credit card issuances?

- a. Bank of Baroda b. Canara Bank c. ICICI Bank
d. State Bank of India e. HDFC Bank

2. A near-doubling of engineering goods exports to Russia in April-February 2023-24 and an increase in shipments to free trade partner countries the UAE and Australia have led to a 1.23 per cent growth in exports (year-on-year) from this segment, at \$98.03 billion, despite an overall decline in goods exports during the period. Which among the following countries stands at second and third position after Russia?
I. China II. UAE
III. US IV. Saudi Arabia

- a. II and IV Only
b. I, II and III Only c. I and III Only d. I and II Only
e. I, II, III and IV

3. Gross Good and Services Tax (GST) revenue for March 2024 witnessed the second highest collection ever at 1.78 lakh crore, with a _____ year-on-year growth. This surge was driven by a significant rise in GST collection from domestic transactions at _____.

- a. 8.9 %; 11.3 % b. 10.2 %; 11.5 % & c. 11.5 %; 17.6 %
d. 12.4 %; 15.2 % e. 14.1 %; 11.5 %

4. As per the data of Rural Development Ministry of India, Work generation under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) increased _____ to 3.1 billion person-days in 2023-24 from 2.96 billion in the previous financial year, though individual demand for work remained nearly the same at 332.7 million, as against 331.5 million in 2022-23.

- a. 2.34 % b. 4.81 % c. 5.16 % d. 3.89 % e. 5.39 %

5. As per the World Bank report, South Asia is expected to remain the fastest-growing region in

the world for the next two years, with growth projected to be _____ in 2025.

- a. 6.1 per cent b. 6.7 per cent c. 7.2 per cent d. 7.5 per cent e. 8.1 per cent

6. Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has commissioned 2,000 MW of solar capacity at the giant Khavda solar park in Gujarat that has made it the first company in India with over _____ of renewable energy capacity.

- a. 5,000 MW b. 10,000 MW c. 15,000 MW d. 20,000 MW e. 25,000 MW

7. According to data released by ICRA in April 2024, The overall securitisation volumes for FY24 grew _____ - year-on-year (y-o-y) to 1.88-lakh crore despite the exit of the previous years largest originator.

- a. 2% b. 4% c. 6% d. 8% e. 10%

8. Governor Shaktikanta Das announced the Bi-Monthly Monetary policy on April 5th, 2024. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent. CPI inflation for 2024-25 is projected at _____.

- a. 4.5% b. 4.9% c. 5.2% d. 5.5% e. 6.1%

9. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Consumer Price Index (CPI)? I. It measure a measure of retail inflation in India. II. It is released by the Reserve Bank of India. III. The projected CPI inflation rate FY 2024-2025 is 4.5%
Answer Codes:

- a. I only b. I and III only c. III only d. I and II only e. II only

10. According to the latest edition of ADBs flagship economic publication, Asian Development Outlook released in April 2024, The Asian Development

Bank (ADB) upgraded Indias gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for 2024-25 (FY25) to _____.

- a. 6.5% b. 7% c. 7.2% d. 7.5% e. 7.8%

11. Moodys Analytics has projected a slight uptick in the Indian economy's growth for calendar year 2024 to 6.1 per cent from 6 per cent in March this year, lower than the growth clocked in 2023. The rating agency's arm said that India's recent consumer price inflation at around 5 per cent was without clear evidence of a trend towards slowing price pressures. The agency said that output in India remains _____ lower than it would have been without the pandemic and its various aftershocks from supply snags to military conflicts abroad.

- a. 3 Per cent b. 4 Per cent c. 5 Per cent d. 2 per cent e. 6 per cent

12. The data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in April 2024, showed that the India's industrial production grew _____ in February 2024.

- a. 4.6% b. 5% c. 5.3% d. 5.7% e. 6.2%

13. According to Ministry of Commerce and Industry in a release in April 2024 said that, India's overall exports are estimated to reach _____ in financial year 2023- 24, surpassing last years highest record.

- a. 526.14 billion dollars
b. 612.45 billion dollars
c. 776.68 billion dollars
d. 896.36 billion dollars
e. 999.25 billion dollars

14. The government releases index numbers of wholesale prices on a monthly basis on the 14th of every month (or the next working day). The

annual rate of inflation based on all India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) numbers is _____ for March 2024 (over March 2023).

- a. 0.45 per cent b. 0.53 per cent c. 1.23 per cent
d. 2.58 per cent e. 3.67 per cent

15. In April 2024, India exported electronics goods worth \$29.12 billion in 2023-24 (FY24), up 23.6 per cent compared to a year ago, even as the country's total exports contracted 3 per cent. According to commerce department officials which of the following is/are the top five export market of electronics goods from India? I. US II. Sri Lanka III. United Arab Emirates IV. Germany V. Brazil

- a. I and III only
b. I, II, III and IV only
c. III, IV and V only
d. I, III and V only e. II and IV only

16. In its update to the World Economic Outlook in April 2024, The International Monetary Fund, raised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth projection to _____ for the financial year (FY) 2024-25.

- a. 6.2% b. 6.5% c. 6.8% d. 7.2% e. 7.5%

17. In April 2024, the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development reported a net profit of Rs 1,601.64 crore for the financial year ended March 2024 (FY24), up from Rs 1,046.39 crore in FY23. The Government of India (GOI) set up NaBFID in April 2021 as India's _____

_____ All India Financial Institution in the country to support the development of long-term non-recourse infrastructure financing in India.

- a. Fourth b. Fifth c. Sixth d. Seventh e. Eighth

18. According to latest data released by Reserve Bank of India, India's outward foreign direct investment commitments rose significantly to _____

_____ in March 2024, compared to \$2.63 billion in March 2023.

- a. \$3.01 billion b. \$3.91 billion c. \$4.25 billion d. \$4.98 billion e. \$5.91 billion

19. According to United Nations Trade and Development report released in April 2024, Indian economy is likely to carry forward the momentum in 2024, growing at _____.

- a. 6.2% b. 6.5% c. 6.7% d. 6.9% e. 7.2%

20. Driven by the aggressive India push from global major Apple, the southern state of Tamil Nadu has become the top state in terms of electronic goods exports in the financial year 2023-24. In 2023-24, which of the following became the number three exporting state with \$4.46 billion worth of exports and 15 per cent of the national share?

- a. Karnataka b. Uttar Pradesh c. Maharashtra d. Gujarat e. Andhra Pradesh

21. Driven by the aggressive India push from global major Apple, the southern state of Tamil Nadu has become the top state in terms of electronic goods exports in the financial year 2023-24. In 2023-24, which of the following became the number three exporting state with \$4.46 billion worth of exports and 15 per cent of the national share?

- a. Karnataka b. Uttar Pradesh c. Maharashtra d. Gujarat e. Andhra Pradesh

22. Majority of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) monetary policy committee members expressed caution on upside risks to inflation, particularly emanating from uncertainties in food prices, at the panels policy review, showed the minutes of the meeting on April 19. In March, India's retail inflation eased to a ten-month low of _____.

- a. 3.25 percent b. 4.05 percent c. 4.50 percent d. 4.85 percent e. 5.25 percent

23. According to report by industry body PHDCCI released by April 2024, India's economy is estimated to grow at _____ in the current fiscal

- a. 7-7.3 per cent b. 7.5-7.8 per cent c. 7.8-8.0 per cent d. 8-8.3 per cent e. 8.5-8.8 per cent

24. According to data released by Ministry of Finance in April 2024, India's net direct tax collections for FY 2023-24 surged _____ to 19.58 lakh crore rupees compared to 16.64 lakh crore rupees in the previous financial year and surpassed the budget estimate for FY24 by 1.35 lakh crore rupees.

- a. 15.5 percent b. 16.6 percent c. 17.7 percent d. 18.8 percent e. 19.9 percent

25. According to the State of Economy report in RBI's monthly bulletin for April 2024, Net FDI in India dips to \$14.55 billion in April 2023-February 2024. Which of the following countries is/are accounting for around 80 per cent of the flows? I. Singapore II. Brazil III. Netherlands IV. UAE

- a. I, II and III only b. II and IV only
c. I, III and IV only
d. II, III and IV only
e. I, II, III and IV

26. Credit card spends surged 27 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to Rs 18.26 trillion in financial year 2023-24 (FY24) from nearly Rs 14 trillion in the year-ago period, according to the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Which of the following banks is the leader in credit card issuance in the country?

- a. HDFC Bank b. SBI c. Canara Bank d. Axis Bank
e. ICICI Bank

27. In April 2024, The Reserve Bank of India has kept the investment limit by Foreign Portfolio Investors in government securities unchanged at 6 per cent of the outstanding securities stocks for 2024-25. The central bank, in a statement, announced that it would maintain the FPI limits for investment in state government securities at _____.

- a. 2% b. 5% c. 8% d. 10% e. 12%

28. In April 2024, Consultancy major Deloitte raised its India GDP growth forecast for FY24 to _____ from its earlier forecast, anticipating higher consumption expenditure and economic activity.

- a. 7-7.2% b. 7-7.5% c. 7.2-7.6% d. 7.6-7.8% e. 7.8-8%

29. In April 2024, Economic think-tank National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) said it has estimated India's GDP growth at _____ for the current fiscal, using high-frequency models.

- a. 6.5% b. 6.8% c. 7.1% d. 7.5% e. 7.8%

National

1. In April 2024, _____, a unit of Vedanta Aluminium, has emerged as the first Indian company to achieve the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) Performance Standard V3 Certification for the manufacture and supply of a wide range of primary aluminium products at its facility in Korba.

- a. Hindustan Aluminium Company Limited (HINDALCO)
b. National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO)
c. Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO)
d. Madras Aluminium Company Limited (MALCO)

e. Indian Aluminium Company Limited (INDAL)

2. Chhattisgarh-based Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), a unit of Vedanta Aluminium, has emerged as the first Indian company to achieve the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) Performance Standard V3 Certification for the manufacture and supply of a wide range of primary aluminium products at its facility in Korba. The ASI Performance Standard V3 defines _____ principles and _____ criteria under three sustainability pillars Environment, Social, and Governance.

a. 5; 48 b. 8; 51 c. 7; 58 d. 11; 62 e. 10; 65

3. Kodaikanal Sokar Observatory, a field station under the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, which is an autonomous institution under the Department of Science and Technology has celebrated _____ anniversary on 1st April 2024.

a. 120th b. 122nd c. 125th d. 127th e. 131st

4. As a result of a significant push for domestic manufacturing, the Government of India plans to cease importing urea by the end of _____.

a. 2024 b. 2025 c. 2026 d. 2027 e. 2028

5. The total number of geographical indications registered in India has crossed the _____-market in 2023-24 with as many as 63 GI registrations being issued by the Intellectual Property Office on a single day - March 30, 2024.

a. 400 b. 450 c. 500 d. 600 e. 550

6. In March 2024, Atomic Energy Commission Chairman A K Mohanty at the release of a report on energy transitions mentioned that India aims to increase its nuclear power production to 1 lakh MW by _____.

a. 2030 b. 2035 c. 2040 d. 2047 e. 2050

7. In a move to smoothen the processes for 100 5G Labs across academic institutions in India, one of the "Experimental Licence module for 100 5G Labs" was launched during a 5G workshop at which IIT in April 2024?

a. IIT Patna b. IIT Bombay c. IIT Hyderabad d. IIT Madras e. IIT Roorkee

8. In April 2024, Citron has become the first multinational car manufacturer in India to export domestically made electric vehicles to the international market in which the company announced the commencement of exports of locally manufactured -C3. Citron is a car manufacturer based in which country?

a. France b. Germany c. UK d. Brazil e. Australia

9. In April 2024, The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) announced a _____

_____ investment in digital infrastructure player Ibus Network and Infrastructure in which it will be deploying the funds to scale operations in an organic way by expanding its capacities and for inorganic growth.

a. USD 50 million b. USD 100 million c. USD 150 million d. USD 200 million e. USD 250 million

10. Adani Green Energy Limited is developing 30 GW renewable energy plant on barren land at Khavda in Kutch of Gujarat over area of 538 sq km after which it would become the planet's largest power plant regardless of the energy source. The project was started in which year?

a. 2019 b. 2020 c. 2021 d. 2022 e. 2023

11. In April 2024, A consortium from which country will invest \$370 million to acquire a minority stake in a platform that invests in companies developing city gas

distribution

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networks in India according to global infrastructure investor I Squared Capital?

- a. Japan b. UK c. USA d. Germany e. Norway

12. Which of the following is the purpose of the newly launched CDP-SURAKSHA?

- a. Register gig worker
b. Provide migrant workers with subsidies
c. Provide horticulture farmers with subsidies
d. Provide subsidies for sericulture cultivators
e. Provide support for Indian students in abroad

13. In April 2024, which of the following IIT's have launched India's first medical devices calibration facility on wheels The initiative boosts the United National Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-3), which calls for health and well-being for all?

- a. IIT Kanpur b. IIT Roorkee c. IIT Delhi d. IIT Madras
e. IIT Bombay

14. As per a survey released in April 2024, Vedanta group firm Hindustan Zinc said it has become the _____largest producer of silver globally.

- a. First b. Second c. Third d. Fourth e. Fifth

15. In April 2024, Finance ministry notified amendments to the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019 to operationalise the new foreign direct investment limits for satellite-related activities. Accordingly, Up to .FDI is now allowed under the automatic route for manufacturing of components and systems or sub-systems for satellites, ground segment and user segment.

- a. 100% b. 75% c. 50% d. 49% e. 51%

16. As per a survey released in April 2024, Vedanta group firm Hindustan Zinc said it has become the _____largest producer of silver globally.

- a. First b. Second c. Third d. Fourth e. Fifth

17. In April 2024, Finance ministry notified amendments to the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019 to operationalise the new foreign direct investment limits for satellite-related activities. Accordingly, Up to _____FDI is now allowed under the automatic route for manufacturing of components and systems or sub-systems for satellites, ground segment and user segment.

- a. 100% b. 75% c. 50% d. 49% e. 51%

18. Six more products from Uttar Pradesh have been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in April 2024. With these additions, UP retains its position as the state with the most GI-tagged products in India, reaching a total of ____.

- a. 65 b. 68 c. 70 d. 75 e. 78

19. In April 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative stamp and coin at the inauguration of the 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav, on the occasion of Mahaveer Jayanti at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Bhagwan Mahavir was the ___Tirthankar.

- a. 21st b. 22nd c. 23rd d. 24th e. 25th

20. In April 2024, Indian Historical Records Commission (IHRC) Adopted a New Logo and Motto that signifies the theme and uniqueness of IHRC. The Indian Historical Records Commission (IHRC), an apex advisory body on archival matters, acts as an all-India forum of creators, custodians and users of records to advise the Government of India on the management of records and their use for historical research established in which year?

- a. 1900 b. 1919 c. 1945 d. 1947 e. 1950

21. In a significant step towards sustainable development in India, In April 2024, REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise and leading NBFC under the Ministry of Power, has successfully availed a Green Loan of _____ to finance eligible green projects in India.

- a. Japanese Yen (JPY) 40.258 billion
- b. Japanese Yen (JPY) 50.964 billion
- c. Japanese Yen (JPY) 60.536 billion
- d. Japanese Yen (JPY) 70.159 billion
- e. Japanese Yen (JPY) 80.753 billion

22. Which of the following company has achieved a significant milestone with the inauguration of India's first Multi-purpose Green Hydrogen Pilot Project at its 1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station in Jhakri, Himachal Pradesh?

- a. SJVN Limited b. NHPC Limited c. NTPC Limited
- d. NBCC (India) Limited
- e. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited

23. In April 2024, NABARD unveiled its Climate Strategy 2030 document on the occasion of Earth Day. The comprehensive strategy aims to address Indias escalating need for green financing. Which of the following is/are the pillar of the strategy? I. Accelerating Green Lending across sectors II. Playing a broader Market-Making Role III. Internal Green Transformation of NABARD IV. Strategic Resource Mobilizatio

- a. I and II only b. II and IV only c. I and IV only
- d. I, II, III and IV
- e. II, III and IV only

24. The Government of India has recently given sanction to Adanis Vizhinjam Port to operate as a

transshipment port -- a first for the country. The Adanis Vizhinjam Port is located in which state?

- a. Kerala b. Gujarat c. Tamil Nadu d. West Bengal
- e. Odisha

International

1. In April 2024, after a 13-year wait, Bulgaria and Romania have partially joined Europes Schengen area of free movement, the two countries reached an agreement late last year to join the continents free-travel area by air and sea. In which of the following year Schengen area was created?

- a. 1968 b. 1971 c. 1985 d. 1992 e. 1996

2. In April 2024, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi sworn as president of Egypt for his ___ term.

- a. Second b. Third c. Fourth d. Fifth e. First

3. Recently, which among the following nation has appointed Judith Suminwa Tuluka as the African nation's first women Prime Minister?

- a. Cameroon b. Cape Verde c. Chad d. Burkina Faso
- e. Republic of Congo

4. Recently, the Government of India has removed export curbs on essential commodities for which among the following countries?

- a. Bangladesh b. Maldives c. Russia d. Ukraine e. Sri Lanka

5. Which among the following countries have recently signed an agreement to work together on developing tests for the most advanced artificial intelligence(AI) models?

- a. India and United States of America
- b. India and Australia
- c. The United States of America and the United Kingdom
- d. Russia and France e. Japan and France

6. In March 2024, Which country has introduced a new gold-backed currency in its the latest attempt to stabilise an economy that has lurched from crisis to crisis for the past 25 years?

- a. Argentina b. Turkey c. Venezuela d. Zimbabwe
- e. Sudan

7. In April 2024, The United States and which country have announced a new partnership in which they will be working together to address concerns about the safety of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to conduct joint testing exercises on publicly accessible AI models?

- a. Brazil b. Britain c. Australia d. India e. Germany

8. In April 2024, which country has launched its flagship Angara A5 -- a powerful spacecraft designed to carry heavy payloads into low Earth orbit?

- a. China b. Russia c. South Korea d. Japan e. Kazakhstan

9. In April 2024, Sweden became the 38th country to sign the Artemis Accords. Currently, United States, India and Japan are the only leading spacefaring nations to sign the accords. Artemis Accords is associated with _____.

- a. Outer Space b. Climate Change c. Carbon bonds
- d. Education e. War crimes

10. In April 2024, 10 multilateral development banks have joined forces to launch a digital initiative that aims to transform the development

finance landscape, potentially unlocking substantial additional financing. Which of the following is/are the part of this collaboration? I. New Development Bank II. Islamic Development Bank III. African Development Bank IV. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development V. Inter-American Development Bank

- a. I and III only
- b. I, II, III and V only
- c. II, IV and V only
- d. I, II, III, IV and V
- e. I, III and V only

State/UTs

1. Which of the following states has taken lead in implementing the Centre's Green Credit Programme (GCP) which got over 500 land parcels spanning 4,980 hectares across 10 states approved for tree plantation in the past two months?

- a. Odisha b. Tamil Nadu c. Madhya Pradesh d. Bihar e. Assam

2. For the first time in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, seven members of the Shompen tribe, a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTGs) of Great Nicobar Islands exercised their voting rights for the lone Lok Sabha seat in the union territory. As per the 2011 census the population of the Shompen was _____.

- a. 178 b. 213 c. 229 d. 311 e. 389

Sports

1. In April 2024, Italys Jannik Sinner won the Mens Singles title of Miami Open tournament in the United States. Which among the following player has won the Women's Singles title?

a. Grigor Dimitrov b. Danielle Collins c. Elena Rybakina
d. Matthew Ebden e. None of these

2. In April 2024, Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna with which among the following has clinched a historic victory in the mens doubles final at the Miami Open?

a. Elena Rybakina b. Grigor Dimitrov c. Matthew Ebden d. Danielle Collins e. None of these

3. In April 2024, who among the following become the only Indian weightlifter to qualify for the Paris Olympics this year?

a. Kunjarani Devi
b. Saikhom Mirabai Chanu
c. Karnam Malleswari
d. Sathish Sivalingam
e. Elabaram Karunakaran

4. In March 2024, Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal stuns 35th ranked Matteo Arnaldi and becomes first ever Indian to win main draw match at Monte Carlo Masters. The unseeded 95th- ranked Nagal, is the _____ Indian to feature in the main draw in Monte Carlo.

a. First b. Second c. Third d. Fourth e. Fifth

5. Who among the following won the ICC Mens Player of the Month award for March 2024?

a. Charith Asalanka b. Kusal Mendis c. Pathum Nissanka d. Kamindu Mendis
e. Dilshan Madushanka

6. In April 2024, On April 15, which of the following Indian Premier League team broke their record of scoring the highest runs in the IPL, as they hammered 287 runs in 20 overs while playing

against Royal Challengers Bangalore at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru?

a. Chennai Super Kings b. Rajasthan Royals
c. Lucknow Super Giants
d. Sunrisers Hyderabad e. Gujarat Titans

7. In Chess, 17-year-old Indian prodigy, Dommaraju Gukesh made history as the youngest- ever player to win the FIDE Candidates tournament in Toronto in April 2024. After who among the following has he become the second Indian to qualify for the World Chess Championship?

a. Viswanathan Anand b. Praggnanandhaa R c. Vidit Gujrathi d. Arjun Erigaisi
e. Vaishali Rameshbabu

8. Jonatan Christie clinched the Badminton Asia Championships crown, seeing off Li Shi Feng in two sets in China. Jonatan Christie belongs to which country?

a. China b. Singapore c. Indonesia d. Laos e. Malaysia

9. Who among the following has secured Indias first Paris Olympics quota in rowing by securing 3rd position in the mens single scull event of the 2024 World Asian and Oceanian Olympic & Paralympic Qualification Regatta at South Korea?

a. Sundar Singh Gurjar b. Ranjeet Bhati c. Balraj Panwar d. Sumit Antil e. Soman Rana

10. Star Rajasthan Royals leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal created history, becoming the first bowler ever to take 200 wickets in the Indian Premier League. Chahal got to the landmark in the game against Mumbai Indians at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur. In which among the following year Chahal made his IPL debut?

a. 2011 b. 2012 c. 2013 d. 2015 e. 2016

11. Who among the following won the first Chinese Grand Prix in five years, the fifth round of the 2024 Formula 1 World Championship, in Shanghai?

- a. Max Verstappen b. Fernando Alonso c. Lando Norris d. Lewis Hamilton e. Sergio Perez

12. In April 2024, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced who among the following as an ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 ambassador, which will be played in the West Indies and USA from June 1 to 29?

- a. Yuvraj Singh b. Virat Kohli c. Rohit Sharma d. Ravindra Jadeja e. Shubham Gill

13. Who among the following has recently been elected chairman of the Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) Athletes' Commission?

- a. Narsingh Pancham Yadav b. Dhyhan Singh c. Neeraj Chopra d. P.V Sindhu e. Balbir Singh

Agreements & MoUs

1. In April 2024, UNICEF India, the International Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) Delhi, and the _____ jointly launched a

comprehensive health course, to improve healthcare delivery by using digital technologies effectively, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the GIDH.

- a. IIT Delhi b. IIT Bombay c. IIT Rourke d. IIT Madras e. IIT Kanpur

2. In April 2024, SIA-India, India's leading space association, and ABRASAT has forged a partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), to enhance cooperation and progress in the space sector of both countries. ABRASAT is an _____ based Satellite Communications Association.

- a. US b. Russia c. China d. Brazil e. UAE

3. In April 2024, SJVN Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which among the following IITs to use advanced geological models in SJVN's tunnelling projects, thus significantly reducing time and cost overruns?

- a. IIT Delhi b. IIT Madras c. IIT Bombay d. IIT Patna e. IIT Kanpur

4. In April 2024, which among the following bank has partnered with Veefin Solutions, India's digital lending platform, to commence supply chain financing (SCF) operations?

- a. Bank of Baroda
b. State Bank of India
c. Central Bank of India d. Canara Bank
e. Axis Bank

5. In March 2024, Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) and which of the following has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly develop an indigenous Train Control Management System (i-TCMS), aimed at what they called "revolutionising" rail communication technology in the country?

- a. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
b. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
c. Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)
d. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
e. Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI)

6. In April 2024, Which of the following banks has with Paymart India Pvt Ltd to launch an innovative Virtual ATM (VATM) facility, boosting banking convenience for consumers across its operations, particularly in J&K and Ladakh?

a. Indian Bank

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b. State Bank of India

c. Jammu and Kashmir Bank d. Canara Bank
e. Bandhan Bank

7. Indian IT services firm Mphasis has signed a multi-year global strategic collaboration agreement with which of the following cloud platforms to establish the GenAI Foundry in India?

a. Microsoft Azure b. DigitalOcean c. Salesforce
d. Amazon Web Services e. Google Cloud

8. In April 2024, which among the following institution has entered into an agreement with a fintech Union Life Private Limited to use the latter's technology platform KarmaLife for a pilot to provide micro loans to gig workers?

a. Reserve Bank of India
b. Small Industries Development Bank of India
c. State Bank of India d. Canara Bank
e. None of the Above

9. In March 2024, Air India and Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) announced that they have signed a pact to develop the Bengaluru airport as an aviation hub, encompassing the construction of a dedicated domestic lounge, expansion of international services, and establishment of a maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) facility. Air India is wholly owned by the _____.

a. Adani Group b. Vedanta group
c. Aditya Birla Group d. Tata Group e. Birla Group

10. In March 2024, The Society For Innovation & Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT Bombay and which of the following banks has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide financial support to startups?

a. Indian Bank

b. State Bank of India c. Canara Bank d. Bank of India

e. Indian Overseas Bank

11. In April 2024, India with which of the following country/ grouping launched an Expression of Interest (EoI) for startups working in Battery Recycling Technologies for Electric Vehicles (EVs) for a matchmaking event with a matchmaking aims to enhance the cooperation between the country/grouping and Indian Small and Medium- sized Enterprises (SMEs) and startups in the clean and green technologies sector?

a. African Union b. European Union c. Switzerland
d. Schengen Area e. Norway

12. In April 2024, which of the following general insurance companies has announced that it has entered into a strategic partnership with Policybazaar to offer products on the platform which entails inclusion across multiple business lines of the Policybazaar platform including Policybazaar.com for retail audiences, PB for Business for corporates, and PB Partners for channel partners?

a. ICICI Lombard General Insurance
b. Aditya Birla General Insurance
c. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
d. Bharti AXA General Insurance
e. Cholamandalam MS General Insurance

13. In April 2024, which of the following fintech company has partnered with Nepal's digital wallet service eSewa and the Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN) Pokhara to promote digital payments through UPI on the Himalayan country's payment processor Fonepay Network?

a. Google Pay b. Amazon Pay c. Phone Pe d. Paytm
e. Bharat Pe

14. Which among the following company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT) for Technical & Knowledge cooperation for Critical Minerals in April 2024?

- a. Khanij Bidesh India Limited
- b. Coal India Limited
- c. Hindalco Industries Limited
- d. Hindustan Copper Limited e. Vedanta Limited

15. In April 2024, which of the following company and Shell India Markets (SIMPL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on establishing new public charging stations across India to address the challenge of limited charging infrastructure, which is a major hurdle for the wider adoption of electric vehicles in India?

- a. Maruti Suzuki b. Mahindra & Mahindra c. Tata Motor
- d. Hyundai Motor e. Land Rover

16. In April 2024, Vedanta group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) entered into a pact with VEXL Environ Projects for setting up a pilot project for converting waste products into usable resources. The pact aligns with Hindustan Zinc's waste management strategy of reducing, recycling, reusing and reclaiming. EXL Environ Project is a _____based waste management company.

- a. Bhopal b. Chandigarh c. Visakhapatnam d. Chennai
- e. Patna

17. In April 2024, which among the following bank has partnered with FISDOM to offer 3-in-1 accounts (savings, demat, and trading) through its mobile banking app?

- a. HDFC Bank b. Punjab National Bank c. Karnataka Bank
- d. Bihar Gramin Bank e. Axis Bank

18. In April 2024, which of the following company has reportedly inked a strategic deal with Tata Electronics to acquire semiconductor chips for its global operations?

- a. Google b. Nvidia c. Tesla d. Saudi Aramco e. Amazon

19. In April, which of the following small finance banks said it has partnered with Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Ltd to offer life insurance products to the customers of the bank to help 52 lakh customers of the bank with a wide range of life insurance products offered by Kotak Life, including long-term savings and retirement solutions?

- a. Equitas Small Finance Bank
- b. Jana Small Finance Bank
- c. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- d. Capital Small Finance Bank
- e. ESAF Small Finance Bank

20. Which of the following company has formed a joint venture with renewable energy firm Cleanmax to deploy solar solutions in India with an aims to bolster renewable energy projects across India, marking a significant step forward in the nation's green energy landscape?

- a. Apple b. Tesla c. Saudi Aramco d. Hero
- e. Amazon

21. In April 2024, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in association with Womens World Banking (WWB) inked an MoU with Jeevika and UMED to extend Prayaas scheme to SHG individual women through cluster level federations (CLFs). Jeevika and UMED are the State Rural Livelihoods Missions of _____and _____respectively.

- a. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

- b. Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh
- c. Bihar and Maharashtra
- d. Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra
- e. Maharashtra and Gujarat

22. In April 2024, the Armed Forces Medical Services signed a Memorandum of Understanding for collaborative research and training with which of the following Indian Institute of Technology's to undertake research and develop new technologies to address health problems faced by soldiers in difficult terrains?

- a. IIT Kanpur b. IIT Madras c. IIT Roorkee d. IIT Bombay e. IIT Delhi

23. In April 2024, NPCI Bharat Billpay announced a tie-up with which of the following banks under which travellers will be able to recharge their National Common Mobility Card through the lender's app through which Customers can easily top-up their NCMC cards with up to INR 10,000 online through Bharat BillPay-enabled platforms, supporting various methods such as prepaid, debit, and credit cards?

- a. State Bank of India
- b. Indian Overseas Bank c. Canara Bank d. Bank of India e. Indian Bank

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- a. State Bank of India
- b. Indian Overseas Bank c. Canara Bank d. Bank of India e. Indian Bank

26. In April 2024, State-owned power producer SJVN Limited on said its wholly-owned arm SJVN Green Energy has incorporated a joint venture company with Power Distribution Company of which state in India to generate electricity from renewable sources?

- a. Assam b. Tripura
- c. Arunachal Pradesh d. Manipur e. Sikkim

27. In April 2024, The Higher School of Economics, located in which country, and the University of Delhi signed an agreement on strategic cooperation and joint actions, and a large research hub will begin operating at the partner university in Delhi?

- a. Japan b. Russia c. Canada d. Australia e. New Zealand

28. On 23rd April 2024, Armed Forces Medical Services signed a Memorandum of Understanding for collaborative research and training with which among the following IITs?

- a. IIT Bombay b. IIT Delhi c. IIT Kharagpur d. IIT Rourke e. IIT Madras

29. In April 2024, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) under Ministry of Personnel, Public Administration and Pensions signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ministry of Civil Service, _____ on cooperation in the field of Human Resource Development in Civil Service.

a. Cambodia b. Thailand c. Botswana d. Burundi e. Nepal

30. Nasdaq-listed IT services firm Cognizant and _____ announced an expanded partnership to drive the adoption of generative AI among enterprises, as part of the partnership, Cognizant purchased 25,000 company 365 Copilot seats for Cognizant associates, along with 500 Sales Copilot seats and 500 Services Copilot seats to enhance productivity and streamline workflows.

a. Flipkart b. Amazon c. Microsoft d. Alibaba
e. None of the above

31. In April 2024, Rashtriya Raksha University and Starburst Aerospace of France entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to advance aerospace, defence, and homeland security innovation, the MoU includes the creation of a venture capital fund of 100 million euros for aerospace, defence and security technology and provides export promotion support for startups. Rashtriya Raksha University is situated in _____.

a. Gandhinagar b. Ahmedabad c. Chandigarh d. Patna
e. Varanasi

32. In April 2024, C-DOT, the premier Telecom R&D Centre of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India and which of the following Indian Institute of Technology's signed an agreement for Automated Service Management in 5G and Beyond Networks Using AI?

a. IIT Madras b. IIT Delhi c. IIT Bombay d. IIT Jodhpur e. IIT Gandhinagar

33. Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI) to foster a long-term collaboration in the field of geophysical investigations in April 2024. KABIL is a joint venture between which of the

following companies? I. National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) II. Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) III. Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited (MECL)

a. I and II only b. II and III only c. I and III only
d. I, II and III only e. II only

34. In April 2024, which of the following groups and King's College London announced a new partnership aimed at improving healthcare outcomes in India and the UK, through training and research capacity building as well as scholarships for Indian students?

a. Hinduja Group b. Tata Group c. Reliance Group
d. Adani Group
e. Aditya Birla Group

35. Tata Power Solar Systems, announced its strategic partnership with Indian Bank to bolster the adoption of solar rooftop among residential consumers. The collaboration aims to facilitate financing solutions under the popular PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana scheme. Under the framework of the PMSGMY initiative, residential consumers can avail loans up to _____ at an annual interest rate of 7%, in compliance with government regulations.

a. Rs 1 lakh b. Rs 2 lakh c. Rs 3 lakh d. Rs 4 lakh
e. Rs 5 lakh

36. Who has recently been selected for the appointment as Director in the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)?

a. Sunil Kumar Yadav
b. Dinesh Kumar Tripathi c. Manoj Pandey d. Ganesh Kumar e. Ashutosh Rana

37. In April 2024, the Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) and which IITs signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to

promote

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entrepreneurship and provide support to technology startups?

- a. IIT Delhi b. IIT Guwahati c. IIT Kanpur d. IIT Jammu e. IIT Kolkata

38. _____ and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), have signed memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the supply of 9 lakh metric tonnes of limestone (lime chips, a by-product of the RINL, for the NTPC units across the country for five years.

- a. ONGC b. NTPC Limited c. NHPC d. GAIL India e. THDC Limited

Schemes

1. According to latest Government data released in April 2024, Small business loans under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana witnessed record growth in disbursements in FY24 and also crossed the milestone of 5 lakh crore. Which of the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana is/are NOT true? I. The scheme facilitates micro credit/Loan up to Rs. 50 lakhs to income generating micro enterprises engaged in the non farm sector. II. The loans under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana can be availed through both Public sector and Private Sector banks. III. The scheme has been classified under three categories as 'SHISHU', 'KISHORE' and 'TARUN' to signify the stage of growth / development and funding needs of the beneficiary micro unit/ entrepreneur.

- a. I and II only b. I, II and III only c. I only d. II only e. III only

Appointments & Resignations

1. Recently, who has assumed the charge as the principal director General of Press Information Bureau?

- a. Dinkar Gupta b. Radha Vinod Raju c. Ravi Sinha

d. Sheyphali B. Sharan e. Manish Desai

2. In April 2024, Fintech-focused software start-up Perfios has appointed whom as its Chief Business Officer?

- a. Sridhar Narayan

- b. Praveen Srivastava's c. Pradeep Kumar d. Manoj Sinha e. Umesh Sinha

3. In April 2024, Bank of Maharashtra named whom as its Chief Risk Officer?

- a. Sridhar Narayan b. Subhasish Roy c. Pradeep Kumar d. Manoj Sinha

- e. Swaminathan Srivastava's

4. In a strategic move aimed at reinforcing its financial management, Punjab & Sind Bank has appointed whom as its Chief Financial Officer, replacing Mahima Agarwal for a three-year term beginning on April 3, 2024?

- a. Samir Seksaria b. Alok Agarwal c. Charanjit Attra

- d. Srinivasan Vaidyanathan e. Arnab Goswamy

5. In April 2024, The World Bank Group has appointed who among the following as the member of the Economic Advisory Panel, according to a statement released by New Delhi-based think tank Centre for Social and Economic Progress?

- a. D. Subbarao b. Urjit Patel c. Y. V. Reddy d. Rakesh Mohan e. Raghuram Rajan

6. Who among the following has recently been appointed as the chairman of the National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd. (NCDFI)?

- a. Dr. Meenesh Shah b. Rakesh Mohan c. Rajeev Singhal d. Sandeep Jain

e. Santosh Kumar Jha

a. South Indian Bank b. Federal Bank c. RBL Bank
d. City Union Bank e. Bandhan Bank

7. IT giant Wipro has appointed Srinivas Pallia as its new CEO, following the resignation of Thierry Delaporte, for a period of _____ years.

a. 2 b. 3 c. 4 d. 5 e. 1

8. In March 2024, The government has appointed Manoj Panda, former director at the Institute of Economic Growth as the full time member of the 16th Finance Commission. Currently, India shares _____ of federal taxes with states as recommended by the 15th panel.

a. 31% b. 39% c. 41% d. 42% e. 50%

9. Surinder Chawla, who resigned recently, was associated with which of the following payments bank?

- a. Airtel Payment Bank
- b. India Post Payment Bank
- c. Fino Payment Bank
- d. Paytm Payment Bank
- e. NSDL Payment Bank

10. In April 2024, who among the following has been appointed as the 16th Prime Minister of Ireland succeeding party colleague Leo Varadkar?

- a. Sitiveni Rabuka b. Micheal Martin c. Peter Burke
- d. Simon Harris e. Stephen Donnelly

11. In April 2024, which bank has appointed Murali Ramakrishnan as Non-Executive Independent Director with immediate effect for four years as per the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and SEBI Listing Regulations, subject to the approval of the shareholders of the Bank. In terms of Section 149(13) of the Companies Act, 2013?

12. The Board of Directors of which of the following small finance bank has appointed Deepak Kumar Sharma as an Additional Director on the Board of the Bank, with effect from April 11, 2024 based on the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee and subject to the approval of Shareholders of the Bank, is for a period of five consecutive years?

- a. Equitas Small Finance Bank
- b. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- c. AU Small Finance Bank
- d. Suryoday Small Finance Bank
- e. Jana Small Finance Bank

13. Sushil Sharma has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of SJVN Limited in April 2024. SJVN Limited, a Mini Ratna, Category-I and Schedule A CPSE under administrative control of Ministry of Power, Govt. of India, was incorporated on May 24, 1988, as a joint venture of the Government of India (GOI) and which state government?

- a. Government of Bihar
- b. Government of Himachal Pradesh
- c. Government of West Bengal
- d. Government of Uttar Pradesh
- e. Government of Jharkhand

14. In April 2024, who has been appointed as Joint Director in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)?

- a. Anil Sinha
- b. Rishi Kumar Shukla c. Anil Sinha d. A. P. Singh
- e. Anurag Kumar

15. In April 2024, Six-time world champion boxer M C Mary Kom stepped down as India's chef-de-mission for the upcoming Paris Olympics, saying she is "left with no choice" due to some personal reasons. Mary Kom had won gold in the _____ Asian Games besides being a multiple-time Asian champion.

- a. 2010 b. 2012 c. 2014 d. 2016 e. 2018

16. Which among the following small finance bank has appointed Deepak Kunas Sharma as additional director (under the independent category) on the Board of the Bank, with effect from April 11, 2024?

- a. Jana Lakshmi Small Finance Bank
b. Capital Small Finance Bank
c. Fincare Small Finance Bank
d. Suryoday Small Finance Bank
e. ESAF Small Finance Bank

17. In April 2024, Kuwaits Emir has appointed who among the following as the new Prime Minister of Kuwait?

- a. Muhammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah
b. Ahmed Abdel Wahab Ahmed Al-Awadi
c. AbdulRahman Baddah Abdul Rahman Al Mutairi
d. Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah
e. Anwar Ali Abdullah Al-Mudhaf

18. In April 2024, Fintech firm BharatPe said it has elevated who among the following as full-time chief executive officer?

- a. Nalin Negi
b. Aparna Kuppuswamy c. Kartik Bakshi
d. Kohinoor Biswas e. Pankaj Goel

19. The International Monetary Fund's executive board on Friday selected Bulgarian economist Kristalina Georgieva to serve as managing director for a second five-year term, starting on Oct. 1, 2024. She is the IMF's _____ managing director since its founding in 1944.

- a. 12th b. 14th c. 10th d. 8th e. 15th

20. The Government has appointed Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, PVSM, AVSM, NM, presently serving as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, as the next Chief of the Naval Staff with effect from the afternoon of April 30, 2024. He will replace who among the following?

- a. Vivek Ram Chaudhari b. Manoj Pande c. Anil Chauhan d. R Hari Kumar e. Robin K. Dhowan

21. In April 2024, the Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Ajith Kumar K.K as the Managing Director & CEO of which of the following banks?

- a. Bandhan Bank
b. Punjab National Bank c. Dhanlaxmi Bank
d. South Indian Bank e. Federal Bank

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- a. Bandhan Bank

- b. Punjab National Bank c. Dhanlaxmi Bank
d. South Indian Bank e. Federal Bank

24. In April 2024, HDFC Life Insurance has appointed who among the following as the Chairman of the Board after Deepak S Parekh stepped down?

- a. Uday Suresh Kotak b. Keki M Mistry c. Dipak Gupta
d. Mahesh Balasubramanian
e. Murlidhar Gangadharan

25. Who among the following has been appointed as the Director-General of National Security Guard (NSG), the countrys counter-terrorism force in April 2024?

- a. Arvind Rajan b. R C Tayal c. T R Kakkar d. Nalin Prabhat e. Sudhir Singh

26. In April 2024, Pine Labs-owned API infrastructure company Setu appointed Anand Rai Singhania as the companys new chief executive officer (CEO). In which among the following year the Setu, an application programming interface (API) company, was founded in?

- a. 2015 b. 2018 c. 2022 d. 2014 e. 2010

27. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the re-appointment of T Rabi Sankar, Deputy Governor Reserve Bank of India, for a period of one year with effect from May 3, 2024. RBI is served by _____ Deputy Governors at any point in time.

- a. 3 b. 4 c. 5 d. 6 e. 7

28. In April 2024, The Board of which bank has approved the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as Managing Director & CEO of the Bank, for a

further period of three years with effect from January 1, 2025 up to December 31, 2027?

- a. HDFC Bank b. SBI c. Canara Bank d. Axis Bank
e. ICICI Bank

29. In April 2024, Agricultural solutions major Coromandel International, a part of Chennai-based Murugappa Group, has appointed who among the following as executive chairman of the company?

- a. Amit Rastogi
b. Murugappan Muthiah Venkatachalam
c. Raghuram Devarakonda d. Arun Alagappan e. V Ravichandran

30. In April 2024, FSIB, the headhunter for directors of state-owned banks and financial institutions recommended Asheesh Pandey for the post of Managing Director of which of the following public sector banks?

- a. State Bank of Indian b. Indian Bank c. Bank of India d. Canara Bank e. Indian Overseas Bank

Awards

1. In April 2024, REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been bestowed with the SKOCH ESG Award 2024 in the 'Renewable Energy Financing' category. REC Ltd. is the nodal agency of which of the following scheme(s)? I. Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGAYA) II. Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) III. National Electricity Fund (NEF) Scheme

- a. II and III Only b. I Only c. III Only d. I and III
Only e. I, II and III

2. REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been bestowed with the SKOCH

ESG Award 2024 in the 'Renewable Energy Financing' category. The SKOCH ESG Award and Assessment serve as an important benchmark for evaluating organizations' commitment to India

a. 2027 b. 2030 c. 2032 d. 2045 e. 2047

3. Which among the following public sector enterprises has been conferred with the prestigious CIDC Vishwakarma Award by the Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC) in the category of Construction Health, Safety & Environment for Rajasthan Refinery Project, Barmer?

- a. Oil India Limited
- b. Engineers India Limited
- c. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
- d. Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- e. Numaligarh Refinery Limited

4. In April 2024, India's Chandrayaan-3 mission team was recently awarded the prestigious 2024 John L. 'Jack' Swigert Jr. Award for Space Exploration, acknowledging their efforts to elevate the standards of space exploration. With the successful Chandrayaan-3 mission in August last year, India became the _____ country to land on the south pole of the moon.

a. First b. Second c. Third d. Fourth e. Fifth

5. In April 2024, Who among the following was awarded the 2024 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award given for scientifically based research that has improved the health and well-being of those facing health inequities worldwide?

- a. Priscilla Rupali b. Tessy Thomas
- c. Soumya Swaminathan d. Gagandeep Kang
- e. Ritu Karidhal

6. The JCB Prize for Literature, one of the most coveted fiction awards of India, has announced its jury for the 7th edition. Who among the following is/are included in the board of jury for the 7th edition of JCB Prize? I. Jerry Pinto II. Shaunak Sen III. Deepthi Sasidharan IV. Tridip Suhrud

- a. II and III Only b. I and IV Only
- c. I, II and IV Only d. II and IV Only
- e. I, II, III and IV Only

7. Mamta G. Sagar, a writer, academic and activist, has recently won the World Literary Prize from the World Organization of Writers (WOW) for her contributions to the world of literature at a ceremony in Abuja, Nigeria in April 2024. She is a _____ poet.

- a. Tamil b. Mahrati c. Malayalam d. Kannada e. Odia

8. In April 2024, Pavuluri Subba Rao has been conferred with the Aryabhata Award instituted by the Aeronautical Society of India (ASI) for his tremendous lifetime contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India. He is the CEO and chairman of which among the following companies?

- a. Wipro b. LTIMindtree c. RisingMax Inc.
- d. Ananth Technologies
- e. Suffescom Solutions Inc.

9. In April 2024, who among the following was honoured with the prestigious Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) Humanitarian Award 2021, for his commitment towards social development and corporate leadership?

- a. Shiv Nadar b. Azim Premji c. Rohini Nilekani d. Ratan Tata
- e. Kumar Mangalam Birla

10. In April 2024, Spain's World Cup-winning football star Aitana Bonmati won the World Sportswoman of the Year award at a star-studded ceremony in Madrid. Who among the following won the Laureus World Sportsman of the year?

- a. Cristiano Ronaldo b. LeBron James c. Novak Djokovic d. Lionel Messi e. Tiger Woods

Ranks & Reports

1. According to a recent report released by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in April 2024, India is expected to lose around _____ of daily working hours due to rising temperatures by 2030, leading to erosion in productivity and lower collection of fiscal revenue

- a. 5.8 per cent b. 6.0 per cent c. 6.5 per cent d. 7.0 per cent e. 7.2 per cent

2. According to the Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024, India for the first time recorded a decline in unicorn creation since 2017. Which of following is NOT among the top three countries according to the index? I. US II. Australia III. UK IV. India

- a. I only b. II and III only c. III only d. III and IV only e. II only

3. Frequent weather shocks caused by climate change pose challenges for the monetary policy as well as downside risks to economic growth, a Reserve Bank report said. As per the report, in the absence of any climate mitigation policies, the long-term output will be lower by around 9 per cent by vis--vis a no climate change scenario with full pass-through of the physical risks of climate change to the economy.

- a. 2030 b. 2040 c. 2050 d. 2060 e. 2070

4. World Trade Organization in its latest bi-annual Global Trade Outlook and Statistics, released in

April 2024, revised downwards its projection for merchandise trade volume growth to _____ for 2024 from its earlier projection estimated in October.

- a. 2% b. 2.4% c. 2.6% d. 2.9% e. 3.2%

5. As many as 69 Indian universities have made it to the latest QS World University Rankings with a total of 424 entries across 55 subjects, a 19.4 per cent jump from the previous years 355 released in April 2024, which of the following has emerged as the highest ranked Indian university in the list?

- a. Indian Institute of Science
b. Jawaharlal Nehru University
c. Jamia Millia Islamia
d. University of Delhi
e. Banaras Hindu University

6. India ranked number 10 in cybercrime, with frauds involving people to make advance fee payment being the most common type, According to the 'World Cybercrime Index' published in the journal PLoS ONE that ranks roughly 100 countries and identifies key hotspots according to various categories of cybercrime, including ransomware, credit card theft and scams. Which among the following countries was ranked in the top 3 spots?

I. India II. North Korea III. Russia IV. China V. South Korea

- a. III and IV only
b. I, II and III only
c. III, IV and V only d. I and II only e. II, III and IV

7. As per recent Global Trade Outlook and Statistics report by World Trade Organisation released in April 2024, India's exports of digitally delivered services reached \$257 billion in 2023, marking a 17% increase compared to previous year. India has secured its place as the world's

_____largest exporter of digitally

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delivered services, contributing more than a fifth to the global trade in services.

- a. Second b. Third c. Fourth d. Fifth e. Sixth

8. India has lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000, equivalent to a six per cent decrease in tree cover during this period, according to the latest data from the Global Forest Watch monitoring project released in April 2024. Which of the following state had the maximum tree cover loss between 2001 and 2023 as per the finding?

- a. Assam
b. Arunachal Pradesh c. Manipur d. Tripura
e. Mizoram

9. The Delhi airport, also known as Indra Gandhi International (IGI) airport has been ranked among the top 10 busiest airports across the globe for 2023 as per ranks prepared by Airports Council International (ACI) World. Among the top ten busiest airports, the majority of busiest airports are from which country?

- a. Germany b. Russia c. France d. US e. UK

10. As per the report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India was the fourth largest military spender globally in 2023. At \$83.6 billion, the countrys military expenditure was 4.2 per cent higher than in 2022. Meanwhile, global military expenditure rose by 7 per cent to \$2,443 billion in 2023, the steepest annual rise since 2009. The largest percentage increase in military spending by any country in 2023 was seen in the ____.

- a. Democratic Republic of the Congo b. Comoros c. Chad d. South Sudan e. Djibouti

11. The Reserve Bank of Indias April bulletin has said that conditions are shaping up for an extension of a trend upshift in real GDP growth, backed by strong investment demand and upbeat business and consumer sentiments. The article

titled State of the Economy says that CPI inflation settled at _____ in March

- a. 4% b. 4.5% c. 4.9% d. 5.2% e. 5.5%

12. A recent study by Australian firm Compare the Market AU in April 2024, has revealed that the Indian passport ranks as the 2nd cheapest passport to obtain worldwide. It holds the distinction of being the most cost-effective in terms of "cost per year" of validity. Which of the following passport clinches the top spot as the most affordable passport globally?

- a. USA Passport b. UK Passport c. UAE Passport
d. Chinese Passport e. Mexican Passport

13. The State of World Population - 2024 report -- "Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope: Ending Inequalities in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights" released in April 2024, revealed India's population is estimated to double in 77 years. The report is released by which organization?

- a. United Nations Population Fund b. World Bank
c. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
d. United Nations Human Settlements Programme
e. United Nations Development Programme

14. According to global analytics firm Tefficient, Reliance Jio has become the world's largest mobile operator in data traffic consumption while its total traffic reached 40.9 exabytes in the January-March quarter. It has surpassed a telecom operator of which country to get the top position?

- a. Russia b. USA c. South Korea d. China e. Japan

15. The 2024 Indian States Electricity Transition (SET), a joint report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and Ember released in April 2024,

revealed that which of the following states are making big strides in decarbonisation and are adequately prepared to

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accelerate the transition with robust market enablers facilitating future growth? I. Karnataka II. Rajasthan III. Gujarat IV. Uttar Pradesh

- a. I and III only b. I and II only c. II and IIV only
d. I, II and III only
e. I, II, III and IV only

Important Days

1. Ever since the United Nations General Assembly designated 2 April as World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) in 2007, the United Nations has observed the day as a means to affirm and promote the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for autistic people on an equal basis with others. The theme of World Autism Awareness day for 2024 is?

- a. Empowering Autistic Voices
b. Transforming the narrative
c. Inclusive Quality Education for all
d. Inclusion in the Workplace
e. The Transition to Adulthood

2. The Indian government designates April 1 to April 7 as Prevention of Blindness Week. In which year Jawaharlal Nehru and Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur had founded the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness under the Societies Registration Act of 1860?

- a. 1948 b. 1950 c. 1953 d. 1958 e. 1960

3. In which of the following year the General Assembly declared that 4 April of each year shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action?

- a. 2003 b. 2005 c. 2009 d. 2011 e. 2010

4. International Day of Conscience offers an opportunity to reflect on the progress made in promoting peace and social justice and to identify areas where more work needs to be done. The day is observed every year on _____.

- a. March 3 b. March 4 c. March 5 d. March 6 e. March 7

5. Every year, April 5 is observed as National Maritime Day to spread awareness about international trade and economy. The theme for National Maritime Day 2024 is

- a. Navigating the future: safety first!
b. Amrit Kaal in Shipping
c. Sustainable Shipping
d. Indian Ocean - Ocean of Opportunity
e. Connecting Ships, Ports and People

6. The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP), which takes place annually on _____, presents an

opportunity to recognize the positive role sport and physical activity play in communities and in peoples lives across the globe.

- a. 4 March b. 6 April c. 12 January d. 18 March e. 23 February

7. On 7 April, UNESCO commemorates the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly in _____.

- a. 2001 b. 2003 c. 2004 d. 2011 e. 2013

8. World Health Day is observed on 7th April every year globally. The theme for World Health Day 2024 is _____

- a. My health, My right

- b. Health is the Real Treasure c. Health For All
d. Our Planet, Our Health
e. Building a fairer, healthier world

9. Every year on April 10, the world celebrates World Homoeopathy Day, a day dedicated to honouring the birth anniversary of Dr Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homoeopathy. The theme for 2024 is

- a. Homoeopathy: For All, For all time
b. Homoeopathy: People's Choice for Wellness
c. Homeopathy Roadmap for Integrative Medicine
d. Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family
e. Enhancing the Scope of Homoeopathy in Public Health

10. World Parkinson's Disease Day aims to support people with Parkinson's disease and their caregivers, who often face severe difficulties in managing the Parkinson's disease's physical, emotional, and social effects. World Parkinson's day is observed every year on _____.

- a. April 10 b. April 11 c. April 9 d. April 12 e. April 15

11. The International Day of Human Space Flight is celebrated on April 12. The day is celebrated to honour the first person, Yuri Gagarin, to go to space. Yuri Gagarin from the Soviet Union became first human to travel around the earth in space in which year?

- a. 1941 b. 1951 c. 1961 d. 1971 e. 1981

12. World Chagas Disease Day is observed annually on April 14 to increase awareness about this neglected disease. It is considered neglected because it receives little attention on the public

health agenda. The theme for 2024 is _____.

- a. Early diagnosis, treatment and follow-up
b. Time to integrate Chagas disease into primary health care
c. Finding and reporting every case to defeat Chagas disease
d. Let's make Chagas Disease visible now
e. Time to integrate Chagas disease into primary health care

13. Quantum Mechanics, the study of atoms and sub-atomic particles, has now advanced to such an extent that it has now moved to the engineering domain and is leading to novel and varied applications. World Quantum Day is observed every year on _____.

- a. April 12 b. April 13 c. April 14 d. April 15 e. April 16

14. World Art Day 2024 is celebrated every year on 15 April to promote and highlight the importance of art in the lives of human beings. The theme for 2024 is

- a. Art is good for the health
b. Inspire You and Art
c. A GARDEN OF EXPRESSION: Cultivating Community Through Art
d. The development, diffusion and enjoyment of art
e. Awareness for art, creativity worldwide

15. World Hemophilia Day is a global healthcare event observed on _____ every year to create awareness about this condition that can help people have access to diagnosis, treatment and comprehensive care.

a. April 12 b. April 15 c. April 17 d. April 10 e. April 5

16. World Heritage Day, also monikered as the International Day for Monuments and Sites (IDMS), is observed on April 18 every year to honor and protect out cultural legacy. The theme for 2024 is

a. Discover and Experience Diversity b. Heritage Changes

c. Heritage and Climate

d. Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures

e. Shared Cultures, Shared Heritage, Shared Responsibility

17. Chinese Language Day is observed every year on _

a. April 18 b. April 19 c. April 20 d. April 21 e. April 22

18. World Liver Day is celebrated universally on _____to concentrate around spreading awareness of liver-related issues and diseases.

a. April 18 b. April 19 c. April 20 d. April 21 e. April 22

19. Every year World Creativity and Innovation Day is celebrated on _____to raise awareness about the role of creativity and innovation in human development.

a. April 20 b. April 21 c. April 22 d. April 23 e. April 24

20. To acknowledge and honour the work of civil servants engaged in public service, the backbone of the nations administration, the Government of India celebrates National Civil Services Day on April 21 every year in India. Who among the

following referred to civil servants as the 'steel frame of India' in his inspiring speech?

a. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel b. Jawaharlal Nehru

c. C. Rajagopalachari d. B. R. Ambedkar
e. Rajendra Prasad

21. Earth Day is celebrated on April 22 every year to raise awareness about various issues that threaten the environment and endanger the planet, such as the rapidly rising levels of pollution, deforestation, and global warming. The theme for 2024 is

a. Invest in Our Planet

b. Restore Our Earth c. Climate Action

d. Planet vs. Plastics

e. Protect Our Species

22. Every year on April 23rd, the world unites to celebrate World Book and Copyright Day, also known as International Day of the Book or World Book Day. The theme for 2024 is _____.

a. Read with Feel b. Read your Way c. Read to Explore

d. Caring through reading e. Reading unites

23. United Nations (UN) English Language Day is a momentous occasion celebrated annually on _____.

a. April 18 b. April 21 c. April 23 d. April 22 e. April 29

24. Spanish Language Day is an annual celebration of one of the six official languages of the United Nations, marked every year on April 23. Which among the following is/are NOT an official language of United Nation? I. Russian II. Spanish III. Hindi IV. Arabic V. Chinese

a. I Only b. II Only c. III Only d. IV Only e. V Only

25. The International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace which emphasizes the importance of diplomatic engagement and multilateral action in addressing global issues like climate change, poverty, and conflict is observed every year on _____.

a. April 22 b. April 23 c. April 24 d. April 25 e. April 26

26. Every year for World Immunization Week, the last week of April(24th-30th April, 2024), the global immunization community celebrates the lifesaving power of vaccines. The theme for 2024 is

a. The Big Catch-Up b. Humanly Possible

c. A Long Life for All

d. Vaccines bring us closer

e. Vaccines Work for All

27. Every year on April 24th, India celebrates National Panchayati Raj Day to honour the establishment of the Panchayati Raj System, a devolved form of governance in country, which was introduced in 1993 by the _____ Constitutional Amendment Act, empowering local bodies, or Gramme Panchayat.

a. 71st b. 72nd c. 73rd d. 74th e. 75th

28. International Girls in ICT Day is celebrated every year on the last day Thursday of April. This year, it falls on 25 April 2024. The theme for 2024 is .

a. Action b. Entrepreneurship c. STEM d. Leadership
e. Self Help

29. Each year on April 25th, the world unites for World Malaria Day to raise awareness about this serious mosquito-borne illness. The theme for 2024 is

a. Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement

b. Accelerate the fight against malaria for a more equitable world

c. Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives

d. Zero Malaria - Draw the Line Against Malaria

e. Zero malaria starts with me

30. International Delegates Day marks the anniversary of first day of the San Francisco Conference, also known as the United Nations Conference on International Organization. The day is observed every year on _____.

a. April 24 b. April 25 c. April 26 d. April 27 e. April 28

31. International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is observed every year on 26 April to remember the victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant exploded in which year?

a. 1956 b. 1966 c. 1976 d. 1986 e. 1996

32. The World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) will be celebrated on 26 April 2024. The theme for 2024 is

a. Women and IP: Accelerating innovation and creativity

b. IP and SMEs: Taking Your Ideas to Market

c. IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity

d. Innovate for a Green Future

e. Reach for Gold: IP and Sports

33. Every year, World Veterinary Day 2024 is celebrated on:

- a. May 8 b. April 27 c. March 20 d. June 21 e. August 20

34. In 2003, the International Labour Organisation announced that April 28 will be observed as World Day for Safety and Health at Work. The theme for 2024 is

- a. OSH vulnerability of young workers
b. Safety and Health and the Future of Work
c. Climate change and safety and health at work
d. Participation And Social Dialogue In Creating A Positive Safety And Health Culture
e. A safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle and right at work

Summit & Conferences

1. Which country will host the World Future Energy Summit (WFES) scheduled to be held in April 16, 2024?

- a. India b. Russia
c. United Arab Emirates d. France e. Saudi Arabia

2. The first-ever tri-service planning conference called 'Parivartan Chintan' was held on 8 April in New Delhi. The conference takes place on the backdrop of the three services combining to set up integrated theatre commands, containing elements of: I. Army II. Navy III. Air force

- a. I Only b. II and III Only c. I and III Only d. III Only
e. I, II and III

3. The 14-member Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) is set to host its first clean economy investor forum in Singapore on June 5-6 in which India will also showcase selected investible sustainable infrastructure projects at the forum, with focus on energy transition, sustainable aviation fuel, battery storage hydrogen, green data centres, transport and EV? Which of the following is/are the pillars of IPEF? I. Trade II. Clean Economy III. National Income IV. Climate Resilience

- a. I and II only b. II and III only
c. I, II and III only d. IV only
e. I, II, III and IV

4. The 14-member Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) is set to host its first clean economy investor forum in which country in June 2024?

- a. India b. Thailand c. Singapore d. Vietnam e. New Zealand

5. On April 16th, 2024, the World Future Energy Summit and Exhibition (WFES) took place in _____, drawing renewable energy leaders from across the MENA region.

- a. Dubai b. Sharjah c. Abu Dhabi d. Aden e. Cairo

6. On 24th April 2024, International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure has begun in New Delhi, hosted by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), themed Investing today for a more resilient tomorrow and aims to bolster global infrastructure against disasters. This is the _____ edition of the conference.

- a. 3rd b. 4th c. 5th d. 6th e. 7th

Science & Technology

1. In April 2024, President Droupadi Murmu has dedicated the CAR-T Cell Therapy to the nation, CAR-T Cell Therapy (used to treat cancer patients) has been developed in India by

_____ -incubated Company
Immunoadoptive Cell Therapy (ImmunoACT).

- a. IIT Bombay b. IIT Madras c. IIT Bhubaneswar
d. IIT Delhi e. IIT Patna

2. Strategic Forces Command (SFC), along with _____, conducted the successful flight-test of New Generation Ballistic Missile Agni-Prime from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on April 03, 2024.

a. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

b. Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)

c. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

d. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)

e. None of the Above

3. In March 2024, Tata Advanced Systems (TASL), Tata Sons' wholly-owned subsidiary, has launched India's first private sector-built sub-metre resolution earth observation satellite, TSAT-1A, in collaboration with Satellogic. The satellite was launched which agency?

- a. ISRO b. JAXA c. Roscosmos d. SpaceX e. NASA

4. In April 2024, Which of the following state's Council on Science and Technology has been designated as the Nodal Centre for the Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) programme by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)?

- a. Uttar Pradesh Council on Science and Technology
b. Gujarat Council on Science and Technology
c. Andhra Pradesh Council on Science and Technology
d. Karnataka Council on Science and Technology
e. Kerala Council on Science and Technology

5. Which of the following companies has announced a major upgrade to its AI assistant, Meta AI, which is powered by the company's latest natural language model, Llama 3?

- a. Google b. Apple c. Meta d. Wipro e. Infosys

6. In April 2024, which of the following companies has launched a lightweight artificial intelligence model, as it looks to attract a wider client base with cost-effective options called Phi-3-min?

- a. Google b. Apple c. Tesla d. Microsoft e. Infosys

7. In April 2024, Which country has launched the Shenzhou-18 mission with astronauts to Tiangong space station?

- a. China b. Russia c. Japan d. South Korea e. Vietnam

Defence

1. Seeking to enhance maritime security and interoperability, coast guard personnel from India have embarked on a four-day trilateral exercise with which among the following country to identify emerging maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean Region? I. Maldives II. Sri Lanka III. Thailand IV. Japan

- a. II, III and IV Only b. I, II and III Only c. I and III Only d. I and II Only e. I, II, III and IV

2. The Indian Air Force is conducting its biggest exercise Gagan Shakti at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer district. This exercise which began on 3 April, will continue till April 10, it was held last in?

- a. 2018 b. 2019 c. 2020 d. 2022 e. 2023

3. Army Medical Corps has rendered selfless service to the nation over centuries of progress, development, dedication & sacrifice, both in combat and in peace, living up to the Corps motto of Sarve Santu Niramaya meaning let all be free from disease. The Army Medical Corps celebrated its _____ Raising Day on 03rd April 2024.

- a. 260th b. 250th c. 240th d. 230th e. 220th

4. In March 2024, The Indian Army has received the first batch of 24 _____ - made Igla-S Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS), along with 100 missiles, as part of a larger deal that includes domestic production in India.

- a. Russia b. France c. Germany d. US e. Australia

5. Assets of the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Police, fisheries, customs and other security agencies were engaged in the coastal security exercise -- Sagar Kavach 01/24. The exercise witnessed enhanced preparedness, response mechanism, surveillance capabilities and coordination between the coastal security stakeholders. A two-day exercise involving all maritime security agencies of the country was conducted off _____.

- a. Andaman Island b. Nicobar Island
c. Lakshadweep Island d. Gulf of Mannar
e. Vishakhapatnam

6. The India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise Dustlik will commence at Termez District in

Uzbekistan from April 15 onwards. The 2024 is the _____ edition of the Military Exercise

- a. Third b. Fourth c. Fifth d. Sixth e. Seventh

7. Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile Weapon System, indigenously designed and developed by Defence Research & Development Organisation, has been field evaluated in different flight configurations several times with the objective of proving the technology with superiority. The Warhead Flight Trials were successfully conducted at which state in April 2024?

- a. Odisha b. Rajasthan c. Andhra Pradesh d. Telangana e. Maharashtra

8. In April 2024, A state-of-the-art Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (SPACE), set up by the Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory of DRDO, has been designed as a premier testing and evaluation hub for sonar systems destined for Indian Navy onboard various platforms including ships, submarines and helicopters was inaugurated at _____.

- a. Tamil Nadu b. Kerala c. Andhra Pradesh d. Karnataka e. Goa

9. In April 2024, The Defence Research and Development Organisation conducted a successful flight test of the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile from the Integrated Test Range located at _____.

- a. Rajasthan b. Andhra Pradesh c. Gujarat d. Odisha e. Maharashtra

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- a. Rajasthan b. Andhra Pradesh c. Gujarat d.

Odisha e. Maharashtra

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11. In April 2024, which of the following has handed over the first batch of the indigenous Leading Edge Actuators and Airbrake Control Module to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, marking a significant leap towards self-reliance in aeronautical technologies?

- a. ISRO b. DRDO c. BEL d. Gliders India e. BDL

12. In April 2024, Indian Navy conducted Exercise Poorvi Lehar on the East Coast. The exercise aimed at

- a. Regional goodwill exercise between countries in Bay of Bengal region to validate security
b. Validation of procedures towards assessment of the Indian Navys preparedness to meet Maritime Security challenges in the region
c. Indian Navy's fire and forget weapon testing
d. Validation of procedures towards assessment of seaweeds in east coast of India
e. None of the above

13. In April 2024, which of the following organization has successfully developed the lightest Bullet Proof Jacket in the country for protection against highest threat Level 6 of BIS ammunition?

- a. Department of Defence Production (DDP)
b. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
c. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
d. Bharat Electronics e. Bharat Dynamics

14. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has achieved a significant milestone with the successful test firing of an air-launched ballistic missile capable of hitting targets over 250 kilometers away. The missile, known as ROCKS or Crystal Maze 2, is of _____ origin and was test-fired

from a Su-30 MKI fighter jet in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- a. Russian b. French c. German d. Israeli e. Brazilian

Books & Authors

1. Who among the following authors has released his memoir "Knife" in April 2024?

- a. Salman Rushdie b. Padma Lakshmi
c. Rachel Eliza Griffiths d. V S Naipaul e. Adam R. Dell

Obituary

1. Louis Gossett Jr., the first Black man to win the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor, has died at the age of 87. The actor made history by picking up the award for his role as the drill instructor Sgt. Emil Foley in the _____ film An Officer And A Gentlemen.

- a. 1979 b. 1982 c. 1985 d. 1991 e. 1996

2. Nobel prize-winning physicist Peter Higgs, who won the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physics has died at age 94. Peter Higgs won the Nobel Prize for the discovery of which of the following?

- a. Neutrino oscillations b. God Particles c. LIGO detector
d. Ultra-short optical pulses e. Solar-type star

3. Subrahmanya Dhareshwar, who passed away recently was associated with which of the following theater art forms?

- a. Raasleela b. Swang c. Yakshagana d. Theyyam e. Daskathia

Person in news

1. In April 2024, Eight individuals of Indian descent have been honoured in Time magazine's prestigious list of the 100 most influential people of 2024. Who among the following has not be mentioned in the list? I. Sakshi Malik II. Mary Kom III. Sundar Pichai IV. Dev Patel

a. I, II and III only b. II and III only c. IV only d. I and IV only

e. I, II, III and IV

2. In April 2024, Indian squash player Saurav Ghosal announced his retirement from professional squash. Saurav Ghosal won gold medals in the teams event at _____ and _____ editions of the Asian Games.

a. 2002 and 2010 b. 2010 and 2014 c. 2014 and 2022 d. 2014 and 2018 e. 2018 and 2022

Insurance

1. In April 2024, Magma HDI General Insurance Company a prominent player in India's general insurance sector has joined hands with which among the following Small Finance Bank as their corporate agent for providing Health Insurance?

- a. Equitas Small Finance Bank
- b. Suryoday Small Finance Bank
- c. Fincare Small Finance Bank
- d. Jana Lakshmi Small Finance Bank
- e. Capital Small Finance Bank

2. Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Ltd. (Star Health Insurance), Indias leading retail health insurance provider, joins hand with which among the following digital payment apps, under which Star Healths Comprehensive Health

Insurance Policy will be available on the PhonePe app with a monthly and annual payment option, with coverage up to Rs.1 crore?

- a. Phonepe b. Amazon Pay c. Paytm d. Google Pay
- e. None of the Above

3. According to data released by the General Insurance Council in April 2024, premiums of general insurers grew by 14.24 per cent Y-o-Y to Rs 2.45 trillion in FY24. Non-life insurers posted a _____ year-on-year (Y-o-Y) growth in gross direct premium underwritten in 2023-24 (FY24).

a. 10.25% b. 11.69% c. 12.78% d. 13.58% e. 14.96%

4. With a view to widen the market and foster adequate protection from healthcare expenses, insurance regulator IRDAI has removed the age limit of ___ for individuals buying health insurance policies.

a. 60 years b. 65 years c. 70 years d. 72 years e. 75 years

India & World

1. In April 2024, India renewed the agreement to export electricity with which of the following country, which was to expire on March 31?

a. Nepal b. Bhutan c. Bangladesh d. Sri Lanka e. Maldives

2. India has decided to join at least one of the four cooperative work programmes launched under the clean energy pillar of the US-led Indo Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) the one on facilitating and promoting carbon market activities. The IPEF, an initiative led by US President Joe Biden, was launched in May 2022, bringing together

_____ regional partners.

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a. 10 b. 11 c. 14 d. 13 e. 16 f. 9

3. After Chabahar in Iran, India has gained the rights to operate a second overseas port, Sittwe, in Myanmar in April 2024, Sittwe Port has been developed under a framework agreement between India and Myanmar for the construction and operation of a Multimodal Transit Transport Facility on the Kaladan River, connecting the Sittwe Port in Myanmar with which state of India?

a. Assam b. Tripura c. Nagaland d. Mizoram e. Manipur

4. India has signed a protocol amending the DTAA with Mauritius in April 2024, to plug treaty abuse for tax evasion or avoidance. D in DTAA stands for _____.

a. Duty b. Double c. Diversion d. De- regulation e. Domestic

5. In April 2024, India and which country have decided to reactivate the Indian Ocean Observing System, a network of 36 moored buoys in the high seas to collect high-resolution ocean and atmospheric data for weather forecasts?

a. UK b. Mauritius c. USA d. Australia e. Maldives

6. In April 2024, India delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and launchers to which country, two years after the two countries signed a deal worth almost \$375 million to equip the Marines with three batteries of the missiles?

a. Thailand b. Vietnam c. Laos d. Philippines e. Indonesia

7. In April 2024, India delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and launchers to which country, two years after the two countries signed a deal worth almost \$375 million to equip the Marines with three batteries of the missiles?

a. Thailand b. Vietnam c. Laos d. Philippines e. Indonesia

Apps & Portals

1. The Securities and Exchange Board of India SEBI has launched a new and more user friendly version of its complaint redress system SCORES

2.0. According to SEBI, the timeline for redressal of complaints in SCORES 2.0 has been reduced to _____ calendar days.

a. 18 b. 21 c. 25 d. 28 e. 30

2. Tata AIA Life Insurance Co. Ltd. (Tata AIA) has unveiled a premium payment service via WhatsApp, making it the first type in the industry, Policyholders can now pay up to INR _____ premiums instead of the previous limit of INR 2 lakh.

a. 20 lakhs b. 50 lakhs c. 1 crore d. 2 crores e. 5 lakhs

3. Tata AIA Life Insurance Co. Ltd. (Tata AIA) has unveiled a premium payment service via WhatsApp, making it the first type in the industry. Tata AIA offers how many services to its customers through WhatsApp?

a. 20 b. 24 c. 27 d. 30 e. 32

4. In April 2024, Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the myCGHS app for iOS ecosystem of devices. The myCGHS iOS app is developed by the technical teams of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) _____ and NIC Health Team.

a. Chennai b. Himachal Pradesh c. Hyderabad d. Chennai e. None of Above

5. In April 2024, which among the following

biscuit brand makes its entry into Indian health
tech by

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launching a subscription-free NutriPlus app, developed in collaboration with Aktivo Labs, aimed at enhancing consumers well-being with evidence-based solutions?

- a. Parle-G Biscuits b. Britannia Biscuits c. Cadbury Biscuits d. Dukes Biscuits e. Patanjali Biscuits

6. In April 2024, which among the following delivery app has added a special feature in app to report a missing pet directly on the app, harnessing the network of app delivery partners as compassionate allies in the search efforts?

- a. Swiggy b. Zomato c. Zepto d. Domino's e. Dunzo

Acquisitions & Mergers

1. On 2 April 2024, the board of directors of Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail (ABFRL) authorised the management of the company to evaluate the vertical demerger of the Madura Fashion & Lifestyle (MFL) business from ABFRL into a separate, listed company. Which of the following lifestyle brand is NOT listed under the MFL Business? I. Allen Solly II. Peter England III. ZARA IV. Van Heusen

- a. I Only b. II Only c. I and III Only d. II and IV Only e. III Only

2. In April 2024, AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) amalgamated with which of the following small finance bank, marking the first such consolidation in the sector?

- a. Equitas Small Finance Bank
b. ESAF Small Finance Bank
c. Fincare Small Finance Bank
d. Jana Lakshmi Small Finance Bank
e. Capital Small Finance Bank

3. In April 2024, The Competition Commission of India has approved the proposed acquisition of NFCL Assets and 100% shareholding of ZeroC by AMG India using proceeds of investments received from the AMG Entities, BSI, Gentari, and Platinum Rock. Gentari is a newly incorporated company in November 2022, operating in which among the following core portfolio(s)? I. Renewable energy II. Hydrogen III. Green mobility

- a. II and III Only b. I and II Only c. II Only d. III Only e. I, II and III

4. In April 2024, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares (CCPS) in Northern Arc Capital Limited (Northern Arc/Target) by which among the following financial institution?

- a. Muthoot Finance Ltd.
b. Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Co. Ltd.
c. Shriram Transport Finance Co. Ltd.
d. Sundaram Finance Ltd.
e. International Finance Corporation

5. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of _____ equity stake of Sharekhan Ltd. and Human Value Developers Pvt. Ltd. collectively by Mirae Asset Capital Markets (India) Pvt. Ltd. and Mirae Asset Securities Co. Ltd., respectively.

- a. 70 % b. 80 % c. 60 % d. 90 % e. 100 %

6. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved subscription of compulsorily convertible preference shares of Pritam International Private Limited (Target) by India Advantage Fund S5 I (IAF S5 I), HCL Corporation Private Limited (HCL Corp), Mirabilis Investment Trust (Mirabilis). IAF S5 1 is registered with the Security Board of India (SEBI) as a _____ Alternative Investment Funds (AIF) and carries on activities subject to the SEBI (AIF)

Regulations, 2012.

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a. Category I b. Category II c. Category III d.
Category IV e. None of Above

7. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of _____ shareholding of Annapurna Finance Private Limited and subscription to its certain debentures by Piramal Alternatives Trust.

a. 8.95 % b. 10.39 % c. 11.98 % d. 7.36 % e.
9.10 %

8. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the subscription to 14,25,79,161 equity shares of Max Life Insurance Company Limited by which among the following bank?

a. Axis Bank b. Bank of Baroda c. Canara Bank
d. State Bank of India e. Bank of India

9. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of shares of _____ by IndoEdge India Fund Large Value Fund (LVF) Scheme.

a. Tata Motors Limited
b. TVS Motor Company
c. MG Motor India Private Limited
d. EV Motors India Private Limited e. ABB
India Ltd.

10. In April 2024, Xcelerate has acquired a strategic equity stake in Stirrup Communication for an undisclosed amount. Xcelerate is a _____-based GRC and ESG investment platform.

a. US b. Germany c. Singapore d. Vietnam e. UK

11. Biodeal is a contract development and manufacturing organisation. In March 2024,

Piramal Alternatives, the investment arm of Piramal Group, has announced an investment of _____ in Biodeal Pharmaceuticals.

a. Rs 50 crore b. Rs 110 crore c. Rs 250 crore
d. Rs 500 crore e. Rs 1100 crore

12. In April 2024, Private equity (PE) firm Bain Capital sold its remaining 1.08 per cent stake in which of the following banks?

a. Federal Bank b. Axis Bank c. ICICI Bank d.
HDFC Bank e. HSBC Bank

13. In April 2024, according to recent news paper reports, The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (MUFG) is getting ready to acquire a _____ stake in HDB Financial Services, a non-banking subsidiary of HDFC Bank, at a valuation of \$9-10 billion.

a. 5% b. 10% c. 15% d. 20% e. 25%

14. Invesco is the fifth-largest foreign asset manager and the 17th largest domestic asset manager in India with combined onshore and offshore advisory and assets under management. Which company is set to acquire a 60% stake in Invesco Asset Management?

a. IndusInd International Holdings
b. HDFC International Holdings
c. Indian Bank International Holdings
d. SBI International Holdings
e. PNB International Holdings

15. In April 2024, Bharti Airtel said it has signed an agreement to merge the operations of its _____ unit with Dialog, a telecom provider and a subsidiary of Malaysias Axiata Group Berhad with 100% acquisition.

a. Sri Lankan b. Mauritius c. Malaysia d. Singapore
e. Thailand

16. In April 2024, ITC Infotech has entered into a share purchase agreement for the acquisition of 100 per cent of the share capital of Pune- headquartered Blazeclan Technologies Private Limited for ____.

- a. Rs 185 crore b. Rs 285 crore c. Rs 385 crore d. Rs 485 crore e. Rs 585 crore

17. In April 2024, Bharti Airtel said it has signed an agreement to merge the operations of its _____ unit with Dialog, a telecom provider and a subsidiary of Malaysias Axiata Group Berhad with 100% acquisition.

- a. Sri Lanka b. Mauritius c. Malaysia d. Singapore e. Thailand

18. In April 2024, ITC Infotech has entered into a share purchase agreement for the acquisition of 100 per cent of the share capital of Pune- headquartered Blazeclan Technologies Private Limited for ____.

- a. Rs 185 crore b. Rs 285 crore c. Rs 385 crore d. Rs 485 crore e. Rs 585 crore

FinTech

1. In April 2024, Fintech major Razorpay, in partnership with which of the following payment banks has forayed into UPI infrastructure service by offering UPI Switch to its customers?

- a. Airtel Payments Bank.
b. India Post Payments Bank.
c. Fino Payments Bank.
d. Jio Payments Bank.
e. Paytm Payments Bank.

2. In 2024 April, which of the following launched Indias first upgradable ATM that can be transformed into a high-performance Cash Recycling Machine (CRM) at any point of time?

- a. PayPal India.
b. Hitachi Payment Services c. PayU. d. Paytm. e. CCAvenue

Committees

1. In April 2024, which of the following organization has established a standing committee to develop a framework for launching climate finance products, as part of efforts to transform Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) into a "climate finance hub."?

- a. RBI b. SEBI c. EXIM Bank d. IFSCA e. NabFID

Answer Keys

Banking & Finance

9. d 10. a 11. b 12. c 13. d 14. c 15. c
16. a 17. a 18. c 19. b 20. c 21. c 22. d
23. d 24. d 25. d 26. d 27. c 28. a 29. b
30. c 31. a 32. b 33. d 34. e 35. b 36. c
37. d 38. b 39. a 40. c 41. b
1. a 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. c 6. d 7. d 8. a

Economy

1. e 2. a 3. c 4. b 5. a 6. b 7. b 8. a
9. b 10. b 11. b 12. d 13. c 14. b 15. a
16. c 17. b 18. b 19. b 20. b 21. b 22. d
23. d 24. c 25. c 26. a 27. a 28. d 29. c

National

1. c 2. d 3. c 4. b 5. d 6. d 7. d 8. a
9. d 10. d 11. a 12. c 13. d 14. c 15. a
16. c 17. a 18. d 19. d 20. b 21. c 22. a
23. d 24. a

International

1. c 2. b 3. e 4. b 5. c 6. d 7. b 8. b
9. a 10. d

State/UTs

1. c 2. c

Sports

1. b 2. c 3. b 4. c 5. d 6. d 7. a 8. c
9. c 10. c 11. a 12. a 13. a

Agreements & MoUs

1. b 2. d 3. d 4. c 5. b
6. c 7. d 8. b
9. d 10. c 11. b 12. a 13. c
14. a 15. c

Insurance

1. b 2. c

1. b 2. a 3. c 4. b

16. d 17. d 18. a 19. a 20. d 21. c 22. d
23. c 24. b 25. d 26. b 27. b 28. d 29. d
30. b

Schemes

1. c

Appointments & Resignations

1. d 2. a 3. b 4. e 5. d 6. a 7. d 8. c
9. d 10. d 11. c 12. d 13. b 14. e 15. a

Ranks & Reports

1. a 2. b 3. c 4. c 5. b 6. a 7. c 8. a
9. d 10. d 11. c 12. c 13. a 14. d 15. a

Important Days

1. a 2. e 3. b 4. c 5. a 6. b 7. b 8. a
9. d 10. b 11. c 12. a 13. c 14. c 15. c
16. a 17. c 18. b 19. b 20. a 21. d 22. b
23. c 24. c 25. c 26. b 27. c 28. d 29. b
30. b 31. d 32. c 33. b 34. c

Summit & Conferences

1. c 2. e 3. a 4. c 5. c 6. d

Science & Technology

1. a 2. b 3. d 4. b 5. c 6. d 7. a

Defence

1. d 2. a 3. a 4. a 5. c 6. c 7. b 8. b
9. d 10. d 11. b 12. b 13. b 14. d

Books & Authors

1. a

Obituary

1. b 2. b 3. c

Person in news

India & World

16. a 17. c 18. c 19. b 20. a 21. c 22. a
23. a 24. a 25. a 26. a 27. b 28. b 29. a
30. c 31. a 32. d 33. d 34. a 35. b 36. a
37. b 38. b
1. a 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. c 6. d 7. d

Awards

1. e 2. e 3. b 4. a 5. d
6. e 7. d 8. d
9. d 10. c

Committees

Apps & Portals

1. b 2. c 3. c 4. b 5. b 6. a

Acquisitions & Mergers

1. e 2. c 3. e 4. e 5. e 6. b 7. b 8. a
9. c 10. c 11. b 12. b 13. d 14. a 15. a
16. d 17. a 18. d

FinTech

1. a 2. b

1. d

KP CLASSES