



CURRENT AFFIARS

March 2024



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Banking & Finance

1. NPCI International ties up with Greece's Eurobank for cross-border UPI payments

- **NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), a subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has signed an MoU with Greece-based Eurobank S.A. to enhance cross-border UPI payments.**
- The agreement is aimed at revolutionising the process of international money transfers, with a specific focus on streamlining remittances from Greece to India, NIPL said in a release.

2. Paytm Payments Bank fined Rs 5.49 crore for violating money laundering norms

- Finance Ministry said in a statement that FIU-IND initiated a review of Paytm Payments Bank Ltd on receipt of specific information from law enforcement agencies.
- These include organising and facilitating online gambling. The money generated from these illegal operations were routed and channeled through bank accounts maintained by these entities with the Paytm Payments Bank Ltd.
- Earlier, FIU IND issued a compliance Show Cause Notice to the bank for its violations.
- After considering the written and oral submissions of the bank, FIU-IND found that the charges against Paytm were substantiated based on the voluminous material available on record.

- In exercise of his powers under Section 13 of PMLA, Director, FIU IND imposed the penalty of five crore forty nine lakh rupees on the bank.
- Policybazaar Insurance Brokers (Policybazaar), has received the nod from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) to upgrade its license from a direct insurance broker to a composite insurance broker.
- A composite insurance broker can also sell reinsurance products besides general and life insurance products.

- The Financial Intelligence Unit-India, has imposed a monetary penalty of 5.49 crore rupees on Paytm Payments Bank Ltd with reference to violations of its obligations under Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

- participation, and enhance customer protection.
- The central bank has issued the revised 'Reserve Bank of India (Bharat Bill Payment System) Directions, 2024' as it felt there was a need to update the existing regulations in view of significant developments in the payments landscape.
- These directions will be applicable from April 1, 2024 to banks, NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited & other non-bank payment system participants.
- Bharat Bill Payment System is an integrated bill payment platform which enables payment or collection of bills through multiple channels using various payment modes, like

UPI, internet banking, cards, cash, & prepaid payment instruments Bharat Bill Pay Central Unit (BBPCU), the updated regulations said, will set the rules and regulations governing participation criteria and system operations, in addition to the technical standards for participation in the system. Biller Operating Unit (BOU) will be responsible for onboarding billers to BBPS, and ensuring compliance with requirements.

- The Customer Operating Unit (COU) has been tasked to provide digital or physical interface to their customers, and also ensure that customers have access to all billers onboarded on BBPS.

gold at the time of sanction of loans and at the time of auction upon default; breaches in Loan-to-Value ratio; significant disbursement and collection of

5. Flipkart unveils its UPI handle to boost India's digital evolution

- **Flipkart launched its UPI (Unified Payments Interface)** handle to enhance digital payment offerings to all users, including the e-commerce major's over 500 million customers, and boost India's digital evolution.
- **Powered by Axis Bank**, Flipkart UPI will initially be available for Android users.

6. RBI Directs IIFL Finance to Cease Gold Loans Due to Serious Lapses

- **The Reserve Bank of India has directed IIFL Finance Limited to stop sanctioning or disbursing gold loans or assigning/ securitising/ selling any of its gold loans.**
- RBI said the company can, however, continue to service its existing gold loan portfolio through the usual collection and recovery processes.
- RBI found serious deviations in assaying and certifying purity and net weight of the

loan amount in cash - far over the statutory limit; non-adherence to the standard auction process; and lack of transparency in accounts.

(EM)

- With no meaningful corrective action taken by the company in the past few months, RBI has notified these restrictions with immediate effect, adding that the same will be reviewed upon completion of a special audit.

7. PNB, EaseMyTrip collaborate to introduce PNB EMT Credit Card

- **State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) announced a partnership with online travel tech platform EaseMyTrip to launch a co-branded credit card.**
- This power-packed co-branded travel credit card is aimed at mass to premium customer segments and has been meticulously designed to offer a variety of rewards for Indian travellers.

8. RBI bars JM Financial from financing against debentures and shares

- **The Reserve Bank of India prohibited JM Financial Products from financing against shares and debentures, including sanctioning and disbursing loans against initial public offerings of shares and subscriptions to debentures.**
- The RBI cited serious governance concerns as the reason for this action. The RBI will institute a special audit and review the restrictions.

9. Bloomberg to add Indian bonds to emerging market indices in January 2025

- **Bloomberg announced including Indian government securities called 'Fully Accessible Route (FAR) bonds' in the Bloomberg Emerging Market**

- This will be done over 10 months, starting January 31, 2025, instead of September 2024.
- This is the second major global index that will be including Indian bonds. JP Morgan had announced index inclusion from June 28, 2024.
- The FAR introduced by RBI wherein certain specified categories of Central Government securities are opened fully for non-resident investors without any restrictions, apart from being available to domestic investors as well.

- **The Reserve Bank of India has directed banks and credit card companies like American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard, Rupay, and Visa not to enter into any exclusive agreement to issue credit cards.**
- In a notification the central bank has directed banks to provide an option to their customers to choose from multiple card networks at the time of issuance and renewal of cards.
- The notification follows a draft circular issued in July last year which asked banks to issue cards from more than one network provider giving an option to customers to choose.
- All banks and payment networks have to adhere to the new norms whenever they are issuing new cards or renewing existing cards.
- The new RBI directions are applicable from September this year.
- The directions are however not be applicable to credit card issuers with number of active cards at 10 lakh or less.

- **Local Currency Government Index and related indices.**

network are excluded from the applicability of the circular.

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), for quicker settlement of funds for merchants, has asked NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL) to implement an interoperable system for Internet Banking which should be introduced during the current calendar year.**

- This measure will further boost the

11. RBI allows customers to choose card networks at issuance

multiple digital systems, applications and databases to connect and communicate with each other. Payment platforms leverage financial technology to connect and share data among ecosystem partners like banks, payment gateways, payment processors, merchants and consumers.

- **India's first listed AI-powered fintech company, Infibeam Avenues, received the final authorisation from RBI to operate as a payment aggregator** for its payment gateway brand, CCAvenue.
- The RBI had in March 2020 introduced the PA framework, which necessitates payment gateways to secure an aggregator licence for acquiring merchants and delivering digital payment solutions.
- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has launched a new loan

scheme called 'Vikas Spoority' to strengthen the rural credit delivery system and also to motivate the common man to take up income-generating activities on a smaller scale.

- Under this scheme, people may avail a minimum loan of '50,000 and a maximum of '2,00,000.

15. Sebi mandates registration of index providers under regulatory fold

- **The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has mandated registration of index providers managing 'significant indices' based on securities listed in India to foster transparency in governance and administration of financial benchmarks in the securities market.**
- The global index providers, however, may not have to register with Sebi unless their indices are used as benchmarks by domestic asset managers with large corpus.
- Sebi has excluded indices that are for exclusive use in a foreign jurisdiction.
- Benchmarks regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are also excluded from these regulations.
- Industry players said the NSE Indices, which has popular indices such as the Nifty50 and Nifty Bank, and the Asia Index (AIPL), which compiles the Sensex, will have to register with Sebi. APIL is an equal joint venture between the BSE and S&P Dow Jones Indices.
- However, S&P Dow Jones Indices has announced its plan to exit the JV.

16. Bank of Baroda launches green term deposit scheme with 7.15% interest

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB) has announced the launch of the bob Earth Green Term Deposit Scheme, aimed at raising**

deposits for financing eligible environment-friendly projects and sectors.

- The scheme offers customers the dual benefits of stable financial returns and contribution to a greener planet.
- It offers annual interest rates, ranging from 6.75 per cent for a tenure of 12 to 18 months to 7.15 per cent for 777 days.
- Additionally, for longer tenures of 1,111 days, 1,717 days, and 2,201 days, the interest rates are set at 6.40 per cent per annum. Funds collected through this scheme will be directed towards financing green initiatives such as renewable energy.

- **L&T Finance, L&T Infra Credit, and five other non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) have surrendered their certificates of registration to the Reserve Bank of India.**

- **The other five NBFCs which surrendered their CoR are Marudhar Food & Credit Ltd, Creative Intra Ltd, Jinvani Trading & Investment Company, Manjushree Fincap, and Shruti Financial Services.**

- Following this, the central bank cancelled their Certificate of Registration (CoR) as they ceased to be a legal entity after amalgamation, merger, dissolution or voluntary strike-off.

- **RBI said it has cancelled CoR of four NBFCs -- Nimisha Finance India, R.M.B. Finance Company, Suyash Fininvest, and Kamdhar Leasing and Finance Ltd.**

18. IndusInd Bank launched

all-in-one payment wearables

volatility and risk than small cap stocks.

- **IndusInd Bank introduced 'Indus PayWear,' a new wearable payment solution, available on Mastercard.**
- These wearables enable users to tokenise their IndusInd Bank cards for tap-and-pay transactions at contactless Point-of-Sale (PoS) terminals worldwide. The company reported, with a mobile app, users can easily set up their cards on the wearable and switch between them.
- Transactions below '5,000 can be made with a tap, while those exceeding '5,000 require the PIN entry as per RBI guidelines.

19. ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund first to restrict flows into midcap fund

- **ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund has decided to suspend one-time investments in its smallcap and midcap funds, citing expensive valuations.**
- **The fund house ' which manages over Rs 7,000 crore in its smallcap fund and nearly Rs 5,500 crore in its midcap fund ' is the first to place curbs on a midcap fund.**
- The move comes after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) raised concerns about the build-up of froth in the midcap and smallcap space.
- The regulator had suggested mutual funds take measures like putting restrictions on investments to safeguard investors.
 - A mid-cap fund is a pooled investment, such as a mutual fund, that focuses on companies with a market capitalization in the middle range of listed stocks.
 - Mid-cap stocks tend to offer investors greater growth potential than large cap stocks, but with less

Following the directions by the RBI private sector lenders Federal Bank and South Indian Bank stopped issuing co-branded credit cards to new customers on account of regulatory deficiencies, according to exchange filings.

non-compliance with certain
directions

- In a separate exchange filing, Federal Bank informed that post a letter from the RBI the lender has stopped issuance due to regulatory deficiencies.
- South Indian Bank said that it will not onboard new customers on their co-branded credit cards until it is fully compliant with directions under RBI Master Direction on Credit Card and Debit Card issuance.
- South Indian Bank has one co-branded credit card in partnership with State Bank of India (SBI), which is available in two variants SimplySAVE and Platinum.
- On March 7, the RBI released a Master Direction on 'Amendment to the Master Direction ' Credit Card and Debit Card ' Issuance and Conduct Directions, 2022.
- According to the notification, co-branded cards should explicitly indicate that the card has been issued under a co-branding arrangement with clear mention of the card-issuer.'

21. RBI imposes '1.40 cr monetary penalty on Bank of India

- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of '1.40 crore on Bank of India for non-compliance with certain directions issued by it on 'Interest Rate on Deposits', 'Customer Service in Banks', 'Interest Rate on Advances', among others.
- It has also imposed a penalty of Rs 29.55 lakh on private sector

20. RBI bars Federal, South Indian Bank from issuing co-branded credit cards

- The penalty on Bank of India has been imposed for non-compliance with the RBI's directions related to 'interest rate on deposits', 'customer service in banks', 'interest rate on advances', and contravention of provisions of Credit Information Companies Rules, 2006.

22. RBI unveils draft guidelines on climate-related financial disclosures

- RBI unveiled draft guidelines on the disclosure framework on climate-related financial risks for regulated entities.
- These guidelines are set to apply to a wide array of REs, including scheduled commercial banks, Tier IV primary urban co-operative banks, foreign banks operating in India, all Indian financial institutions (AIFIs), and top and upper layer NBFC's.
- REs have been requested to furnish their comments and feedback by the end of April. These guidelines aren't unanticipated, given prior developments, such as the RBI's joining the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System as a member in April 2021, the release of a paper on climate risk in July 22, and the Monetary Policy Statement in Feb 2023.
- The disclosures by REs are expected to cover four thematic pillars: governance, strategy, risk management, metrics, and targets, aligning with the global framework of the Task Force on Climate-related

23. Aurionpro Solutions inks 6-year contract with State Bank of India

- Mumbai-based tech company Aurionpro Solutions has secured a Rs 100-crore contract from State Bank of India for the licence,
- RBI also said a penalty of Rs 13.60 lakh has been imposed on Indostar Capital Finance Ltd for non-compliance with the 'Monitoring of Frauds in NBFCs (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016' and with certain provisions of KYC directions,
- years.

24. Paytm gets nod to continue UPI via State Bank of India, three others

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) allowed One97 Communications (OCL), which operates brand Paytm, to function as a third party application provider (TPAP) on Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

Financial Disclosures (TCFD).

- Four banks ' State Bank of India (SBI), Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, and YES Bank ' will act as payment service providers (PSPs) to Paytm.

- Paytm will operate as a TPAP under a multi-bank model.
- The NPCI said YES Bank would operate as a merchant acquiring bank for existing and new UPI merchants for OCL.
- Currently, @paytm is a virtual payment address (VPA) for the company's users. It is a unique identifier that customers use to send and receive money on UPI.
 - A PSP bank, either through its own application or a TPAP, onboards and registers customers on UPI, linking customers' bank accounts to their respective UPI identifications.
 - A TPAP is a service provider that participates in UPI through a PSP

bank, according to the NPCI, which runs the UPI

& Head, Institutional Banking Group,
DBS Bank India

25. SANY India signs MoU with J&K Bank to give finance solution to their customers

- **SANY India, a leading manufacturer of construction equipment, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with J&K Bank,** with the goal of stimulating significant growth and development opportunities in the region while providing easier access to its advanced product line and readily available financial solutions.

28. RBI fines TMB, DCB nearly '2 crore for violating norms on lending rates

26. RBI imposes Rs 1.31 cr fine on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance

- **The Reserve Bank of India said it has imposed penalties on DCB Bank and Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance with certain directions related to 'interest rate on advances'.**
 - **A monetary penalty of Rs 63.6 lakh has been imposed on DCB Bank, the RBI said in a statement.**
- external raising of certain borrowers to CRILC.

27. DBS Bank India unveils \$250 mn lending support to start-ups and 'new economy' organisations

- The project is part of the bank's efforts to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the country's vibrant startup environment.
- The Indian start-up sector, a key component of the country's development aspirations, has grown significantly, with over 90,000 start-ups and over 100 unicorn Rajat Verma, Managing Director

29. Federal Bank opens 600th branch of Kerala in Tanur

- **Federal Bank has opened its**
- **DBS Bank India announced a USD 250 million loan commitment for new-age entrepreneurs.**
- **incorporated on April 25, 1951, as the Travancore Federal Bank Limited, Nedumpuram under the Travancore Companies Regulation, 1916, the Bank was renamed as The Federal Bank Limited in December 1949, under the stewardship of Late K.P. Hormis, who took over its reigns in 1945.**
- Licensed under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, on July 11,

1959, the Bank went on to become a
scheduled

commercial bank on July 20, 1970. Shalini Warriar is the Executive Director of the Federal Bank.

30. Star Housing Finance inks co-lending pact with Tata Capital Housing Finance

- **Semi-urban and rural housing finance-focused Star Housing Finance has entered into a co-lending arrangement with Tata Capital Housing Finance.**
- The co-lending pact aims to lend to economically weaker sections (EWS) and low-income group (LIG) at more affordable rates by leveraging the strength of Tata Capital Housing and the distribution network of Star Housing.

31. 'Flash Pay': Federal Bank, NPCI partner for contactless payments

- **Federal Bank has launched a RuPay smart key chain called 'Flash Pay' for contactless NCMC (National Common Mobility Card) payments at enabled metro stations and PoS terminals.**
- Customers can make payments up to '5,000 without a PIN, whereas those over '5,000 will require PIN authentication. The per day limit at any PoS terminal has been capped at '1 lakh.

32. RBI eases AIF norms, clarifies provisioning rules

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has relaxed its regulations concerning lenders' investment in alternative investment funds (AIF).**
- According to the latest circular, lenders are now permitted to invest in AIF schemes that have downstream equity investments in debtor companies.
- However, investments in schemes with hybrid instruments in debtor companies are not allowed.

- Additionally, RBI has adjusted provisioning norms.
- Lenders are now required to provision only for the amount invested in AIF Schemes which is further invested in debtor companies. Previously, provisioning was required for the entire investment in the AIF Scheme.
- Investments made by lenders in AIFs through intermediaries like fund of funds or mutual funds are not covered.

- **Axis Bank announced the introduction of digital US dollar fixed deposit (FD) for NRI customers at the IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT City, Gujarat.**
- With this introduction, Axis Bank became the first bank to offer a digital journey for GIFT City Deposits.
- NRI customers of the bank can now open US dollar fixed deposits at GIFT City through 'Open by Axis Bank'; the mobile banking application of the lender, it said.
- This offering simplifies the process of booking US dollar Fixed Deposit for NRI customers, by providing them an end-to-end digital paperless solution and eliminating the need for physical documentation.
- **Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the launch of the beta version of the T+0 settlement on an optional basis from March 28. T+0 settlement means that the funds and securities for a transaction will be**

settled on the day the trade was entered into.

- According to an official release issued by the SEBI, the Board approved the launch of a Beta version of optional T+0 settlement, for a limited set of 25 scrips, and with a limited set of brokers.
- SEBI has said it shall continue to do further stakeholder consultation, including with the users of the Beta version.
- The SEBI has further said that the market regulator will review the progress at the end of 3 months and 6 months from the date of this implementation and decide on further course of action. T+0 settlement allows both funds and securities transactions to be settled on the same day when the trade is initiated.
- At present, the Indian securities markets operate on a T+1 settlement cycle, where the settlement happens on the next day of trade.
- **In 2002, the regulator cut down the settlement period from T+5 to T+3, and in 2003, SEBI further reduced it to T+2.**
- In 2021, the T+1 settlement started and was gradually implemented, with the final phase completed in January 2023.

35. SEBI cancels registration of Karvy Investor Services

- **Capital markets regulator the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has cancelled the registration of Karvy Investor Services Ltd. (KISL) as a merchant banker for breach of eligibility criteria.**
- A merchant bank is a financial institution that conducts underwriting, financial advising, and fundraising services for large corporations and high-net-worth individuals

36. IT Dept slaps '564.44 crore penalty on Bank of India

- **Bank of India said it has received an order from the Income Tax Department, Assessment Unit, pertaining to AY 2018-19, in which a penalty of '564.44 crore has been imposed on various disallowances made.**
- In an exchange filing, said it is in the process of filing an appeal before the Commissioner of Income Tax, National Faceless Appeal Centre against the said order.
- The fund would be raised in 2024-25, BoI said in regulatory filing. These bonds help in building roads, bridges, airports, power plants, and telecommunications networks etc & addressing the infrastructure deficit of the country.

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Economy

1. Core sector growth hits 15-month low of 3.6% in January: Govt data

- **India's core sector output, which measures production by eight key industries, grew by 3.6 per cent in January, a 15-month low, as per a government data update.**
- A lower growth of 0.7 per cent was recorded in October 2022.
- The base effect combined with single digit growth in five industries and a negative growth in two, slowed down production in the first month of this year.

- The ICI measures the combined and individual performance of production of eight core industries viz. Cement, Coal, Crude Oil, Electricity, Fertilizers, Natural Gas, Refinery Products and Steel.
- The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 percent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

2. Gross GST collections rise 12.5% to Rs 1.68 lakh crore in February

- **A total of 1,68,337 crore rupees gross GST revenue has been collected during February.**
- This marks a robust 12.5 percent increase compared to that in the same month last year.
- This growth was driven by a 13.9 percent rise in GST from domestic transactions and 8.5 percent increase in GST from import of goods.
- GST revenue net of refunds for February this year is 1.51 lakh crore rupees which

is a growth of 13.6 percent over that for the same period last year.

- **As of February this year, the total gross GST collection for the current fiscal year stands at 18.40 lakh crore rupees, which is 11.7 percent higher than the collection for the same period in 2022- 23.**
- **India's GDP registered a robust growth of 8.4 per cent on an annual basis in the third quarter (October-December), as against a 8.1 per cent in the previous quarter, data released by the National Statistical Office showed.**
- The number for Q1, Q2 FY24 has also been revised upwards to 8.2 per cent (against 7.8 per cent) and 8.1 per cent (against 7.6 per cent) respectively.
- Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in the year 2023-24 is estimated at Rs 172.90 lakh crore, against the First Revised Estimates (FRE) of GDP for the year 2022-23 of Rs 160.71 lakh crore. The growth in real GDP during 2023-24 is estimated at 7.6 per cent as compared to 7.0 per cent in 2022-23.
- **The manufacturing sector gathered momentum in February on the back of expansion in new export orders and easing of pricing pressures as the headline Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) climbed to a five-month high. It touched 56.9 during the month from 56.5 in January.** At 56.9, the February manufacturing PMI is above the flash estimate of 56.7 released on February 22.

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- A PMI number greater than 50 indicates expansion in business activity. A number less than 50 shows contraction. The rate of expansion is also judged by the difference from the mid-point (50) and also by previous month's data. It is an economic indicator, which is derived after monthly surveys of different companies. The index shows trends in manufacturing and services.

during the one-year period shows a decline for the second consecutive year since 2021 when the NSO report started enlisting data on an annual basis. Annual Periodic Labour Force Survey collects data related to employment and unemployment status in the country between July and June.

- The latest survey also showed that the labour force participation rate (LFPR), which defines the share of people either working or

5. India's unemployment rate in 2023 dropped to 3.1%, shows NSO data

significantly to 59.8 per cent

- **India's unemployment rate dropped to 3.1 per cent in 2023 from 3.6 per cent in the preceding year, reflecting continued improvement in the labour markets, revealed the latest employment-unemployment indicators report released by the National Statistical Office.**

6. Nvidia overtakes Saudi Aramco to be world's third most-valuable company

More finding from the report:

- During the calendar year 2023, the unemployment rate in both rural and urban areas declined to 2.4 per cent and 5.2 per cent, respectively, from 2.8 per cent and 5.9 per cent in 2022. The unemployment rate for rural women (1.9 per cent) was lower than for rural men (2.7 per cent) in 2023, whereas in urban areas, the rate was higher for women (7.5%) compared

to men (4.4%)

- The unemployment rate under the so-called 'usual status' for persons aged 15 years and above

-
- The company was closing above the \$2 trillion mark for the first time. Meanwhile, Aramco's value dipped to \$2.03 trillion, according to data compiled by Boomerang.

- **Rating agency Moody's raised its forecast for India's GDP growth in 2024 from 6.1% to 6.8%**, reflecting both global and domestic optimism in the

- **Nvidia Corp. has claimed another milestone by overtaking Saudi Aramco in market value, making the chipmaker the world's third-most valuable public company after Apple Inc. and Microsoft Corp.**

7. Moody's upgrades India's 2024 GDP growth forecast to 6.8%

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country's economy on the back of robust manufacturing activity and infrastructure spending in its Global Macro Outlook 2024-25.

Choice 2024 to promote tourism and engage citizens in identifying preferred tourist attractions. Industry experts have welcomed the initiatives but emphasized the need for strong marketing efforts to boost

8. CRISIL raises India's GDP growth forecast to 6.8% from 6.4% for FY25

Crore were also launched by him

- **Rating agency CRISIL raised its economic growth forecast for India in the next financial year (FY25) to 6.8 per cent from 6.4 per cent estimated earlier, citing higher growth momentum. In its India Outlook report, it, said growth will moderate in FY25 from 7.6 per cent in the current financial year as higher interest rates and lower fiscal impulse will temper demand.**

- The report also expects the Indian economy to grow at an average rate of 6.7 per cent till the end of this decade. On the inflation front, the rating agency expects the softening to continue in the next financial year on the back of healthier agriculture output that tames food inflation, and benign oil and commodity prices.

and Dekho Apna Desh People's

9. PM dedicates and launches 52 tourism sector projects worth more than Rs 1400 crores under Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD Scheme

- Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi dedicated nine tourism infrastructure projects, spread across the country, developed under **Swadesh Darshan and Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) schemes, worth Rs. 469 Crore through Video Conferencing from Srinagar.**
- Additionally, the PM launched campaigns like Chalo India Global Diaspora Campaign

-
- **India's industrial production grew 3.8 per cent in January 2024, according to official data released.**
 - Factory output measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) witnessed a growth of 5.8 per cent in January 2023
 - The IIP grew 5.9 per cent during April 2023 to January 2024 compared to a 5.5 per cent expansion in the year-ago period.
 - In January 2024, mining production rose 5.9 per cent, and power output increased to 5.6%. The Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production are released on 12th of every month (or previous working day if 12th is a holiday) with a six weeks lag and compiled with data received from source agencies, which in turn receive the data from producing factories/ establishments.

11. Perfios secures \$80 million funding, set to become 2nd unicorn of 2024

- **Fintech-focussed software-as-a-service firm Perfios said it has secured \$80**

million in funding from Teachers' Venture Growth (TVG), a late-stage venture and growth investment arm of Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan.

- With the fresh investment, the company's new valuation will cross the \$1 billion mark, said sources, which makes Perfios the second unicorn of 2024.
- A unicorn is a term used to describe startups or companies valued at \$1 billion or more.

12. Government allows RBI to import gold without paying import levies

- Gold importers from the world's second biggest gold consumer need to pay basic customs duty and Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC).
- As of September 2023, the Reserve Bank of India held 800.79 metric tonnes of gold, including gold deposits of 39.89 tonnes.

The headline wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation eased to 0.2% in February from 0.27 per cent in the preceding month, remaining in positive territory for the fourth consecutive month.

- The data showed that lower WPI inflation in February was driven by a deceleration in price rises for fuel and manufactured products, even though food inflation accelerated to 6.9%
- The prices of manufactured products, which have a weighting of 64.2 per cent in the index, remained in deflation (minus 1.27 per cent) for the twelfth consecutive

month in February. The contraction in fuel prices (minus 1.59 per cent) continued for the tenth consecutive month, led by the contraction in prices of high-speed diesel and Petrol.

- It also expects the growth in the current
- **India has allowed its central bank to import gold without paying import levies.**

- **India's foreign exchange reserves jumped by \$10.47 billion to \$636.1 billion for the week ending on March 8, latest data by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**

13. Wholesale inflation eases to a four-month low of 0.2% in February

- Previously, forex reserves expanded by \$6.55 billion to \$625.63 billion for the week ended on March 1, 2024.
- According to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI, Foreign currency assets (FCAs) increased by \$8.12 billion to \$562.35 billion. Expressed in dollar terms, the FCAs include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.
- **Gold reserves expanded by \$2.3 billion to**

\$50.72 billion, whereas SDRs were up by
\$31 million to \$18.21 billion.

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- Reserve position in the IMF increased by \$19 million to \$4.82 billion. It can be noted that in October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion.

16. India's outward FDI rises to \$3.47 billion in February, shows RBI data

- **India's outward foreign direct investment (FDI) commitments rose substantially to \$3.47 billion in February 2024, compared to over \$2.82 billion in February 2023.**
- Sequentially, FDI commitments were also up from \$2.18 billion in January 2024, according to RBI data.
- Outbound FDI, expressed as a financial commitment, comprises three components: equity, loans, and guarantees.

17. ICRA forecasts Indian IT service industry growth at 3-5% in FY25

- **The Indian IT industry is poised to witness a modest revenue growth of 2 per cent in the first three quarters of FY24, and it will maintain a restrained trajectory in the range of 3-5 per cent in FY25, according to a report released by ICRA.**
- This is the second consecutive year when the credit rating agency has forecasted a growth rate in the range of 3-5 per cent for sector
- Most of the top IT services firms have reported record levels of total contract value (TCV).
- For instance, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) reported a TCV of \$8.1 billion in Q3FY24. In the first and second quarters, the company reported TCV of \$10.2 billion and \$11.2 billion, respectively.

18. Gross Direct Tax collections for Financial Year (FY) 2023-24 register a growth of 18.74%.

- **The provisional figures of Direct Tax collections for the Financial Year 2023-24 (as on 17.03.2024) show that Net collections are at Rs. 18,90,259 crore, compared to Rs. 15,76,776 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding Financial Year (i.e. FY 2022-23), representing an increase of 19.88%.**
- The provisional figures of Gross collection of Direct Taxes (before adjusting for refunds) for the Financial Year 2023-24 stand at Rs. 22,27,067 crores compared to Rs. 18,75,535 crores in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year, showing a growth of 18.74% over the collections of FY 2022-23.
- Refunds amounting to Rs. 3,36,808 crore have also been issued in the FY 2023-24 till 17.03.2024, as compared to refunds of Rs. 2,98,758 crore issued in FY 2022-23, marking an increase of 12.74% over the refunds issued during the same period in the preceding year.
- S&P expects the Indian economy to grow 7.6% in the current year, in line with the government's second advance estimate released last month.
- The agency had earlier predicted 7.2% growth in FY24

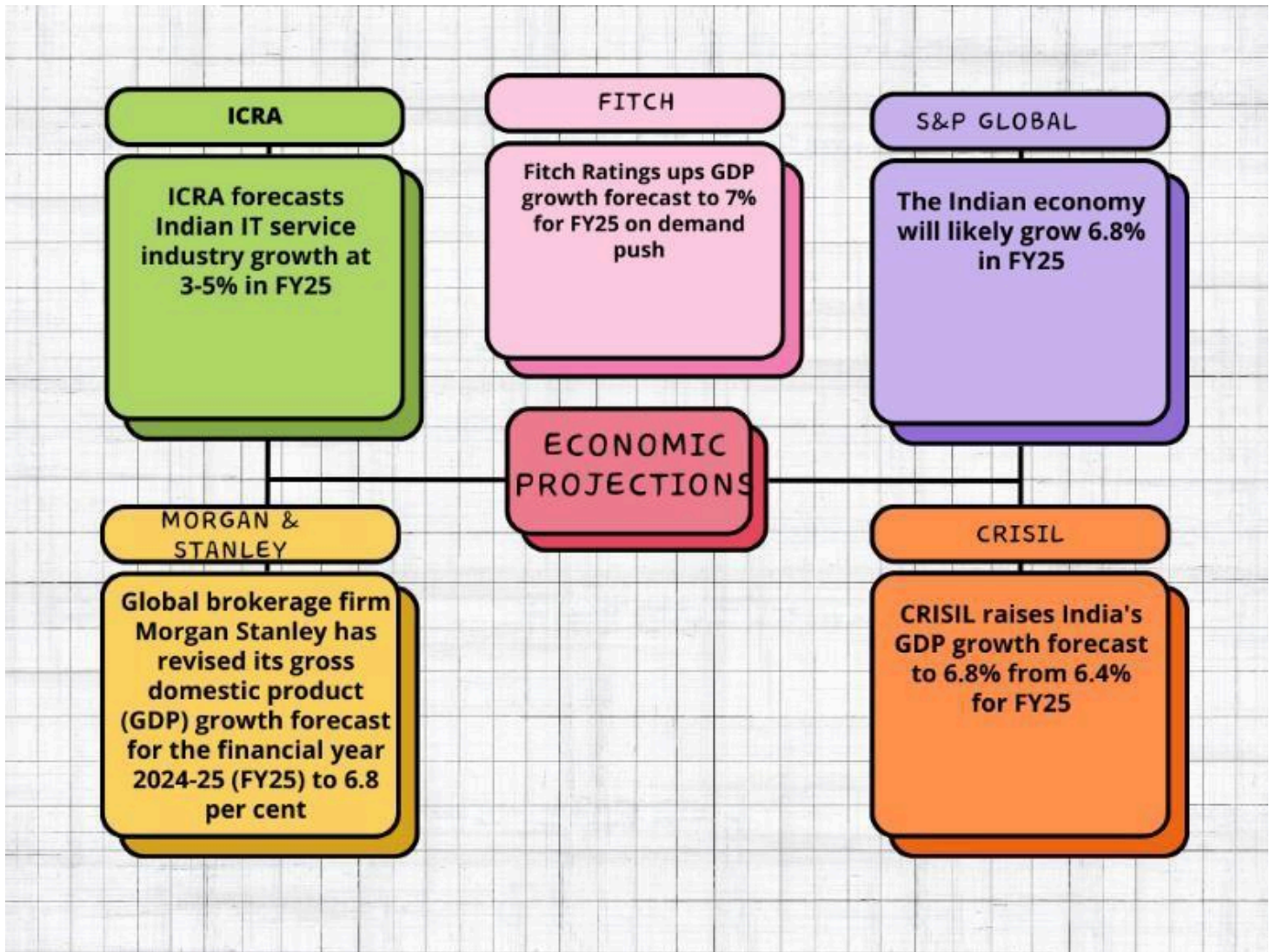
20. India's current account deficit narrowed to 1.2% of GDP in Q3: RBI data

- **Current account deficit (CAD) narrowed sequentially to \$10.5 billion in the quarter ended December 2023 (Q3 FY24) ' 1.2 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) ' from \$11.4 billion in Q2 FY24 (1.3 per cent of GDP).**
- The deficit was also down from \$16.8 billion or 2 per cent of GDP in the year-ago period (Q3 FY23).
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed that the rise in net services receipts more than compensated for a slight rise in merchandise trade deficit in Q3 FY24. This helped cushion the CAD. Services exports grew by 5.2 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) on the back of rising exports of software, business and travel services.
- The merchandise trade deficit was at \$71.6 billion in Q3 FY24 compared to \$71.3 billion a year ago.
- Net services receipts rose to \$45 billion in Q3 from \$38.7 billion in Q3 of last year. Private transfer receipts, representing mainly remittances from Indians employed overseas, amounted to \$31.4 billion, an increase of 2.1 per cent Y-o-Y, RBI said.

21. Morgan Stanley raises India's GDP growth forecast for FY25 to 6.8%

- **Global brokerage firm Morgan Stanley has revised its gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for the financial year 2024-25 (FY25) to 6.8 per cent, up from the previous estimate of 6.5 per cent. The firm also revised its growth forecast for the ongoing financial year (FY24) to 7.9 per cent.**

- India has beaten rest of the Asian markets by attracting the highest foreign funds flow in March.
- Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) pumped \$3.63 billion into Indian equities in their biggest buying binge since December 2023. Domestic institutions continued to be net buyers, investing around Rs 52,467 crore in the market to hit a four-year high.
- **India's foreign exchange reserves increased by 140 million dollars to touch its all-time high of 642.631 billion dollars during the week ended on the 22nd of March.**
- The data released by the Reserve Bank of India said, this is the fifth consecutive week of a jump in the overall reserves. Gold reserves increased by 347 million dollars to 51.487 billion dollars during the week
- The foreign currency assets, a major component of the overall reserves, decreased by 123 million dollars to 568.264 billion dollars.
- Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.



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National

1. FSSAI gives 'Eat Right Station' certificate to 150 Railway Stations

- **150 railway stations receive the 'Eat Right Station' certification by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).**
- Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food options for millions of rail passengers, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has awarded its prestigious 'Eat Right Station' certification to 150 railway stations.
- In addition to railway stations, six prominent metro stations across the country have also been accredited as Eat Right Stations. Notable among them are stations at Noida Sector 51, Esplanade in Kolkata, IIT Kanpur, Botanical Garden in Noida, and Noida Electronic City Metro Station.

2. India's major leap into semiconductor manufacturing: Union Cabinet nod to Rs 1.26 lakh crore chip-making units

- **The Union Cabinet approved proposals to set up three semiconductor plants, including a mega fab by Tata Group, at a cumulative investment of Rs 1.26 lakh crore,** as India moves to position itself as a global powerhouse in chip manufacturing.
- **The government is offering incentives of up to Rs 76,000 crore to boost domestic manufacturing of semiconductors.**
- **Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd will set up a semiconductor fab in partnership with Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp** at Dholera's special industrial region in Gujarat.

- The plant will have the capacity to produce 50,000 wafers per month and involve an investment of Rs 91,000 crore.
- **The government has also approved a proposal by Tatas to build a greenfield semiconductor assembly and test facility in Jagiroad, Assam.**
- The facility will be built with an investment outlay of Rs 27,000 crore.
- **The third proposal was by CG Power, which in partnership with Renesas Electronics Corp and Stars Microelectronics of Thailand.**

- **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the 60T bollard pull tug named 'Ocean Grace' and the Medical Mobile Unit (MMU), virtually on 2nd March, 2024.**
- **The Ocean Grace is the first make in India ASTDS Tug developed by the Cochin Shipyard Limited under MoPSW.**
- The 'Ocean Grace' built at a cost of Rs. 45 crores, stands as a pinnacle of maritime engineering, equipped with cutting-edge technology and boasting a remarkable bollard pull of 60 tonnes.
- The goal of the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP) is to convert at least 50% of all tugs into Green Tugs by 2030 and to have Green Tugs operating at all major ports.

4. L&T commissions India's first indigenously built green hydrogen electrolyser in Gujarat

- **Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has commissioned its first indigenously manufactured electrolyser at the Green Hydrogen Plant located at the A M Naik Heavy Engineering**

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- This step marks L&T Electrolysers Limited's entrance into the domestic manufacturing of electrolysers, aligning with the company's focus on enhancing sustainable energy solutions.
- The electrolyser, with a rated power capacity of 1 MW, expandable to 2 MW, is capable of producing 200 Nm³/Hr of hydrogen.
- It features two stacks and an Electrolyser Processing Unit (EPU) ML-400, both developed and assembled in India, conforming to international standards.

5. New Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023 comes into force

- **The Government has notified the historic Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023 and its rules. The Act came into force from 1st March 2024.**
- The new Act provides for an online system for facilitating the registration of newspapers and other periodicals in the country. Now the registration of periodicals will be governed by the provisions of the act.
- The new system replaces the existing manual, cumbersome processes involving multiple steps and approvals at various stages which were causing unnecessary hardships to the publishers. The registration of newspapers and periodicals goes online through Press Sewa Portal. All applications will be online through the portal.

6. PM Modi inaugurates India's first underwater metro in Kolkata

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first under-river metro tunnel in Kolkata.**

- The metro tunnel has been built under Kolkata's Hooghly River that will connect Howrah Maidan to Esplanade.
- The 4.8 km stretch between Howrah Maidan and Esplanade is the second section of the East-West Metro corridor between Howrah Maidan and the IT hub Salt Lake Sector V.
- In a historic milestone marking entry into the vital second stage of India's three stage nuclear programme, **PM witnessed, commencement of 'Core Loading' at India's first indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (500 MWe) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.**
- Once commissioned, India will only be the second country after Russia to have commercial operating Fast Breeder Reactor.
 - The PFBR reactor core consists of control sub-assemblies, blanket subassemblies and fuel sub-assemblies. With minimised nuclear waste generated from the reactor and advanced safety features, FBRs will provide a safe, efficient and clean source of energy and contribute to the goal of net zero.
 - In India's three stages of the Nuclear power programme, BHAVINI paves the way as a forerunner in the second stage by building a 500 MWe PFBR. It is entrusted with a mandate to construct, commission and operate the Fast Breeder Reactors to provide energy security for the nation in the long run.

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8. CBDT Clarifies: 85% of Trust Donations for Charitable or Religious Purposes per Finance Act, 2023

- In a release, **CBDT has said that income of any fund, institution, trust, educational institution, hospital or other medical institutions referred to in section 10 (23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 or any trust or institution registered under section 12AA/12AB of the Act is exempt, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions specified under various sections of the Act.**
- Finance Act, 2023 provided that donations made by a trust or institution shall be treated as applications for charitable or religious purposes only to the extent of 85 percent of such donations. The clarification came in response to the concerns raised regarding the nature of the remaining 15 percent of the donation to another trust or institution.

9. IOC to become first Indian firm to manufacture fuel for Formula 1 cars

- **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd the nation's top oil firm will in 3 months start manufacturing fuel used in adrenaline-pumping Formula One or F1,** motor racing as it looks to expand its basket of niche fuels. IOC, which already has three branded fuels, including high-selling XtraGreen diesel, unveiled 'Storm' petrol that it will supply for the Asian region motorcycle road racing.

10. DPI platform 'Niti for States' to offer key insights to officials

- **Ashwini Vaishnaw launched NITI Aayog's NITI For States platform in New Delhi.**
- It is a cross-sectoral knowledge platform designed to become a Digital Public

Infrastructure for Policy and Good Governance. The significant features of the platform include a multi-sectoral live repository of 7,500 Best Practices, 5,000

Policy documents, 900 datasets and 350 NITI publications.

- The knowledge products on the platform span ten sectors including Agriculture, Education, Energy, Health, Livelihoods and Skilling, Manufacturing, MSME, Tourism, and Water resources & WASH across two cross-cutting themes - Gender and Climate Change.
- **The famous Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi (Silver Filigree) has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag** by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai. The application for this was filed by the Odisha State Co-operative Handicrafts Corporation Limited and was facilitated by the Department of Textile and Handicrafts, Government of Odisha.
- **Filigree has been traditionally associated with fine craftsmanship and luxurious design in classical jewellery.**
- **The Banglar muslin is one of the popular traditional handloom craft of Bengal. The flavourful garlic from Riyawan village in Jaora tehsil of Ratlam district of Madhya Pradesh has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.**
- **Risa, a handwoven cloth worn by the indigenous communities of Tripura, has got the geographical indication (GI) tag. The lac bangles of Hyderabad has received the GI Tag. This is the second GI tag for a Hyderabad product after haleem. The traditional Majuli masks and Majuli manuscript painting in Assam**

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- **India now stands as the world's second-largest producer of mobile phones at the end of the decade 2014-2024.**
- India Cellular and Electronics Association said in a statement that the sector has transitioned from being 78 percent import-dependent in 2014 to 97 percent self-sufficiency. Only three percent of the total mobile phones sold in India are now imported.
- China is the largest producer of mobile phones, Indonesia stands at 3rd.

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sela Tunnel, the world's longest twin-lane tunnel, in Arunachal Pradesh.**
- Situated at an altitude of 13,000 feet, the strategically important Sela Tunnel will ensure all-weather connectivity to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Constructed at a cost of Rs 825 crore, the project consists of two tunnels and over 8 km of approach roads, with a total length of approximately 12 km. The first tunnel is a single-tube tunnel spanning 980 metres, while the second serves as an emergency escape route, measuring 1.5 km in length.

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) celebrated its 38th Foundation Day on March 11, 2024, marking a significant milestone in its journey towards fostering renewable energy development in India.

12. India now stands as the world's second-largest producer of mobile phones

provided a valuable opportunity to look back on IREDA's 37-year journey and accomplishments.

- **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, launched India's fastest and indigenously developed IP/MPLS (Multiprotocol Label Switching) router in Bengaluru.**
- The router has a capacity of 2.4 tbps. The router was developed by the collaboration of the government's

13. PM inaugurates world's longest twin-lane tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh

- 2.4 tbps is equivalent to 1,000 gigabytes, or one lakh crore bytes per second. MPLS is a routing technique which is used in telecommunications networks that directs data from one node to the next. The data transfer is held based on labels rather than network addresses. The multiprotocol label switching (MPLS) technique was first developed in the 1990s.

- Established in 1957 for better

14. IREDA gets 'Excellent' rating for third year in row, celebrates 38th foundation

roles in passenger security and facilitation.

Central Armed Police Forces:

- Assam Rifles (AR)
- Border Security Force (BSF)

KP Classes

- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
- National Security Guard (NSG)
- Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

17. Shipping Ministry Approves Rs 645 crore for 10 New Waterways projects on Brahmaputra in Assam

- **The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal announced a major investment of more than '645 crores to develop 10 waterways projects under the flagship Sagarmala programme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways.**

- The projects will be implemented with 100% financial assistance from the central government to enhance terminals and riverine infrastructure along the river Brahmaputra to boost connectivity and foster economic growth.
- Government has spent '1,040 crores on development of waterways which has resulted in operating of 20 Waterways in NER which was only 'ONE till 2014.
- With the initiatives taken in last 9 years the cargo handled via Indo Bangladesh Protocol route (IBPR) has increased to 170%. It is also noteworthy that the first Ship Repair facility, with an investment worth '208 crores, in NER is being developed through Hooghly-Cochin Shipyard Limited (HCSL) at Pandu along River Brahmaputra.

18. MeitY issues advisory on AI for intermediaries

- **The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has issued an advisory on due diligence by Intermediaries and Platforms under the Information Technology Act, 2000 and Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.**
- In its latest advisory, the Ministry said that every intermediary and platform should ensure that use of Artificial Intelligence models, Generative AI, Software or algorithms on or through its computer resource does not permit its users to host, display, upload, modify, publish, or share any unlawful content as outlined in the IT Rules or violate any other provision.
- It added that every intermediary and platform should ensure that its computer resource in itself or through the use of Artificial Intelligence models and others does not permit any bias or discrimination or threaten the integrity of the electoral process. It added that every intermediary and platform should inform its users through the terms of service and user agreements.
- **Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched 'ETHANOL 100, a revolutionary automotive fuel at Indian Oil Retail Outlet Irwin Road Service Station.**
- ETHANOL 100 stands as a cleaner, greener alternative to gasoline, boasting lower emissions of greenhouse gases and pollutants, thus aiding in combating climate change and enhancing air quality in our

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- **The two-days' 47th Meeting of the National Committee of Archivists (NCA) was concluded at the Sher-e Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.** Delegates from Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh participated in the meeting.
- The two-day meeting held with an aim to revitalise the archives administration and records management system across states and Union Territories.
- The next meeting of the NCA is likely to be held in Gujarat later in the year.

- **Wipro GE Healthcare said it will invest over Rs 8,000 crore in India over the next 5 years to increase local manufacturing & research and development initiatives.** The company, a leading global medical technology, pharmaceutical diagnostics, and digital solutions provider, said as a part of investment, its 'Made in India' PET CT Discovery IQ scanner exported to 15 countries.
- **Wipro GE Healthcare is a joint venture between GE Precision Healthcare LLC, USA, and Wipro Enterprises established in 1990.** Its operations spread across India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives, and Bhutan. Wipro GE Healthcare chairman: Azim Premji

● **The Ministry of Electronics and 20. 47th Meeting of National Committee of Archivists held in Srinagar**

provisions of the sub-clause (v) of sub- rule (1) of rule 3 of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

- MIB and MeitY have been working closely on the subject to address the challenge of fake news, especially on social media.
- The Fact Check Unit under PIB was established in November 2019 with a stated objective of acting as a deterrent to creators and disseminators of fake news and misinformation. The FCU is mandated to counter misinformation on Government policies, initiatives and schemes either suo motu or under

21. Wipro-GE JV to invest Rs 8K crore to 'Make in India for the World'

- **Border Roads Organisation (BRO) connected the strategic Nimmu-Padam- Darcha road in Ladakh on March 25, 2024.**
- This 298-km road will connect Manali to Leh through Darcha and Nimmu on Kargil ' Leh Highway. The road is now the third axis apart from Manali-Leh and Srinagar-Leh which connects Ladakh to the hinterland.
- It crosses only one pass; Shinkun La.

- **Gautam Adani-led group has announced the start of the first phase**

22. Government notifies PIB's Fact Check Unit under IT Rules 2021

copper manufacturing plant at Mundra in Gujarat, which will help cut India's

dependence on imports and aid the energy transition.

- Kutch Copper, a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd, "commissioned the first phase" of USD 1.2 billion "greenfield copper refinery by dispatching the maiden batch of cathodes to customers".
- India's drive towards clean energy systems, increasing penetration of electric vehicles and a host of associated applications are expected to double the domestic copper demand by 2030.

25. Eco-Friendly wound dressing developed by Indian scientists using banana fibres

- **Led by Prof. Devasish Chowdhury and Prof. (Retd) Rajlakshmi Devi, the research team, including Mridusmita Barman, a research scholar in the IASST-Deakin University Joint PhD programme, have ingeniously combined the banana fibres with biopolymers like chitosan and guar gum to create a multifunctional patch with excellent mechanical strength and antioxidant properties.**
- In a pioneering effort, scientists at the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology, have transformed banana pseudo stems, often considered

agricultural waste, into an eco-friendly wound dressing material.

26. Home Minister Amit Shah launches National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation Limited in New Delhi

- **Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah today launched the National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC), the Umbrella organisation for the Urban Cooperative Banks in New Delhi.**
- This initiative aims to modernize and strengthen the Urban Cooperative Banking Sector, which will benefit both the banks and their customers.
- NUCFDC has received a Certificate of Registration from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as a Non-Banking Finance Company and serve as the umbrella organisation for the urban cooperative banking sector.
- In addition to this, it will be allowed to operate as a Self-Regulatory Organisation for the sector.
- NUCFDC aims to ensure specialized functions and services to cooperative banks, facilitate communication between banks and regulators, and address challenges faced by Urban Cooperative Banks.

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Classes

International

1. American beverage giant PepsiCo launches new globe logo worldwide

- American beverage giant Pepsi, rolled out its new globe logo worldwide, as part of its first major global redesign in 14 years.
- In India, the company unveiled the new globe logo at the Gateway of India, Mumbai, with a digital artwork that introduced the updated colour palette for the brand: electric blue and black.

2. France enshrines abortion in constitution

- France has become the first country in the world to explicitly include the right to abortion in its constitution.
- Parliamentarians voted to revise the country's 1958 constitution to enshrine women's "guaranteed freedom" to abort. Abortion has been legal in France since 1975, but polls show around 85% of the public supported amending the constitution.

- Ministers formally approved the WTO membership terms of Comoros and Timor-Leste at a special ceremony held at the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference in Abu Dhabi on 26 February 2024.
- Comoros and Timor-Leste will bring the total number of WTO members to 166. In keeping with WTO rules, they will become members of the WTO 30 days following the deposit of instruments of protocol.

- Panama has officially ratified the International Solar Alliance (ISA), marking its entry as the 97th member nation.
- The ISA is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies as a means for bringing energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries.

5. Sweden officially becomes 32nd member of NATO

- Sweden has officially become the 32nd member of NATO after it completed the accession process in Washington.
- The handover of documents took place at a ceremony two years after Sweden applied to join the military alliance following the full-scale war between Russia and Ukraine in February 2022.

About NATO:

- The foundations of the North

3. Ministers approve WTO membership of Comoros and Timor-Leste at MC13

down on 4 April 1949 with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty, more popularly known as the Washington Treaty. The Treaty was signed in Washington

D.C. on 4 April 1949 by 12 founding members. At present, NATO has 32 member countries. These countries, called NATO Allies.

- NATO member countries: -
- Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia

4. Panama becomes 97th member to ratify the International Solar Alliance

Germany, Greece,

KP Classes

Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherland, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Trkiye, United Kingdom, United States.

6. Iceland Declares State Of Emergency After 4th Volcanic Eruption Since December

- **Iceland has declared a state of emergency after its fourth volcanic eruption since December.** An emergency has been declared in southern Iceland as lava continues to pour out. The volcanic eruption on the Reykjanes Peninsula is the fourth eruption reported in the past three months.

7. 4th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Startup Forum organized in New Delhi

- **The fourth edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum was organized o in New Delhi.**
- The initiative focused on broadening startup interactions among the SCO Member States, fostering an environment conducive to innovation, promoting job creation, and inspiring young talent to develop innovative solutions.

8. Operation 'Indravati' begins to evacuate Indians from Haiti to Dominican Republic: Jaishankar

- **India has started Operation Indravati to evacuate its nationals from Haiti to the Dominican Republic, and asserted that it was "fully committed" to the**

security and well-being of Indians abroad.

- The move comes days after India had said it was looking at evacuating up to 90 of its nationals from Haiti in view of the deteriorating security situation in the Caribbean nation.

9. As part of overseas deployment to ASEAN countries, ICG Ship Samudra Paheredar arrives at Manila Bay, Philippines

- **Indian Coast Guard ship Samudra Paheredar, a specialized Pollution Control Vessel, arrived at Manila Bay, Philippines on 25 March 2024 on a three-day visit.**
- The visit of the Vessel is part of a broader initiative aimed at demonstration of ICG Marine Pollution Response capabilities and shared concern & resolve towards Marine Pollution in the ASEAN region.
- Additionally, the ship has also embarked 25 National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets to participate in the Government's initiative "Puneet Sagar Abhiyan, a flagship campaign, launched to clean sea shores of plastic & other waste material, while raising awareness about the importance of cleanliness.
- Saudi Arabia officially joined the Miss Universe pageant with Romy Alqahtani as the Islamic country's first-ever representative. Romy Alqahtani holds titles of Miss Middle East and Miss Arab World Peace 2021.
- This is another step for Saudi Arabia, which has been shedding its conservative cloak under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud.

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Sports

1. Indian shuttler B Sai Praneeth announces retirement from international badminton

- **Indian shuttler B Sai Praneeth has announced his retirement from international badminton.**
- The 31-year-old battled nagging injuries since the Olympic Games in Tokyo and decided to hang his boots due to that.
- In his 24-year-long career, he won a World Championships bronze medal and represented India at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

- **Puneri Paltan emerged victorious in the Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 final,** defeating Haryana Steelers 28-25 in a nail-biting encounter here at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium.
- This win marks the Pune-based team's first-ever title. Pankaj Mohite starred with 9 points in a closely fought encounter.

There are a total of 12 teams in PKL Season 10:

- Bengal Warriors
- Bengaluru Bulls
- Dabang Delhi K.C.
- Gujarat Giants
- Haryana Steelers
- Jaipur Pink Panthers
- Patna Pirates
- Puneri Paltan
- Tamil Thalaivas
- Telugu Titans
- U Mumbai
- U.P.Yoddhas

3. Anderson becomes the first seamer to 700 Test wickets

- The 41-year-old became the first fast bowler to achieve the milestone when he removed Kuldeep Yadav on the third day of the fifth Test against India in Dharamshala.
- He is behind spinners Muttiah Muralitharan (800 wickets) and the

2. Puneri Paltan crowned PKL Season 10 champion

4. Indian sailor Vishnu Saravanan clinches gold medal at Europa Cup in Spain

- **Indian sailor Vishnu Saravanan won the gold medal at the Europa Cup 2024 in the ILCA 7 category in Mallorca, Spain.**
- The event was organised by Reial Club Nautic Port de Pollenca. Saravanan topped the 91-boat race with 17 net points.
- The ILCA7 is a category within the ILCA -International Laser Class Association sailing class. Saravanan became the first Indian sailor to qualify for successive Olympics.
- **India batter Yashasvi Jaiswal has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for February 2024 while Australia all-rounder Annabel Sutherland won the corresponding ICC Women's Player of the Month award.**
- Jaiswal reached the milestone of 1,000 Test runs during the India vs England test,

becoming the second-quickest Indian to the landmark.

6. Mumbai end eight-year drought, clinch 42nd Ranji Trophy title

- **Domestic powerhouse Mumbai ended their eight-year title drought by lifting the coveted Ranji Trophy for a record-extending 42nd time.**
- The iconic Wankhede Stadium witnessed Mumbai's triumph as they defeated a resilient Vidarbha by 169 runs on the fifth and final day of a gripping summit clash. Tanush Kotian ' who got the Player of the Series award.
- The Mumbai side was captained by Ajinkya Rahane and the Vidharba side was captained by Akshay Wadkar. Musheer Khan won the Man of the Match award in Ranji Trophy final. Musheer became the youngest Mumbai batsman to register a century in a Ranji Trophy final breaking the record of legendary Sachin Tendulkar.

7. Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Delhi Capitals by 8 wickets to lift Women's Premier League title

- **In the Final of the Women's Premier League (WPL) Cricket, Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) beat Delhi Capitals by 8 wickets at Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.**
- RCB received Rs 6 crore as prize money, while runners-up Delhi Capital received Rs 3 crore.
- RCB's Ellyse Perry won the orange cap for scoring 347 runs in nine matches.
- Shreyanka Patil of the champions RCB bagged the purple cap for the highest wicket-taker in the tournament with 13 dismissals to her credit. Smriti Mandhana captained the Royal Challengers

Bangalore side, while Meg Lanning captained the Delhi Capitals

8. Indian Athlete Gulveer Singh Shatters A 16-Year-Old National Record

- **Indian Athlete Gulveer Singh shattered a 16-year-old national record by over 20 seconds by clocking 27.41.81 in The Ten event at San Juan Capistrano in California.**
- The 25-year-old finished second in the men's 10000m race. However, the Asian Games Bronze medallist failed to qualify for Paris Olympic Games as he missed the qualification time of 27:00.00 by over 41seconds.
- **In Badminton, Ace Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen has climbed five places to become the world number 13 in the men's singles category.**
- The leap in the BWF ranking follows his impressive run at the French Open and the prestigious All England Open. In men's doubles, Star duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty maintained their world number one spot.
- In women's doubles, the pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto moved three places up to become world number 20 while another Indian pair Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand dropped four places to become the world number 26.
- **PV Sindhu is ranked at world number 11 after a round of 16 finish at All England Badminton Open last week.**

10. Pankaj Advani inducted into Billiards Hall of Fame

won the event of the WTT Feeder Beirut- II tournament in Lebanon.

- **Legendary Indian cueist Pankaj Advani achieved yet another milestone in his glorious career as he has been inducted into the Hall of Fame at the World Billiards Museum in Shangrao City in China.**
- Last year, the 38-year-old Indian star won his 26th IBSF (the International Billiards and Snooker Federation) title after beating compatriot Sourav Kothari.

11. Sreeja Akula wins women's singles title at WTT Feeder Beirut II 2024 table tennis tournament

Japanese national title.

- **In Table Tennis, India's Sreeja Akula won the women's singles title at the WTT Feeder Beirut II 2024 table tennis tournament at the Al Kawthar Secondary School in Lebanon.** Akula, the world No. 47, beat Luxembourg's Sarah De Nutte to win what was her second WTT singles career title. The 25-year-old's maiden crown came at the Feeder Corpus Christi 2024 in Texas .
- For the mixed doubles crown, India's Poymantee Baisya and Akash Pal beat Sathiyam Gnanasekaran and Manika Batra, while in Men's Doubles Final,

● **The pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty clinched its second French Open men's doubles badminton title.**

- The Indian top seed registered a straight games victory over Chinese Taipei's Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan in the final. Satwik-Chirag, who earlier won the title in 2022, clinched a 21-11, 21-17 win.

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Agreements & MoUs

1. MoSPI Signs MoU with ISRO on Urban Frame Survey using Bhuvan

- The **NSSO (FOD) under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) under the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** to facilitate Urban Frame Survey (UFS) in a digital mode using the state-of-the-art Geo ICT tools and techniques using Bhuvan Platform.
- UFS is conducted in five-year phases to prepare and maintain a frame of compact urban geographical units, which serve as sampling frame in urban sector, mainly for NSSO large scale Socio-Economic Surveys. The UFS in digital form was carried out for the first time during Phase 2017-22 using Bhuvan platform covering more than 5300 towns.

2. REC Limited joins hands with UNISED to support Education of Children

- **REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading Non-Banking Finance Company, has partnered with the Unit of Science and Educational Development (UNISED)** to support the education of around 75,500 children of Siddharthnagar district, Uttar Pradesh. REC has entered into this partnership through its CRS.

3. Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog and Meta join hands to establish Frontier Technology Labs in schools

- In an effort to democratize future technologies and empower youth to innovate, Atal Innovation Mission, **NITI**

Aayog and Meta have announced the launch of Frontier Technology Labs.

AIM and Meta will partner to set up FTLs in schools of strategic importance to ensure that students from diverse backgrounds across India will have equal opportunity to frontier technologies.

- The FTL is an advanced version of Atal Tinkering Lab equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, including all components of the Tinkering Lab to empower students to innovate using technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Augmented & Virtual Reality, Blockchain, Cybersecurity, Robotics, 3D Printing, and Internet of Things.

- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Shri Arjun Munda, presided over the launch of ground-breaking partnerships for tribal development, in New Delhi.

Collaborating with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) are esteemed institutions such as the ISRO, IISc Bengaluru, AIIMS Delhi, IIM Calcutta and IIT Delhi.

- The partnerships will focus on key domains including Indigenous Practices; Telemedicine & Tribal Health; Training & Capacity Building; Entrepreneurship; Technology Transfer, Patent, IPR; and Digitization through Satellites; Use of Industry 4.0 Technologies (AI/ML, AR/VR) for tribal issues.
- The Government launched PM JANMAN with a total outlay of Rs 24 thousand crores, to comprehensively develop 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), that lag behind in socio-

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economic indicators of education, health, and livelihood.

5. **RBI and Bank Indonesia sign MoU to establish a framework to promote use of local currencies for cross-border transactions**

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank Indonesia (BI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in Mumbai for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies ' the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) ' for cross-border transactions.
- The MoU covers all current account transactions, permissible capital account transactions, and any other economic and financial transactions as agreed upon by both countries. It was signed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and Bank Indonesia Governor Perry Warjiyo.

6. **Tech Fini Join hands with NPCI to provide credit line on UPI**

- **Tech Fini, a Mumbai-based Fintech firm providing all-inclusive, feature-rich payment infrastructure solutions has collaborated with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to offer UPI 2.0 Acquiring and Issuing Switch Solutions to its merchants. Tech Fini's partnership with NPCI has enabled it to launch the 'Credit Lines on UPI' option on its platform.

7. **NPCI ties up with Nepal's Fonepay for cross-border merchant payments**

- **NPCI International Payments (NIPL), the international arm of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has entered into an agreement with Nepal-based payment network Fonepay**

Payment Service, for cross-border UPI transactions between India and Nepal.

- The arrangement will facilitate QR-code- based, person-to-merchant (P2M) UPI transactions between the two countries.
- **The Goa Government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with railway PSU IRCTC** to ferry passengers under the 'Mukhyamantri Dev Darshan Yatra.
- Under the MoU with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation, the first train will leave for Velankanni in Tamil Nadu on March 12 with 1,000 passengers.
- **The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SignAble Communications.**
- The MoU signifies a significant step forward in improving support for individuals with speech and hearing disabilities.
- It aims to enhance communication and accessibility for visually and hearing impaired Divyangjan.

10. **India inks pact with EFTA, gets \$100 billion commitment**

- After 16 years of negotiations, involving 21 formal rounds, **India and the four European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries signed a free-trade agreement (FTA), which may be instrumental**

in India receiving \$100

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billion as foreign direct investment in 15 years with 1 million jobs.

- EFTA countries, Switzerland is the largest trading partner of India followed by Norway.
- The EFTA bloc, which includes Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, and Liechtenstein, 'shall aim to increase' FDI from investors of the EFTA states in India by \$50 billion within 10 years of this agreement taking effect and an additional \$50 billion in the next five years.

11. MakeMyTrip, RedBus sign MoU with Madhya Pradesh Tourism

- **The Department of Tourism, Madhya Pradesh, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MakeMyTrip and redBus.**
- This partnership aims to foster sustainable tourism development and promote Madhya Pradesh as a premier tourist destination.
- The MOU outlines a mutual commitment to promote homestays in Madhya Pradesh.
- RedBus will be recognised as the official 'Online Bus Ticketing Partner' by the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board and will work to help travellers discover the far reaches of the state.

13. Cashinvoice partners with SBI Global factors, plans to target 3000 Cr invoice financing in FY24

- **Cashinvoice, a digital supply chain finance platform, has teamed with SBI Global Factors Limited,** India's leading factoring provider, to broaden the use of factoring solutions for MSMEs in India.
- This collaboration is positioned to demonstrate the potential of invoice factoring to reduce working capital

requirements and improve credit availability for Indian MSMEs.

- Arun Poojari, Founder and CEO, Cashinvoice.
- **The protocol for the establishment of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) between India and the Dominican Republic was signed.**
- The protocol envisages strengthening and developing cooperation on trade, services, industrial technologies, and various other sectors by means of technical assistance, training programmes, and capacity building.
- It will be pivotal in mitigating challenges faced by the trade and industry and provide a platform for sharing of knowledge and best practices between the two countries.
- India primarily imports gold from the Dominican Republic and exports pharmaceuticals, marine products, motor vehicles, two and three-wheelers, etc. to them.
- **Universal Service Obligation Fund, Dept of Telecommunications, signed a tripartite MoU with Prasar Bharati (under Ministry of Information & Broadcasting) & Open Network for Digital Commerce (a Digital Public Infrastructure initiative of Dept for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of**

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Industry) to proliferate affordable and accessible digital service.

- The objective of the MoU is to bundle broadband services with OTT and e-commerce platform for the rural India riding on BharatNet infrastructure under the USOF. The USOF has been instrumental in enabling highspeed broadband and mobile connections across Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages in the country.

16. L&T Finance signs \$125-m pact with JICA to aid rural, peri-urban financing

- **L&T Finance Holdings Ltd has signed a financing pact with Japan International Cooperation Agency for \$125 million to support financing in rural & peri-urban areas in India, particularly women borrowers.**
- Last November, LTFH had sourced \$125-million loan from Asian Development Bank, & as part of the co-financing agreement, additional \$125-million loan is now raised from JICA

17. India signed 181 million dollars loan with ADB to improve urban livability and mobility in Ahmedabad

- **India has signed a 181 million dollars loan with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve urban livability and mobility in Ahmedabad.**
- The loan will fund development in areas transitioning from rural to urban, called Peri-urban areas. The Project will also support 10 junction improvements along the existing Sardar Patel Ring Road to improve connectivity of peri-urban area
- Under the Ahmedabad Peri-urban Livability Improvement Project, 166 km of water distribution network, 126 km of climate-resilient stormwater drainage, 300

km of sewerage systems, and four sewage treatment plants will be constructed.

- The Ministry said that this will benefit urban poor, women, and migrant workers through improved urban services and urban governance.

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) has received \$24.5 million from Green Climate Fund (GCF) for its maiden anchored project 'Avaana Sustainability Fund (ASF)' valued at \$120 million.**

19. India, ADB Sign \$23 Million Loan for Fintech Ecosystem Development

- The Central Government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a 23 million dollar loan agreement at the Gujarat International Finance Tec- City.
- The project will establish an International Fintech Institute (IFI) to strengthen fintech education, boost start-up success

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- rates, and drive fintech research and innovation.
- The project's focus on market-driven fintech skills programs, creating an enabling environment for private sector investment and enhancing collaboration between industry, skills development institutes, and development partners will promote holistic growth of the fintech ecosystem in India.

- **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has signed its first-ever Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi** to collaborate on applied research. The cooperation includes collaborative projects, training, and research consultancy.
- Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) is a global leader in defence and commercial aerospace.

- In a strategic move to advance innovation in the Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) industry, **the Technology Development Board (TDB) has entered into an agreement with M/s Quicksand Design Studio Private Limited, New Delhi.**
- TDB has sanctioned a Conditional Grant of '1.22 crores to support the project titled "Digital Financial Solutions for Last Mile FMCG Value Chains in Emerging Markets' under the 'INDIA-ISRAEL INDUSTRIAL R&D AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION FUND (I4F)'.

- This collaboration under I4F shows the enduring partnership between the DST, Government of India, and the IIA, Government of Israel to promote, facilitate and support joint industrial R&D projects, between companies from India and Israel.

22. MRD signs a MoU with J-PAL South Asia to provide technical assistance in the implementation of inclusive development of DAY NRL

20. IIT Delhi, Israel Aerospace Industries sign CSR agreement on applied research

Development, Government of India signed a MoU with Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), South Asia at IFMR.

J-PAL, SA@ IFMR will act as a knowledge partner on inclusive development to put rural poor women on the path to self-sufficiency.

- DAY-NRLM is one of the largest community mobilisation efforts in the world, organising more than 10.04 crore women into over 90.76 lakh self-help groups. The programme

21. Dept. of Science & Technology approves '1.22 Crores for Quicksand Design Studio's FMCG Innovation project

above all, it empowers them to lead dignified lives.

- J-PAL South Asia, together with Bandhan-Konnagar, has been working with the Government of Bihar's JEEViKA since 2018 to support the expansion of Satat Jeevikoparjan Yojana (SJY), estimated to be the largest government- led scale-up of the Graduation Approach in the world. SJY is on track to reach 200,000 women-headed households by 2024 across Bihar.

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- **Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India has signed a Non-Financial Memorandum of Understanding with the Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited** to support the livelihood intervention of DAY- NRLM by syncing their activities in livestock and fisheries development. The PMU will comprise specialists from livestock (as per the need in respective state), Market linkage etc.
- As part of the MoU, in initial phase a centralized Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) will be established to support DAY-NRLM at national level and State PMU in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Bihar will be developed.

24. MoD signs contract worth over Rs. 2,890 cr with HAL for Mid Life Upgrade of 25 Dornier Aircraft of Indian Navy

- **The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on March 15, 2024 for Mid Life Upgrade (MLU) of 25 Dornier Aircraft along with associated equipment for the Indian Navy at a cost of Rs.2,890 cr.**
- The MLU for Dornier Aircraft includes an upgrade to incorporate state-of-the art Avionics Systems and Primary Role sensors.
- Mid Life Upgrade (MLU) of 25 Dornier Aircraft is likely to generate an employment of 1.8 Lakh Man- days during its execution span of 6.5 years. The indigenous upgrade entails supply of major systems and equipments from indigenous sources thus significantly contributing towards "Atmanirbharta" in

23. MoRD, GoI signs MoU with the Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited to synergize the livelihood intervention in livestock sector

25. HUL joins forces with Tea Research Association to tackle climate challenges in tea sector

- **Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) has announced its partnership with the Tea Research Association (TRA), Tocklai, Jorhat**, one of the oldest and largest tea research associations globally, to address the challenges posed by climate change to the tea industry. HUL is one of the leading producers of tea with brands such as Brooke Bond Red Label, Taj Mahal and Taaza.
- HUL, along with TRA, will conduct a detailed 'Lifecycle Analysis' for Indian tea and will devise strategies that can help reduce carbon impact across the value chain. Basis the data, the partnership will work with experts to develop suitable mitigation and adaption strategies that can be implemented across the Tea industry.
- Currently, the scope of the project aims to cover 19 tea estates/factories and 19 small tea growers covering all the major tea growing regions of Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. The project aims to benefit around 15,000 hectares of land.
- **YES Bank has announced its partnership with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024.**
- As part of the collaboration, the bank launched the campaign 'Milkar Jitayengey' and introduced the 'YES Glory Debit Card,' specially designed for India's Olympic athletes

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27. Axis Bank to support Tata Memorial-supported National Cancer Grid with '100 crore contribution

- **A national tumour biobank and cancer teleconsultation network are among the projects that will be supported by a '100 crore contribution towards the National Cancer Grid (NCG), from Axis Bank.**
- The five-year partnership, which was signed between the premier cancer care centre and the private bank, will focus on improving access to cancer care, promoting cancer research.
- The National Tumour Biobank, a repository of tumour tissues, blood, radiology and pathology images from all over the country, will receive a part of the funding.
- The other big projects are the National Cancer Teleconsultation Network, cancer-specific electronic medical records and virtual skills labs.

28. ICAR and Krishi Jagran signs a MoU for the dissemination & promotion of ICAR's initiatives for the growth of Indian Agriculture

- **The Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Krishi Jagran Pvt Ltd signed a MoU** for the dissemination & promotion of ICAR's initiatives for the growth of Indian Agriculture and farmers' welfare. Dr. U.S. Gautam, Deputy Director General (Agril. Extension) ICAR and Shri. M.C Dominic, Founder & Editor-In-Chief, Krishi Jagran Pvt Ltd, signed the MoU for their respective org.

29. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIAN NAVY AND IIT KHARAGPUR

- **Indian Navy and Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU),** at Naval Headquarters, New Delhi, symbolising their commitment to promote technology development, innovative solutions and joint R&D.
- The strategic collaboration focuses on joint research and development initiatives involving teams from Indian Navy and IIT Kharagpur.
- **Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Noise, India's premier wristwatch brand, and Mastercard,** a worldwide payments technology business, to launch A New Way to Pay. The institutions have collaborated to create the Bank's Airtel Payments Bank Smart Watch, which aims to revolutionise contactless payments by redefining and making them more accessible to a wider user base.
- These smartwatches, built by Noise and powered by Airtel Payments Bank, will improve Tap and Pay capabilities and the user experience by introducing the convenience of contactless payments via smart wearables. The new smartwatch is now available for purchase for INR 2,999.
- Customers with an Airtel Payments Bank savings account can purchase this smartwatch using the Airtel Thanks App. Customers new to the bank can order the smartwatch immediately by creating an account digitally through the Airtel Thanks App. The Airtel Payments Bank Smart Watch allows customers to make daily payments ranging from INR 1 to INR 25,000.

- **Axis Mutual Fund, a Mumbai-based asset management firm, has collaborated with Enparadigm**, an AI- driven experiential learning and talent intelligence solutions company, to create exclusive learning journeys that will improve the performance and productivity of their frontline, mid-level, and, to some extent, senior employees.
- As one of India's largest fund companies, with assets under administration worth around INR 2.6 lakh crore, the organisation has been dedicated to providing cutting-edge learning solutions for its employees.

- **National Cadet Corps (NCC) and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in New Delhi to conduct various awareness programmes throughout the country to enhance public perceptions on peaceful use of nuclear power and disseminate scientific & authentic information.
- The NPCIL will be providing resource persons in this initiative for field engagements with the NCC during the camps and various activities by educating the cadets. The MoU also facilitates a unique opportunity to the cadets to visit various facilities of NPCIL across the country, thereby giving a first-hand experience on peaceful use of nuclear energy, its technical aspects

33. 31. Axis Mutual Fund joins hand with Enparadigm for an on-demand AI-generated experiential learning program

- **IT services and consultation company Tech Mahindra on said it has collaborated with American technology firm IBM** to set up a 'Synergy Lounge' in its Sinin its Singapore campus, to assist enterprises in operationalising and deriving value from next-gen technologies.
- Built on the Hex-I concept, the Lounge will feature different experience zones focusing on various technologies that will help enterprises solve complex business problems, improve customer experiences, reduce operational costs, and enhance workforce efficiency.

32. NCC & NPCIL ink MoU to raise awareness on peaceful use of nuclear power through various programmes pan India

- metallurgical projects like primary alloy production and materials characterisation.
- It is an industry-academia collaboration, under which the premier educational institution will offer technical and operational solutions.
- The collaboration will work together on metallurgical projects, such as process optimisation, materials characterisation, and primary alloy production. Under the terms of the MoU, IIT Kharagpur will provide technical consultancy and engage in academic and industrial research to enhance productivity and process improvements.

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- To boost India's aviation, space and defence ecosystem (ASD), French aerospace and defence firm **Starburst**

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Accelerator SARL is partnering with IIT-Madras to set up an innovative hub for start-ups with a funding support of '100 million (100 Million Euros). IIT-Madras will enable Starburst to set up accelerator programs to ASD ecosystem in India.

- A key focus of this partnership will be on entrepreneurs, research parks, investors (public and private), Government, and corporate firms. The aim is to create innovative startups and help them grow rapidly to work in tandem with future aerospace and new space worldwide programmes.

36. Tata Motors unit join hands with HPCL to set up EV charging stations

- The auto major said that its electric mobility unit, **Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TEPM) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL)** to set up 5,000 electric vehicle charging stations across India.
- It aims to explore synergies between the two companies to encourage more people to adopt electric vehicles in the country.

37. NTPC signs pact with Japanese agency for USD 200 million loan

- **NTPC said it has inked a pact with a Japanese agency for sourcing foreign currency loans of USD 200 million (JPY 30 billion or around Rs 1,650 crore). Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), a government policy-based financial institution, will provide 60 per cent of the facility amount and the balance amount will be provided by other commercial banks under JBIC.**
- The agreements have been signed for a JPY 15 billion loan each for NTPC Ltd and NTPC Renewables Energy Ltd (NREL).
- The facility has been extended under JBIC's initiative entitled 'Global action for Reconciling Economic growth and Environment preservation' ("GREEN") for projects which ensure the conservation of the global environment.

Schemes

1. Cabinet approves PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana for installing rooftop solar in One Crore households

- **The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana with a total outlay of Rs.75,021 crore for installing rooftop solar and providing free electricity up to 300 units every month for One Crore households.**

- The Prime Minister had launched the scheme on 13th February, 2024.
- The scheme provides a CFA of 60% of system cost for 2 kW systems and 40% of additional system cost for systems between 2 to 3 kW capacity. The CFA will be capped at 3 kW. At current benchmark prices, this will mean Rs 30,000 subsidy for 1 kW system, Rs 60,000 for 2 kW systems and Rs 78,000 for 3 kW systems or higher.
- Households will be able to access collateral-free low-interest loan products of around 7% at present for installation of residential RTS systems up to 3 kW. It is estimated that the scheme will create around 17 lakh direct jobs in manufacturing, logistics, supply chain, sales, installation, O&M and other services.
- The proposed scheme will result in addition of 30 GW of solar capacity through rooftop solar in the residential sector, generating 1000 BUs of electricity and

resulting in reduction of 720 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent emissions over the 25-year lifetime of rooftop systems. A 3 kW system will be able to generate more than 300 units a month on an average for a household.

5. M&M, Ola Electric, Tata Motors to get first mover advantage under PLI-Auto, FAME-II

- **Vehicles manufacturers including Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M), Ola Electric and Tata Motors will get the first mover advantage of benefits under two schemes ' production-linked incentive (PLI) and Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME-II) ' under the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI).**
- The objective of the scheme is to encourage Faster adoption of Electric and hybrid vehicle by way of offering upfront Incentive on purchase of Electric vehicles and also by way of establishing a necessary charging Infrastructure for electric vehicles.
- FAME II total outlay is Rs 10000 Crores for over the period of three years is implemented with effect from 1st April 2019.
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme to promote**

innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies.

- Under the scheme, **start-ups are eligible to receive grant-in-aid of up to Rs 25 crore** for their research development and innovation endeavours in defence technology.

7. NAMASTE Scheme: Ensuring Safety and Dignity of Workers engaged in cleaning of Sewer lines and Septic Tank

- **The National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem or the NAMASTE Scheme is a testament to the Government's human-centric approach where no sanitation workers have to manually engage in the hazardous task of sewer and septic tank cleaning operations.**
- The scheme has a range of entitlements for Sewer and septic tank workers or the SSWs.

About the Scheme:

- Jointly initiated by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the NAMASTE scheme will be implemented by the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) for a period of three years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2025-26, with a budget allocation of 349.73 crores.
- Components of the scheme:
- Profiling of SSWs in ULBs through digital tools (1 lakh SSW to be identified).
- Health Insurance of SSW under PM-JAY.

- Occupational safety training of SSWs and Sanitation Response Units for NAMASTE.
- Capital Subsidy up to Rs. 5.00 lakh for procurement of Sanitation Related Vehicles/ Equipment.
- Distribution of safety devices to Emergency Response Sanitation Unit (ERSU).
- IEC Campaign for awareness on SSW safety and dignity.

- **The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the continuation of targeted subsidy of Rs.300 per 14.2 kg cylinder (and proportionately pro-rated for 5 kg cylinder) for up to 12 refills per year to be provided to the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) during FY 2024-25.**
- As on 1st March 2024 there are more than 10.27 crore PMUY beneficiaries.
- **The total expenditure will be Rs.12,000 crore for financial year 2024-25.**
- The subsidy is credited directly to bank accounts of the eligible beneficiaries.
- To make Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), a clean cooking fuel, available to the rural and deprived poor households, Government launched PMUY in May 2016, to provide deposit free LPG connections to women of poor households.

10. Cabinet approves Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024

- **The Union Cabinet chaired by PM approved the proposal of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade for Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI ' 2024) for a period of 10 years from the date of notification along with 8 years for committed liabilities at a total cost of Rs. 10,037 crore.**
- The proposed scheme envisages approximately 2180 applications, and it is anticipated that direct employment opportunities of about 83,000 will be generated during the scheme period. A significant number of indirect employment is also expected to be generated.

11. Union Minister Piyush Goyal announces extension of RoDTEP Scheme support to additional export sectors in New Delhi

- **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal announced the extension of the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme support to additional export sectors.**

About the Scheme:

- The RoDTEP Scheme is a key initiative by the Government of India aimed at refunding various embedded taxes and duties on exported products.
- He also announced the extension of the RoDTEP Scheme support to

holders, Export Oriented Units (EOU) and Special Economic Zones (SEZ) export units. This decision comes in recognition of the significant contribution these sectors make to India's Exports, constituting approximately 25 percent of exports.

- Since its inception in January 2021, the RoDTEP Scheme has already provided support amounting to '42,000 Crores to more than 10,500 export items at 8-digit ITC HS Code level.
- In the current financial year, the scheme has a budget of '15,070 Crore with an additional increase of 10% in FY 2024-25.
- The extension of RODTEP to additional sectors is presently till 30.09.2024.

14. Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launches Credit Assistance Program for Jan Aushadhi Kendras

additional export sectors like Advance Authorisation (AA)

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- **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Health & Family Welfare inaugurated a credit assistance program for Jan Aushadhi Kendras.**
 - In this regard, he presided over the exchange of an MoU between Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI).
 - Under the MoU, project loans for a credit limit up to Rs. 2 lakhs at a very competitive and affordable interest rate will be offered by SIDBI for small entrepreneurs of Jan Aushadhi Kendras.

16. Heavy Industries Ministry announces Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024

- **The Heavy Industries Ministry has announced the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 to accelerate the adoption of Electronic Vehicles (EVs) in India.**

- **The Ministry said that a total outlay of 500 crore rupees will be implemented for four months under the scheme.**
- **It will run from 1st of the next month until July.**

- It added that only electric two-wheelers (e-2W) and electric three-wheelers (e-3W) will be eligible under the scheme, including registered e-rickshaws, e-carts and L5 automobiles. Furthermore, only EVs fitted with advanced batteries will be subject to incentives to encourage the growth of advanced technologies.

17. Government approves E- Vehicle policy to promote India as a manufacturing destination for EVs

- The Union Government has approved a scheme to promote India as a manufacturing destination so that e-vehicles (EV) with the latest technology can be manufactured in the country.
- The policy is designed to attract investments in the e-vehicle space by reputed global EV manufacturers.

The policy entails the following: -

- Minimum Investment required: Rs 4150 Cr ('USD 500 Mn)
- No limit on maximum Investment
- Timeline for manufacturing: 3 years for setting up

manufacturing facilities in India, and to start commercial production of e- vehicles, and reach 50% domestic value addition (DVA) within 5 years at the maximum.

- The customs duty of 15% (as applicable to CKD units) would be applicable on vehicle of minimum CIF value of \$ 35,000 and above for a total period of 5 year subject to the manufacturer setting up manufacturing facilities in India within a 3 year period. The Investment commitment made by the company will have to be backed up by a bank guarantee in lieu of the custom duty forgone
- The duty foregone on the total number of EV allowed for import would be limited to the investment made or '6484 Cr (equal to incentive under PLI scheme) whichever is lower. A maximum of 40,000 EVs at the rate of not more than 8,000 per year would be permissible if the investment is of USD 800 Mn or more. The carryover of unutilized annual import limits would be permitted.
- The Bank guarantee will be invoked in case of non-achievement of DVA and minimum investment criteria defined under the scheme guidelines.

Appointments & Resignations

1. IPS officer Daljit Singh Chaudhary appointed as new director general of NSG

- The Centre appointed 1990 batch IPS officer, **Daljit Singh Chaudhary as the director general of National Security Guard.**
- Chaudhary, is currently the DG of Sashastra Seema Bal, has been given the additional charge of heading the NSG. Also known as black cats, NSG is India's counter terrorism force. It is a federal counter deployment force against terrorism and anti-hijack.
- A bill for creation of this Organization was introduced in the parliament in August 1986 and it received the assent of the President on September 22, 1986 and the National Security Guard (NSG) formally came into being from that date.

2. Shehbaz Sharif to be next Prime Minister of Pakistan

- Pakistan Muslim League- Nawaz (PML-N) leader **Shehbaz Sharif has been elected as the Prime Minister of Pakistan.**
- He secured 201 votes while Omer Ayub Khan, the Imran Khan-backed PTI candidate managed to get 92 votes.

3. RBI approves ex-Sebi director as TMB's part time chairman

- The RBI has approved the appointment of **S Ravindran as the part-time chairman of the Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB).**
- RBI approved his appointment with effect from February 29, 2024 till August 2, 2026. Ravindran, 61, has an extensive work experience of 29 years at the Securities and Exchange Board of India

(SEBI). He was its executive director from August 2011 to May 2022.

- German technology major SAP has appointed **Manish Prasad as president and managing director for SAP Indian Subcontinent.** He succeeds Kulmeet Bawa, who takes on a global role to drive the growth and adoption of the SAP Business Technology Platform (SAP BTP) for global customers.
- **Asif Ali Zardari took oath as Pakistan's 14th President.**
- Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa administered the oath to the 68-year-old Mr Zardari.
- Mr Zardari replaces Dr Arif Alvi, who stayed in office for five months after completing his five-year term in September 2023.
- The Hon'ble President of India vide warrant dated 9th February 2024 and by virtue of the power vested under Section 4 (1) of the Central vigilance Commission Act, 2003 has appointed **Shri AS Rajeev as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission.**
- The Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003, provides for the appointment of a Central Vigilance Commissioner and two Vigilance Commissioners. The tenure of the Vigilance Commissioner is of four

years or till the incumbent attains the age of 65 years.

7. **Airtel Payments Bank appoints Anuj Bansal as chief financial officer**

- **Airtel Payments Bank has appointed Anuj Bansal as its chief financial officer.**
- Prior to his new role, Bansal was vice president for financial planning & analysis at MasterCard India.
- Bansal will be responsible for overall financial strategy, including corporate financial planning, budgeting, supply chain and treasury management.
- Anubrata Biswas is the managing director and CEO of Airtel Payments Bank

8. **Indian Bank names Brajesh Kumar Singh as ED for 3 years**

- **The Indian Bank announced on 10 March that the Central Government has appointed Brajesh Kumar Singh as its new Executive Director for a three-year tenure.**
- The Central Government vide Notification No 4/1(viii) dated March 9, 2024 appointed Brajesh Kumar Singh, Chief General Manager, Bank of Baroda as Executive Director of Indian Bank for a period of three years.

9. **Nayab Singh Saini takes oath as new CM of Haryana**

- **Nayab Singh Saini took oath as the new Chief Minister of Haryana.**
- Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered the oath of office and secrecy to the Haryana BJP President at the Raj Bhavan in Chandigarh.
- Besides Mr Saini, five MLAs also took oath as the Cabinet Ministers.

- The swearing-in ceremony came hours after Chief Minister Manohar Lal and his cabinet ministers submitted their resignations to the Governor amid speculation of a split in the ruling BJP and Jannayak Janta Party alliance over seat-sharing agreements for the upcoming Lok Sabha election.

● **The newly-appointed Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu took charge of the office.**

- They were appointed election commissioners by the selection panel chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The two vacancies were created in the Election Commission after the retirement of Anup Chandra Pandey in February and the resignation of Arun Goel recently.
 - The Constitution of India has vested in the Election Commission of India the superintendence, direction and control of the entire process for conduct of elections to Parliament and Legislature of every State and to the offices of President and Vice-President of India. Election Commission of India is a permanent Constitutional Body.
 - ECI is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
 - The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the

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the country. Originally the commission had only a Chief Election Commissioner.

- It currently consists of Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.
- The President appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. They have tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- Rajiv Kumar, took charge as the 25th Chief Election Commissioner on 15th May 2022.

11. Kotak Bank appoints Jaideep Hansraj as President of 'One Kotak'

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed Kotak Securities MD and CEO Jaideep Hansraj as Group President - One Kotak, with effect from April 1, 2024.**
- 'One Kotak' is the term used by the bank for its internal framework for inter-Group synergies and cross-selling opportunities.

12. HDFC Bank's Arvind Kapil to join Poonawalla Fincorp as MD and CEO

- **HDFC Bank's head of mortgage portfolio Arvind Kapil is set to join Poonawalla Fincorp as the MD and CEO.**
- He will replace current MD and CEO Abhay Bhutada, who has headed the company since its acquisition in May 2021.
- Bhutada will continue to serve as a non-executive director on the Board of Poonawalla Fincorp Limited.

- **Navneet Kumar Sehgal, a retired bureaucrat, has been appointed as the new Chairman of Prasar Bharati.**
- An order by the Information & Broadcasting Ministry states that Sehgal's term will last for three years or until he reaches the age of seventy, whichever earlier.
- The chairperson's post has been vacant since A Surya Prakash reached the mandatory retirement age 70 in 2020.

● **A landslide victory in the Russian presidential elections has ensured another six-year term for Vladimir Putin.**

- The 71-year-old secured a massive 87.8 per cent votes in an election. Mr Putin will become the longest-serving Russian leader since the reign of Catherine 'the Great', should he complete his next six- year tenure.
- The former empress ruled over Russia for 34 years and four months between 1762 and 1796.
- Joseph Stalin, the former general secretary of the Communist Party of

13. Navneet Kumar Sehgal appointed as new Prasar Bharati chairman

been in power

since 1999, first as a prime minister, then president, followed by another four-year term as the prime minister of the country.

15. P&G India appoints Kumar Venkatasubramanian as CEO with effect from May 1

- **Leading FMCG maker P&G India announced the appointment of Kumar Venkatasubramanian as CEO**, with effect from May 1, 2024.
- Kumar is currently leading the P&G business in Australia and New Zealand as CEO.
- Before the Australia role, Kumar was leading sales team in P&G India until 2020, it added

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-designation of **K V S Manian and Shanti Ekambaram, Whole-time Directors of Kotak Mahindra Bank, as Joint Managing Director and Deputy Managing Director, respectively.**
- This was the first major overhaul at the leadership level after Ashok Vaswani came on board as the managing director & chief executive officer of the bank.

- **Indian Banks Association (IBA) has a new Chairman in M V Rao, Managing Director and CEO, Central Bank of India.**
- Rao has been elected as IBA Chairman for the term 2023-24 at a meeting of the

- Madhav Nair, Country Head and CEO, Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, would be Honorary Secretary of the Association.

18. Naveen Jindal takes charge as president of the Indian Steel Association

- **Naveen Jindal, chairman, Jindal Steel and Power, took charge as president of Indian Steel Association (ISA), the apex body for steel producers.**
- In a statement, the association said Naveen Jindal has been unanimously elected as the president of ISA by the apex committee, the governing body of ISA. He succeeds Dilip Oommen, CEO of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India.

Managing Committee of IBA.

16. RBI approves re-designation of Manian, Ekambaram of Kotak Mahindra Bank

Executive Officer, Manorama

Online, has been appointed

chairperson of Digital News

Publishers Association (DNPA) for two years from April 1.

- She would succeed Tanmay Maheshwari, Managing Director, Amar Ujala.
- Puneet Gupta, Chief Operating Officer, Times Internet, is the new vice-chairman.

17. Central Bank of India chief executive M V Rao elected as Indian Banks' Association Chairman

M. Khanwilkar, Chairperson, Lokpal of India.

- Shri Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, before joining as Judicial Member, Lokpal of India, was serving as the Chairperson of 22nd Law Commission of India.
- A Lokpal is an anti-corruption authority or body of the ombudsman, established under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act

20. Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi sworn in as judicial member, Lokpal of India

2013 to inquire and investigate into allegations of corruption against public functionaries and promote clean governance.

- The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 provided for the establishment of Lokpal for the Union and Lokayukta for States.

21. Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani takes oath as judge in J&K

- **Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani was administered oath as Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.**
- Chief Justice Justice N. Kotiswar Singh administered the oath of office to Justice Wani in Srinagar

22. Sadanand Date appointed NIA chief

- In a significant reorganisation within India's security apparatus, the Centre has announced pivotal appointments in key agencies, giving charge of the new **Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to distinguished IPS officer Sadanand Vasant Date**, his batchmate **Rajeev Kumar as chief of BPR&D** and their **one-year-old junior Piyush Anand as head of the NDRF.**
- BPR&D- Bureau of Police Research and Development.
- NDRF- National Disaster Response Force

23. FSIB selects Girija Subramanian as CMD of New India Assurance Company

- The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has selected **Girija Subramanian as chairman and managing director (CMD) of the New India Assurance Company.**

Established in 1919. It is one of the Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (DSIIs) identified by the IRDAI. The New India Assurance Company is headquartered in Mumbai.

24. FSIB selects Bhupesh Sushil Rahul as CMD of United India Insurance Company

- New India Assurance Company is India's premier general insurance company.

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- The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has selected **Bhupesh Sushil Rahul as CMD of United India Insurance Company.**
 - The United India Insurance Company was incorporated as a general insurance company in 1938 and headquartered in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

25 UN names Kamal Kishore as assistant secretary-general, special rep for disaster risk reduction

- United Nations Secretary-General Antnio Guterres has announced the appointment of **Kamal Kishore of India as Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary- General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).**
- He will lead the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

26. Pankaj Dwivedi takes charge as ED at Union Bank of India

- Pankaj Dwivedi has taken charge as an Executive Director at Union Bank of India (UBI).
- Following his appointment, the bank now has four Executive Directors (EDs). Besides Dwivedi, the other EDs are ' Nitesh Ranjan, Ramasubramanian S and Sanjay Rudra. A Manimekhalai is helming the bank as MD & CEO.

Awards

1. Oscar 2024: Oppenheimer is Best Picture, Cillian Murphy is Best Actor, Nolan finally wins Best Director

- The 96th Academy Awards ceremony, presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, took place on March 10.

Full List of Award Winners:

- Best Actor: Cillian Murphy, 'Oppenheimer'
- Best Actress: Emma Stone, 'Poor Things'
- Best Director: Christopher Nolan, 'Oppenheimer'
- Best Supporting Actress: Da'Vine Joy Randolph, 'The Holdovers'
- Best Supporting Actor: Robert Downey Jr, 'Oppenheimer'
- Best Picture: 'Oppenheimer'
- Best Original Screenplay: 'Anatomy of a Fall'
- Best Adapted Screenplay: 'American Fiction'
- Best Makeup and Hairstyling: 'Poor Things'
- Best Production Design: 'Poor Things'
- Best Costume Design: 'Poor Things'
- Best International Feature: 'The Zone of Interest'
- Best Visual Effects: 'Godzilla Minus One'
- Best Film Editing: 'Oppenheimer'
- Best Short Film (Live Action): 'The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar'
- Best Sound: 'The Zone of Interest'

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- Best Score: 'Oppenheimer'
 - Best Song: 'What Was I Made For?' from 'Barbie'
 - Best Animated Short: 'War Is Over!'
 - Best Animated Feature: 'The Boy and the Heron'

- **India has been bestowed with the prestigious Measles and Rubella Champion Award** by The Measles and Rubella Partnership at the American Red Cross Headquarters in Washington D.C., USA on March 6th, 2024.
- Measles and Rubella are vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) and MR Vaccine is part of India's Universal Immunization Programme since 2017.
- The Measles and Rubella Partnership comprises a multi-agency planning committee, including the American Red Cross, BMGF, GAVI, US CDC, UNF, UNICEF, and WHO, all dedicated to reducing global measles deaths and preventing rubella illness. Government of India is working towards eliminating measles and rubella from the country.
- **Ratan Tata, former chairman of Tata Sons, was bestowed with the prestigious PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for his outstanding philanthropic contributions.**
- The PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award, named after the former Prime Minister of India, is an award of recognition for

2. India receives 'Measles and Rubella Champion' Award

3. Ratan Tata awarded PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for philanthropy work

individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to social welfare and humanitarian causes.

- Tata Sons Chairman emeritus Ratan Tata, 86, has also received two of the highest civilian awards of India -- the Padma Vibhushan (2008) and Padma Bhushan (2000) ' for his immeasurable contributions towards nation building.

4. Renowned poet Prabha Varma selected for Saraswati Samman for the year 2023

- **Renowned poet Prabha Varma has been selected for the Saraswati Samman for the year 2023 for his work in Malayalam language.**
- He has been considered for this award for his Malayalam language poetry work, Roudra Sathwikam and also for his contribution to the literature during the period 2013 to 2022.
- The honour carries, apart from a citation, a plaque and an award money of fifteen lakh rupees. Roudra Sathwikam is a poetic work of Prabha Varma in Malayalam language which was published in 2022.
- The novel in poetic verse probes the conflict between power and politics, individual and state, art and power in a unique manner.

5. COP28 President receives leadership award at CERAWeek by S&P Global for securing historic UAE Consensus

- **Dr. Sultan Al Jaber was recognized with the 'CERAWeek Leadership Award for Building Global Consensus towards a Sustainable Energy Future' for his role in bringing Parties together to deliver the UAE Consensus.**
- Dr. Al Jaber was presented the award by

- The UAE Consensus delivered a series of firsts focused on keeping 1.5C within reach.
- The commitment from all Parties to transition away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner; targets to expand renewable energy with a goal to triple global capacity, and the objective to double energy efficiency by 2030.

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Bhutan's highest civilian award 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo'** by country's king Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. With the recognition, the PM became the first foreign Head of the Government to receive the honour
- The award has been conferred to Prime Minister Modi in recognition of 'his outstanding contribution to the growth of India-Bhutan relations and for his distinguished service to the Bhutanese nation and people.

Daniel Yergin, Vice Chairman of S&P Global and CERAWeek conference chair.

- **The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has decided to award the Abel Prize for 2024 to Michel Talagrand of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris, France.**

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- Michel Talagrand receives the prize for his work in probability theory and stochastic processes.
 - The common theme in Michel Talagrand's groundbreaking discoveries is working with and understanding the random processes we see all around us.
 - It has now become apparent that a thorough understanding of random

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phenomena is essential in today's world. The Abel Prize is named after Niels Henrik Abel, Norway's greatest mathematician throughout the times.

- The Abel Prize was established by the Norwegian Parliament (The Storting) in 2002, on the occasion the 200-year anniversary of his birth. The Prize is 7,5 million Norwegian Kroner.

8. Indian-British Writer's Book on AI Shortlisted for Women's Prize

- **Indian-British journalist and commentator Madhumita Murgia's book "Code Dependent: Living in the Shadow of AI" which explores the impact of AI on human society has been shortlisted for the 2024 inaugural Women's Prize for Non-Fiction.**

The other shortlisted books cover a wide range of subjects:

- 'Thunderclap: A Memoir of Art and Life and Sudden Death' by Laura Cumming
- 'Doppelganger: A Trip Into the Mirror World' by Naomi Klein
- 'A Flat Place' by Noreen Masud
- 'All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake' by Tiya Miles
- 'How to Say Babylon: A Jamaican Memoir' by Safiya Sinclair

Ranks & Reports

1. Leopard number increased by more than 1,000 in last four years

- The number of leopards has increased by more than one thousand during the period of 2018 to 2022 in the country.
- According to a report released by the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry, the number of leopards in the country has now reached 13 thousand 874, which was 12 thousand 852 in the year 2018.
- The fifth cycle leopard population estimation was carried out by the National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Institute of India, in collaboration with State Forest Departments. This exercise has proved invaluable to the conservation efforts of the country. The findings underscore the critical role of Protected Areas in conserving leopard populations.

2. Delhi airport titled 'best airport' for sixth year in a row

- Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport has occupied the prestigious title of the 'Best Airport' in the Asia-Pacific region for the sixth consecutive year for its excellence.
- The Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Best Airport award for 2023 in the category of over 40 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) was conferred by the Airports Council International (ACI).

3. India ranks 134 out of 193 in UNDP's '22 HDI, a notch higher than 2021

- Average life expectancy in India was 67.7 years in 2022 - up from 62.7 a year earlier - and gross national income (GNI, per capita) has increased to

\$6951, a jump of 6.3 per cent in 12 months, the United Nation's Human Development Index, or HDI, report has said.

- The HDI report also indicated increases in expected years of schooling (to 12.6 per individual).
- **Overall, the country has a HDI score of 0.644 in 2022, which ranks it 134 of 193 in the UN's report for 2023/24 - 'Breaking the Gridlock: Reimagining Cooperation in a Polarised World'. This places it in the 'medium human development' category.**
- Significantly, India's HDI score for 2022 saw an increase after a drop the year before and a flat trend in the years prior. India's 1990 HDI was 0.434, making the 2022 score a positive change of 48.4 per cent. 'Remarkable...': UN Hails India Life Expectancy, Per Capita Income Rise
- **Gender Inequality Index also said India had demonstrated "progress in reducing gender inequality", flagging a Gender Inequality Index, or GII, of 0.437, which is better than the global average.**
- In the GII list, which ranks countries on three key dimensions - reproductive health, empowerment, and labour market participation - India places 108 of 166 nations.
- **India, Bhutan and Bangladesh are all in the Medium Human Development category. Switzerland has been ranked number one.**
- Nepal (146) and Pakistan (164) have been ranked lower than India.

- Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) has released the eleventh edition of monthly report of National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) Way Forward for States/UTs, January and February 2024 which provides a detailed overview of status of e-service delivery across States/UTs.

medium term, primarily driven by
4. 11th Edition of the NeSDA ' Way Forward
Monthly Report for States/UTs released
income levels, according to
CareEdge Ratings.

- The health insurance segment continues to remain on track to breach the '1 lakh crore mark whereas the motor segment crossed the '80,000 crore threshold in FY24.
- Motor was the second biggest segment, accounting for around 50 % of general insurance growth excluding health. In YTD FY24, motor insurance reached '82,765 crore, growing 13.6 per cent compared with 71.5 per cent a year ago. Motor OD (Own Damage) grew 18.3 per cent (vs 16.7 per cent for YTD FY23) and motor TP (third party) rose 10.6 per cent (vs 14.8 per cent for YTD FY23). Maximum e-services (5,286) lie in the sector ' Local Governance & Utility Services

6. DHL Express report says globalisation
resilient but geopolitical threats rising

- According to the recently published **DHL Global Connectedness Report 2024**, India stands poised to play an increasingly central role in the development of globalisation over the coming decades, the report says.
- Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand have achieved 100% saturation of 56 mandatory e-services
- Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Assam and Odisha provide 100% of their services through their identified Single Unified Service Delivery Portal i.e., thesevai (1128), e-UNNAT (1119), e-Sevanam (911), Sewa Setu (469) and Odisha One (404), respectively

5. Non-life insurance to grow 13-15% in the medium term: CareEdge Ratings

It ranks India 62nd out of 181 economies, based on 2022 data tracking global flows of trade, capital, information and people.

- The DHL Global Connectedness Report 2024, put together by DHL and New York University's Stern School of Business analysed around nine million data points and ranked the connectedness of 181 countries, accounting for 99.7% of the world's gross domestic product. It is being touted as the most comprehensive analysis of globalisation's state and trajectory.
- According to the researchers, this overall rank reflects both the geographic reach of India's international flows (the 'breadth'

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dimension of the index, on which India ranks 16th) and the size of India's international flows relative to its domestic activity (the 'depth' dimension, on which India ranks 161st). India ranks 9th worldwide on the breadth of its merchandise trade

7. New Delhi ranked world's most polluted capital city for 4th consecutive year since 2018

- **New Delhi is ranked the world's most polluted capital city for the fourth consecutive year since 2018.**
- According to Air Quality Report 2023 conducted by Swiss organisation IQAir, Delhi's PM2.5 levels worsened from 89.1 micrograms per cubic metre in 2022 to 92.7 micrograms per cubic metre in 2023. **Bihar's Begusarai has emerged as the world's most polluted metropolitan area.**
- With an average annual PM2.5 concentration of 54.4 micrograms per cubic metre, India had the third worst air quality after Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- The report estimated that more than one billion people in India experience PM2.5 concentrations exceeding the World Health Organisation's recommended annual guideline level of 5 micrograms per cubic metre.

8. Finland Is World's Happiest Country For 7th Time Straight

- **India was ranked 126th out of 143 nations in a global happiness index which noted that older age is associated with higher life satisfaction in the world's most populous country.**

country has occupied the top spot on the list.

Highlights from the report:

- The other of the top 10 countries are Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, Israel, Netherlands, Norway, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Australia. The World Happiness Report is a partnership of Gallup, the Oxford Wellbeing Research Centre, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and the WHR's Editorial Board.
- The US (23rd) has fallen out of the top 20 for the first time since the World Happiness Report was first published in 2012, driven by a large drop in the well-being of Americans under 30.
- Afghanistan remains bottom of the overall rankings as the world's 'unhappiest' nation. Pakistan is ranked 108th on the list.

- In a notable increase, **the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) reported a 5.9% hike in the index of mineral production of the mining and quarrying sector for January 2024, with the index reaching 144.1.**
- This rise comes in contrast to the level in January of the previous year.
- The cumulative growth from April 2023 to January 2024 also stood at 8.3%.
- Production of important minerals in
- **Finland emerged as the happiest country in the world, topping the World Happiness Report 2024, the seventh successive year that the**

January 2024 displayed significant variance with coal production at 998 lakh tonnes and crude petroleum at 25 lakh tonnes, the ministry added. Lignite

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production stood at 41 lakh tonnes, and natural gas utilization was reported at 3073 million cu. m.

11. Mumbai Dethrones Beijing As Asia's New "Billionaire Capital": Hurun Report

- **India's financial hub Mumbai has emerged as "Asia's billionaire epicentre" for the first time, surpassing Beijing, as per the Hurun Global Rich List 2024.**

Highlights from the report:

- According to the list, Mumbai now boasts 92 billionaires, edging past Beijing's count of 91. While Mumbai added 26 new ultra-rich to the club, Beijing lost 18.
- Globally, Mumbai now ranks third in terms of billionaires after New York, which has 119 and London 97, as per Hurun's list. Industries that the report attributed India's growth in rank to were Pharmaceuticals (39) and Automobile and Auto Components (27). As per the list, there are 3,279 billionaires in the world today, with 167 of them added in the previous year.
- The United States added 109 billionaires, maintaining its lead

with a total of 800 billionaires, while China, despite a decline of 155 billionaires, retained its position as the world's leader with 814 billionaires.

Meanwhile, India witnessed a significant rise in its billionaire population, ranking third globally with 271 billionaires, marking an addition of 84 individuals.

12. Young Indians More Likely To Be Unemployed If They're Educated, Says Report

- In India, higher educated young people are more likely to be unemployed than those without any schooling, according to the International Labour Organization.
- **The jobless rate for graduates was 29.1%, almost nine times higher than the 3.4% for those who can't read or write, a new ILO report on India's labor market showed.**
- The unemployment rate for young people with secondary or higher education was six times higher at 18.4%. While the share of young unemployed Indians - aged 15-29 - dropped to 82.9% in 2022 from 88.6% in 2000, the share of educated youths climbed to 65.7% from 54.2% in the period, the ILO figures show.

Important Days

1. World Seagrass Day | 1 March

- In May 2022, the General Assembly adopted proclaimed **1 March as World Seagrass Day**.
- The resolution highlights the urgent need to raise awareness at all levels and to promote and facilitate actions for the conservation of seagrasses in order to contribute to their health and development, bearing in mind that enhancing ecosystem services and functions is important for SDG.
- **The theme of World Seagrass Day 2024 'Healthy Seagrass, Healthy Planet'**

2. Zero Discrimination Day | 1 March

- **The day was first celebrated on March 1, 2014.**
- UNAIDS had launched its Zero Discrimination Campaign on 'World AIDS Day' in December 2013. UNAIDS is a joint United Nations program on Human Immunodeficiency Virus and AIDS.
- 2024 is the tenth anniversary of Zero Discrimination Day and **the theme is 'To protect everyone's health, protect everyone's rights'**.
- The Zero Discrimination Day was established by UNAIDS ten years ago to advance "equality and fairness for everyone regardless of gender, age, sexuality, ethnicity or HIV status.

3. World Wildlife Day | 3 March

- World Wildlife Day was first proposed by Thailand to UN General Assembly in 2013.
- The idea was to set aside a day to promote awareness of wild animals and plants around the world.

- **The UN adopted a resolution on 20 December 2013, designating March 3 as World Wildlife Day in 2014.**
- **2024 theme: Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation.**
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), a global agreement to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival, was signed on this day in 1973.

4. National Safety Day | 4 March

- In 1996, on March 4, the Ministry of Labour and Employment of the Government of India established the National Safety Council as a self-financing non-governing body.
- In the year 2000, the National Safety Council was established as a public trust under the Bombay Public Trust Act of 1950.
- In 1972, National Safety Day was announced.
- The National Safety Day/Safety Week Campaign, being spearheaded by the Council since 1971 to mark its Foundation Day (4th March) has significantly contributed to spreading safety awareness in all sectors.
- The campaign is comprehensive, general and flexible with an appeal to the participating organisations to develop specific activities as per their safety requirements.

5. World Hearing Day | 3 March

- **World Hearing Day is held on 3 March each year** to raise awareness on how to

prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world.

- **The theme for the year 2024 is "Changing mindsets: Let's make ear and hearing care a reality for all!"**

6. International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness | 5 March

- **On December 7, 2022, the UNGA adopted a resolution and proclaimed March 5 of every year as the 'International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation' awareness.**
- The day seeks to promote better awareness and understanding of disarmament issues among the public, especially young people.
- The day was first observed in 2023.

7. Jan Aushadhi Diwas | 7 March

- The inception of Jan Aushadhi Diwas can be traced back to March 7, 2019, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced it as part of the Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).
- This day serves as the culmination of a week-long event commencing on March 1, aimed at raising awareness about generic medicines and their potential to benefit millions of individuals

8. International Women's Day | 8 March

- **March 8 was designated as International Women's Day by the UN in 1975.**
- It was first celebrated on March 19, 1911, in the United States and European countries.
- The idea of International Women's Day stems from the 1908 labour movement, during which numerous women garment workers marched in the streets of New

York, demanding better pay, shorter work hours and voting rights.

- **The theme of International Women's Day 2024 will focus on 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress,'** targeting economic disempowerment.
- However, the campaign theme for the same year is 'Inspire Inclusion.' the campaign theme Inspire Inclusion emphasizes the importance of diversity and empowerment in all aspects of society.

9. CISF Raising Day | 10 March

- CISF is providing security to the strategic establishment, including the Department of Space, the Department of Atomic Energy, the Airports, the Delhi Metro, the ports, the historical monuments and the basic areas of Indian economy such as petroleum and natural gas, electricity, coal, steel and mining,
- **Poshan Pakhwada 2024 has begun from 9 March which will continue till the 23rd of March.** During the Pakhwada, mass sensitisation and community activities will be held around the themes including Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi, dietary practices focused on sensitisation around nutrition and health of pregnant women.
- They include improving nutrition through Mission LiFE and adopting Sustainable Food Systems by promoting Millet and Poshan Vatikas at Anganwadi Centres. Besides, Diarrhea management; Tests, Treat, Talk Anemia; and Swasth Balak Spardha can also be organised to promote regular growth measurement of

enrolled children at Anganwadi
Centres.

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- **The International Day of Women Judges is celebrated on 10 March every year.**
- The day is dedicated to recognizing the contributions of women judges worldwide. It also serves as a reminder of the importance of women's participation in all levels of decision-making for the achievement of equality and democracy.

- World Kidney Day aims to create awareness about the importance of healthy kidneys and how one can maintain kidney health and prevent kidney-related diseases.
- This day is observed on the second Thursday of March, every year.
- **This year it falls on March 14. The day The theme for the 2024 campaign is 'Kidney Health For All.'**

13. National Pi Day | 14 March

- **Pi Day lies on March 14.**
- The value of Pi was first determined by Mathematician Archimedes of Syracuse. In 1737, Leonhard Euler used the symbol of Pi, paving the way for acknowledgment in the scientific community.
- Pi is a significant symbol in Mathematics, Statistics and Physics.
- The symbol represents the ratio of the circumference of the circle to its diameter, which has a value of 3.14.
- Pi is used in a wide range of areas, including geometry, astronomy, and physics.

11. International Day of Women Judges | 10 March

curve, and it is also used in quantum mechanics.

- **International Day To Combat Islamophobia is an international observance designated by United Nations in 2022, taking place on 15 March every year in 140 countries worldwide.**

12. World Kidney Day | 14 March [Second Thursday of March]

not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization, or ethnic group.

15. World Consumers Rights Day | 15 March

- **Every year, World Consumer Rights Day is observed on March 15.**
- On March 15, 1962, President John F. Kennedy spoke before the US Congress and addressed consumer rights.
- This incident marked the first time that a world leader spoke of consumer rights. In 1983, the first World Consumer Rights Day was observed.
- Since then, the United Nations has recognised the special day.
- **2024 Theme: 'Fair and Responsible AI for Consumers.'**

16. National Vaccination Day | 16 March

- In 1988, the WHO Global Polio Eradication Initiative was begun as the initial step of removing this disease from the planet. In 1995, around the same time, the government of India began the pulse polio Vaccination Program as the first attempt of uprooting this sickness from the

country.

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- From that point forward, **March 16 has been celebrated as National Vaccination Day.**
- From observing the worldwide rules of the 'Expanded Program of Immunization' (EPI) and the 'Universal Immunization Program' under the 'National Rural Health Mission', 2005, to the 'Do Boond Zindagi Ki' polio vaccination campaign, there are more than adequate services that you can use to moderate the risk factors.
- **The theme for National Vaccination Day 2024 is 'Vaccines Work For All'.**

17. Ordnance Factories Day | 18 March

- **Ordnance Factories Day is celebrated on March 18** to commemorate the day when Ordnance Factory in Cossipore, Kolkata was formed. In 1775, the Board of Ordnance was formed in Fort William, Kolkata. In 1787, a gunpowder factory was formed in Ishapore and a gun carriage factory was formed in Cossipore, Kolkata. Now it's known as Gun and Shell Factory, Cossipore.

18. International Day of Happiness | 20 March

- World Happiness Report 2024 lands on 20 March, to mark the UN's International Day of Happiness.
- Be among the first to read this year's insights, centered around the theme of happiness for the young, the old, and everyone in between.
- The General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution 66/281 of 12 July 2012 proclaimed 20 March the International Day of Happiness, recognizing the relevance of happiness and well-being as universal goals and aspirations in the lives of human beings around the world and the importance of

their recognition in public policy objectives.

19. French Language Day | 20 March

- Language Days at the United Nations were introduced in 2010 to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity. Each year, the United Nations celebrates six "Language Days", dedicated to the six official languages of the United Nations, which are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.
- The date of the French Language Day was chosen symbolically in reference to March 20, 1970, which marks the creation of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT), which became the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF).

20. World Sparrow Day | 20 March

- World Sparrow Day is held every year with full intent on spreading awareness about the significance of the presence of sparrows for our ecosystem and biodiversity.
- **World Sparrow Day is observed every year on March 20.**
- **In 2024, the theme for World Sparrow Day is 'Sparrows: Give them a tweet- chance!', 'I Love Sparrows' and 'We Love Sparrows'.**
- The first World Sparrow Day was celebrated on March 20, 2010. In India, The Nature Forever Society began the drive of observing World Sparrow Day, stressing on the significance of saving house sparrows and other usual birds.

21. World Oral Health Day | 20 March

- It is observed on March 20 annually to unite the people to help reduce the

burden of oral diseases as they affect
individuals,

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health systems, and economies everywhere.

- The main aim of the day is to empower people with the knowledge, tools, and confidence to secure good oral health.
- **World Oral Health Day's theme for this year is A happy mouth is a happy body.**
- World Oral Health Day was first celebrated Sep 12, 2007, on the birthday of FDI founder Dr Charles Godon.
- It was organised by the FDI World Dental Federation to raise global awareness around importance of oral health and hygiene. In 2013, the FDI decided to move the date to March 20 in order to avoid conflict with other events and to align with the international calendar.

22. World Forestry Day I 21 March

- Every year, **World Forestry Day is observed on March 21.** This year, the important day falls on a Thursday.
- World Forestry Day is celebrated every year to remind people of the significance of forests and trees in our lives
- **The theme for this year is - Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World.**
- In 1971, the General Assembly of the European Confederation of Agriculture proposed that we should celebrate a day dedicated to forests.
- March 21 was chosen as World Forestry Day by the United Nations as it coincides with Vernal Equinox and Autumn Equinox in northern and southern hemispheres

23. International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination I 21 March

- **The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (IDERD), observed every March 21,** brings the world community together to

increase its efforts in the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and racism.

- **The 2024 theme is 'A Decade of Recognition, Justice, and Development: Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent.**
- The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination commemorates the victims of the Sharpeville massacre of 21 March 1960, in which peaceful demonstrators against apartheid were senselessly killed. While this tragic event marked a turning point and ultimately ushered in the transition to democracy and equality in South Africa.

24. World Down Syndrome Day I 21 March

- **Every year on March 21, World Down Syndrome Day is observed across the globe.** The day is designated to promote awareness about Down syndrome and to assist those who live with the condition. The United Nations (UN) chose March 21 to represent the uniqueness of Down syndrome caused by triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome.
- A person with Down Syndrome possesses an extra chromosome. Chromosomes are lengthy DNA strands that hold all of the body's genes. A baby is born with an average of 46 chromosomes (23 pairs). 'Babies with Down syndrome have an extra copy of one of these chromosomes, chromosome 21,' as per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

25. World Water Day I 22 March

- **World Water Day is observed on 22 March every year.**
- This day is dedicated to highlighting

the necessity of water and the need to conserve it. It also serves as a reminder that water is a natural resource that is irreplaceable in our daily lives.

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- **The theme of World Water Day 2024 is 'Water for Peace'.**
- The history of World Water Day dates back to 1993, when the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution declaring that a day should be set aside to raise awareness about the importance of fresh and clean water in our lives.

26. World Poetry Day | 21 March

- **World Poetry Day falls on March 21.**
- The day aims to honour poets and bring back the practice of poetry readings.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) decided to celebrate World Poetry Day annually during its 30th General Conference in Paris in 1999.

27. World Meteorological Day | 23 March

- **Each year on March 23rd, World Meteorological Day is celebrated to commemorate the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** which is a specialized agency formed by the United Nations.
- The day recognizes the vital role of the organization in advancing global efforts in weather, climate, and water management.
- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) was established in March 1950, becoming a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1951.
- This marked a significant shift towards international cooperation in meteorology, hydrology, and related sciences. The theme for World Meteorological Day 2024 is 'At the Frontline of Climate Action.'

- **World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is marked annually on 24 March**, the anniversary of the discovery of the causative mycobacterium by Dr Robert Koch.
- The day aims to raise awareness about the devastating health, social, and economic consequences of the disease, which remains a global pandemic with 1.8 billion people estimated to be infected with the bacteria, acc. to WHO.
- **This year's theme ' 'Yes! We can end TB!' ' conveys the message that there is hope in making this a possibility.**
- TB is an infectious disease that most commonly affects the lungs, although it can spread to other organs too, including the brain or kidneys.

- **Each year, on 24 March, the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed.**
- This annual observance pays tribute to the memory of Monsignor scar Arnulfo Romero, who was murdered on 24 March 1980.
- Monsignor Romero was actively engaged in denouncing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in El Salvador.
- On 21 December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 24 March as the day.
- The day honour the memory of victims of gross and systematic human rights violations and promote the importance of the right to truth and justice

28. World Tuberculosis Day | 24 March

30. International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members | 25 March

- The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is marked each year on the anniversary of abduction of Alec Collett, a former journalist who was working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East when he was abducted by armed gunman in 1985. His body was finally found in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, 2007.
- The day is to observed year on 25 March to mobilise action, demand justice and strengthen our resolve to protect UN staff and peacekeepers, as well as colleagues in the non-governmental community and the press.

31. International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade | 25 March

- **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is a United Nations international observance designated in 2007 to be marked on 25 March every year.**
- The day honours and remembers those who suffered and died as a consequence of the transatlantic slave trade.

32. World Theatre Day | 27 March

- The World Theatre Day was established by the International Theatre Institute (ITI) in 1962, and the first ever World Theatre Day was celebrated in the same year on 27 March.
- This day is dedicated to the promotion of the art form of theatre across the world.
- **On 14 December 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution at its seventy-seventh session to proclaim 30 March as International Day of Zero Waste day.**
- It highlights both the importance of bolstering waste management globally and the need to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Promoting zero-waste initiatives through this international day can help advance all the goals and targets in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goal 11 and Sustainable Development Goal 12. These goals address all forms of waste, including food loss and waste, natural resource extraction and electronic waste.

Summit & Conferences

1. DPIIT and World Bank jointly organise National Workshop on Logistics Efficiency Enhancement

- **The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade , Ministry of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the World Bank Group organised a National Workshop on Logistics Efficiency Enhancement in New Delhi** that brought together the logistics sector community to brainstorm and identify factors affecting logistics performance and areas of improvement.

2. Prime Minister inaugurates Bharat Tex 2024

- **The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Bharat Tex 2024, one of the largest-ever global textile events to be organized in the country at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.**
- The 4-day textile event is considered one of the largest-ever global textile events to be organised in India with more than 100 countries participating at the event.

3. India at G20 2nd Employment Working Group Meeting at Brasilia

- The two day 2nd Employment Working Group (EWG) meeting under the Brazilian Presidency commenced on 27 March in Brasilia. The G20 EWG's mandate is to address labour, employment and social issues for strong, sustainable, balanced and job-rich growth for all.
- As India is a member of the G20 Troika, India is co-chairing the 2nd EWG meeting, along with Brazil and South Africa.

4. METOC seminar 'MEGHAYAN 2024' - An insight into the frontline of climate change

- As part of the World Meteorological Day celebrations, a **METOC (Meteorological and Oceanographic) seminar 'Meghayan-24' was conducted by School of Naval Oceanology & Meteorology (SNOM) and Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre at Southern Naval Command** on 28 Mar 24.
- It was based on the theme 'At the Frontline of Climate Action' as promulgated by WMO for 2024.
- On this occasion an indigenous mobile application INDRA (Indian Naval Dynamic Resource for Weather Analysis) to disseminate weather related information and forecasts empowering optimal & quick decision making was also launched.
- It has been developed by BISAG (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics) in coordination with Indian Navy.

Science & Technology

1. DRDO conducts successful flight test of VSHORADS missile in Chandipur,

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation DRDO conducted a successful flight test of a Very Short-Range Air Defence System VSHORADS missile** from a ground-based portable launcher off the coast of Odisha from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur. The test was carried out against high-speed unmanned aerial targets under different interception scenarios.
- VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence System designed and developed indigenously by Research Centre Imarat in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian Industry Partners.
- VSHORADAS missile incorporates many novel technologies including miniaturized Reaction Control System and integrated avionics which have been successfully proven during the tests.
- Chairman of DRDO: - Dr. Samir V Kamat

2. Google unveils Genie AI which can create video games from text and image prompts

- **Google's DeepMind team has unveiled "Genie" - a groundbreaking AI model** poised to revolutionise the gaming industry and creative endeavours alike.
- Genie introduced as an innovative platform capable of crafting interactive 2D video games from a single image prompt or text description, marks a significant leap forward in the realm of artificial intelligence.

3. SpaceX rocket launches pioneering methane-tracking satellite to orbit

- **MethaneSAT ' a satellite which will track and measure methane emissions at a global scale ' was launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon9 rocket from California.**
- Methane is an invisible but strong greenhouse gas, and the second largest contributor to global warming after carbon dioxide, responsible for 30 per cent of global heating since the Industrial Revolution.
- The entity behind MethaneSAT is the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) ' a US-based nonprofit environmental advocacy group.
- To develop the satellite, EDF partnered with Harvard University, the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, and the New Zealand Space Agency. MethaneSAT will orbit the Earth 15 times a day, monitoring the oil and gas sector.
- The launch of MethaneSAT has come at a moment when the world is implementing more stringent methane management policies. For instance, more than 150 countries signed the Global Methane Pledge in 2021, to cut their collective methane emissions by at least 30 per cent from 2020 levels by 2030.
- All India Institute of Medical Sciences, AIIMS New Delhi in collaboration with the Organ Retrieval Banking Organisation has performed the first dual kidney transplant at AIIMS.
- The surgery was carried out by the Department of Surgical Disciplines and the Department of Nephrology.

5. NASA To Carry 'Message In Bottle' To Europa, One Of Jupiter's Moon In October

- NASA will carry 'message in a bottle' to Europa, one of Jupiter's moon in October this year. The mission dubbed as Europa Clipper mission will explore signs of life as Scientists chose predicts a salty lake under its icy crust.
- Last year, the US space agency had conducted a 'Message in a Bottle' campaign, which invited the public to send their names with the spacecraft.
- The Europa Clipper spacecraft will carry a triangular metal plate with an engraving of US Poet Laureate Ada Limn's handwritten 'In Praise of Mystery: A Poem for Europa,' along with a silicon microchip stenciled with more than 2.6 million names submitted by the public.
- The other, outward-facing side of metal plate will sport etchings of 103 waveforms, a visual representation of the sound wave produced by saying the word 'water' in 103 different languages ' including Hindi.

6. Three day Startup Mahakumbh begins in New Delhi

- **The three day Startup Mahakumbh, one of the biggest events showcasing the startup ecosystem, began at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.**
- This startup event aims at connecting startups with a spectrum of inventors including venture capitalists, investors and potential corporate partners. India has emerged as the 3rd largest ecosystem for startups globally.

7. ISRO launches for third Pushpak mission: A giant leap towards affordable space access

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully**

conducted its third mission involving the Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV), named "Pushpak" after the legendary spaceship from the Ramayan.

- The Pushpak RLV will be carried to an altitude of approximately 4.5 km by an Indian Air Force helicopter and released after achieving predetermined conditions.
- According to reports, the Pushpak RLV is designed as an all-rocket, fully reusable single-stage-to-orbit (SSTO) vehicle, incorporating advanced elements from previous demonstrators like the X-33, X-34, and the upgraded DC-XA. The vehicle features a fuselage, a nose cap, double delta wings, twin vertical tails, and active control surfaces called Elevons and Rudder.

- **Bharat Biotech International Ltd said it started clinical trials of the Tuberculosis vaccine MTBVAC on adults in India.**

- This is the first vaccine against Tuberculosis derived from a human source by the Spanish bio-pharmaceutical company, Biofabri. The trials are carried out by Bharat Biotech in close collaboration with Biofabri.
- After completing a dose escalation trial in HIV uninfected adults, a Phase2 study in HIV-infected adults has started in 2024 to determine whether MTBVAC is safe in this population.

- **In a bid to fight swine fever virus in pigs and wild boars, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati successfully transferred a**

'pioneering'

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vaccine technology to a manufacturing company specialising in high-quality vaccine.

- This vaccine marks the first recombinant virus-based solution for classical swine fever developed in India, offering a swift and cost-effective method for pig vaccination.
- Swine fever, a highly contagious disease among pigs, poses a severe threat with a very high mortality rate, although it does not affect humans.
- In India, instances of this disease have been frequently observed in northeastern states, as well as in Bihar, Kerala, Punjab, Haryana, and Gujarat, among others.

- China has launched a new batch of Yunhai-2 meteorological satellites likely for use by its military. The satellites were likely released into a series of orbits following a series of burns by the YZ-3 upper stage.
- The launch follows a similar mission from 2018 which saw a first group of six Yunhai-2 satellites put into orbit by a Long March 2D and YZ-3 combination.
- These satellites are described only briefly as to be used mainly for atmospheric environment detection, space environment monitoring, disaster prevention and reduction, and scientific experiments.
- The launch of the Yunhai-2 (02) satellites is China's 13th orbital

10. China launches 3rd group of Yunhai-2 satellites for observation

with around 70 to be conducted by CASC.

Defence

1. INDIA - MALAYSIA BILATERAL MARITIME EXERCISE SAMUDRA LAKSAMANA

- **Exercise Samudra Laksamana is underway from at/ off Visakhapatnam. Indian Naval Ship Kiltan & Royal Malaysian Ship KD Lekir are participating in the 3rd edition of this exercise which has harbour professional interactions followed by the operational phase at sea.**
- The exercise aims to strengthen bonds and enhance interoperability between the Indian and Royal Malaysian Navy.

2. MH 60R 'SEAHAWKS' TO BE COMMISSIONED INTO THE INDIAN NAVY AS THE INAS 334 SQUADRON

- **The Indian Navy will commission the newly inducted MH 60R Seahawk (a maritime variant of the Blackhawk helicopter) multi-role helicopter on 06 Mar 2024 at INS Garuda, Kochi marking a pivotal moment in India's Defence modernisation journey.**
- The Seahawks squadron will be commissioned in the Indian Navy as INAS 334.
- The helicopters are a part of the 24-aircraft FMS contract signed with the US government in Feb 2020. The helicopter is designed for anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW), search and rescue (SAR), medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) and vertical replenishment (VERTREP).

3. Indian Coast Guard Ships Samarth and Abhinav departed from Port of Colombo

- **Indian Coast Guard Ships Samarth and Abhinav departed from Port of Colombo.**
- The visit is seen to further strengthens the maritime cooperation between the two countries' coast guards.
- During the entire week that the ships spent at Galle and Colombo, several activities and included professional training for the Sri Lanka Coast Guard on various aspects.
- **The ships also conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the Sri Lanka Coast Guard, enhancing maritime cooperation.**
- This visit is aligned with India's SAGAR doctrine and 'Neighbourhood First' policy, aiming to strengthen camaraderie and interoperability between the two friendly navies.
- **INS Jatayu was commissioned at Minicoy, the southernmost island in Lakshadweep, strengthening the Indian Navy's foothold and extending operational reach in the region.**
- INS Jatayu will be functioning under the operational control of the Naval Officer in Charge (Lakshadweep), Southern Naval Command.
- The crest of the INS Jatayu -depicting a bird signifying Jatayu, a character in the Hindu epic Ramayana -- was hoisted after the unveiling of the commissioning plaque. President Droupadi Murmu approved the crest.
- It was commissioned by Admiral R Hari Kumar, the Chief of Naval Staff, Administrator of Lakshadweep, Praful K

Patel, Vice Admiral V Srinivas, Flag Officer Command.

5. Defence Minister Inaugurates Navy's Infrastructure Facility 'Project Seabird' In Goa

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to inaugurate infrastructure projects at the Indian Navy's Karwar base under Project 'Seabird.'**
- These projects, including piers and residential towers, aim to strengthen India's maritime security interests. The expansion of the naval base, approved for berthing 32 ships and submarines, includes an iconic dry berth and townships.
- The projects, executed with industry collaboration, are expected to boost the local economy and provide government employment opportunities. The first phase of Project Seabird, concluded in 2011, was designed to accommodate 10 ships.
- The execution of Project Seabird involves industry leaders such as AECOM India Ltd., Larsen & Toubro, ITD Cementation India Ltd, Nagarjuna Construction Company, Navayuga Engineering Company Ltd., and Shapoorji Pallonji Group.

- Bharat Shakti is a large tri-service exercise that showcases the Army, Air Force, and Navy's capabilities.
- During the exercise, the three Indian services will demonstrate the capabilities of indigenously made weaponry and systems.
- This drill will only include indigenous weapons created in India.
- **The comprehensive maritime security exercise 'Sea Defenders-2024' between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) & United States Coast Guard (USCG) culminated at Port Blair on March 9, 2024.**
- The exercise was aimed at enhancing maritime cooperation and interoperability between the two forces.
- The Exercise included a variety of scenarios including a Pollution Response Demonstration, in which Indian Coast Guard ships and aircraft showcased their expertise in responding to oil spills and other environmental hazards at sea. It also simulated Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) Operations for inspecting vessels suspected of illegal activity.

6. Indian Armed Forces To Conduct Mega Bharat-Shakti' Exerc

- **India's three armed forces, the Army, Navy, and Air Force, will conduct the greatest exercise known as 'Bharat-Shakti' at Asia's largest field firing range in the Jaisalmer area of Rajasthan.**
- PM Modi's Likely Visit Prime Minister Narendra Modi may visit Pokhran on March 12, 2024, to observe the Indian Armed Forces' show of power.

8. PM Modi Praises Mission Divyastra, First Test Flight Of Agni-5 MIRV Missile

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the development of "Mission Divyastra" -- an indigenously developed, landmark weapons system that alters the country's geopolitic and strategic position and significantly changes the situation in southeast Asia.**

More about the Mission:

- The Agni-5 MIRV missile, developed by defence research centre DRDO for over a decade, took its first flight from Odisha.
 - The new weapon system of DRDO (Defence Research Development Organisation) has Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology, which ensures that a single missile can deploy multiple nuclear warheads and hit targets at different locations simultaneously. MIRVs have been developed by the US, UK, Russia, France and China.
 - "The first flight test of Agni V under Mission Divyastra marks a very important milestone in India's march towards greater geo-strategic role and capabilities. An MIRV payload involves a single missile carrying several nuclear warheads, each programmed to hit a separate target.
 - This means optimum use of a single missile and gives India the capability of targeting adversaries in the east and west within a 5,000-plus km radius. To make this effective, the system is also equipped with indigenous avionics systems and high accuracy sensor packages, which ensure that the re-entry vehicles accurately reach the target points.
 - In Divyastra, the basic missile is a three-stage Agni-5 missile, but the nose cone is modified to accommodate many micro- nukes, mini-nukes and even a big thermo-nuclear weapon, he added. Each MIRV acts like a targeted tactical weapon. Agni has been part of India's arsenal since the 1990s.
- **Big Bang Boom Solutions Private Limited, has secured an order worth more than Rs 200 crores from the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army for its counter-unmanned aerial systems technology.**
 - This contract is the largest the Ministry of Defence has awarded under the Innovations for Defence Excellence initiative, and one of the largest signed by the MoD with a Indian start-up.
 - C-UAS systems are intended to counter the growing threat from technologically simple, inexpensive, commercially available drones that can inflict disproportionate damage on Indian targets. The drones can fly over a border to deliver contraband loads, such as weapons and ammunition or be rigged as improvised explosive devices (IEDs).
- To augment Indian Navy's anti-submarine operations, two ships 'Agray' and 'Akshay' were launched nearly five years after the Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Kolkata-based PSU GRSE for production of eight such ASW Shallow Water Crafts. Agray and Akshay ' named after erstwhile Abhay

Class Corvettes Agray and Akshay of
Indian Navy ' are 5th and 6th SWC.

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- The ASW SWC ships are 77.6-metre-long and 105-metre wide with a displacement of 900 tonnes and endurance of over 1800 NM.
- In the last one year, 3 indigenously built warships/ submarine for Indian Navy have been delivered and a total of 9 warships were launched.

11. Indian Army Contingent Departs For Seychelles To Participate In Tenth Edition Of Joint Military Exercise 'LAMITIYE-2024'

- **The Indian Army contingent departed for Seychelles to participate in the Tenth edition of Joint Military Exercise 'LAMITIYE-2024' between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces SDF.**
- LAMITIYE' meaning 'Friendship' in the Creole language is a biennial training event and has been conducted in Seychelles since 2001.
- The Exercise aims to enhance interoperability in Sub-conventional Operations in Semi-Urban environments under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter on Peace Keeping Operations. The exercise will also build and promote bilateral military relations in addition to exchanging skills, experiences and good practices between both armies.

12. India and US to participate in bilateral tri-service training exercise: Tiger Triumph-24

- The Ministry of Defence announced that the Indian and United States navies have kicked off a bilateral Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise on India's eastern seaboard.

- **Called Tiger Triumph-24, the week-long exercise will involve Indian Navy ships with integral helicopters and landing crafts, Indian Army personnel and vehicles and Indian Air Force aircraft.**
- The first exercise took place in 2019, for a period of nine days. This year, the exercise will start with the Harbour Phase scheduled from 18 to 25 Mar. The Joint exercise would see an end on the 14th day with the closing ceremony on completion of the sea phase.
- India and the US have a defence alliance. This year, the United States also took part in Milan-24, an Indian Navy-initiated multilateral naval exercise with 50 other countries held in February. On March 8, both countries took part in Sea-Defenders 2024, an Indian and US Coast Guard cooperative maritime security exercise in Port Blair.
- **Two Indian naval vessels, INS Tir and INS Sujata, are gearing up to participate in the upcoming India Mozambique Tanzania (IMT) Tri-Lateral Exercise.**
- Scheduled from March 21 to March 29, 2024, this joint maritime exercise aims to strengthen cooperation between India, Mozambique, and Tanzania.
- The first edition of IMT TRILAT exercise was conducted on Oct 22, which saw participation of INS Tarkash with the Tanzania and Mozambique Navies. The exercise will conclude with a joint debrief scheduled at Nacala (Mozambique).

Books & Authors

1. J-K Lt Guv Manoj Sinha launches English translation of Magahi novel 'Fool Bahadur' in Patna

- **'Fool Bahadur', the first Magahi novel translated into English by Indian poet-diplomat, editor and translator Abhay K. was launched in Patna at the 4th edition of Grand Trunk Road Initiatives.**
- First published in 1928 'Fool Bahadur' by Jayanath Pati from Nawada district of Bihar is the first Magahi novel to be translated into English.
- Abhay K. from Nalanda, Bihar, is a poet, editor, translator, and the author of several poetry collections. His 'Earth Anthem' has been translated into over 150 languages. He received the SAARC Literary Award 2013 and was invited to record his poems at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC, in 2018.

Obituary

1. Former Canadian PM Brian Mulroney dies at age of 84

- **Former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who led his country from 1984 to 1993, has died at the age of 84.**
- The conservative leader, the 18th prime minister in Canada's history, passed away "peacefully, surrounded by family," as posted by his family. Mulroney led Canada through the closing days of the Cold War and forged a free trade agreement with the US.

Person in news

1. EC announces Para Archer & Arjuna Awardee Sheetal Devi as National PwD Icon

- **Election Commission has announced Para Archer and Arjuna Awardee, Sheetal Devi as its National PwD Icon.**
- Her name was announced at an Exhibition Cricket Match between the Indian Deaf Cricket Association Team and the Delhi and District Cricket Association team held.
- She won silver medal in the open women's compound archery event at the World Archery Para Championships 2023 in the Czech Republic in July.
- She was the first female armless archer to win a medal at the Para World Championships.
- At Asian Para Games 2023, she bagged gold medals in the individual compound and mixed double compound and won silver in women's compound.

2. Paris 2024: Sharath Kamal India's flag bearer, Mary Kom chef de mission

- **Veteran table tennis player and reigning CWG champion Sharath Kamal will be India's flag bearer at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games while legendary boxer MC Mary Kom was on appointed the chef de mission of the country's contingent.**
- Mary Kom and former hockey skipper Manpreet Singh were India's flag bearers at the 2020 Tokyo Games.
- The IOC, in 2020, had changed its protocol to allow one female and one male athlete of each NOC to bear the flag jointly during the opening ceremony of the Summer Games. Hockey player Harmanpreet Singh and boxer Lovlina Borgohain were India's flag bearers at the Hangzhou Asian Games, last year.

Insurance

1. Future Generali India launches new women's health insurance plan

- **Future Generali India Insurance Company (FGII), a private general insurer, announced the launch of its most comprehensive women's health insurance plan. The plan is designed to meet women's unique needs.**
- FGII 'HEALTH POWHER' aims to address the various needs of women across the different stages of their lives.

2. LIC world's strongest insurance brand: Brand Finance Insurance Report

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India is termed as the strongest insurance brand with a steady brand value of \$9.8 bn, a brand strength index score of 88.3, and associated AAA brand strength rating, notes a report by Brand Finance Insurance 100 2024.**
- According to the report, Cathay Life Insurance is the second strongest brand, with 9 per cent increase in brand value \$4.9 bn.
- NRMA Insurance stood 3rd which saw an 82 per cent rise in brand value to \$1.3 billion. Chinese insurance brands maintain dominance in the global rankings of most valuable insurance brands, with Ping An leading with a 4 per cent increase in brand value to \$33.6 billion followed by China Life Insurance and CPIC retaining their third and fifth positions respectively.
- Allianz from Germany and AXA from France are holding on to their second and fourth positions in the top 5 rankings. Additionally, LIC achieved highest first-year premium collection of Rs 39,090cr in the financial year 2023, while SBI Life Insurance & HDFC Life Insurance led the private sector with new business premium collections of Rs 15,197cr and Rs 10,970cr respectively.

3. LIC, GIC Re and New India Assurance Company retain the 'D-SII' tag

- **The public sector insurance companies ' Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) and the New India Assurance Company continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) as in the 2022-23 list of D-SIIs, by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).**
- D-SIIs are insurance companies which are perceived as 'too big or too important to fail' (TBTF) based on their size, market importance, and domestic and global interconnectedness.
- D-SIIs are subjected to additional regulatory measures.
- LIC and New India are the largest life and general insurance companies in India. Meanwhile, GIC Re is the sole Indian reinsurer.

India & World

1. Government clears setting up of International Big Cat Alliance

- **Union cabinet gave its nod for establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) ' coalition of 96 big cat range countries and others ' with headquarters in India and approved one-time **budgetary support of Rs 150 crore for this purpose for a period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28.****
- It'll serve as a common platform and a centralized repository of successful practices for conservation of seven big cats namely tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma. Five of these - tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard and cheetah - are found in India.
- The Alliance was launched by Prime Minister Modi at an event commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger.

2. Numaligarh Refinery opens its first-ever overseas office in Bangladesh

- **India's Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) opened its liaison office in Dhaka. This is the first overseas office of NRL.**
- The India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline Project, which was jointly inaugurated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina virtually on March 18, 2023, is the first cross-border pipeline for the supply of petroleum products
- Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), a subsidiary of M/s Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) in Oil and Gas Sector.
- The refinery owes its existence to the commitment made by Government of India in the historic "Assam Accord", signed on 15 August 1985 and was conceived as a vehicle for speedy economic development of the region.

3. Norway will invest half of \$100 billion under EFTA: Norwegian envoy May-Elin Stener

- **India has signed a trade pact with EFTA countries ' Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein ' aiming to attract \$100 billion and to create one million jobs in 15 years in exchange for tariff concessions for their pharma, chemical and minerals.**
- Switzerland being the largest player is likely to contribute more than half of the \$100 billion free trade pact India recently signed with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), while Norway will bring in the rest, with Iceland and Liechtenstein contributing as well, Norwegian Ambassador to India.

Apps & Portals

1. Ashwini Vaishnav Launches Digital Intelligence Platform and CHAKSU on Sanchar Saathi Portal

- **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav launched the Digital Intelligence Platform and CHAKSHU - Report Suspected Fraud Communication Facility on Sanchar Saathi Portal.**
- Digital Intelligence Platform developed by the Department of Telecommunications aims at facilitating coordination among the Stakeholders to Curb the Misuse of Telecom Resources in Cybercrime and Financial Frauds.
- Both 'Chakshu' and Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) are backend modules meant for LEAs, banks, TSPs etc.
- Sanchar Saathi Portal an innovative initiative aimed at empowering mobile subscribers and enhancing their security while increasing awareness of government initiatives.

2. Election Commission Launches Saksham App To Facilitate Easier Voting For Persons With Disabilities

- The Election Commission has always focused on Accessible Voting every time as it has the motto of no voter is left behind.
- **The Commission has launched Saksham App to facilitate easier voting for Persons with Disabilities and to avail facilities at Polling Stations.**
- Volunteers and wheelchairs will be available at every polling station.

Acquisitions & Mergers

1. Disney, Reliance Seal \$8.5 Billion Deal to Merge Indian Media Businesses

- **India's Reliance Industries and Walt Disney of the United States have announced the merger of their India TV and streaming media assets, creating an \$8.5bn entertainment powerhouse.**
- Reliance, led by Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani, will inject \$1.4bn in the merged entity, with the company and its affiliates holding a more than 63 percent stake.
- Disney will hold about 37 percent, the companies said in a joint statement. Nita Ambani will assume the role of Chairperson of the merged entity, with former Walt Disney executive Uday Shankar, joining as Vice Chairperson.

2. Fincare Small Finance Bank merger with AU SFB gets RBI approval

- **The Reserve Bank of India has approved the amalgamation of Fincare Small Finance Bank with Jaipur-based AU Small Finance Bank, effective from April 1, 2024, creating an entity with a balance sheet of over Rs 1.16 trillion.**
- All the branches of Fincare SFB will function as branches of AU Small Finance Bank with effect from April 1, 2024.
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) had already approved the merger in January 2024. In October last year, the board of directors of AU SFB and Fincare had approved an all-stock merger. This is the first-ever merger in the small finance bank space wherein Fincare shareholders will receive 579 shares of AU for every 2,000 shares held.

3. Accenture launches learning platform; to acquire edtech Udacity

- Accenture has launched a new artificial intelligence native learning platform to provide clients with comprehensive technology learning and training services that will help them reskill and upskill employees in technology, data and AI.
- **Accenture will invest \$1 billion in LearnVantage over three years and will acquire edtech company Udacity.**
- It will help to build on Accenture's existing experience in learning and training to meet the rising demand for technology skills, including generative AI.
- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger of a financial technology company, Garagepreneurs Internet Private Limited with the North East Small Finance Bank.**
- GIPL operates under the brand name "slice" and focuses on facilitating payments and credit products through digital means in India.
- The proposed transaction comprises the merger of a financial technology company, Garagepreneurs Internet Private Limited (GIPL) (including Quadrillion Finance Private Limited (QFPL) (an NBFC-SI-ICC) and Intergalactory Foundry Private Limited (IFPL) with North-East Small Finance Bank Limited (NESFB) (including RGVN (North-East) Microfinance Limited (RGVN)). NESFB

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is a private sector small finance bank. It is headquartered in Guwahati, Assam.

5. Eris buys India formulation biz of Biocon Biologics for Rs 1,242 crore

- **Eris Lifesciences, a chronic therapy-focused drug firm, has acquired the India-branded formulation business of Biocon Biologics, a subsidiary of Biocon, for Rs 1,242 crore.**
- This includes portfolios in insulin, oncology, and critical care. The deal would enable Eris to enter the Rs 30,000 crore injectable market, positioning it as a major player in the insulin segment.

6. CCI approves acquisition of certain shareholding of Shriram Investment Holdings Private Limited by Shriram Ownership Trust.

- **The Competition Commission of India has approved the proposed acquisition of certain shareholding of Shriram Investment Holdings Private Limited by Shriram Ownership Trust.**
- The proposed combination relates to the acquisition by Shriram Ownership Trust (SOT) of 9.44% and 20% stake of Shriram Investment Holdings Private Limited (SIHL) held by APRN Enterprises Private Limited.
- SIHL is an unregistered core investment company with a standalone asset size of Rs. 3,976 crore and a turnover of Rs. 1,881 crore as of 31st March 2023.
- SIHL does not have any business of its own except investments in various companies, most of which are 100% subsidiaries of SIHL. SOT and SCPL are already holding 70.56% of the SIHL.

- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of Kesoram Cement Business from Kesoram Industries Limited by UltraTech Cement Limited.**
- UltraTech is a public listed company in India and is engaged in the business of the manufacture and sale of grey cement, white cement, ready-mix concrete, clinker, and building products in India.
- The proposed combination relates to the acquisition of the grey cement business of Kesoram Industries Limited by UltraTech Cement Limited pursuant to a composite scheme of arrangement dated 30th November 2023 under Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 (Scheme) and the Implementation Agreement dated 30th November 2023 (Proposed Combination).
- **The Competition Commission of India has approved the 100% acquisition of Lanco Amarkantak Power by Adani Group's Adani Power.**
- Earlier this month, Adani Power received the Committee of Creditors' approval for resolution plan to acquire insolvent Lanco Amarkantak Power.
- The proposed combination relates to the acquisition of 100% equity share capital of the Target by Acquirer
- **India's largest port operator Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) has expanded its presence on India's coastline after buying 95 per cent in Odisha's Gopalpur Port Ltd**

**7. CCI approves acquisition of Kesoram
Cement Business from Kesoram Industries
Limited by UltraTech Cement Limited**

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(GPL) at an enterprise value of Rs 3,080 crore.

- APSEZ has agreed to acquire the stake for an equity value of Rs 1,349 crore and an enterprise value of Rs 3,080 crore.
- The port, located on India's east coast, can handle around 20 MMTPA. The Odisha government in 2006 awarded a 30-year concession to GPL, with the provision of two extensions of 10 years each.
- APSEZ develops and operates about 12 ports and terminals on the west and east coast of India.

10. SBI Mutual Fund Acquires 3% Stake in Savita Oil Technologies

- **Shares of smallcap firm Savita Oil Technologies soared 10 per cent to Rs 454 in intra-day trade as data revealed SBI Mutual Fund (MF) bought nearly 3 per cent stake in the specialty petroleum company via a block deal.**
- Among non-promoter public shareholders, HDFC Mutual fund (via HDFC Balanced Advantage Fund) held 7.4 per cent stake in Savita Oil.

Agri-Business

1. Cabinet approves Minimum Support Price for Raw Jute for 2024-25 Season

- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for Raw Jute for 2024-25 season. The MSP of Raw Jute (TDN-3 equivalent to earlier TD-5 grade) has been fixed at Rs.5,335/- per quintal for 2024-25 season.**
- The MSP for 2024-25 season is an increase of Rs.285/-per quintal for Raw Jute over the previous season. In the last 10 years, the Government has increased MSP for Raw jute from Rs.2,400 per quintal in 2014-15 to Rs.5,335/- per quintal in 2024-25, registering a growth of 122 percent.

FinTech

1. Airtel Payments Bank Launches Smart Watch for Contactless Payments

- **Airtel Payments Bank today announced the launch of a Smart Watch to bring Tap and Pay to every wrist.**
- In its endeavour for a New Way to Pay and to make contactless payments accessible to a larger customer base, Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with the smartwatch brand Noise and Mastercard.

PSUs

1. GRID-INDIA is now a Miniratna Company

- **Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA) achieved a significant milestone by being conferred with the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).** This recognition, bestowed upon by the Ministry of Power, Government of India, underscores GRID-INDIA's pivotal role in the nation's power landscape.
- Established in 2009, GRID-INDIA holds the crucial mandate of overseeing the seamless and uninterrupted operation of the Indian Power System, ensuring the efficient transfer of electric power within and across regions, facilitating trans-national power exchanges with a focus on reliability, economy, and sustainability.

2. THDC bags 'The GEEF Global Environment Award 2024' in power industry

- **THDC India Limited has been awarded in the gold category for the prestigious 'The GEEF Global Environment Award 2024' in the power industry.**
- The award ceremony was part of the Global Clean Energy Summit-2024 and the Global Environment - Safety Awards 2024 held at JW Marriott Aerocity.

3. BPCL secures 5th spot in Business World Real 500: Leading the Change

- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) announced that it has continued position as the 5th-ranked company in The Business World Real 500 List of 2024.**
- This accomplishment underscores BPCL's unwavering commitment to excellence and highlights its consistent and robust financial performance in a dynamic operating environment.

States/UTs

Andhra Pradesh

1. Keyi Panyor becomes 26th district of Arunachal Pradesh

- **Carved out of Lower Subansiri, Keyi Panyor became the 26th district of Arunachal Pradesh.**
- The new district, which was being demanded by the people of the Nyishi community for long, will have its headquarters at Ter Gapin-Sam Sarth.
- On February 8, the state assembly passed the Arunachal Pradesh (Re-Organization of Districts) (Amendment) Bill, 2024, paving the way for the creation of two new districts ' Keyi Panyor and Bichom.

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Bichom becomes 27th district of Arunachal Pradesh

- **Bichom, carved out of West and East Kameng, became the 27th district of Arunachal Pradesh.**
- Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated the district and laid the foundation of its headquarters at Napangphung.
- A total of 27 villages from West Kameng and 28 from East Kameng were made part of Bichom district.

Gujarat

- **India's Vadodara Municipal Corporation has raised 1 billion rupees (\$12.07 million) by issuing Asia's first certified green municipal bond, the civic body said in a press release.**

- The civic body from the western Indian state of Gujarat has set a semi-annual coupon of 7.90% on the issue, for which it invited bids from investors.
- SBI Capital Markets and Tipsons Consultancy Services are the arrangers for the bond issue. The bonds are rated AA+ by India Ratings and have received a green security certificate from the Climate Bond Initiative.

- **NHPC Limited, India's premier hydropower company and a central public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Power, has won the bid to develop a 200 MW capacity Solar Power Project to be set up in the 1,125 MW RE Park of Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Ltd. (GSECL) at Khavda in Kachchh district of Gujarat.**

- The project will generate about 473 million units of electricity in the first year of commissioning and the cumulative energy generation from the project over a period of 25 years would be about 10,850 million units. NHPC will develop the project on a build-own-and-operate basis at a tentative development cost of Rs. 847 crores.

Ke 1. Vadodara civic body raises Rs 100 crore from first Green Municipal Bond

- Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the state's own Over-The-Top (OTT) platform at Kairali Theatre.

- **The platform, called CSpace, is India's first government-backed OTT platform.**
- The OTT platform is managed by KSFDC, a state-owned entity entrusted with the promotion of Malayalam cinema. A special curator panel is set by KSFDC to select content for the platform

2. Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar Inaugurates India's 1st FutureLABS center at C-DAC Thiruvananthapuram

- **Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar inaugurated India's first FutureLABS center in C-DAC Thiruvananthapuram.**
- This center, namely, 'Centre for Semiconductor Chips & Systems for Strategic Electronics', will be playing a crucial role in catalyzing an ecosystem for next generation chip design, manufacturing, and research.

Rajasthan

1. World's first-ever Om-shaped temple inaugurated in Rajasthan's Pali district

- **In the town of Pali, Rajasthan, a beautiful temple shaped like the sacred symbol 'Om' has been inaugurated.**
- This temple is poised to become the world's first temple designed in this iconic form.

- A remarkable aspect of this temple is that it will be able to accommodate 1,008 idols of Lord Mahadev and 12 Jyotirlingas within its sacred precincts.

Telangana

- **Jharkhand Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan took charge as Telangana governor this morning at a function at Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad.**
- Telangana high court Chief Justice Alok Aradhe administered the oath of office on the occasion.
- Earlier, State Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari read out the warrant of appointment on the occasion.

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
Daljit Singh Chaudhary	Director General of National Security Guard
Shehbaz Sharif	Prime Minister of Pakistan
S Ravindran	Part-time chairman of the Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB)
Manish Prasad	Managing Director for SAP Indian Subcontinent
Asif Ali Zardari	President of Pakistan
AS Rajeev	Vigilance Commissioner
Anuj Bansal	Chief Financial Officer of Airtel Payments Bank
Brajesh Kumar Singh	Executive Director of Indian Bank
Nayab Singh Saini	Chief Minister of Haryana
Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu	Election Commissioners in Election Commission of India
Jaideep Hansraj	Group President of One Kotak
Arvind Kapil	MD and CEO of Poonawalla Fincorp
Navneet Kumar Sehgal	Chairman of Prasar Bharati
Vladimir Putin	President of Russia
Kumar Venkatasubramanian	CEO of P&G India
K V S Manian	Joint Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank
Shanti Ekambaram	Deputy Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank
M V Rao	Chairman of Indian Banks Association (IBA)
Naveen Jinda	President of Indian Steel Association (ISA)
Mariam Mammen Mathew	Chairperson of Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA)

Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi	Judicial Member in Lokpal of India
Sadanand Vasant Date	Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)
Rajeev Kumar	Chief of Bureau of Police Research and Development
Piyush Anand	Chief of National Disaster Response Force
Girija Subramanian	Chairman and managing director (CMD) of the New India Assurance Company

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Bhupesh Sushil Rahul	Chairman and managing director (CMD) of the United India Insurance Company
Kamal Kishore	Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
Pankaj Dwivedi	Executive Director at Union Bank of India (UBI)

IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
1st March	World Seagrass Day	Healthy Seagrass, Healthy Planet
1st March	Zero Discrimination Day	To protect everyone's health, protect everyone's rights
3rd March	World Wildlife Day	Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation
3rd March	World Hearing Day	Changing mindsets: Let's make ear and hearing care a reality for all
4th March	National Safety Day	
5th March	International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation	
7th March	Jan Aushadi Diwas	
8th March	International Women's Day	Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress
10th March	International Day of Women Judges	
14th March	World Kidney Day	Kidney Health For All
14th March	Pi Day	
15th March	International Day To Combat Islamophobia	

15th March	World Consumer Rights Day	Fair and Responsible AI for Consumers
16th March	National Vaccination Day	Vaccines Work For All
18th March	Ordnance Factories Day	
20th March	International Day of Happiness	Reconnecting for Happiness: Building Resilient Communities
20th March	French Language Day	

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20th March	World Sparrow Day	Sparrows: Give them a tweet-chance!', 'I Love Sparrows' and 'We Love Sparrows
20th March	World Oral Health Day	A happy mouth is a happy body
21st March	World Forestry Day	Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World
21st March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	A Decade of Recognition, Justice, and Development: Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent
21st March	World Poetry Day	
21st March	World Down Syndrome Day	
22nd March	World Water Day	Leveraging Water for Peace
23rd March	World Meteorological Day	At the Frontline of Climate Action
24th March	World Tuberculosis (TB) Day	Yes! We can end TB!
24th March	International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims	
25th March	International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members	
25th March	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade	
27th March	World Theatre Day	
30th March	International Zero Waste Day	

SPORTS

NAME OF THE SPORTS PERSON	RELATED FIELD
B Sai Praneeth	Badminton

James Anderson	Cricketer
Kuldeep Yadav	Cricketer
Vishnu Saravanan	Sailing
Yashasvi Jaiswal	Cricketer
Tanush Kotian	Cricketer
Ajinkya Rahane	Cricketer
Akshay Wadkar	Cricketer
Musheer Khan	Cricketer

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Ellyse Perry	Cricketer
Smriti Mandhana	Cricketer
Meg Lanning	Cricketer
Gulveer Singh	Athletics
Lakshya Sen	Badminton
Satwiksairaj Rankireddy	Badminton
Chirag Shetty	Badminton
Ashwini Ponnappa	Badminton
Tanisha Crasto	Badminton
Pankaj Advani	Billiards
Sreeja Akula	Table Tennis
Kaori Sakamoto	Skating

SCHEMES

NAME OF THE SCHEME	THEME
PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana	Installing rooftop solar and providing free electricity
Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME-II)	Encourage Faster adoption of Electric and hybrid vehicle
ADITI Scheme	Promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies
NAMASTE Scheme	Aims to eradicate unsafe sewer and septic tank cleaning practices
Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)	LPG connections to women of Below Poverty Line family
Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme	Aimed at boosting industrial growth and employment in the northeastern states
Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme	Support Additional Export Sector
Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024	Accelerate the adoption of Electronic Vehicles (EVs) in India

OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
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Brian Mulroney	Former Canadian Prime Minister
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DEFENCE

DEFENCE EXERCISE NAME	COUNTRIES INVOLVED
Exercise Samudra Laksamana	India and Malaysia
Bharat-Shakti	Indian Armed Forces
Sea Defenders-2024	India and United States

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(IMT) Tri-Lateral Exercise	India, Mozambique and Tanzania
Tiger Triumph	India and United States

INDIA AND WORLD

COUNTRIES INVOLVED	FIELD OF CO-OPERATION
India and Bangladesh	Numaligarh Refinery opens its first-ever overseas office in Bangladesh
India and EFTA countries	Trade Pact
India and Dominican Republic	Establishment of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO)
India and Asian Development Bank	Improve urban livability and mobility in Ahmedabad
India and Asian Development Bank	Establish an International Fintech Institute (IFI)

ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

ENTITY	ACQUIRED BY/MERGED WITH
Disney's Star India	Reliance's Viacom18
Fincare Small Finance Bank	AU Small Finance Bank
Garagepreneurs Internet Private Limited	North East Small Finance Bank
Biocon Biologics	Eris Lifesciences
Kesoram Cement Business	UltraTech Cement Limited
Lanco Amarkantak Power	Adani Power
Odisha's Gopalpur Port Ltd (GPL)	Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)

AWARDS

AWARDEE	AWARDS NAME	RELATED FIELD
India	Measles and Rubella Champion Award	Health
Ratan Tata	PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award	Philanthropy
Prabha Varma	Saraswati Samman for the year 2023	Literature
Dr. Sultan Al Jaber	Leadership award at CERAWEEK by S&P Global	Sustainable Development

Narendra Modi	Order of the Druk Gyalpo	Civilian award
Michel Talagrand	Abel Prize for 2024	Mathematics
96 th Academy Awards- Full List: Best Actor: Cillian Murphy, 'Oppenheimer' Best Actress: Emma Stone, "Poor Things" Best Director: Christopher Nolan, 'Oppenheimer'		

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Best Supporting Actress: Da'Vine Joy Randolph, 'The Holdovers'
 Best Supporting Actor: Robert Downey Jr, 'Oppenheimer'
 Best Picture: "Oppenheimer"
 Best Original Screenplay: 'Anatomy of a Fall'
 Best Adapted Screenplay: 'American Fiction'
 Best Makeup and Hairstyling: 'Poor Things'
 Best Production Design: 'Poor Things'
 Best Costume Design: 'Poor Things'
 Best International Feature: "The Zone of Interest"
 Best Visual Effects: 'Godzilla Minus One'
 Best Film Editing: 'Oppenheimer'
 Best Short Film (Live Action): 'The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar'
 Best Sound: 'The Zone of Interest'
 Best Score: 'Oppenheimer'
 Best Song: 'What Was I Made For?' from 'Barbie'
 Best Animated Short: 'War Is Over!'
 Best Animated Feature: 'The Boy and the Heron'

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCE

SUMMIT/ CONFERENCE NAME	THEME	LOCATION
National Workshop on Logistics Efficiency Enhancement		New Delhi
Bharat Tex 2024		New Delhi

RANKS AND REPORTS

NAME OF THE REPORT/INDEX	RELEASED BY	RANKING OF INDIA/STATE/COMPANY ETC	COUNTRY WHICH TOPPED THE LIST
Best Airport award for 2023	Airport Service Quality (ASQ)		
Human Development Index	United Nation	India- 134 th	
Air Quality Report 2023	IQAir		New Delhi- India
Global Connectedness Report 2024	DHL	India- 62 nd	

World Happiness Report	Gallup, the Oxford Wellbeing Research Centre, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions	India- 126 th	Finland
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	Network, and the WHR's Editorial Board		
Hurun Global Rich List 2024	Hurun	Mumbai- 3 rd	New York

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	Bandaru Dattatraya
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	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai 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	Bhubaneswar	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

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West Bengal	Kolkata	Mamata Banerjee	C V Ananda Bose
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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 Subrahmanya m 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

Classes

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	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 Rijju	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
Mansukh 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
ParshottamRupala	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

Practice Question

Banking & Finance

1. In March 2024, NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), a subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has signed an MoU with Eurobank S.A. to enhance cross-border UPI payments. Eurobank S.A. is based in which country?
a. Germany b. Greece c. Norway d. Netherlands e. Finland
2. In March 2024, The Financial Intelligence Unit- India, has imposed a monetary penalty of _____ on Paytm Payments Bank Ltd with reference to violations of its obligations under Prevention of Money Laundering Act.
a. 4.47 crore rupees
b. 5.49 crore rupees
c. 6.45 crore rupees
d. 7.32 crore rupees
e. 8.04 crore rupees
3. In March 2024, which of the following insurance company has received the nod from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) to upgrade its license from a direct insurance broker to a composite insurance broker?
a. Policybazaar
b. Acko General Insurance
c. Girnar Insurance
d. BankBazaar
e. Coverfox
4. In March 2024, RBI issued revised norms to streamline the process of bill payments, enable greater participation, and enhance customer protection. The central bank has issued the revised 'Reserve Bank of India (Bharat Bill Payment System) Directions, 2024' as it felt there was a need to update the existing regulations in view of significant developments in the payments landscape. These directions will be applicable from _____.
a. April 1, 2024 b. May 1, 2024 c. June 1, 2024 d. July 1, 2024 e. August 1, 2024
5. In March 2024, Flipkart launched its UPI (Unified Payments Interface) handle to enhance digital payment offerings to all users, including the e-commerce major's over 500 million customers, and boost India's digital evolution. It is powered by which bank?
a. Bank of India
b. State Bank of India
c. Axis Bank
d. YES Bank
e. ICICI Bank
6. In March 2024, which among the following public sector bank has announced a partnership with online travel tech platform EaseMyTrip to launch a co-branded credit card aimed at mass to premium

customer segments and has been meticulously designed to offer a variety of rewards for Indian travellers?

- a. Punjab National Bank
- b. State Bank of India
- c. Indian Bank
- d. Bank of India
- e. Indian Overseas Bank

7. In March 2024, The Reserve Bank of India has directed which of the following to stop sanctioning or disbursing gold loans or assigning/ securitising/ selling any of its gold loans after being found serious deviations in assaying and certifying purity and net weight of the gold at the time of sanction of loans and at the time of auction upon default; breaches in Loan-to-Value ratio; significant disbursement and collection of loan amount in cash - far over the statutory limit; non-adherence to the standard auction process; and lack of transparency in accounts?

- a. Manappuram Finance Limited
- b. Muthoot Finance Limited
- c. IIFL Finance Limited
- d. HDFC Bank Gold Loan
- e. Cholamandalam Securities Limited

8. In March 2024, The Reserve Bank of India prohibited which of the following from financing against shares and debentures, including sanctioning and disbursing loans against initial public offerings of shares and subscriptions to debentures?

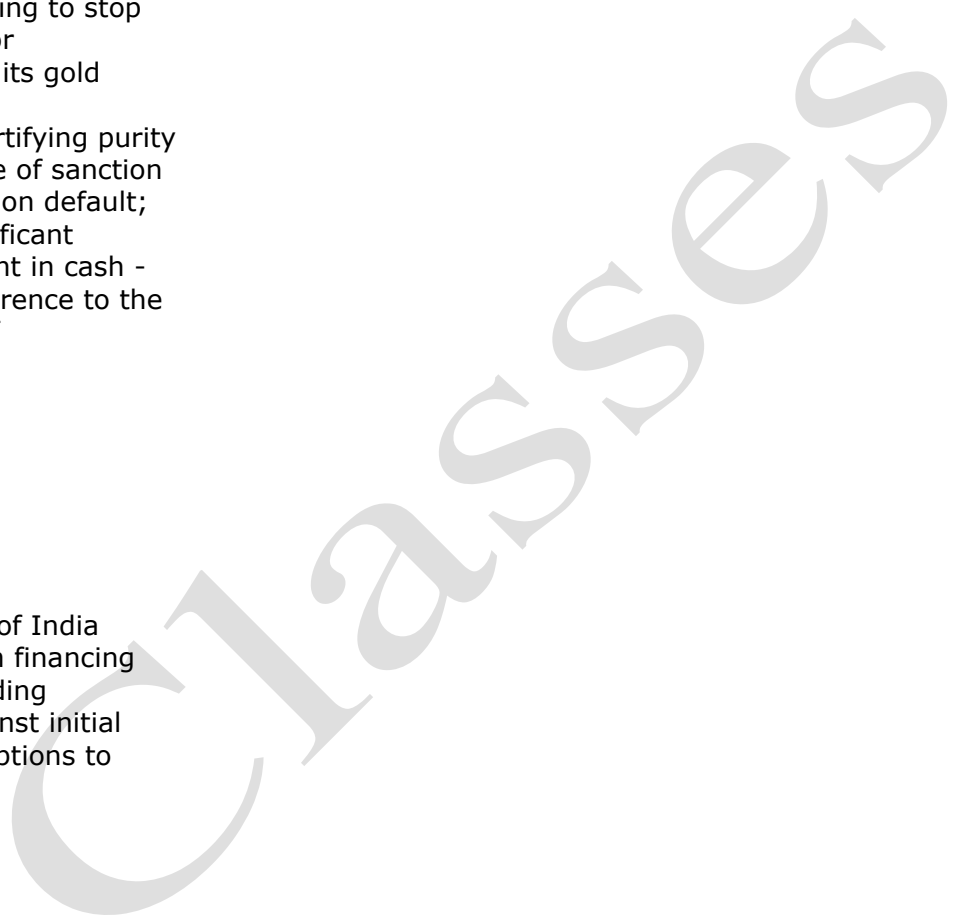
- a. JM Financial Products Limited
- b. Muthoot Finance Limited
- c. India Infoline Limited
- d. India Bulls Finance Limited
- e. ECL Finance Limited

9. In March 2024, the Reserve Bank of India has directed banks and credit card companies like American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard, Rupay, and Visa not to enter into any exclusive agreement to issue credit cards. The directions are however not be applicable to credit card issuers with number of active cards at _____ or less.

- a. 1 lakh
- b. 5 lakh
- c. 10 lakh
- d. 15 lakh
- e. 50 lakh

10. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), for quicker settlement of funds for merchants, has asked NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL) to implement an interoperable system for Internet Banking which should be introduced during the current calendar

year. Payment platforms leverage financial technology to connect and share data among which



among the following ecosystem partners? I. Banks
II. Merchants III. Payment Processors
a. I and II only b. II and III only c. I and III
only d. I, II and III e. II only

11. In March 2024, India's first listed AI-powered fintech company, Infibeam Avenues, received the final authorisation from RBI to operate as a payment aggregator for its payment gateway brand, CCAvenue. The RBI had in which year introduced the PA framework, which necessitates payment gateways to secure an aggregator licence for acquiring merchants and delivering digital payment solutions?
a. 2023 b. 2022 c. 2021 d. 2020 e. 2019

12. In March 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the _____ signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Mumbai for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies for cross-border transactions.
a. Bank of Maldives
b. Bank of Indonesia
c. Bank of Sri Lanka d. Bank of Thailand
e. Bank of Nepal

13. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has launched a new loan scheme called Vikas Spoorty to strengthen the rural credit delivery system and also to motivate the common man to take up income-generating activities on a smaller scale. Under this scheme, people may avail a minimum loan of _____ and a maximum of 2,00,000.
a. Rs. 20,000 b. Rs. 30,000 c. Rs. 35,000 d. Rs. 50,000
e. Rs. 60,000

14. In March 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has mandated registration of index providers managing significant indices based on securities listed in India to foster transparency in governance and administration of financial benchmarks in the securities market. Which of the following is/are NOT excluded from these regulations? I. Indices that are for exclusive use in a foreign jurisdiction II. Indices in India that also have foreign companies III. Benchmarks regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
a. I only b. II and III only c. II only d. I and III only
e. I, II and III

15. In March 2024, Bank of Baroda (BoB) has announced the launch of the bob Earth Green Term Deposit Scheme, aimed at raising deposits for financing eligible environment-friendly projects and sectors. Identify the correct statement(s) in context of same. I. The scheme offers customers the dual benefits of stable financial returns and contribution

to a greener planet. II. It offers annual interest

rates, ranging from 6.75 per cent for a tenure of 12 to 18 months to 7.15 per cent for 666 days. III. For longer tenures of 1,111 days, 1,717 days, and 2,201 days, the interest rates are set at 6.40 per cent per annum.

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

16. In March 2024, L&T Finance, L&T Infra Credit, and five other non-banking financial companies

(NBFCs) have surrendered their certificates of registration to the Reserve Bank of India.

Identify, which of the following is/are NOT among the other five non-banking financial companies? I. Jinvani Trading & Investment II. Shruti Financial Services

III. Marudhar Food & Credit Ltd IV. Shriram Finance Limited

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

17. In March 2024, IndusInd Bank introduced Indus PayWear, a new wearable payment solution, available on Mastercard. These wearables enable

users to tokenise their IndusInd Bank cards for tap- and-pay transactions at contactless Point-of-Sale (PoS) terminals worldwide.

Transactions below

_____ can be made with a tap as per RBI guidelines.

- a. Rs. 1,000 b. Rs. 3,000 c. Rs. 5,000 d. Rs. 10,000
e. Rs. 15,000

18. After Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) raised concerns about the build-up of froth in the midcap and smallcap space, In March 2024, which of the following mutual fund company has decided to suspend one-time investments in its smallcap and midcap funds, citing expensive valuations?

- a. SBI Mutual Fund
b. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
c. Kotak Mutual Fund
d. Nippon Life India Asset e. Axis Mutual Fund

19. In March 2024, Following the directions by the Reserve Bank of India, which of the following banks has stopped issuing co-branded credit cards to new customers on account of regulatory deficiencies,

according to exchange filings? I. Federal Bank II, Axis Bank III. South Indian Bank IV. ICICI Bank

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

e. II, III and IV only

20. In March 2024, Indian government has allowed its central bank to import which of the following without paying import levies?

- a. Gold b. Diamond c. Silver d. Platinum
e. Crude

21. In March 2024, The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of 1.40 crore on Bank of India for non-compliance with certain directions issued by it on Interest Rate on Deposits, Customer Service in Banks, Interest Rate on Advances, among others. It has also imposed a penalty of Rs 29.55 lakh on which bank for non-compliance with certain directions?

- a. Axis Bank
- b. Federal Bank
- c. Bandhan Bank
- d. ICICI Bank
- e. South Indian Bank

22. In March 2024, RBI unveiled draft guidelines on the disclosure framework on climate-related financial risks for regulated entities. The rules will be applicable to which of the following regulated entities? I. Scheduled commercial banks II. Tier IV primary urban co-operative banks III. Foreign banks operating in India IV. All Indian financial institutions (AIFIs) V. Top and upper layer NBFC's.

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

23. In March 2024, Mumbai-based tech company Aurionpro Solutions has secured a Rs 100-crore contract from which of the following banks for the licence, implementation and support of its transaction banking platform, iCashpro to deliver the licence and implementation in phases over 12 months, along with maintenance and support for six years?

- a. Indian Bank
- b. Bank of India
- c. State Bank of India
- d. Canara Bank
- e. Punjab National Bank

24. In March 2024, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) allowed One97 Communications (OCL), which operates brand Paytm, to function as a third party application provider (TPAP) on Unified Payments Interface (UPI). Which of the following banks has NOT been selected by NPCI to act as payment service providers (PSPs) to Paytm? I. Axis Bank II. ICICI Bank III. YES Bank IV. HSBC Bank

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

25. In March 2024, Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the launch of the beta version of the T 0 settlement on an optional basis from _____,

T 0 settlement means that the funds and securities for a transaction will be settled on the day the trade was entered into.

- a. March 20
- b. March 28
- c. April 1
- d. April 20
- e. September 1

26. In March 2024, The Reserve Bank of India has imposed penalties on which among the following bank for non-compliance with certain directions related to 'interest rate on advances? I. DCB Bank II. Subhadra Local Bank Ltd III. Tamilnad Mercantile Bank IV. Krishna Bhima Samruddhi LAB Ltd
a. II and IV Only b. I and II Only c. I and IV Only d. III and IV Only e. I and III Only

27. In March 2024, Which of the following bank has announced \$250 mn lending support to start-ups and new economy organizations, part of the banks efforts to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the countrys vibrant startup environment?
a. State Bank of India b. DBS Bank India c. Axis Bank d. HDFC Bank e. Canara Bank

28. In March 2024, Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of 1.3 crore on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance with directions on Interest Rate on Advances and Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) - Revision in Reporting. What is/are the reasons behind this?
a. the banks had failed to benchmark interest rates on certain floating rate loans to MSMEs to an external benchmark lending rate;
b. had adopted multiple benchmarks within the same loan category.
c. They failed to price certain floating rate loans with reference to the actual benchmark rate applicable. d. All of the above
e. None of the above

29. In March 2024, which of the following bank achieved a great milestone of opening its 600th bank branch of Kerala in Tanur of Malappuram district?
a. South India Bank b. State Bank of India c. Federal Bank d. Indian Bank e. Canara Bank

30. In March 2024, Semi-urban and rural housing finance-focussed Star Housing Finance has entered into a co-lending arrangement with which of the following housing finance companies which aims to lend to economically weaker

sections (EWS) and low-income group (LIG) at more affordable rates by leveraging the strength of the company and the distribution network of Star Housing?

- a. Tata Capital Housing Finance
- b. HDFC Housing Finance.
- c. LIC Housing Finance Limited.
- d. Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited.
- e. L&T Housing Finance Limited.

31. In March 2024, which of the following banks has launched a RuPay smart key chain called Flash Pay

for contactless NCMC (National Common Mobility Card) payments at enabled metro stations and PoS terminals through which customers can make payments up to 5,000 without a PIN?

- a. Kotak Mahindra Bank b. Bank of India c. Axis Bank d. Federal Bank e. HDFC Bank

32. In March 2024, which among the following has become the first banking entity in India to introduce digital US dollar fixed deposit (FD) for NRI customers at the IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT City, Gujarat?

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

33. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has relaxed its regulations concerning lenders' investment in alternative investment funds (AIF). According to the latest circular issued by the RBI: I) Lenders are permitted to invest in AIF schemes that have downstream equity investments in debtor companies. II) Investments in schemes with hybrid instruments in debtor companies are not allowed. III) Provisioning is required for the entire investment in the AIF Scheme.

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

34. Capital markets regulator the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has cancelled the registration of Karvy Investor Services Ltd. (KISL) as a merchant banker for breach of eligibility criteria. A merchant banker typically provide: I. Underwriting services II. Financial advising III. Fundraising services IV. Corporate CASA management services Answer Codes:

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

35. In March 2024, Bank of India said it has received an order from the Income Tax Department, Assessment Unit, pertaining to AY 2018-19, in which a penalty of _____ has been imposed on various disallowances made.

- a. 564.44 crore b. 526.44 crore c. 511.44 crore d. 500.44 crore e. 489.44 crore

36. In March 2024, State-owned Bank of India said its board has given approval to raise _____ through long-term infra bonds to fund infrastructure projects and help in building roads, bridges, airports, power plants, and telecommunications networks etc & addressing the infrastructure deficit of the country.

- a. Rs 1000 crore b. Rs 5000 crore c. Rs 10,000 crore d. Rs 40,000 crore e. Rs 50,000 crore

Economy

1. India's core sector output, which measures production by eight key industries, grew by 3.6 per cent in January, a 15-month low, as per a government data update. The Eight Core Industries comprise _____ of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

- a. 35.68% b. 40.27% c. 45.54% d. 50.24% e. 51.69%

2. A total of 1,68,337 crore rupees gross GST revenue has been collected during February 2024. This marks a robust _____ increase compared to that in the same month last year.

- a. 10.35% b. 11.85% c. 12.50% d. 13.69% e. 14.02%

3. According to data released by the National Statistical Office in March 2024, India's GDP registered a robust growth of _____ on an annual basis in the third quarter (October-December).

- a. 8.1% b. 8.2% c. 8.3% d. 8.4% e. 8.5%

4. In March 2024, The manufacturing sector gathered momentum in February on the back of expansion in new export orders and easing of pricing pressures as the headline Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) climbed to a five-month high. A PMI number greater than _____ indicates expansion in business activity.

- a. 10 b. 25 c. 30 d. 50 e. 100

5. Rating agency Moody in its Global Macro Outlook 2024-25 released in March 2024, raised its forecast for India's GDP growth in 2024 from 6.1% to _____

reflecting both global and domestic optimism in the country's economy on the back of robust manufacturing activity and infrastructure spending.

- a. 6.3% b. 6.5% c. 6.8% d. 7.2% e. 7.8%

6. In March 2024, Nvidia Corp. has claimed another milestone by overtaking which of the following company in market value, making the chipmaker the world's third-most valuable public company after Apple Inc. and Microsoft Corp?

- a. Berkshire Hathaway b. Saudi Aramco c. ExxonMobil d. Microsoft e. UnitedHealth Group

7. India's unemployment rate dropped to 3.1 per cent in 2023 from 3.6 per cent in the preceding year, reflecting continued improvement in the labour

markets, revealed the latest employment-unemployment indicators report released by the National Statistical Office in March 2024. Which of the following statements is/are NOT true about the

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Classes

report? I. The unemployment rate under the so-called usual status is calculated for persons aged 18 years and above. II. Annual Periodic Labour Force Survey collects data related to employment and unemployment status in the country between April and March. III. The latest survey also showed that the labour force participation rate (LFPR), which defines the share of people either working or actively seeking work in the population.

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

8. In March 2024, Bloomberg announced including Indian government securities called Fully Accessible Route (FAR) bonds in the Bloomberg Emerging Market (EM) Local Currency Government Index and related indices. Earlier, which of the following had announced index inclusion of Indian securities from June 28, 2024?

a. Dow Jones b. NASDAQ c. JP Morgan d. FDSE e. Nikkei

9. Rating agency CRISIL in its India Outlook report released in March 2024, raised its economic growth forecast for India in the next financial year (FY25) to _____ from 6.4 per cent estimated earlier, citing higher growth momentum.

a. 6.5% b. 6.8% c. 7.1% d. 7.5% e. 7.8%

10. In March 2024, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has dedicated how many tourism infrastructure projects, spread across the country, developed under Swadesh Darshan and Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) schemes, worth Rs. 469 Crore through Video Conferencing from Srinagar?

a. 3 b. 7 c. 9 d. 10 e. 13

11. Indias industrial production grew 3.8 per cent in January 2024, according to official data released. The Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production are released on the _____ of every month.

a. 5th b. 10th c. 12th d. 15th e. 1st

12. In March 2024, Fintech-focussed software-as-a-service firm Perfios said it has secured \$80 million in funding from Teachers Venture Growth (TVG), a late-stage venture and growth investment arm of Ontario Teachers Pension Plan. With the fresh investment, the companys new valuation will cross the \$1 billion mark which makes Perfios the _____ unicorn of 2024.

a. First b. Second c. Third d. Fourth e. Fifth

13. In March 2024, The headline wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation eased to

_____ in February from 0.27 per

cent in the preceding month, remaining in positive territory for the fourth consecutive month.

- a. 0.2% b. 0.2.3% c. 0.1.8% d. 0.1.5% e. 0.1%

14. In March 2024, Global rating agency Fitch Ratings raised Indias growth forecast for the next financial year (FY25) to _____ from earlier estimated numbers, citing robust domestic demand and sustained growth in business and consumer confidence.

- a. 6.5% b. 6.8% c. 7% d. 7.2% e. 7.5%

15. According to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI, Foreign currency assets (FCAs) increased by to \$562.35 billion, expressed in dollar terms, the FCAs include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

- a. \$3.45 billion b. \$5.28 billion c. \$5.91 billion d. \$7.81 billion e. \$8.12 billion

16. According to Reserve Bank of India's data released in March 2024, Indias outward foreign direct investment (FDI) commitments rose substantially to \$3.47 billion in February 2024, compared to over \$2.82 billion in February 2023. Outbound FDI comprises of which of the following?

- I. Equity II. Loans III. Guarantees
a. I only b. III only c. II and III only d. I, II and III e. II only

17. According to a report released by ICRA in March 2024, The Indian IT industry is poised to witness a modest revenue growth of 2 per cent in the first three quarters of FY24, and it will maintain a restrained trajectory in the range of _____ in FY25.

- a. 2-4 per cent b. 3-5 per cent c. 4-6 per cent d. 2-5 per cent e. 6-8 per cent

18. As per the RBI data, the provisional figures of Direct Tax collections for the Financial Year 2023-24 (as on 17.03.2024) show that Net collections are at Rs. 18,90,259 crores, compared to Rs. 15,76,776 crores in the corresponding period of the preceding Financial Year (i.e. FY 2022-23), representing an increase of _____.

- a. 14.69 % b. 16.81 % c. 19.88 % d. 20.34 % e. 23.73 %

19. According to S&P Global Ratings released in March 2024, The Indian economy will likely grow 6.8% in FY25, owing to strong domestic demand and a pick-up in exports. S&P expects the Indian economy to grow at _____ in the current year.

- a. 7.2% b. 7.4% c. 7.6% d. 7.8% e. 8.0%

including a mega fab by Tata Group, at a cumulative investment of _____, as India moves to

20. According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data released in March 2024, it said that the rise in net services receipts more than compensated for a slight rise in merchandise trade deficit in Q3 FY24. Current account deficit (CAD) narrowed sequentially to \$10.5 billion in the quarter ended December 2023 (Q3 FY24) at _____ of gross domestic product (GDP)
a. 0.98% b. 1.2% c. 1.5% d. 1.6% e. 1.8%

21. India has beaten rest of the Asian markets by attracting the highest foreign funds flow in March, 2024. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) pumped _____ into Indian equities in their biggest buying binge since December 2023.
a. USD 2.78 billion b. USD 3.63 billion c. USD 4.25 billion d. USD 5.92 billion e. USD 7.50 billion

22. According to the official data released by the Government of India, the Combined Index of Eight Core Industries increases by _____ (provisional) in Feb 2024 as compared to Index of Feb 2023.
a. 4.8% b. 5.4% c. 6.7% d. 7.1% e. 8.5%

23. With reference to the index of eight core industries, which of the following statements is/are correct? I. It is published by the Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India. II. It comprise around 40.27 percent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). III. It does not capture the performance of food processing industries in India. Answer codes:
a. I only b. II only c. III only d. II and III only e. I and III only

24. On March 29th 2024, RBI said Indias foreign exchange reserves increased by 140 million dollars to touch its all-time high of 642.631 billion dollars during the week ended on the 22nd of March. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like which of the following held in the foreign exchange reserves? I. Yen II. Pound III. Euro
a. I and II only b. I, II and III c. I only d. II and III only e. III only

National

1. In March 2024, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) gave Eat Right Station certification to how many railway stations?
a. 150 b. 120 c. 115 d. 101 e. 130

2. In March 2024, The Union Cabinet approved proposals to set up three semiconductor plants,

position itself as a global powerhouse in chip manufacturing.

- a. Rs 1.06 lakh crore
- b. Rs 1.16 lakh crore
- c. Rs 1.26 lakh crore
- d. Rs 1.36 lakh crore
- e. Rs 1.46 lakh crore

3. In March 2024, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the 60T bollard pull tug named Ocean Grace and the Medical Mobile Unit (MMU), virtually on 2nd March, 2024. The Ocean Grace is the first

- make in India ASTDS Tug developed by which of the following shipbuilding company?
- a. Cochin Shipyard Limited
 - b. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
 - c. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
 - d. Larsen & Toubro Shipbuilding Limited
 - e. Bharati Shipyard Limited

4. Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched the National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC) in March 2024, which of the following statements is/are true about NUCFDC? I. NUCFDC has received a Certificate of Registration from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as a Non-Banking Finance Company II. It is an Umbrella organisation for the Rural and Urban Cooperative Banks III. It will be allowed to operate as a Self-Regulatory Organisation for the sector.

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

5. Which of the following company has commissioned its first indigenously manufactured electrolyser at the Green Hydrogen Plant located at the A M Naik Heavy Engineering Complex in Hazira, Gujarat in March 2024?

- a. Reliance Industries
- b. Adani Group
- c. TATA Group
- d. L&T Limited
- e. Vedanta Limited

6. The Government has notified the historic Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023 and its rules which provides for an online system for facilitating the registration of newspapers and other periodicals in the country. The Act came into force from _____.

- a. January 1, 2024
- b. January 26, 2024
- c. February 1, 2024
- d. March 1, 2024
- e. February 29, 2024

7. In March 2024, Prime Minister Narendra

Modi inaugurated India's first under-river metro tunnel in which city?

- a. Kochi
- b. Chennai
- c. Kolkata
- d. Vishakhapatnam
- e. Thiruvananthapuram

8. In a historic milestone marking entry into the vital second stage of Indias three stage nuclear programme, PM witnessed, commencement of Core Loading at Indias first indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (500 MWe) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu in March 2024. Once commissioned, India will only be the second country after _____ to have commercial operating Fast Breeder Reactor.
a. Japan b. China c. USA d. Russia e. France

9. In March 2024, CBDT has said that income of any fund, institution, trust, educational institution, hospital or other medical institutions referred to in section 10 (23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 or any trust or institution registered under section 12AA/12AB of the Act is exempt, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions specified under various sections of the Act. Finance Act, 2023 provided that donations made by a trust or institution shall be treated as applications for charitable or religious purposes only to the extent of _____ of such donations.
a. 15% b. 45% c. 55% d. 75% e. 85%

10. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd the nation's top oil firm will in 3 months start manufacturing fuel used in adrenaline-pumping Formula One or F1, motor racing as it looks to expand its basket of niche fuels. This petroleum product from IOC is named as _____.
a. Strom b. Xetreme c. SportFirst d. F1Delta e. DesertMud

11. Ashwini Vaishnaw launched NITI Aayogs NITI For States platform in New Delhi. It is a cross-sectoral knowledge platform designed to become a Digital Public Infrastructure for Policy and Good Governance in March 2024. The knowledge product on this platform is spread across which of the following sectors? I. Agriculture II. Health III. Education IV. MSME
a. I and III only
b. I, III and IV only
c. II, III and IV only
d. I, II, III and IV e. II and IV only

12. In March 2024, which among the following product had received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from Hyderabad, Telangana after Haleem?
a. Banglar Muslin b. Rupa Tarakasi c. Lac Bangles d. Majuli Mask e. Risa

13. Poshan Pakhwada 2024 has begun from 9 March which will continue till the 23rd of March. During the Pakhwada, mass sensitisation and community

activities will be held around the themes including Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi, dietary practices focused on

sensitisation around nutrition and health of which of the following groups?

- a. Pregnant women
- b. Senior citizens
- c. Children
- d. Tribes
- e. Persons with Disabilities

14. In March 2024, India Cellular and Electronics Association said in a statement that the sector has transitioned from being 78 percent import-dependent in 2014 to 97 percent self-sufficiency. India now stands as the world's _____

largest producer of mobile phones at the end of the decade 2014-2024.

- a. First
- b. Second
- c. Third
- d. Fourth
- e. Fifth

15. In March 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sela Tunnel, the world's longest twin-lane tunnel, situated at an altitude of 13,000 feet in which state of India?

- a. Assam
- b. Tripura
- c. Mizoram
- d. Arunachal Pradesh
- e. Sikkim

16. On March 11, 2024, marking a significant milestone in its journey towards fostering renewable energy development in India, Indian Renewable

Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) celebrated its _____ Foundation Day.

- a. 31st
- b. 35th
- c. 36th
- d. 38th
- e. 39th

17. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, launched India's fastest and indigenously developed IP/MPLS router in Bengaluru. The router has a capacity of 2.4 tdps. The router was developed by the collaboration of the government's Department of Telecom, CDOT and Nivetti. L in MPLS stands for _____.

- a. Laser
- b. Light
- c. Local
- d. Label
- e. List

18. The Railway Protection Force (RPF), a prime security and law enforcement agency in the field of Railway Security in India currently boasts the largest share of women personnel (9%) among Central Paramilitary Forces in India. Which of the following is NOT a Central Armed Police Force? I. Assam Rifles (AR) II. Border Security Force (BSF) III. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) IV. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) V. Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

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

19. In March 2024, the Union Minister of

Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal announced a major investment of more than 645 crores to develop 10 waterways projects under the flagship Sagarmala programme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways. The

projects will be implemented with _____ financial assistance from the central government to enhance terminals and riverine infrastructure along the river Brahmaputra to boost connectivity and foster economic growth.
a. 50 % b. 60 % c. 70 % d. 80 % e. 100 %

20. In March 2024, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has issued an advisory on due diligence by Intermediaries and Platforms informing that every intermediary and platform should ensure that use of Artificial Intelligence models, Generative AI, Software or algorithms on or through its computer resource does not permit its users to host, display, upload, modify, publish, or share any unlawful content as outlined in the IT Rules or violate any other provision. The advisory was given by MeitY under which act?
a. Information Technology Act 2000
b. Right to Information Act 2005
c. Indian Telegraph Act, 1885
d. Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933
e. Telecommunications Act, 2023

21. In March 2024, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched ETHANOL 100, a revolutionary automotive fuel, a cleaner, greener alternative to gasoline, boasting lower emissions of greenhouse gases and pollutants, thus aiding in combating climate change and enhancing air quality in our communities developed by which company?
a. Indian Oil Corporation Limited
b. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
c. Bharat Petroleum.
d. Gas Authority of India (GAIL)
e. Reliance Petroleum Ltd.

22. The two-days 47th Meeting of the National Committee of Archivists (NCA) has recently held in which of the following places?
a. Lucknow b. Delhi c. Srinagar d. Bhopa e. Chennai

23. Wipro GE Healthcare is a joint venture between GE Precision Healthcare LLC, USA, and Wipro Enterprises established in 1990. Its operations spread across India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives, and Bhutan. In March 2024, Wipro GE Healthcare said it will invest over _____ in India over the next 5 years to increase local manufacturing & research and development initiatives.
a. Rs 8,000 crore b. Rs 7,000 crore c. Rs 6,000 crore d. Rs 5,000 crore e. Rs 4,000 crore

24. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) notified the PIB FCU under the

provisions of the sub-clause (v) of sub-rule (1) of rule 3 of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. The Fact Check Unit under PIB was established in which year?
a. 2018 b. 2019 c. 2020 d. 2021 e. 2022

25. In March 2024, Gautam Adani-led group Kutch Copper announced the start of the first phase of the world's largest single-location copper manufacturing plant at which of the following places?
a. Mundra b. Bharuch c. Mandvi d. Kakinada e. Karwar

26. In March 2024, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) connected the strategic Nimu-Padam-Darcha road which connects _____.
a. Tawang with Tezpur b. Manali with Leh
c. Phuentsholing with Siliguri
d. Baramulla with Srinagar
e. Badrinath to Dehradun

International

1. In March 2024, American beverage giant Pepsi, rolled out its new globe logo worldwide, as part of its first major global redesign in 14 years. Which of the following colours are present in the new logo of Pepsi co.?
a. Blue and Red b. Red and Black c. Blue and Black d. Red and Yellow e. Brown and Black

2. In March 2024, which of the following has become the first country in the world to explicitly include the right to abortion in its constitution?
a. Switzerland b. France c. Germany
d. Finland e. Sweden

3. In a special ceremony held at the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference in Abu Dhabi on 26 February 2024, which among the following countries has been admitted into the World Trade Organization? I. Comoros II. Monaco III. San Marino IV. Timor-Leste V. Malta
a. I and II only b. I and IV only c. II and V only d. III and IV only e. III and V only

4. The ISA is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies as a means for bringing energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries. In March 2024, Panama has officially ratified the International Solar Alliance (ISA), marking its entry

as the

_____ member nation.

a. 95th b. 96th c. 97th d. 99th e. 101st

5. In March 2024, Sweden has officially become the 32nd member of NATO after it completed the accession process in Washington. Which among the

KP Classes

KP

million) by

following is NOT the member country of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)?

- a. Albania b. Czechia c. Poland d. Germany e. North Macedonia

6. In March 2024, which country has declared a state of emergency after its fourth volcanic eruption since December 2023?

- a. Finland b. Indonesia c. Iceland d. Greenland e. Denmark

7. In March 2024, The fourth edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum was organized in which place?

- a. Lucknow b. Delhi c. Surat d. Bhopal e. Chennai

8. Recently, India has started Operation Indravati to evacuate its nationals from _____ to the Dominican Republic.

- a. Tobago b. Haiti c. Cuba d. Aruba e. Jamaica

9. For the first time in history, which Islamic country has officially entered in the Miss Universe pageant 2024?

- a. Jordan b. Iran
c. United Arab Emirates d. Saudi Arabia e. Oman

10. Identify the correct statement regarding the Indian Coast Guard Ship Samudra Paheredar.

- a. It is a specialized pollution control vessel
b. It is a offshore patrol vessel
c. It is a platform supply vessel
d. It is a aircraft carrier
e. It is a robust vessel designed to assist larger ships in tight spaces

State/UTs

1. Keyi Panyor has recently, become the 26th district of which state of India?

- a. Manipur b. Sikkim
c. Arunachal Pradesh d. Assam e. Tripura

2. In March 2024, which among the following state government has launched Indias First Govt-Backed OTT Platform, 'CSpace'?

- a. Tamil Nadu b. Andhra Pradesh c. Karnataka d. Kerala e. Telangana

3. Bichom has recently becomes 27th district of which state?

- a. Assam
b. Arunachal Pradesh c. Bihar d. Orissa
e. Andhra Pradesh

4. Which among the following Municipal Corporation has raised 1 billion rupees (\$12.07

issuing Asia's first certified green municipal bond with SBI Capital Markets and Tipsons Consultancy Services being the arrangers for the bond issue?

- a. Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation
- b. Vadodara Municipal Corporation
- c. Rajkot Municipal Corporation
- d. Surat Municipal Corporation
- e. Jamnagar Municipal Corporation

5. In March 2024, Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar inaugurated India's first FutureLABS center named Centre for Semiconductor Chips & Systems for Strategic Electronics, for playing a crucial role in catalyzing an ecosystem for next generation chip design, manufacturing, and research in C-DAC in which city?

- a. Mysore
- b. Hyderabad
- c. Vishakhapatnam
- d. Thiruvananthapuram
- e. Madurai

6. NHPC Limited, India's premier hydropower company and a central public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Power, has won the bid to develop a 200 MW capacity Solar Power Project to be set up in the 1,125 MW RE Park of Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Ltd. (GSECL) in which of the following districts of Gujarat?

- a. Patan
- b. Kutch
- c. Rajkot
- d. Kheda
- e. Anand

7. The world's first-ever Om-shaped temple has recently been inaugurated in which among the following states in India?

- a. Madhya Pradesh
- b. Uttar Pradesh
- c. Rajasthan
- d. Odisha
- e. Gujarat

Sports

1. B Sai Praneeth, who announced his retirement recently is associated with which sport?

- a. Cricket
- b. Tennis
- c. Badminton
- d. Hockey
- e. Football

2. In March 2024, Puneri Paltan emerged victorious in the Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 final, defeating Haryana Steelers 28-25 in a nail-biting encounter here at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium. Which of the following is/are NOT one of the teams in PKL season 10? I. Bengal Warriors II. Bengaluru Bulls III. Gujarat Giants IV. Kerala Blasters V. Haryana Steelers

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

3. The pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty clinched its second French Open

men's

doubles badminton title in March 2024. Satwik-Chirag pair won their first French Open men's doubles badminton title in which year?

- a. 2023
- b. 2022
- c. 2021
- d. 2020
- e. 2019

4. In March 2024, who among the following became just the third bowler in world cricket history to take his 700th wicket in a Test match and also the first fast bowler to achieve the milestone at the fifth Test against India in Dharamshala?

a. Stuart Board b. Ollie Pope c. James Anderson d. Pat Cummins e. Mitchel Starc

5. In March 2024, who among the following has won the gold medal at European Cup 2024 in the ILCA 7 category in Mallorca, Spain?

a. Varun Thakkar b. Nethra Kumanan c. Vishnu Saravanan d. K.C. Ganapathy e. None of these

6. In March 2024, India batter Yashasvi Jaiswal has been named the ICC Mens Player of the Month for February 2024 while all-rounder Annabel Sutherland won the corresponding ICC Womens Player of the Month award. Annabel Sutherland plays of which of the following national teams?

a. Australia b. New Zealand c. England d. West Indies e. South Africa

7. In March 2024, Domestic powerhouse Mumbai ended their eight-year title drought by lifting the coveted Ranji Trophy for a record-extending 42nd time by defeating a resilient Vidarbha by 169 runs on the fifth and final day of a gripping summit clash at Wankhede stadium. During the final, who among the following has become the youngest Mumbai batsman to register a century in a Ranji Trophy final breaking the record of legendary Sachin Tendulkar?

a. Shardul Takur b. Tushar Deshpande c. Tanush Kotian d. Musheer Khan e. Shivam Dube

8. In the Final of the Womens Premier League (WPL) Cricket, Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) beat Delhi Capitals by 8 wickets at Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi. Who among the following captained the Delhi Capitals in the 2024 WPL season?

a. Veda Krishnamoorthy b. Harmanpreet Kaur c. Jemimah Rodrigues d. Meg Lanning e. Shafali Verma

9. In March 2024, who among the following Indian athlete has shattered a 16-year-old national record by over 20 seconds by clocking 27.41.81 in The Ten event at San Juan Capistrano in California?

a. Gulveer Singh b. Jyothi Yarraji c. Tejaswin Shankar d. Ajay Kumar Saroj e. Parul Chaudhary

10. In Badminton, Ace Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen has climbed five places to become the world number 13 in the mens singles category. What is the rank of PV Sindhu in World Football Ranking?

a. 6 b. 7 c. 11 d. 16 e. 20

11. Legendary Indian cueist Pankaj Advani achieved yet another milestone in his glorious career as he has been inducted into the Hall of Fame at the World Billiards Museum in Shangrao City in_____.

a. Russia b. Germany c. China d. Bhutan e. Nepal

12. Veteran table tennis player and reigning CWG champion Sharath Kamal will be India's flag bearer at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games while legendary boxer ___was appointed the chef de mission of the country's contingent.

a. Mary Kom b. Vijender Singh c. Lovlina Borgohain d. Amit Panghal e. Laishram Sarita Devi

13. In March 2024, Who among the following has won the womens singles title by beating

Luxembourgs Sarah De Nutte at the WTT Feeder Beirut II 2024 table tennis tournament at the Al Kawthar Secondary School in Lebanon?

a. Manika Batra b. Sreeja Akula c. Neha Agarwal d. Ankita Das e. Monuma Das

14. Kaori Sakamoto has become the first woman to win three straight titles at the Figure Skating World Championships since 1968. Kaori Sakamoto belongs to which country?

a. Russia b. China c. South Korea d. Japan e. Germany

Agreements & MoUs

1. In March 2024, The NSSO (FOD) under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) under the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to facilitate Urban Frame Survey (UFS), UFS is conducted in _____ year phases to prepare and maintain a frame of compact urban geographical units.

a. Two b. Three c. Four d. Five e. Six

2. In March 2024, REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading Non-Banking Finance Company, has partnered with the Unit of Science and Educational Development (UNISED) to support the education of around 75,500 children of a district of which state through corporate social responsibility?

a. Uttar Pradesh b. Bihar c. Himachal Pradesh

d. Rajasthan e. Madhya Pradesh

3. In an effort to democratize future technologies and empower youth to innovate, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog and which of the following companies have announced the launch of Frontier

KP Classes

Technology Labs in schools of strategic importance to ensure that students from diverse backgrounds across India will have equal opportunity to frontier technologies?

a. Amazon b. Flipkart c. Google d. Meta e. Apple

4. Recently, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs and Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Shri Arjun Munda, has signed Memorandum of Understanding with ISRO, IISc Bengaluru, AIIMS Delhi, IIM Calcutta and IIT Delhi for tribal development, in New Delhi. The Government launched PM JANMAN with a total outlay of _____ to comprehensively develop 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), that lag behind in socio-economic indicators of education, health, and livelihood.

a. Rs. 10,000 crores
b. Rs. 13,000 crores
c. Rs. 21,000 crores
d. Rs. 24,000 crores
e. Rs. 29,000 crores

5. Tech Fini, a Mumbai-based Fintech firm providing all-inclusive, feature-rich payment infrastructure solutions has collaborated with the _____ to offer UPI 2.0

Acquiring and Issuing Switch Solutions to its merchants.

a. Reserve Bank of India
b. Securities and Exchange Board of India
c. National Payments Corporation of India
d. State Bank of India e. None of these

6. In March 2024, NPCI International Payments (NIPL) has entered into an agreement with which country's Fonepay for cross-border merchant payments?

a. Bangladesh b. South Africa c. Nepal d. Bhutan e. China

7. Which state government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with railway PSU IRCTC to ferry passengers under the 'Mukhyamantri Dev Darshan Yatra'?

a. Goa b. Assam c. Bihar d. Uttar Pradesh e. Gujarat

8. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance communication and accessibility for visually and hearing impaired Divyangjan with which of the following?

a. SignAble Communications b. Amazon. c. Microsoft.
d. Tata Consultancy Services. e. Salesforce

9. After 16 years of negotiations, involving 21 formal rounds, In March 2024, India and the four

European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries signed a free-trade agreement (FTA), which may be instrumental in India receiving \$100 billion as foreign direct investment in 15 years with 1 million jobs. Which of the following EFTA country is the

largest trading partner of India?

a. Switzerland b. Norway c. Liechtenstein
d. Iceland e. Finland

10. In March 2024, the Department of Tourism, Madhya Pradesh, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (Mou) with which among the following to foster sustainable tourism development and promote Madhya Pradesh as a premier tourist destination?

a. MakeMyTrip b. ixigo c. Goibibo d. Yatra
e. Expedia

11. Recently, Cashinvoice, a digital supply chain finance platform, has teamed with SBI Global

Factors Limited, Indias leading factoring provider, to broaden the use of factoring solutions for MSMEs in India. Who is the CEO of Cashinvoice?

a. Varun berry
b. Anupam Srivastava c. Y. Guru d. Arun Poojari e. Vinod K. Dasari

12. In March 2024, The protocol for the establishment of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) between India and which country was signed with the objective of

strengthening and developing cooperation on trade, services, industrial technologies, and various other sectors by means of technical assistance, training

programmes, and capacity building?

a. Dominic Republic b. Columbia c. Argentina
d. United Kingdom e. Brazil

13. In March 2024, which of the following organization has signed a tripartite MoU with Prasar Bharati (under Ministry of Information & Broadcasting) & Open Network for Digital Commerce (a Digital Public Infrastructure initiative of Dept for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry) to proliferate affordable and accessible digital service?

a. Invest India
b. Universal Service Obligation Fund
c. Telecom Enforcement Resource and Monitoring Cell
d. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited Portal (BSNL)
e. Indian Telephone Industries Limited (ITI)

14. In March 2024, India has signed a 181 million dollars loan with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve urban livability and mobility and fund development in areas transitioning from rural to urban, called Peri-urban areas in which among the following city?

KP Classes

a. Jamnagar b. Chennai c. Ahmedabad d. Lucknow e. Patna

15. In March 2024, Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) has received _____ from Green Climate Fund (GCF) for its maiden anchored project 'Avaana Sustainability Fund (ASF)' valued at \$120 million.
a. \$8.6 million b. \$15.5 million c. \$24.5 million d. \$50.2 million e. \$204.5 million

16. In March 2024, The Central Government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a _____ loan agreement at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City to establish an International Fintech Institute (IFI) to strengthen fintech education, boost start-up success rates, and drive fintech research and innovation.
a. 13 million dollar
b. 23 million dollar
c. 33 million dollar
d. 43 million dollar
e. 53 million dollar

17. In March 2024, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has signed its first-ever Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) agreement with which of the following IIT's to collaborate on applied research including collaborative projects, training, and research consultancy?
a. IIT Madras b. IIT Delhi c. IIT Bombay d. IIT Kanpur e. IIT Roorkee

18. In March 2024, Technology Development Board (TDB) has sanctioned a Conditional Grant of _____ to support the project titled "Digital Financial Solutions for Last Mile FMCG Value Chains in Emerging Markets under the INDIA-ISRAEL INDUSTRIAL R&D AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION FUND (I4F).
a. Rs. 1.22 crores b. Rs. 1.45 crores c. Rs. 1.56 crores d. Rs. 1.72 crores e. Rs. 2.11 crores

19. In March 2024, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), South Asia has signed a MoU with which of the following ministry at IFMR, J-PAL, SA@ IFMR will act as a knowledge partner on inclusive development to put rural poor women on the path to self-sufficiency?
a. Ministry of Women and Child Development
b. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
c. Ministry of AYUSH
d. Ministry of Rural Development
e. Ministry of Law and Justice

20. J-PAL South Asia, together with Bandhan-Konnagar, has been working with the Government of Bihar's JEEViKA since _____ to support the expansion of Satat Jeevikoparjan Yojana (SJY),

estimated to be the largest government-led scale-up of the Graduation Approach in the world.
a. 2014 b. 2016 c. 2017 d. 2018 e. 2020

21. Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India has signed a Non-Financial Memorandum of Understanding with which among the following to support the livelihood intervention of DAY-NRLM by syncing their activities in livestock and fisheries development?
a. Muthoot Finance Limited
b. Citicorp Finance (India) Limited
c. Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited
d. PNB Housing Finance Limited
e. LARK Trading & Finance Limited

22. The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on March 15, 2024, for Mid Life Upgrade (MLU) of 25 Dornier Aircraft along with associated equipment for the Indian Navy at a cost of _____.
a. Rs. 1,789 crores b. Rs. 2156 crores c. Rs. 2,899 crores d. Rs. 3,167 crores e. Rs. 3,761 crores

23. Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) has announced its partnership with the Tea Research Association (TRA), Tocklai, Jorhat, one of the oldest and largest tea research associations globally, to address the challenges posed by climate change to the tea industry. Currently, the scope of the project aims to cover how many tea estates/factories?
a. 12 b. 15 c. 16 d. 19 e. 23

24. In March 2024, SANY India, a leading manufacturer of construction equipment, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which among the following bank, with the goal of stimulating significant growth and development opportunities in the region while providing easier access to its advanced product line and readily available financial solutions?
a. J&K Bank
b. Bihar Gramin Bank c. Bank of Baroda d. Axis Bank
e. State Bank of India

25. In March 2024, which of the following bank has announced its partnership with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024 specially designed for India's Olympic athletes?

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

26. In March 2024, Axis Bank has signed a five-year partnership with the Tata Memorial-supported National Cancer Grid to focus on improving access

KP Classes

KP

to cancer care, promoting cancer research. A national tumour biobank and cancer teleconsultation network are among the projects that will be supported by a

_____ contribution towards the National Cancer Grid (NCG), from Axis Bank.
a. 10 crore b. 50 crore c. 100 crore d. 500 crore e. 500 crore

27. In March 2024, Krishi Jagran Pvt Ltd has signed a MoU with which among the following for the dissemination & promotion of ICARs initiatives for the growth of Indian Agriculture and farmers' welfare?

- a. Ministry of AYUSH
- b. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare
- c. Indian Council of Agricultural Research
- d. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- e. None of these

28. In March 2024, Indian Navy has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which of the following IITs at Naval Headquarters, New Delhi, symbolising their commitment to promote technology development, innovative solutions and joint R&D?

- a. IIT Kharagpur b. IIT Madras c. IIT Rourke d. IIT Delhi e. IIT Bhubaneswar

29. Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Noise, Indias premier wristwatch brand, and Mastercard, a worldwide payments technology business, to launch A New Way to Pay. Identify the INCORRECT

statements in context of the same. I. The new smartwatch is now available for purchase for INR 2,999. II. The Airtel Payments Bank Smart Watch allows customers to make daily payments ranging from INR 1 to INR 50,000. III. Customers with an Airtel Payments Bank savings account can purchase this smartwatch using the Airtel Thanks App.

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

30. Enparadigm, an AI-driven experiential learning and talent intelligence solutions company has

collaborated with which among the following to create exclusive learning journeys that will improve the performance and productivity of their frontline, mid-level, and, to some extent, senior employees?

- a. HDFC Asset Mangement Company Ltd
- b. Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund
- c. Axis Mutual Fund
- d. SBI Funds Management Pvt. Ltd.
- e. ICICI Prudential Trust Limited

31. National Cadet Corps (NCC) and which PSU has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) in New Delhi to conduct various awareness programmes throughout the country to enhance

public perceptions on peaceful use of nuclear power and disseminate scientific & authentic information?

- a. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)
- b. National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)
- c. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)
- d. THDC India Limited
- e. Power Finance Corporation (PFC)

32. In March 2024, India has signed a trade pact with EFTA(the European Free Trade Association) countries aiming to attract \$100 billion and to create one million jobs in 15 years in exchange for tariff concessions for their pharma, chemical and minerals. Which of the following is not a EFTA country?

- a. Switzerland
- b. Norway
- c. Iceland
- d. Germany
- e. Liechtenstein

33. Which tech company has recently collaborated with American technology firm IBM to set up a 'Synergy Lounge' in its Singapore campus, to assist enterprises in operationalizing and deriving value from next-gen technologies?

- a. Wipro
- b. Tech Mahindra
- c. Infosys
- d. Accenture
- e. HCL Technologies

34. In March 2024, Jindal Stainless Ltd and which of the following IIT's has signed an MoU to jointly work on metallurgical projects like primary alloy production and materials characterisation such as process optimisation, materials characterisation, and primary alloy production?

- a. IIT Madras
- b. IIT Kharagpur
- c. IIT Roorkee
- d. IIT Bombay
- e. IIT Delhi

35. Tata Motors has recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with which of the following oil marketing companies to set up electric vehicle charging stations across India?

- a. BPCL
- b. IOCL
- c. HPCL
- d. NRL
- e. OIL

36. In March 2024, NTPC said it has inked a pact with a Japanese agency for sourcing foreign currency loans of _____ under JBIC's initiative entitled 'Global action for Reconciling Economic growth and Environment preservation' ("GREEN") for projects which ensure the

conservation of the global environment.

- a. USD 100 million
- b. USD 200 million
- c. USD 300 million
- d. USD 400 million
- e. USD 500 million

Schemes

1. In March 2024, The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana with a total outlay of Rs.75,021 crore for installing rooftop solar and

providing free electricity up to 300 units every month for One Crore households. Households will be able to access collateral-free low-interest loan products of around _____ at present for installation of residential RTS systems up to 3 kW.

- a. 4% b. 5% c. 6% d. 7% e. 8%

2. Vehicles manufacturers including Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M), Ola Electric and Tata Motors will get the first mover advantage of benefits under two schemes production-linked incentive (PLI) and Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME-II) under the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI). The FAME II scheme was introduced in 2019 for a period of three years with a financial outlay of _____.

- a. Rs 100 Crores b. Rs 1000 Crores c. Rs 10000 Crores d. Rs 200 Crores e. Rs 3000 Crores

3. Recently, for ensuring the safety and dignity of workers engaged in cleaning sewer lines and septic tank government of India has launched "National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem" (NAMASTE) Scheme with a total outlay of 349.73 crores. The NAMASTE scheme will be implemented by the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) for a period of how many years?

- a. 2 b. 3 c. 4 d. 5 e. 6

4. Identify, which among the following is/are the component(s) of the National Action for mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem or the NAMASTE Scheme? I. Profiling of SSWs in ULBs through digital tools (1 lakh SSW to be identified). II. Health Insurance of SSW under PM-JAY. III. Occupational safety training of SSWs and Sanitation Response Units for NAMASTE. IV. Capital Subsidy up to Rs. 5.00 lakh for procurement of Sanitation Related Vehicles/ Equipment.

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

5. In March 2024, The Government of India has approved the continuation of targeted subsidy of Rs.300 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to how many refills per year to be provided to the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) during FY 2024-25?

- a. 10 b. 8 c. 12 d. 13 e. 11

6. In March 2024, the government of India has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Internal Trade for Uttar Poorva

(UNNATI-2024) for a period of _____
from the date of notification.

a. 8 b. 9 c. 10 d. 11 e. 15

7. In March 2024, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal announced the extension of the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme support to additional export sectors. The minister also announced the extension of the RoDTEP Scheme support to which of the following additional export sectors? I. Advance Authorisation (AA) holders II. Export Oriented Units (EOU) III. Special Economic Zones (SEZ) export units.

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

8. Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Health & Family Welfare inaugurated a credit assistance program for Jan

Aushadhi Kendras. Under the MoU, project loans for a credit limit up to _____ at a very competitive and affordable interest rate will be offered by SIDBI for small entrepreneurs of Jan

Aushadhi Kendras.

a. Rs. 1 lakh b. Rs. 2 lakhs c. Rs. 3 lakhs d. Rs. 5 lakhs e. Rs. 10 lakhs

9. In March 2024, The Heavy Industries Ministry has announced the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 to accelerate the adoption of Electronic Vehicles (EVs) in India. The Ministry said that a total outlay of _____ will be implemented for four months under the scheme.

a. 500 crore rupees b. 400 crore rupees c. 300 crore rupees d. 200 crore rupees e. 100 crore rupees

10. In March 2024, the Union Government has approved a scheme to promote India as a manufacturing destination so that e-vehicles (EV) with the latest technology can be manufactured in the country. Identify the correct statement(s) in context of same. I. Minimum Investment required for this scheme is Rs 4150 Cr (USD 500 Mn) II. No limit on maximum Investment III. The customs duty of 10 % would be applicable on vehicle of minimum CIF value of \$ 35,000 and above for a total period of 5 year subject to the manufacturer setting up manufacturing facilities in India within a 3 years period.

a. II Only b. I and III Only c. I, and II Only

d. III Only

e. I, II and III

Appointments & Resignations

1. Also known as black cats, NSG is Indias counter terrorism force and is a federal counter deployment force against terrorism and anti-hijack operations. In March 2024, who among the following has been

appointed as the director general of National Security Guard?

- a. M A Ganapathy
- b. Daljit Singh Chaudhary
- c. Arvind Ranjan
- d. Sudhir Pratap Singh
- e. Nitin Agarwal

2. In March 2024, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Shehbaz Sharif has been elected as the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He is the _____ Prime Minister of Pakistan.

- a. 20th
- b. 21st
- c. 24th
- d. 25th
- e. 28th

3. The RBI has approved the appointment of who among the following as the part-time chairman of the Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) with effect from February 29, 2024 till August 2, 2026?

- a. S. Krishnan
- b. A. Niranjan Sankar
- c. S. Ravindran
- d. S.R. Ashok
- e. C. Chiranjeeviraj

4. In March 2024, German technology major SAP has appointed who among the following as president and managing director for SAP Indian Subcontinent?

- a. Manish Prasad
- b. Kulmeet Singh Bawa
- c. Paul Martin
- d. Sindhu Gangadharan
- e. Gina Mcnamara

5. In March 2024, Asif Ali Zardari took oath as Pakistan's _____ President.

- a. 11th
- b. 12th
- c. 13th
- d. 14th
- e. 15th

6. The Honble President of India vide warrant dated 9th February 2024 and by virtue of the power vested under Section 4 (1) of the Central vigilance Commission Act, 2003 has appointed Shri AS Rajeev as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission. The tenure of the Vigilance Commissioner is of _____ years or till the incumbent attains the age of _____ years.

- a. 2; 50
- b. 2; 65
- c. 3; 70
- d. 4; 65
- e. 5; 65

7. Recently, which among the following Payments Bank has appointed Anuj Bansal as its chief financial officer?

- a. Airtel Payments Bank
- b. Fino Payments Bank
- c. Jio Payments Bank
- d. Paytm Payments Bank
- e. NSDL Payments Bank

8. In March 2024, the Indian Bank has appointed who among the following as the new Executive Director for a three-year tenure?

- a. K.K Mishra
- b. Shikha Sharma
- c. M.S Raghavan
- d. Brajesh Kumar Singh

e. Ashok Kumar Gupta

9. In March 2024, Nayab Singh Saini took oath as the new Chief Minister of Haryana. Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered the oath of office and secrecy to the Haryana BJP President at the Raj Bhavan in Chandigarh. He replaced who among the following?

- a. Mool Chand Sharma
- b. Jai Parkash Dalal
- c. Banwari Lal
- d. Manohar Lal
- e. Ranjit Singh Chautala

10. In March 2024, the newly-appointed Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu took charge of the office after being appointed election commissioners by the selection panel chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Election Commissioners have a tenure of _____ years, or up to the age of _____ years, whichever is earlier.

- a. 4, 60
- b. 6, 65
- c. 5, 62
- d. 5, 70
- e. 6, 72

11. Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed whom as Group President - One Kotak, with effect from April 1, 2024?

- a. P V Bharathi
- b. Jaideep Hansraj
- c. Shanti Lal Jain
- d. Mukesh Kumar Jain
- e. Ashwani Kumar

12. In March 2024, who among the following has been appointed as the MD and CEO of Poonawalla Fincorp?

- a. CS Makarand Karkare
- b. Atul Kumar Gupta
- c. Sajid Fazalbhoj
- d. Arvind Kapil
- e. V. K. Viswanathan

13. In March 2024, Navneet Kumar Sehgal, a retired bureaucrat, has been appointed as the new Chairman of Prasar Bharati. An order by the Information & Broadcasting Ministry states that Sehgal's term will last for three years or until he reaches the age of seventy, whichever earlier.

Prasar Bharati is a statutory autonomous body established under the Prasar Bharati Act and came into existence in which year?

- a. 1995
- b. 1996
- c. 1997
- d. 1998
- e. 1999

14. In March 2024, A landslide victory in the Russian presidential elections has ensured another _____ year term for Vladimir Putin.

- a. 4
- b. 5
- c. 6
- d. 7
- e. 8

15. In March 2024, Leading FMCG maker P&G India announced the appointment of who among the following as CEO, with effect from May 1,

2024?

- a. Kumar Venkatasubramanian
- b. C.P. Radhakrishnan
- c. Shanti Kumari
- d. Pankaj Advani
- e. None of the above

of _____ of India as Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General

16. Who among the following has recently taken charge as Telangana governor?

- a. B.D Mishra b. Phagu Chauhan c. Romesh Bais
d. C.P. Radhakrishnan e. Satya Pal Malik

17. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently approved the re-designation of K V S Manian and _____, as Whole-time Directors of Kotak Mahindra Bank, as Joint Managing Director and Deputy Managing Director, respectively.

- a. Ashok Vaswani b. Shanti Ekambaram c. Shanti Kumar d. Alok Aradhe e. Sourav Kothari.

18. In March 2024, Who among the following has been elected as Indian Banks Association (IBA) Chairman for the term 2023-24?

- a. M V Rao b. Madhav Nair c. Arvid Kapil d. Naveen Jindal e. Mahesh Kumar

19. Who among the following has recently been appointed as president of Indian Steel Association (ISA), the apex body for steel producers?

- a. M V Rao b. Madhav Nair c. Arvid Kapil d. Naveen Jindal e. Mahesh Kumar

20. Who among the following has been appointed chairperson of Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA) for two years from April 1, 2024?

- a. Rekha Sharma
b. Dr. Poornima Advani
c. Mariam Mammen Mathew d. Jaya Varma Sinha e. Jayanti Patnaik

21. Who has recently been appointed as the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)?

- a. Sadanand Vasant Date b. Hansha Mishra c. Abhay Thakur d. Mammen Mathew e. Ashwani Kumar

22. Who among the following has recently been sworn as the Judicial Member of the Lokpal of India?

- a. Ritu Raj Awasthi b. M V Rao c. Sanjay Mukherjee
d. C P Radhakrishnan e. Navneet Sehgal

23. Identify the correct statements regarding the Lokpal of India. I) It is a constitutional body. II) It

was established in 2013 by an act of the parliament. III) It aims to promote clean governance in India.

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

24. The United Nations Secretary-General Antnio Guterres has recently announced the appointment

for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

- a. Kamal Kishore
- b. Dinesh Kumar Shukla
- c. Maithili Thakur
- d. Dr. Vinay Prakash Singh
- e. Vikram Dev Dutt

25. Who among the following has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of United India Insurance Company by the Financial

Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)?

- a. Abhay Thakur
- b. Govind Dholakia
- c. M V Rao
- d. Bhupesh Sushil Rahul
- e. Arvind Kapil

26. Who among the following has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of New India Assurance Company Limited by the Financial

Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)?

- a. Girija Subramanian
- b. Rahul Singh
- c. Jaideep Hansraj
- d. Navneet Sehgal
- e. B Sairam

27. Which of the following organizations/institutions is responsible for recommending persons for appointment as whole-time directors and non-executive chairpersons of public sector banks and insurance companies-owned by the Government of India?

- a. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
- b. Reserve Bank of India
- c. Financial Services Institutions Bureau
- d. Financial Stability and Development Council
- e. Securities and Exchange Board of India

28. In March 2024, who among the following has taken charge as an Executive Director at Union Bank of India (UBI)?

- a. K Satyanarayana Raju
- b. Pankaj Dwivedi
- c. Santosh Kumar Barik
- d. Nalini Padmanabhan
- e. R Kesavan

Awards

1. The 96th Academy Awards ceremony, presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

, took place on March 10. Which among the following movies won the "Best Picture" award?

- a. Barbie
- b. Anatomy of Fall
- c. Oppenheimer
- d. Poor Things
- e. Zone of Interest

Interest

2. India has been bestowed with the prestigious Measles and Rubella Champion Award by The Measles and Rubella Partnership at the American Red Cross Headquarters in Washington D.C., USA

on March 6th, 2024. Measles and Rubella are vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) and MR Vaccine is part of Indias Universal Immunization Programme since which year?

- a. 2017
- b. 2018
- c. 2019
- d. 2020
- e. 2021

3. In March 2024, Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport has occupied the prestigious title of the Best Airport in the Asia-Pacific region from the Airports Council International (ACI) for the _____ consecutive year for its excellence.

- a. Third b. Fourth c. Fifth d. Sixth e. Seventh

4. In March 2024, Ratan Tata, former chairman of Tata Sons, was bestowed with the prestigious PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for his outstanding philanthropic contributions. Tata Sons Chairman emeritus Ratan Tata, has also received two of the highest civilian awards of India -- the Padma Vibhusha in _____ and Padma Bhushan in _____.

- a. 1998, 2000 b. 2005, 1999 c. 2008, 2000 d. 2002, 2015 e. 1996, 2001

5. In March 2024, Renowned poet Prabha Varma has been selected for the Saraswati Samman for the year 2023 for his work in Malayalam language poetry work, Roudra Sathwikam. The honour carries, apart from a citation, a plaque and an award money of _____.

- a. Rs. 5 lakhs b. Rs. 10 lakhs c. Rs. 15 lakhs d. Rs. 20 lakhs e. Rs. 25 lakhs

6. In March 2024, COP28 President received leadership award at CERAWEEK by S&P Global for securing historic UAE Consensus. Who among the following was the COP28 President?

- a. Lynne Parry b. Dianne Bernhard c. Connie Moyer
d. Dr. Sultan Al Jaber e. Andrea Arrington

7. In March 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with highest civilian award Order of the Druk Gyalpo. This award belongs to which country?

- a. Nepal b. Bhutan c. Iran d. Bangladesh e. Japan

8. In March 2024, the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has decided to award the Abel Prize for 2024 to Michel Talagrand of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris, France. He was awarded for which of the following?

- a. For playing a key role in shaping the modern form of many parts of mathematics, including topology, algebraic geometry and number theory.
b. For his revolutionary contributions to geometry.
c. For his vast and lasting impact on the theory of numbers.
d. For his work in probability theory and stochastic processes.
e. For pioneering discoveries in topology, geometry, and algebra.

9. Indian-British Writers Book on AI, named "Code Dependent: Living in the Shadow of AI" have been shortlisted for the 2024 inaugural Women's Prize for Non-Fiction. The book is authored by who among the following?

- a. Madhumita Murgia b. Asra Nomani c. Suknya Krishnan d. Uma Pemmaraju
e. Namrata Brar

Ranks & Reports

1. In March 2024, Gender Inequality Index also said India had demonstrated "progress in reducing gender inequality", flagging a Gender Inequality Index, or GII, of 0.437, which is better than the global average. GII ranks countries on which of the following dimensions? I. Reproductive health II. Average life expectancy III. Empowerment IV. Expected years of schooling V. Labour market participation VI. Per Capita Income

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

2. In March 2024, Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) has released which edition of monthly report of National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) Way Forward for States/UTs, January and February 2024 which provides a detailed overview of status of e-service delivery across States/UTs?

- a. 9th b. 10th c. 11th d. 13th e. 14th

3. According to CareEdge Ratings, the non-life insurance market is expected to grow _____ in the medium term, primarily driven by the health and motor insurance segments, and increasing disposable income levels.

- a. 10-12 % b. 13-15 % c. 14-16 % d. 11-15 %
e. None of these

4. According to the recently published DHL Global Connectedness Report 2024 put together by DHL and New York University's Stern School of Business, the report has ranked India _____ out of 181 countries based on data tracking global flows of trade, capital, information and people.

- a. 54 b. 58 c. 59 d. 62 e. 64

5. According to Air Quality Report 2023 conducted by Swiss organisation IQAir, Delhi's

PM2.5 levels worsened from 89.1 micrograms per cubic metre in 2022 to 92.7 micrograms per cubic metre in 2023 and New Delhi is ranked the worlds most polluted capital city for the fourth consecutive year since 2018. Which among the following has emerged as the worlds most polluted metropolitan area?

a. Begusarai b. Buxar c. Gaya d. Saharsa
e. Motihari

Classes

KP

6. India was ranked 126th out of 143 nations in a global happiness index which noted that older age is associated with higher life satisfaction in the world's most populous country. Which country has emerged as the happiest country in the world, topping the World Happiness Report 2024, the seventh successive year that the country has occupied the top spot on the list?
a. Iceland b. Finland c. Sweden d. Norway e. Germany

7. Finland emerged as the happiest country in the world, topping the World Happiness Report 2024, the seventh successive year that the country has occupied the top spot on the list. Which of the following Countries has remained bottom of the overall rankings as the world's 'unhappiest' nation?
a. Iran b. Pakistan c. Afghanistan d. Qatar e. Kuwait

8. Recently, the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) reported a _____ hike in the index of mineral production of the mining and quarrying sector for January 2024, with the index reaching 144.1.
a. 6.5% b. 5.9% c. 7.2% d. 4.5% e. 5.2%

9. India's financial hub Mumbai has emerged as "Asia's billionaire epicentre" for the first time, surpassing Beijing, as per the Hurun Global Rich List 2024. According to the list, Mumbai now boasts 92 billionaires, edging past Beijing's count of 91. Globally, which of the following cities are ranked in top 3 in terms of billionaires as per the Hurun list? I. Hong Kong II. Mumbai III. New York IV. Singapore V. London VI. Berlin
a. II, III and V only
b. I, III and VI only
c. II, IV and VI only
d. I, II and III only
e. IV, V and VI only

10. In March 2024, Global brokerage firm Morgan Stanley has revised its gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for the financial year 2024- 25 (FY25) to __, up from the previous estimate of _____.
a. 6.8 percent; 6.5 percent
b. 7.1 percent; 6.2 percent
c. 6.8 percent; 5.9 percent
d. 8.2 percent; 7.1 percent
e. 8.5 percent; 6.5 percent

11. According to a new report by International Labour Organization on India's labor market released in March 2024 showed that In India, higher educated young people are more likely to be unemployed than those without any schooling. The

jobless rate for graduates was recorded as _____ in the report.
a. 12.2% b. 58.4% c. 30.5% d. 29.1% e. 9.15%

Important Days

1. In May 2022, the General Assembly adopted proclaimed 1 March as World Seagrass Day highlighting the urgent need to raise awareness at all levels and to promote and facilitate actions for the conservation of seagrasses, the theme for 2024 is _____.

- a. Seagrass for nature and people.
- b. Planet Ocean: The Tides are. Changing
- c. Healthy Seagrass, Healthy Planet
- d. Border Ocean, Borders of Seagrass
- e. Ecological Balance of Ocean

2. Zero Discrimination Day is observed every year on March 1st, 2024 marks the _____ anniversary of Zero Discrimination Day and the theme is To protect everyone's health, protect everyone's rights.

- a. Fifth b. Sixth c. Tenth d. Fifteenth
- e. Eighth

3. The UN adopted a resolution on 20 December 2013, designating March 3 as World Wildlife Day in 2014 with an aim to promote awareness of wild animals and plants around the world. The theme for 2024 is

- a. Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation
- b. Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation
- c. Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration
- d. Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet
- e. Sustaining all life on Earth

4. National Safety Day is observed every year on March 4 in India, The Ministry of Labour and Employment of the Government of India established the National Safety Council as a self-financing non-governing body in which year?

- a. 1990 b. 1992 c. 1994 d. 1996 e. 1998

5. World Hearing Day is observed every year on _____.

- a. March 3 b. March 4 c. March 5 d. March 6 e. March 7

6. The UNGA adopted a resolution and proclaimed March 5 of every year as the 'International Day for Disarmament and

Non-Proliferation' awareness to promote better awareness and understanding of disarmament issues among the public, especially young people. The day was first observed in which year?

KP
Classes

a. 2024 b. 2023 c. 2022 d. 2021 e. 2020

7. Jan Aushadi Diwas is observed every year in India on _____.

a. March 5 b. June 5 c. February 7 d. March 7 e. March 6

8. March 8 was designated as International Women's Day by the United Nations in 1975. In which among the following year it was celebrated first time?

a. 1908 b. 1911 c. 1912 d. 1919 e. 1934

9. CSIF Rising day is observed to acknowledge and honor the efforts and sacrifices made by the CISF personnel in safeguarding the vital assets of the nation. Every year, CISF Raising Day is observed on?

a. March 10 b. April 10 c. January 10 d. February 10 e. May 10

10. The International Day of Women Judges is celebrated every year on _____.

a. March 9 b. March 10 c. March 11 d. March 8 e. March 7

11. World Kidney Day aims to create awareness about the importance of healthy kidneys and how one can maintain kidney health and prevent kidney-related diseases. This day is observed on the second Thursday of March, every year. The theme for 2024 is

- a. Kidney Health for All Preparing for the unexpected, supporting the vulnerable!
b. Bridge the gap to better kidney care
c. Kidney Health for All - Advancing Equitable Access to Care and Optimal Medication Practice
d. Living Well with Kidney Disease
e. Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere - from Prevention to Detection and Equitable Access to Care

12. The value of Pi was first determined by Mathematician Archimedes of Syracuse. In 1737, Leonhard Euler used the symbol of Pi, paving the way for acknowledgment in the scientific community. World Pi day is observed every year on _____.

a. March 12 b. March 14 c. March 20 d. March 10 e. March 15

13. International Day To Combat Islamophobia is observed every year on _____.

a. January 15 b. February 15 c. March 15 d. April 15 e. May 15

14. Every year, World Consumer Rights Day is observed on March 15. The theme for 2024 is

a. Fair and Responsible AI for Consumers

b. Empowering Consumers Through Clean Energy Transitions

c. Fair Digital Finance

d. Tackling Plastic Pollution

e. The Sustainable Consumer

15. In which of the following year, the WHO Global Polio Eradication Initiative was begun as the initial step of removing this disease from the planet?

a. 1967 b. 1981 c. 1988 d. 1992 e. 1997

16. In 1995, the government of India began the pulse polio Vaccination Program as the first attempt of uprooting this sickness from the country. From that point forward, March 16 has been celebrated as National Vaccination Day. The theme for Nation Vaccination Day 2024 is

- a. Vaccines Work for All
b. Vaccines is the Real Savior
c. Vaccines are the Real Magic
d. Vaccinate the World e. None of these

17. Ordnance Factories Day is celebrated on March 18 to commemorate the day when Ordnance

Factory was formed in which city?

a. Madras b. Bombay c. Kolkata d. Surat
e. Vishakhapatnam

18. World Happiness Report 2024 lands on 20 March, to mark the UNs International Day of

Happiness. Be among the first to read this years insights, centered around the theme of happiness for the young, the old, and everyone in between. In which year the General Assembly of the United Nations has proclaimed 20 March as the International Day of Happiness?

a. 2010 b. 2011 c. 2012 d. 2013 e. 2015

19. Language Days at the United Nations were introduced in 2010 to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity. Each year, the United Nations

celebrates six "Language Days", dedicated to the six official languages of the United Nations. Which among the following is/are NOT an official language of United Nations? I. Hindi II. Turkish III. Korean IV.

Arabic

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

20. World Sparrow Day is held every year on 20th March with full intent on spreading awareness about the significance of the presence

of sparrows for our ecosystem and biodiversity.
The first World Sparrow Day was celebrated on
March 20,

a. 2008 b. 2010 c. 2011 d. 2013 e. 2014

KP
Classes

21. World Oral Health Day is observed on _____ annually to unite the people to help reduce the burden of oral diseases as they affect individuals, health systems, and economies everywhere.

- a. 19 March b. 20 March c. 17 March d. 15 March e. 10 March

22. Every year, World Forestry Day is observed on March 21 to remind people of the significance of forests and trees in our lives. The theme of World Forestry Day for 2024 is

- a. Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World
b. Forests and Health
c. Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption
d. Forest Restoration
e. Forests and Biodiversity

23. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (IDERD) is observed every year on ___, brings the world community together to increase its efforts in the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and racism.

- a. March 21 b. May 21 c. March 24 d. April 21 e. February 21

24. Every year on March 21, World Down Syndrome Day is observed across the globe. The day is

designated to promote awareness about Down syndrome and to assist those who live with the condition. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Down Syndrome? I. A person with Down Syndrome possesses an extra chromosome. II. Babies with Down syndrome have an extra copy of one of these chromosomes, chromosome 21 III. the uniqueness of Down syndrome caused by triplication (trisomy) of the 22nd chromosome.

a. I and II only b. II only c. III only d. I and IV only e. All of the above

25. World Water Day is observed on 22 March every to highlighting the necessity of water and the need to conserve it. The theme of World Water Day 2024 is_____.

- a. 'Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis' b. Water for Peace
c. Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible d. Valuing Water
e. Water and Climate Change

26. Every year, World Poetry Day is observed on_____.

- a. March 21 b. March 22 c. March 23 d. March 20 e. March 19

27. Every year, World Poetry Day is observed

on March 21 to honour poets and bring back the

practice of poetry readings. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) decided to celebrate World Poetry Day annually during its 30th General Conference in Paris in which year?

- a. 1995 b. 1996 c. 1997 d. 1999 e. 1992

28. Each year on _____, World Meteorological Day is celebrated to commemorate the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) which is a specialized agency formed by the United Nations.

- a. 23rd April b. 23rd March c. 23rd February
d. 23rd January
e. 23rd December

29. World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is marked annually on 24 March. The theme of the World Tuberculosis (TB) Day 2024 is ____.

- a. Invest to End TB
b. Yes! We can end TB
c. The Clock is Ticking d. It's Time
e. Celebrating Leaders for a TB Free World

30. Each year, on 24 March, the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed. This annual observance pays tribute to the memory of Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero, who was actively engaged in denouncing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in which country?

- a. Chile b. Brazil c. Venezuela d. El Salvador e. Ecuador

31. The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed every year on _____.

- a. March 21 b. March 25 c. February 25 d. April 25
e. March 22

32. International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is a United Nations international observance designated in which year to be marked on 25 March every year?

- a. 2007 b. 2009 c. 2017 d. 2021 e. 2023

33. The World Theatre Day is observed every year on _____ dedicated to the promotion of the art form of theatre across the world.

- a. March 25 b. March 26 c. March 27 d. March 28
e. March 29

34. On 14 December 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution at its seventy-seventh session to proclaim _____ as International Day of Zero Waste day.

a. 28 March b. 29 March c. 30 March d. 31 March e. 1 April

at the heart of climate action e. Time for action

Summit & Conferences

1. In March 2024, The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with which of the following international financial institution organised a National Workshop on Logistics Efficiency Enhancement in New Delhi that brought together the logistics sector community to brainstorm and identify factors affecting logistics performance and areas of improvement?

- a. World Bank
- b. International Monetary Fund
- c. Asian Development Bank
- d. Asian Investment and Infrastructure Bank
- e. New Development Bank

2. In February 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Bharat Tex 2024, one of the largest- ever global textile events to be organized in the country, at which city?

- a. Chennai b. New Delhi c. Kolkata d. Mumbai e. Jamnagar

3. The three day Startup Mahakumbh, one of the biggest events showcasing the startup ecosystem aimed at connecting startups with a spectrum of inventors including venture capitalists, investors and potential corporate partners was inaugurated by Prime Minister in which city in March 2024?

- a. Chennai b. Bangalore c. Mumbai d. Delhi e. Ahmedabad

4. As India is a member of the G20 Troika, India is co-chairing the 2nd Employment Working Group (EWG) meeting, along with Brazil and South Africa. The meeting was commenced on 27 March in _____.

- a. Brasilia b. New Delhi c. Alberton d. Johannesburg e. Rio de Janeiro

5. As part of the World Meteorological Day celebrations, a METOC (Meteorological and Oceanographic) seminar '_Meghayan-24_' was conducted by School of Naval Oceanology & Meteorology (SNOM) and Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre at Southern Naval Command on 28 March 2024. The seminar was based on the theme _____ as promulgated by WMO for 2024.

- a. Together for our planet
- b. At the Frontline of Climate Action
- c. Together for Implementation
- d. Putting nature, people, lives, and livelihoods

Science & Technology

1. In March 2024, Led by Prof. Devasish Chowdhury and Prof. (Retd) Rajlakshmi Devi, the research

team, including Mridusmita Barman, a research scholar in the IASST-Deakin University Joint PhD programme, have ingeniously combined which of the following fibers with biopolymers like chitosan and guar gum to create a multifunctional patch with excellent mechanical strength and antioxidant properties.

- a. Banana Fiber b. Cotton Fiber c. Jute Fiber
d. Flax Fiber e. Coir Fiber

2. In March 2024, Google's DeepMind team has introduced as an innovative platform capable of crafting interactive 2D video games from a single image prompt or text description, marks a significant leap forward in the realm of artificial intelligence. The new innovation is named as _____.

- a. Gemini AI b. Chat AI c. Game.GenZ AI
d. Genie AI e. GenZSport.AI

3. Methane is an invisible but strong greenhouse gas, and the second largest contributor to global warming after carbon dioxide, responsible for 30 per cent of global heating since the Industrial Revolution., In March 2024, MethaneSAT a satellite which will track and measure methane emissions at a global scale was launched aboard by which of the following space agencies?

- a. NASA b. ISRO c. JAXA d. SpaceX
e. Roscosmos

4. In March 2024, NASA has announced that they are going to carry 'message in a bottle to Europa, one of Jupiter's moon in October this year. The Europa Clipper spacecraft will carry outward-facing side of metal plate will sport etchings of 103

waveforms, a visual representation of the sound wave produced by saying the word " _____ " in 103 different languages including Hindi.

- a. Life b. Water c. Oxygen d. Help e. None of these

5. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted its third mission involving the Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV), named "Pushpak" after the legendary spaceship from the Ramayana. Which of the following Statement(s) is/are correct about Pushpak? I) The Pushpak RLV

is designed as an all-rocket, fully reusable single-stage-to-orbit (SSTO) vehicle. II) It incorporates advanced elements from previous demonstrators like the X-33, X-34, and the upgraded DC-XA. III)

The vehicle features a fuselage, a nose cap, double delta wings, twin vertical tails, and active control

surfaces called Elevons and Rudder

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

6. In March 2024, Bharat Biotech International Ltd said it started clinical trials of the Tuberculosis vaccine MTBVAC on adults in India. This is the first vaccine against Tuberculosis derived from a human source by the bio-pharmaceutical company, Biofabri. Biofabri, is a pharma company based in which country?
a. Germany b. Norway c. Spain d. Finland e. Portugal

7. In a bid to fight swine fever virus in pigs and wild boars, the _____ has recently transferred a 'pioneering' vaccine technology to a manufacturing company BioMed specializing in high-quality vaccine.
a. Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
b. Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati
c. Hindustan Antibiotics Limited
d. Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited
e. National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research

8. In March 2024, which country has launched a new batch of Yunhai-2 meteorological satellites likely for use by its military and will be used mainly for atmospheric environment detection, space environment monitoring, disaster prevention and reduction, and scientific experiments?
a. Russia b. South Korea c. Japan d. China e. North Korea

Defence

1. In March 2024, Defence Research and Development Organisation conducted a successful flight test of a Very Short-Range Air Defence System missile from a ground-based portable launcher in which state of India?

- a. Odisha b. Rajasthan c. Andhra Pradesh d. Maharashtra e. West Bengal

2. Exercise Samudra Laksamana took place at Visakhapatnam in March 2024, The exercise was conducted between India and which country?
a. Sri Lanka b. Thailand c. Nepal d. Malaysia e. Mauritius

3. The Indian Navy will commission the newly inducted MH 60R Seahawk (a maritime variant of the Blackhawk helicopter) multi-role helicopter on 06 Mar 2024 at INS Garuda, Kochi marking a pivotal moment in India's Defence modernisation journey. The helicopters are a part of the 24-aircraft FMS contract signed with which government in Feb 2020?
a. Russian Government
b. Israel Government c. US Government

- d. France Government e. UK Government

4. In March 2024, Indian Coast Guard Ships Samarth and Abhinav visited which country to further strengthens the maritime cooperation between India and the countries coast guards?
a. Maldives b. Mauritius c. Bangladesh d. Sri Lanka e. Malaysia

5. In January 2024, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies. Under the scheme, start-ups are eligible to receive grant-in-aid of up to _____ for their research development and innovation endeavours in defence technology.
a. Rs 5 crore b. Rs 10 crore c. Rs 15 crore d. Rs 25 crore e. Rs 20 crore

6. In March 2024, the Indian Navy commissioned which of the following Naval Base in Minicoy, the southernmost island in Lakshadweep, strengthening the Indian Navys foothold and extending operational reach in the region?
a. INS Tanaji b. INS Jatayu c. INS Bitra d. INS Circars e. INS Kalinga

7. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate infrastructure projects at the Indian Navy's Karwar base under Project 'Seabird.' In March 2024, the first phase of Project Seabird, concluded in which year?
a. 2010 b. 2011 c. 2014 d. 2017 e. 2018

8. In March 2024, Indian Armed Forces has Conducted Mega Bharat-Shakti Exercise in which of the following places?
a. Jaisalmer b. Jodhpur c. Bikaner d. Kota e. Udaipur

9. The comprehensive maritime security exercise Sea Defenders-2024 between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the coast guards of which country took place at Port Blair in March 2024?
a. UK b. USA c. Germany d. Australia e. France

10. In March 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the development of "Mission Divyastra" - an indigenously developed, landmark weapons system that alters the country's geopolitics and strategic position and significantly changes the situation in southeast Asia. MIRVs have been

developed by which of the following countries?

- a. United States of America
- b. United Kingdom
- c. Russia
- d. France
- e. All of these

KP
Classes

11. In March 2024, Big Bang Boom Solutions Private Limited, has secured an order worth more than

_____ from the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army for its counter-unmanned aerial systems technology.

- a. Rs. 100 crores b. Rs. 150 crores c. Rs. 200 crores d. Rs. 300 crores e. Rs. 1,000 crores

12. In March 2024, 'Agray' and 'Akshay', the 5th and 6th ships of 08 x ASW Shallow Water Craft (SWC) Project were launched by the Ministry of Defence to highlight the nation's resolve towards

'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' in shipbuilding, the two ships were built by which of the following companies?

- a. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders.
b. Larsen & Toubro Shipbuilding.
c. Bharati Shipyard.
d. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
e. Cochin Shipyard.

13. The Indian Army contingent departed for Seychelles to participate in the Tenth edition of Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2024 between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces SDF. LAMITIYE meaning Friendship in the Creole language is a biennial training event and has been conducted in Seychelles since which year?

- a. 2000 b. 2001 c. 2002 d. 2003 e. 2004

14. The Ministry of Defence in March 2024, announced that the Indian and United States navies have kicked off a bilateral Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise on India's eastern seaboard. Called Tiger Triumph-24, the week-long exercise will involve Indian Navy ships with integral helicopters and landing crafts, Indian Army personnel and vehicles and Indian Air Force aircraft. The exercise first took place in which year?

- a. 2019 b. 2020 c. 2021 d. 2022 e. 2023

15. Two Indian naval vessels, INS Tir and INS Sujata, are gearing up to participate in the upcoming IMT- Tri-Lateral Exercise scheduled from March 21 to March 29, 2024 which aims to strengthen cooperation between India and which of the following other two countries? I. Madagascar II. Tunisia III. Mozambique IV. Tanzania V. Mauritius

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

16. IMT TRILAT 24 is a trilateral naval exercise has recently been concluded at Nacala. The member countries of the exercise are _____

- a. India, Mozambique and Tanzania
b. India, Malaysia and Thailand
c. India, Malta and Turkey
d. India, Maldives and Tuvalu

e. India, Mexico and Tanzania

Books & Authors

1. 'Fool Bahadur', the first _____ novel translated into English by Indian poet-diplomat, editor and translator Abhay K. was launched in Patna at the 4th edition of Grand Trunk Road Initiatives.
- a. Nepali b. Magahi c. Santali d. Sindhi
e. Dogri

Obituary

1. Brian Mulroney, who passed away recently was the former Prime Minister of which country?
- a. USA b. Canada c. Germany d. UK
e. Australia

Person in news

1. In March 2024, at an Exhibition Cricket Match between the Indian Deaf Cricket Association Team and the Delhi and District Cricket Association in March 2024, Election Commission has announced Arjuna Awardee winner Sheetal Devi as its National PwD Icon. Sheetal Devi is associated with which sport?
- a. Shooting b. Archery c. Table Tennis d. High Jump e. Powerlifting
2. According to recent newspaper report, Veteran table tennis player and reigning CWG champion Sharath Kamal will be India's flag bearer at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. In March 2024, who among the following has been appointed the chef de mission of the country's contingent?
- a. Mary Kom
b. Dhiraj Bommadevara
c. Neeraj Chopra d. Rudrankksh Patil
e. Antim Panghal

Insurance

1. In March 2024, which among the following has launched its most comprehensive women's health insurance plan to meet the women's unique needs?
- a. Trinity Reinsurance Brokers
b. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
c. Birla Sun Life Insurance
d. Future Generali India Life Insurance
e. Protocol Solutions
2. Life Insurance Corporation of India is termed as the strongest insurance brand with a steady brand value of \$9.8 bn, a brand strength index score of 88.3, and associated AAA brand strength rating, notes a report by Brand Finance Insurance 100 2024. NRMA Insurance stood 3rd which saw an 82 per cent rise in brand value to \$1.3 billion. NRMA

is an Insurance company based in which country?
a. France b. Germany c. Australia d. Spain
e. China

3. As in the 2022-23 list of Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs), which of the following

entities have been identified as D-SIIs by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)? I) Life Insurance Corporation of India II) General Insurance Corporation of India III) New India Assurance Company IV) The Oriental Insurance Company Limited

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

4. Identify the correct statements regarding the Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs). I) D-SIIs are insurance companies with large assets size. II) D-SIIs are subjected to additional regulatory measures III) D-SIIs have strong domestic and global presence. IV) D-SIIs are insurance companies which are perceived as too big to fail.

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

India & World

1. In March 2024, Union cabinet gave its nod for establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) coalition of 96 big cat range countries and others with headquarters in India. Which of the following is/are NOT one of the Big cats specifically found in India? I. Leopard II. Jaguar III. Snow Leopard IV. Puma V. Cheetah

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

2. Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), a subsidiary of M/s Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) in Oil and Gas Sector. In March 2024, Indias Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) opened its first-ever overseas office in which country?

- a. Nepal b. Bangladesh c. Myanmar d. Bhutan
e. Sri Lanka

3. In March 2024, L&T Finance Holdings Ltd has signed a financing pact with Japan International Cooperation Agency for _____ to support financing in rural & peri-urban areas in India, particularly women borrowers.

- a. \$50 million b. \$105 million c. \$125 million d. \$150 million
e. \$175 million

Environment

1. According to a report released by the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry released in March 2024, The number of leopards has increased by more than one thousand during the period of 2018 to 2022 in the country. The number of leopards in the country has now reached _____.

- a. 10, 225 b. 11, 368 c. 12, 014 d. 13, 874 e. 14, 008

Apps & Portals

1. In March 2024, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav launched the Digital Intelligence Platform and CHAKSHU - Report Suspected Fraud Communication Facility aimed at facilitating coordination among the Stakeholders to Curb the Misuse of Telecom

Resources in Cybercrime and Financial Frauds on which of the following portal?

- a. Nari Portal
b. Sanchar Saathi Portal
c. Bharatkosh Portal
d. Udyam Sakhi Portal e. NAMASTE Portal

2. In March 2024, The Election Commission has launched Saksham App to facilitate easier voting for who among the following?

- a. Persons with Disabilities b. Women c. First Time Voters
d. Centenary voters e. Youth Voters

Acquisitions & Mergers

1. In February 2024, Indias Reliance Industries and Walt Disney of the United States have announced the merger of their India TV and streaming media assets, creating an \$8.5bn entertainment powerhouse. Who among the following will assume the role of Chairperson of the merged entity?

- a. Isha Ambani b. Nita Ambani c. Mukesh Ambani
d. Akash Ambanie. Anant Ambani

2. In March 2024, The Reserve Bank of India has approved the amalgamation of Fincare Small Finance Bank with Jaipur-based AU Small Finance Bank, effective from _____, creating an entity with a balance sheet of over Rs 1.16 trillion.

- a. April 1, 2024 b. May 1, 2024 c. June 1, 2024
d. July 1, 2024 e. August 1, 2024

3. In March 2024, which among the following technology company has launched a new artificial intelligence native learning platform to provide clients with comprehensive technology learning and training services that will help them reskill and

upskill employees in technology, data and AI named LearnVantage and will acquire edtech company Udacity?

- a. Google b. HCL c. Accenture d. Infosys
e. Wipro

4. In March 2024, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the

merger of a financial technology company, Garagepreneurs Internet Private Limited with the North East Small Finance Bank. GIPL operates under the brand name

- a. Slice b. Zepto c. Cerda d. Lambda
e. Easymoney

5. In March 2024, which of the following companies has acquired the India-branded formulation

KP Classes

business of Biocon Biologics, a subsidiary of Biocon, for Rs 1,242 crore including portfolios in insulin, oncology, and critical care?

- a. Torrent Pharmaceuticals
- b. Lupin Limited
- c. Dr. Reddy's Laboratories
- d. Eric Lifesciences
- e. Mankind Pharma

6. In March 2024, The Competition Commission of India has approved the proposed acquisition of certain shareholding of Shriram Investment Holdings Private Limited by Shriram Ownership Trust. The proposed combination relates to the acquisition by Shriram Ownership Trust (SOT) of

- _____ and _____ stake of Shriram Investment Holdings Private Limited (SIHL) held by APRN Enterprises Private Limited.
- a. 5.61 %; 14 %
 - b. 6.71 %; 11 %
 - c. 7.19 %; 15 %
 - d. 9.44 %; 20 %
 - e. 8.91 %; 18 %

7. Recently, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of Kesoram Cement Business from Kesoram Industries Limited by

- _____.
- a. Ambuja Cement Ltd
 - b. ACC Ltd
 - c. UltraTech Cement Limited
 - d. Shree Cement Ltd
 - e. Dalmia Bharat Ltd

8. In March 2024, The Competition Commission of India has approved the _____ acquisition of Lanco Amarkantak Power by Adani Group's Adani Power after receiving the Committee of Creditors approval for resolution plan to acquire insolvent Lanco Amarkantak Power.

- a. 51%
- b. 55%
- c. 49%
- d. 100%
- e. 75%

9. In March 2024, Indias largest port operator Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) has expanded its presence on Indias coastline after buying 95 per cent in Gopalpur Port Ltd (GPL) at an enterprise value of Rs 3,080 crore. Gopalpur Port Ltd (GPL) is located in which state of India?

- a. West Bengal
- b. Andhra Pradesh
- c. Odisha
- d. Tamil Nadu
- e. Goa

10. In March 2024, Shares of smallcap firm Savita Oil Technologies soared 10 per cent to Rs 454 in intra-day trade as data revealed SBI Mutual Fund (MF) bought nearly ____ stake in the specialty petroleum company via a block deal.

- a. 2%
- b. 3%
- c. 5%
- d. 7%
- e. 10%

Agri-Business

1. IN March 2024, the government of India has given its approval for the Minimum Support prices (MSP) for Raw Jute for 2024-25 season. The MSP of Raw Jute has been fixed at _____ - per quintal for 2024-25 season.

- a. Rs. 2,341/
- b. Rs. 3239/
- c. Rs. 3597/
- d. Rs. 4291/
- e. Rs. 5,335/

FinTech

1. Recently, In its endeavor for a New Way to Pay and to make contactless payments accessible to a larger customer base, Which fintech entity has partnered with the smartwatch brand Noise and Mastercard?

- a. Airtel Payments Bank
- b. Phone pe
- c. Gpay
- d. Razorpay
- e. Paypal

PSUs

1. In March 2024, Which of the following company has recently achieved a significant milestone by being conferred with the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)?

- a. Grid Controller of India Limited
- b. Coal India Limited
- c. GAIL India Limited
- d. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
- e. Indian Oil Corporation Limited

2. In March 2024, Which company has been awarded in the gold category for the prestigious 'The GEEF Global Environment Award 2024' in the power industry?

- a. NTPC Limited
- b. National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)
- c. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)
- d. THDC India Limited
- e. Power Finance Corporation (PFC)

Practise Question Answer Keys

Banking and Finance Answer Keys

1. **b** 2. **b** 3. **a** 4. **a** 5. **c** 6. **a** 7. **c** 8. **a**
9. **c** 10. **d** 11. **d** 12. **b** 13. **d** 14. **c** 15.
d 16. **c** 17. **c** 18. **b** 19. **a** 20. **a** 21. **c**
22. **d** 23. **c** 24. **d** 25. **b** 26. **e** 27. **b** 28.
d 29. **c** 30. **a** 31. **d** 32. **d** 33. **d** 34. **c**
35. **a** 36. **c**

Economy Answer Keys

1. **b** 2. **c** 3. **d** 4. **d** 5. **c** 6. **b** 7. **c** 8. **c**
9. **b** 10. **c** 11. **c** 12. **b** 13. **a** 14. **c** 15.
e 16. **d** 17. **b** 18. **c** 19. **c** 20. **b** 21. **b**
22. **c** 23. **d** 24. **b**

National Answer Keys

1. **a** 2. **c** 3. **a** 4. **c** 5. **d** 6. **d** 7. **c** 8. **d**
9. **e** 10. **a** 11. **d** 12. **c** 13. **a** 14. **b** 15.
d 16. **d** 17. **d** 18. **c** 19. **e** 20. **a** 21. **a**
22. **c** 23. **a** 24. **b** 25. **a** 26. **b**

International Answer Keys

1. **c** 2. **b** 3. **b** 4. **c** 5. **c** 6. **c** 7. **b** 8. **b**
9. **d** 10. **a**

State/UT's Answer Keys

1. **c** 2. **d** 3. **b** 4. **b** 5. **d** 6. **b** 7. **c**

Sports Answer Keys

1. **c** 2. **d** 3. **b** 4. **c** 5. **c** 6. **a** 7. **d** 8. **d**
9. **a** 10. **c** 11. **c** 12. **a** 13. **b** 14. **d**

Agreements & MoU's Answer Keys

1. **d** 2. **a** 3. **d** 4. **d** 5. **c** 6. **c** 7. **a** 8. **a**
9. **a** 10. **a** 11. **d** 12. **a** 13. **b** 14. **c** 15.
c 16. **b** 17. **b** 18. **a** 19. **d** 20. **d** 21. **c**
22. **c** 23. **d** 24. **a** 25. **b** 26. **c** 27. **c** 28.
a 29. **d** 30. **c** 31. **a** 32. **d** 33. **b** 34. **b**
35. **c** 36. **b**

Schemes Answer Keys

1. **d** 2. **c** 3. **b** 4. **e** 5. **c** 6. **c** 7. **d** 8. **b**
9. **a** 10. **c**

Appointment & Resignations Answer Keys

1. **b** 2. **c** 3. **c** 4. **a** 5. **d** 6. **d** 7. **a** 8. **d**
9. **d** 10. **b** 11. **b** 12. **d** 13. **c** 14. **c** 15.
a 16. **d** 17. **b** 18. **a** 19. **d** 20. **c** 21. **a**
22. **a** 23. **d** 24. **a** 25. **d** 26. **a** 27. **c** 28.
b

Awards Answer Keys

1. **c** 2. **a** 3. **d** 4. **c** 5. **c** 6. **d** 7. **b** 8. **d**
9. **a**

Ranks & Reports Answer Keys

1. **d** 2. **c** 3. **b** 4. **d** 5. **a** 6. **b** 7. **c** 8. **b**
9. **a** 10. **a** 11. **d**

Important Days Answer Keys

1. **c** 2. **c** 3. **b** 4. **d** 5. **a** 6. **b** 7. **d** 8. **b**
9. **a** 10. **b** 11. **c** 12. **b** 13. **c** 14. **a** 15.
c 16. **a** 17. **c** 18. **c** 19. **c** 20. **b** 21. **b**
22. **a** 23. **a** 24. **a** 25. **b** 26. **a** 27. **d** 28.
b 29. **b** 30. **d** 31. **b** 32. **a** 33. **c** 34. **c**

Summit & Conferences Answer Keys

1. **a** 2. **b** 3. **d** 4. **a** 5. **b**

Science & Technology Answer Keys

1. **a** 2. **d** 3. **d** 4. **b** 5. **d** 6. **c** 7. **b** 8. **d**

Defence Answer Keys

1. **a** 2. **d** 3. **c** 4. **d** 5. **d** 6. **b** 7. **b** 8. **a**
9. **b** 10. **e** 11. **c** 12. **d** 13. **b** 14. **a** 15.
c 16. **a**

Books & Authors Answer Keys

1. **b**

Obituary Answer Keys

1. **b**

Person in news Answer Keys

1. **b** 2. **a**

Insurance Answer Keys

1. **d** 2. **c** 3. **d** 4. **b**

India and World Answer Keys

1. **a** 2. **b** 3. **c**

Environment Answer Keys

1. **d**

Apps & Portals Answer Keys

1. **b** 2. **a**

Acquisition & Mergers Answer Keys

1. **b** 2. **a** 3. **c** 4. **a** 5. **d** 6. **d** 7. **c** 8. **d**
9. **c** 10. **b**

Agri-Business Answer Keys

1. **e**

FinTech Answer Keys

1. **a**

PSU's Answer Keys

1. **a**