



# CURRENT AFFIARS

May 2024



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## Banking & Finance

### 1. Sebi allows NRIs to own up to 100% in global funds at the GIFT City

- **The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) allowed non-resident Indians (NRIs) to own up to 100 per cent in global funds at the GIFT City and gave passive funds more exposure to group companies.**
- Currently, NRIs and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) cannot own more than 50 per cent in a foreign portfolio investor (FPI).
- Moreover, such FPIs will still have to adhere to the granular disclosure norms on economic interest and ultimate ownership issued by the regulator in August last year.
- The move will ensure that the NRI route is not used to circumvent rules such as the 25 per cent minimum public shareholding requirement.
- Mutual fund (MF) schemes, at present, can invest **not more than 25 per cent of their net asset value (NAV) in group companies of the sponsor.** The limit has been **raised to 35 per cent for passive funds**, subject to certain conditions.

### 2. Groww & Worldline join growing club of India's online payment aggregators

- Financial services platform Groww and digital payment processing company Worldline ePayments have secured RBI licence to operate as online payment aggregators. With this, the number of firms getting the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) nod to operate as payment aggregators has touched 20 in the first four months of calendar year 2024.
- Groww has secured the licence for its UPI payments platform Groww Pay. This year major players such as Amazon Pay, Digio, CCAvenue, Decentro, MSwipe, Tata Pay, Zoho, Zomato, among others received a final nod from the banking regulator to operate as payment aggregators.

### 3. RBI imposes monetary penalty on three co-operative banks for rule violations

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on May 2 said it has imposed monetary penalty on three co-operative banks for rule violations. These banks are Lokmangal Co-operative Bank, The Udgir Urban Co-operative Bank, and The Satara Sahakari Bank, RBI said in a release.
- The central bank imposed **Rs 5 lakh penalty on Lokmangal Co-operative Bank, Rs 2 lakh on The Satara Sahakari Bank, and Rs 1 lakh on The Udgir Urban Co-operative Bank,** release said. Monetary penalty on Lokmangal Co-operative Bank was imposed as bank not carried out periodic review of risk categorization of accounts and not carried out periodic updation of KYC as per the risk.

### 4. RBI announces 8% interest on Floating Rate Bond 2034

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced an 8 per cent interest rate on the Floating Rate Savings Bond (FRSB) 2034. This is a variable rate bond, and the interest rate will be reset every six months. The Government of India is issuing a special type of bond called a Floating Rate Bond (FRB) that matures in 2034.**
- Unlike regular bonds with a fixed interest rate, this bond's interest rate will adjust every six months. The interest rate is based on the average yield of recent auctions for short-term government debt (called Treasury Bills). Basically, it moves with market conditions. **For the next six months, the interest rate on this FRB bond will be 8%**
- These FRB bonds can be a good option for investors who want an interest rate that reflects current market conditions.
- FRBs have a maturity period of seven years. **The minimum investment amount for FRBs is Rs 1,000, while there is no maximum limit.** FRBs are backed by the government of India, making it one of the safest investments. Interest on these bonds is paid semi-annually on January 1 and July 1 each year

## 5. RBI allows standalone primary dealers to borrow in foreign currency

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed standalone primary dealers (SPDs) to borrow in foreign currency from their parent companies and entities it has authorised. They may access overdraft facilities in nostro accounts solely for operational use, the regulator said.**
- **Nostro is a bank account held in another country by a domestic bank, but in the currency of the foreign country.** An SPD dealing in euros would open an account with a bank in the European Union for transaction settlements. **As of March 31, 2023, there were seven SPDs, registered as non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) with the RBI.**
- The RBI has also included SPDs within the scope of norms for risk management and inter-bank dealings, enabling them to engage in foreign exchange products. SPDs were in 2018 authorised to offer forex products to clients, including foreign portfolio investors. SPDs have been classified as Authorised Dealer Category-III.
- A board of authorised dealers may set the Net Overnight Open Position Limit (NOOPL) for calculating the capital charge on forex risk. However, such limits should not exceed 25 per cent of the dealer's total capital (Tier-I and Tier-II capital).

## 6. Mumbai-based Fintech Getvantage Secures NBFC License From RBI

- **Neobanking startup Fi, backed by investors such as Peak XV and Temasek, has secured a non-banking finance company (NBFC) licence from the Reserve Bank of India, enabling it to provide loans from its own books. Fi has joined the likes of Jupiter, Groww and Cred, all of which got into the lending business either by getting a fresh licence or by acquiring another NBFC.**

### Requirement for NBFC License with RBI: -

- The applicant company shall be registered under Companies Act, 2013 or 1956
- The applicant company should have a minimum net owned fund of Rs. 2 crores.
- Procedure for Application to the RBI for NBFC License
- The applicant company needs to be a company registered under the Companies Act, 2013 with a minimum paid up capital of Rs. 2 crores.
- If the applicant is a foreign company, its minimum capital shall be Rs. 5 crores.
- NBFCs lend and make investments and hence their activities are akin to that of banks; however, there are a few differences as given below:
  - NBFC cannot accept demand deposits;
  - NBFCs do not form part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on itself;
  - deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation is not available to depositors of NBFCs, unlike in case of banks.
- NBFCs whose asset size is of Rs. 500 Cr or more as per last audited balance sheet are considered as systemically important NBFCs.

## 7. RBI revises banks' capital market exposure norms for T+1 settlement

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the guidelines for custodian banks to issue Irrevocable Payment Commitments (IPCs) in light of the T+1 settlement regime for stocks. The maximum intraday risk to the custodian banks issuing IPCs would be considered as capital market exposure (CME) at 30 per cent of the settlement amount.**
- **The limit of 30 per cent for risk is based on the assumption of a 20 per cent downward price movement of the equities on T+1, with an additional margin of 10 per cent for further downward movement of price.** Earlier, the risk mitigation measures were prescribed based on T+2 rolling settlement for equities (T being the trade day).

- Only custodian banks, who have an agreement with clients giving them an inalienable right over the securities for receiving a payout in the settlement, are permitted to issue IPCs. This clause will not be insisted upon if the transactions are pre-funded.
- Under the T+1 settlement cycle, the exposure shall normally be intraday. However, if exposure remains outstanding at the end of T+1 Indian Standard Time, the bank will have to maintain capital based on the outstanding capital market exposure.

## 8. Mumbai-based Fintech Getvantage Secures NBFC License From RBI

- GetVantage, a start-up providing revenue-based finance (RBF) to emerging businesses, has secured a non-banking financial company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), becoming the first RBF and alternative funding platform in the country to do so. GetGrowth Capital, the NBFC arm of GetVantage will manage the lending operations.
- GetVantage, which is backed by investors including Chiratae Ventures, Varanium, InCred, DMI, and Japanese Investors like Sony and DI, will capitalise the NBFC with Rs 50 crore and aims to raise a cumulative amount of Rs 200 crore to scale its lending operations.

## 9. Sebi introduces draft for stock exchanges to supervise research analysts

- Sebi came out with a framework for administration and supervision of research analysts and investment advisers, whereby a stock exchange can be authorised to oversee and manage such entities. Sebi said a stock exchange should be granted recognition as RAASB (Research Analyst Administration and Supervisory Body) and IAASB (Investmt Adviser Administration and Supervisory Body)
- **To be recognised as a RAASB and IAASB, a stock exchange must have been operational for at least 15 years, possess a net worth of at least Rs 200 crore, need to have nationwide terminals and investor service centres in 20 cities and provide a grievance redressal mechanism, including online dispute resolution.**
- RAASB and IAASB need to constitute an internal committee to oversee the activities of administration and supervision of research analysts (RAs) and investment advisers (IAs).
- Sebi said that RAASB/IAASB have specific responsibilities, including registration, enforcement, and disciplinary actions.

## 10. RBI removes restrictions on BoB app, allows new customer enrollment

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lifted the curbs on BoB World ' the mobile application (app) of Bank of Baroda ' with immediate effect, the bank said in a notification to the exchanges. As a result, the bank will be able to onboard customers through the mobile app.
- The move likely impacted the bank's incremental retail business sourced through the digital platform. **About 98 per cent of savings accounts and 91 per cent of current accounts are sourced digitally in the first quarter of 2023-24. About 43 per cent of time deposits and 74 per cent of retail advances are sourced through the BoB World app, according to analysts.**

## 11. RBI asks NBFCs not to lend more than Rs 20,000 in cash for gold loan

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cautioned the non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) extending gold loans against breaching the Rs 20,000 cap on cash loan disbursement.**
- While issuing the advisory, the central bank referred to the provisions of the Section 269 SS of Income Tax Act, 1961, that stipulates no individual can receive more than Rs 20,000 as loan amount in cash.
- In March, the RBI had barred IIFL Finance, a non-banking financial company, from sanctioning and disbursing fresh gold loans following 'material supervisory concerns' and to protect the interests of customers. **NBFCs are required to maintain a Loan-to-Value (LTV) ratio not exceeding 75 per cent for loans granted against the collateral of gold jewellery.**

## 12. Canara Bank Q4 Results: Net Profit rises 18.4% to Rs 3,757 Cr

- **Canara Bank, a leading state-owned lender, has reported robust financial performance for the fourth quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24, with a notable 18.4 per cent increase in net profit. The bank's net profit surged to Rs 3,757.23 crore, marking a significant rise compared to the same period last year.**
- In terms of asset quality, Canara Bank witnessed a notable decline in the **gross Non-Performing Asset (NPA) ratio, which improved to 4.23 per cent compared to the previous quarter. Similarly, the net NPA ratio stood at 1.27 per cent, reflecting a commendable reduction and underlining the bank's efforts in minimising credit risk.**
- Canara Bank also demonstrated strength in its lending operations, with a noteworthy increase in net interest income (NII) and net interest margins (NIM). **The bank's NII stood at Rs 9,580 crore, marking an 11.18 per cent increase compared to the previous year. The NIM remained healthy at 3.07 per cent, reflecting the bank's ability to manage its interest income and expenses.**

## 13. L&T Finance launches 'The Complete Home Loan'

- **L&T Finance Ltd (LTF) has launched 'The Complete Home Loan', offered through a digitised process, along with a dedicated relationship manager and optional home dcor finance. According to the company, home dcor finance aims to provide flexibility and convenience in acquiring essential furnishings for a comfortable living space.**
- The loan will be given against an architect's certificate or contract certification when the house is ready for interior decoration. **It will be about 15 per cent of the entire home loan, not exceeding Rs. 75 lakh, and can go up to 10 years.**

## 14. Infibeam's CCAvenue partners with Shivalik SFB to improve merchant access

- **CCAvenue, the payments platform of fintech firm Infibeam Avenues, will partner with Shivalik Small Finance Bank to provide merchants registered with it to access to SFB's customer base.**
- Gandhinagar-based Infibeam said the partnership would integrate Shivalik SFB's internet banking service with its payment platform.

## 15. Tata Capital, 14 other NBFCs surrender their registration certificates: RBI

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said 15 NBFCs, including Tata Capital Financial Services and Revolving Investments, have surrendered their certificates of registration due to various reasons.**
- Nine Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC) have ceased to be legal entities due to amalgamation, merger, dissolution, or voluntary strike-off.
- **These are Tata Capital Financial Services, Tata Cleantech Capital, Naperol Investments, USG Financial Services, Urja Capital, Vandana Dealers, ABRN Finance, Jodhani Management, and JDS Securities.**
- **The RBI further said six NBFCs surrendered their certificate of registration after exiting from Non-Banking Financial Institution (NBFI) business.**
- **These were Vian Growth Capital, Drap Leasing and Finance, Jewel Strips, Revolving Investments, Anshu Leasing, and A V B Finance.**
- The certificates of registration were granted to them by the RBI.

## 16. RBI imposes penalty on Sundaram Home Finance, Belstar Microfinance

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1,50,000 on Sundaram Home Finance and Rs 3,10,000 on Belstar Microfinance for failing to comply with specific provisions of the Know Your Customer (KYC) directive, 2016, the central bank said.**
- The RBI stated that Sundaram Home Finance failed to conduct periodic updates of KYC for certain customers within the prescribed time frame. Meanwhile, Belstar Microfinance outsourced decision-making functions of determining compliance with KYC norms to certain outsourced agents.

## 17. SBI becomes trading-clearing member of IIBX at GIFT City

- The State Bank of India (SBI) on 14 May announced that it has secured the distinction of being the first bank to become a trading-cum-clearing (TCM) Member of India International Bullion Exchange at the GIFT City in Gujarat. This milestone enables SBI IBU Gift City to conduct trades on the IIBX platform and settle them on behalf of its clients, per an official release.
- RBI guidelines permitted branches of an Indian Bank in GIFT IFSC to act as a trading member (TM)/trading and clearing member (TCM) of IIBX. The central bank also allowed special category clients (SCC) which are nominated banks in India to import gold through IIBX. Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI

## 18. HDFC Bank launches its first virtual credit card with Visa

- The country's largest private sector lender, HDFC Bank, on May 14, launched PIXEL, its first virtual credit card with Visa's network. The card is available in two variants: PIXEL Play and PIXEL Go and allows users to build their own cards with personalised benefits, offers, etc.
- In January 2024, HDFC Bank became the first bank to cross the milestone of 2 crore credit cards-in-force. The private sector lender started the credit card business in 2001 with the launch of its first credit card, reaching the mark of 1 crore cards-in-force in 2017. The bank doubled this to 2 crore cards in another six years.

## 19. SBI raises short-term retail fixed deposit rates by up to 75 bps

- The country's largest lender, State of India (SBI), has increased interest rates on short-term retail fixed deposits (FDs) by 25 to 75 basis points (bps) ' a move which is likely to be followed by other banks.
- This is the first increase in the fixed deposit rates by the bank since December 2023.
- A fixed deposit is an investment instrument where an amount is deposited with banks for a set period and at a fixed rate of interest. Rates on FDs are important for people, especially senior citizens, who are looking for safe investment options.

## 20. Bank of Maharashtra tops among PSU banks in business growth in FY24

- State-owned Bank of Maharashtra recorded the highest growth rate last fiscal in terms of total business and deposit mobilisation among public sector lenders at a time when most banks are facing difficulty in achieving double-digit growth.
- The Pune-headquartered lender has registered a 15.94 per cent rise in the total business (domestic) in FY24, followed by the country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) with 13.12 per cent growth, according to published financial numbers of the public sector banks (PSBs).
- BoM continued to maintain its top spot in terms of growth in deposit mobilisation, with a 15.66 per cent rise in FY24. It was followed by SBI (11.07 per cent), Bank of India (11.05 per cent) and Canara Bank (10.98 per cent). Out of 12 public sector banks, only these four lenders could log a double-digit growth in deposits in the financial year 2023-24.
- In terms of low-cost CASA deposits, the Bank of Maharashtra continued to top the chart with 52.73 per cent growth, followed by the Central Bank of India with a 50.02 per cent rise at the end of March 2024. With regard to loan growth, the Kolkata-based UCO Bank was a tad higher at 16.38 per cent, followed by BoM at 16.30 per cent.
- In terms of capital adequacy ratio, the Bank of Maharashtra was leading PSBs at 17.38 per cent, followed by Indian Overseas Bank at 17.28 per cent and Punjab & Sind Bank at 17.16 at the end of FY24.

## 21. Debt, equity holders approve merger of IDFC with IDFC First Bank

- Shareholders and non-convertible debenture (NCD) holders of IDFC First Bank have approved a proposal to merge parent IDFC Ltd with the lender. The proposal was passed by the overwhelming

majority of 99.99 per cent of the NCD holders. As part of the composite scheme of amalgamation, IDFC FHCL would first merge with IDFC and then IDFC into IDFC First Bank Ltd.

- **Under the proposed reverse merger scheme, an IDFC shareholder will get 155 shares for every 100 shares she/he holds in the bank.** Both stocks have a face value of Rs 10 each. IDFC was an infra lender in the private sector space, and following its bigger peers like ICICI and IDBI, it also launched a banking subsidiary in 2015 -- IDFC Bank.

## 22. Fusion Micro Finance gets \$25 million loan from US International DFC

- **Fusion Micro Finance has entered into a loan agreement with the United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) for an overall facility of \$25 million, the company said in a release. The microfinancier has received an initial disbursement of \$20 million as external commercial borrowing (ECB).**

## 23. SBI acquires 6.125% stake in CCIL IFSC, strengthens presence in GIFT City

- **State Bank of India has executed transaction documents to acquire a 6.125 per cent stake in CCIL IFSC Limited for Rs. 6,125 crore. CCIL IFSC, which will be incorporated with an authorised and paid-up capital of Rs. 200 crore and Rs. 100 Crore, respectively, will operate the foreign currency settlement system and act as a clearing house and system operator at the IFSC within GIFT City**

## 24. Yes Bank launches premium services under 'Yes Grandeur' for affluent, elite customers

- **Yes Bank has launched premium banking services under the label 'Yes Grandeur' targeting elite and rising affluent class to drive business growth. The exclusive banking program, tailored to meet distinctive financial and lifestyle needs, has an eligibility threshold of average monthly balance of Rs. 5 lakh or a Net Relationship Value (NRV) of Rs. 20 lakh, with additional**
- consideration given to loan relationships. Customers can also avail zero cross-currency markup charges on international debit card spends, complimentary airport lounge access, and lifestyle privileges across brands like Taj, ITC Hotels, Disney+ Hotstar, SonyLIV, Amazon, among others.
- **According to the BCG CCI Proprietary Income Model, India's affluent segment is projected to expand 2.3 times over the next decade leading to a major shift in consumer banking dynamics. A report by PRICE highlights that India's middle class is expected to nearly double, comprising 61 per cent of the total population by 2046-2047.**

## 25. Pine Labs receives Singapore Court nod to shift base to India

- **Payments firm Pine Labs has received approval from a Singapore court to merge its India and Singapore entities, Pine Labs Limited (PLS) and Pine Labs Private Limited (PLI). Pine Labs has become the third fintech company after PhonePe and Groww which relocated its domicile to India from overseas.**
- Currently, various start-ups including KreditBee, Razorpay, Meesho, and Zepto have been working on shifting their ultimate holding entities to India. All companies are also trying to assess the tax payout in India or abroad for these mergers.

## 26. RBI approves transfer of Rs 2.11 Lakh Cr as surplus to govt

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the transfer of Rs 2,10,874 crore as surplus to the Central Government for the accounting year 2023-24. The same was approved during the 608th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India, which was held in Mumbai.**
- **The Board, under the Chairmanship of RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, decided to increase the Contingent Risk Buffer, CRB to 6.50 per cent for FY 2023-24 as the economy remains robust and resilient.** Besides discussing and approving the Reserve Bank's Annual Report and Financial

Statements for the year 2023-24; the board also reviewed the global and domestic economic scenario.

## 27. Liminal Custody registers as FIU-IND reporting entity in India

- **Liminal Custody, a Singapore-based digital asset custody and wallet infrastructure platform, announced the registration of its Indian entity 'First Answer India Technologies Private Limited' with the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of India. It will operate in India's established regulatory framework to combat money laundering and terrorist financing activities.**
- Financial Intelligence Unit - India (FIU-IND) is the central, national agency responsible for receiving, processing, analysing and disseminating information relating to suspicious financial transactions to enforcement agencies and foreign FIUs. Liminal Custody also actively manages seized digital assets for the Central Bureau of Investigation.

## 28. RBI imposes Rs 3.1 lakh penalty on Hero FinCorp

- **The RBI said it has imposed a penalty of Rs 3.1 lakh on Hero FinCorp Limited for non-compliance with certain provisions relating to fair practices code.** The Reserve Bank, however, added the penalty is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the company with its customer

## 29. RBI imposes penalty on ICICI Bank and YES Bank for rule violations

- **The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on ICICI Bank for non-compliance with norms relating to loans, and a Rs 91 lakh fine on another private sector lender, Yes Bank, for violating norms relating to customer service and unauthorised operation of internal/office accounts.**
- RBI found that ICICI Bank had sanctioned term loans to certain entities in lieu of or to substitute budgetary resources envisaged for certain projects, and without undertaking due diligence on the viability and bankability of the projects to ensure that revenue streams from the projects were sufficient to take care of the debt servicing obligations, among others.
- On Yes Bank, the banking regulator found the lender levied charges for non-maintenance of minimum balance in certain savings accounts having insufficient/zero balance and opened and operated certain internal accounts in the name of its customers for unauthorised purposes like parking funds and routing customer transactions.

## 30. RBI Governor Das launches portal for online application, approval

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das launched an online portal named PRAVAAH (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation and Authorisation) portal for regulatory applications and approvals, a mobile app for individuals for transacting in government securities, and two repositories for information on fintech and lenders.**
- Individuals and entities will be able to track and monitor the status of their application in the PRAVAAH portal, which is secure and centralised, and respond to any clarification or query sought by the regulator. RBI also launched an application for the Retail Direct portal, through which individuals can transact in government securities.
- **The banking regulator has also launched separate repositories ' one for fintechs and another for RBI-regulated entities.** The repositories would enable the availability of aggregate sectoral level data, trends, and analytics that can be utilised by policymakers and industry members.

## 31. South Africa's central bank fines SBI over compliance

- **The Prudential Authority of the South African Reserve Bank has imposed a financial penalty of 10 million rand ('4.5 crore) on the State Bank of India's South Africa branch. This penalty was imposed under Section 45C of the country's Financial Intelligence Centre Act 38 of**

**2001 for non-compliance with certain provisions of the FIC Act or other related orders or directives.**

**32. European Union banks seek RBI approval for third-party transaction model**

- **As many as four European banks have asked the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to approve a third-party transaction model.**
- **Credit Agricole, Societe Generale, Deutsche Bank, and BNP Paribas seek to resolve a deadlock between their home authorities and Indian policymakers regarding audit oversight rights.**
- The European banks face hurdles in trading Indian government bonds and derivatives since the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) de-recognised the Clearing Corp of India (CCIL) in October 2022.
- ESMA's decision resulted from the RBI's refusal to grant audit and inspection rights over CCIL, which oversees local government bond trading and ensures settlement.

**33. RBI imposes business restriction on Edelweiss group's EARCL, ECL Finance**

- **The Reserve Bank of India barred the Edelweiss group's asset reconstruction company from acquiring financial assets and security receipts, and also its non-banking financial arm from undertaking any structured transaction for wholesale exposure, other than repayment and/ or closure of accounts in its normal course of business.**
- EARCL has also been barred from reorganising the existing SRs into senior and subordinate tranches. EARCL and ECL Finance were found to be 'acting in concert' by entering into a series of structured transactions for 'evergreening stressed exposure of ECL, using the platform of EARCL and connected AIFs, thereby circumventing applicable regulations'.

**34. RBI imposes Rs 36.38 lakh penalty on HSBC for violating Fema regulations**

- **The Reserve Bank has imposed a fine of Rs 36.38 lakh on foreign lender HSBC for Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) violations.**
- The central bank said reporting requirements under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme of FEMA, 1999 were not followed by HSBC. The RBI had issued a show cause notice to HSBC, in response to which the bank submitted a written reply.

**35. Sebi penalises Samco for lapses, bond platforms formalise association**

- **The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has imposed a penalty of Rs 2.5 lakh on stock broker Samco Securities** for alleged discrepancies in the client onboarding process and usage of common emails and phone numbers for multiple unique client codes.

**36. Poonawalla Fincorp, IndusInd Bank launch co-branded RuPay credit card**

- **Poonawalla Fincorp Limited, in collaboration with IndusInd Bank, has launched the co-branded 'IndusInd Bank Poonawalla Fincorp eLITE RuPay Platinum Credit Card'**, a card designed to redefine and elevate the banking experience of customers.

## Economy

### 1. GST collections for April this year recorded highest ever collection of two lakh ten thousand crore rupees

- **The Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collections for April this year have recorded the highest ever collection of two lakh ten thousand crore rupees. Union Finance Ministry said, this represents a significant 12.4 per cent year-on-year growth, driven by a strong increase in domestic transactions and imports.**
- It said, out of the total collection in April this year, **Central Goods and Services Tax is over 43 thousand crore rupees, State Goods and Services Tax is over 53 thousand crore, Integrated Goods and Services Tax is over 99 thousand crore and cess is over 13 thousand crore rupees.**
- The Ministry said, after accounting for refunds, **the net GST revenue for April 2024 stands at one lakh 92 thousand crore rupees, reflecting an impressive 15.5 per cent growth compared to the same period last year.**

### 2. India's core sector growth slows to 5.2% in March from 7.1% in February

- **The growth in output of eight key infrastructure industries slowed to 5.2% year-on-year in March from 7.1% in February on the back of a sequential deterioration recorded by five of its constituents. Output decelerated in sectors like coal (8.7%), crude oil (2%), natural gas (6.3%) and steel (5.5%) during March, according to Ministry of Commerce and Industry data.**
- Overall in FY24, growth in the core sector stood at 7.5 per cent as against 7.8 per cent in FY23. All the eight constituent sectors registered positive growth during the financial year with output of steel (12.3 per cent) leading the chart, followed by coal (11.7 per cent), cement (9.1 per cent), and electricity (7 per cent) in FY24.
- **The eight core industries account for 40.27 per cent weighting of items** included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and, thus, have a significant impact on the index.

### 3. India cuts windfall tax on petroleum crude

- **India has cut its windfall tax on petroleum crude to 8,400 Indian rupees (\$100.66) a metric ton from 9,600 rupees with effect from May 1, the government said.** The tax, which is revised every fortnight, was left unchanged at zero for diesel and aviation turbine fuel.
- A windfall tax is a higher tax imposed on specific industries when they make unusual and above-average profits. The term 'windfall' refers to an unexpected rise in profits, and the tax on windfall gains is known as the windfall tax.

### 4. OECD revises India's FY25 growth forecast upward to 6.6%

- **The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, revised India's FY25 growth forecast upward to 6.6% from 6.2% projected earlier. 'Strong investment and improving business confidence in India are projected to sustain real GDP growth of just over 6 per cent in both FY25 and FY26, despite relatively sluggish private consumption growth,' OECD said.**

### 5. ICICI market cap tops Rs 8 trillion, bank storms into the top five

- **Shares of ICICI Bank surged over 5% on 6<sup>th</sup> May, sending its market capitalisation past the Rs. 8-trillion mark and into the league of the top five companies by market value.** The private lender has become the second bank to cross this milestone, after HDFC Bank.

- **Reliance Industries maintains its position as the most-valued Indian company, boasting a market capitalisation of Rs 19.8 trillion, while software giant Tata Consultancy Services follows closely behind with a market cap of Rs 14 trillion. Among banks, HDFC Bank leads with a market capitalisation of Rs 11.6 trillion, State Bank of India has a market value of Rs 7.4 trillion**

#### 6. India's services exports growth enters slow lane in FY24: RBI data

- **India's services exports decelerated in FY24 to a three-year low, with a modest increase of 4.9 per cent to \$341.1 billion, data released by the Reserve Bank of India showed. net services exports grew at a robust pace of 13.6 per cent to \$162.8 billion as services imports contracted 2 per cent to \$178.3 billion during the financial year ended March 31.**
- **In FY24, merchandise exports had contracted 3.2 per cent to \$437.1 billion, leading to a trade deficit of \$240.2 billion**, data released by the commerce ministry last month showed. However, a robust services trade surplus is expected to narrow down the current account deficit (CAD) in FY24 to around 1 per cent of GDP.
- **The latest round of RBI's survey of Professional Forecasters on Macroeconomic Indicators projects the CAD to GDP ratio at 1.2 per cent and 1.1 per cent for FY25 and FY26.**

#### 7. India's services PMI slides in April, remains robust due to strong demand

- Growth in India's dominant services sector slowed marginally in April, but remained robust due to strong demand, a private business survey released said.
- **The headline Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) figure, released by HSBC, slid to 60.8 in April from 61.2 recorded in March.**
- The April figure marks 33 months of the index remaining above the 50-mark since July 2021. A figure above 50 in the index denotes expansion and below that signifies contraction in the sector.
- **According to the survey, business activity increased across the four sub-categories monitored by the survey, led by steep growth in Finance & Insurance.**

#### 8. India Ratings raises sovereign GDP growth estimate for FY25 to 7.1%

- **India Ratings and Research revised upward the country's GDP growth estimate for FY25 to 7.1 per cent from 6.5% earlier.**
- **The projection is marginally higher than the Reserve Bank's estimate of 7%. The agency said it expects the growth in private final consumption expenditure to jump to 7% in FY25, up from 3% in FY24, and added that this will be 3 years high.**
- On the capex front, it said private sector activity has remained down for several years but added that a new cycle is in the offing as seen from the increase in the project loans sanctioned by lenders.
- The headline inflation will moderate in FY25, but the Reserve Bank will remain vigilant, the agency said.

#### 9. India becomes first country to get over \$100 billion in remittances

- **India has become the first country to receive over \$100 billion in remittances in 2022, according to the United Nations migration agency. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) revealed in its World Migration Report 2024 that India's remittances surged to \$111 billion last year, surpassing all other nations.**
- **The report highlighted that India, Mexico, China, the Philippines, and France were the top five recipients of remittances in 2022. The report's data showed that India led in remittance receipts in 2010 (\$53.48 billion), 2015 (\$68.91 billion), and 2020 (\$83.15 billion), with \$111.22 billion in 2022.**
- Apart from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh also rank among the top ten recipients of international remittances, underscoring the significance of labour migration from this subregion. The Gulf States remain pivotal destinations for migrant workers, particularly from India, Egypt, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Kenya, employed in sectors like construction, hospitality, security etc

- **The report highlighted that Mexico has become the second-largest recipient of international remittances, overtaking China, which held this position historically.** Furthermore, the report pointed out that Asia serves as a major source of internationally mobile students, with China leading in outbound student mobility.

#### 10. India's factory output rises to 4.9% in March, grows 5.8% in FY24

- **Factory output, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), rose to 4.9 per cent, much higher than the 1.9 per cent recorded in the same month last year. However, the latest IIP figure was lower than the 5.7 per cent recorded in February 2024. Mining was slower by 1.2 percent in March and by 7.5 percent in the fiscal.**
- **For the full financial year 2023-24, the factory output grew 5.8%, marginally higher than 5.2 per cent in the previous year, with a pickup in manufacturing and construction goods output.**
- **According to the Index of Industrial Production data released on 10<sup>th</sup> May, manufacturing grew at a five month high at 5.2% in March 2024 and by 5.5% for the full fiscal year 2023-2024.**
- **Electricity generation expanded by 8.6 percent in March and grew by 7.1% between April 2023 and March 2024. On the consumption front, consumer durables output, which reflects consumption demand, grew 9.5% in March as against 12.4% in February and a low base of (-)8% in the year-ago period.**

#### 11. India's April Retail Inflation Holds Steady at 4.83%

- **India's headline retail inflation stayed largely unchanged at 4.83 percent in April, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. A marginal fall in the headline retail inflation rate was limited by prices of food and beverages that remained elevated at 7.87 percent, edging higher than 7.68 percent a month ago.**
- **Food inflation rose marginally with the index coming in at 8.70 percent in April, as compared to 8.52 percent in previous month.**

#### 12. India's imports from FTA partners in FY24 grew 38% over FY19

- India's imports from its key free trade agreement partner nations grew at a faster pace compared to total inbound shipments entering the country, according to a report.
- **Imports from the FTA partners saw a nearly 38 per cent increase, totaling \$187.92 billion in 2023-24, which was faster when compared to the 31.4 per cent jump to \$675.45 billion in the country's import.**
- **The growth in shipments spans a five-year comparison, from 2018-19 (FY19) to FY24, Delhi-based think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said. Exports from FTA nations increased by 14.48 per cent to \$122.72 billion, while total exports saw a 32 per cent growth at \$437 billion.**
- **This includes India's trade agreements with South Korea, Japan, Australia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Mauritius, the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) nations, and the South Asian Free Trade Area. These countries constituted 28 per cent of India's total trade ' exports and imports ' during FY24.**
- **The trade agreement with ASEAN, which kicked in in 2010, saw growth in imports at a faster pace than exports. Exports to ASEAN countries grew from \$37.47 billion in FY19 to \$41.21 billion in FY24, marking a 9.96 per cent increase. On the other hand, imports from ASEAN saw a 34.3 per cent jump, totaling \$79.67 billion.**
- **Exports to South Korea rose by 36.38 per cent, from \$4.71 billion to \$6.42 billion, and imports increased by 26.12 per cent, from \$16.76 billion to \$21.14 billion. Exports to Japan showed a modest increase of 6.06 per cent, from \$4.86 billion to \$5.16 billion, while imports rose by 38.56 per cent, from \$12.77 billion to \$17.7 billion.**

### 13. China beats US to emerge as largest trading partner of India in FY24: GTRI

- **China has emerged as the largest trading partner of India with \$ 118.4 billion two-way commerce in 2023-24, slightly edging past the US, according to the data of economic think tank GTRI.**
- The bilateral trade between India and the US stood at \$ 118.3 billion in 2023-24. Washington was the top trading partner of New Delhi during 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- The data showed that **India's exports to China rose by 8.7 per cent to \$ 16.67 billion** in the last fiscal. The main sectors which recorded healthy growth in exports to that country include **iron ore, cotton yarn/fabrics/madeups, handloom, spices, fruits and vegetables, plastic and linoleum.** Imports from the neighbouring country increased by 3.24 per cent to \$ 101.7 billion.
- On the other hand, **exports to the US dipped by 1.32 per cent to \$ 77.5 billion in 2023-24 as against \$ 78.54 billion in 2022-23**, while imports dipped by about 20 per cent to \$ 40.8 billion, the data showed. According to the commerce ministry data, China was India's top trading partner from 2013-14 till 2017-18 and also in 2020-21.
- Before China, the UAE was the country's largest trading partner. The US was the largest partner in 2021-22 and 2022-23. In 2023-24, the UAE with \$ 83.6 billion, was the third largest trading partner of India. It was followed by Russia (\$ 65.7 billion), Saudi Arabia (\$ 43.4 billion), and Singapore (\$ 35.6 billion).

### 14. Total exports of merchandise and services in FY 2024-25 surge with 6.88% growth

- **India's total exports of merchandise and services in April 2024 is estimated to be 64.56 billion dollars against 60.40 billion dollars in April 2023.** The data shows a positive growth of 6.88 percent on a yearly basis. As per the data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, **Country's merchandise exports grew by 1.08 percent at 34.99 billion dollars in April 2024 as compared to 34.62 billion dollars in April 2023.** Main drivers of merchandise exports growth during April 2024 include **Electronic Goods, Organic & Inorganic Chemicals, Petroleum Products and Drugs & Pharmaceuticals.**
- Electronic goods exports increased by 25.8 percent from 2.11 billion dollars in April 2023 to 2.65 billion dollars in April 2024. As per the data, Merchandise imports in April 2024 were 54.09 billion dollars, as compared to 49.06 billion dollars in April 2023.

### 15. Unemployment rate in urban areas dips to 6.7% in March quarter: Govt survey

- **Unemployment rate in urban areas for persons aged 15 and above has decreased to 6.7 per cent during the previous quarter January to March 2024. The unemployment rate was 6.8 per cent during the corresponding period of last year. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey quarterly bulletin (January to March 2024), the female unemployment rate decreased to 8.5 per cent.**
- According to the survey, **the Labour Force Participation Rate in urban areas has shown an increasing trend from 48.5 per cent to 50.2 per cent from January to March 2024** in comparison to the corresponding period of last year.
- In the same period, **Female Labour Force Participation Rate in urban areas rose from 22.7 per cent to 25.6 per cent.**
- The survey highlights an increasing trend in **the worker population ratio for persons of age 15 years and above to 46.9 per cent from 45.2 per cent.** **The female worker population ratio in urban areas also rises from 20.6 per cent to 23.4 per cent** during the survey period.

### 16. Indian economy likely to grow at 6.6% in FY25, says Moody's

- **Moody's Ratings projected a 6.6% growth rate for the Indian economy in the fiscal year ending March 2025 (FY25).**
- The forecast attributes the growth to strong credit demand and robust economic performance, which will support the profitability of non-bank finance companies (NBFCs).

- In comparison to Moody's forecast, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and other agencies have higher growth projections. **The RBI, Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Fitch Ratings each estimate a 7% growth rate for FY25, while S&P Global Ratings and Morgan Stanley predict a 6.8% growth rate. Moody's also projects a 15% growth in loans at NBFCs over the next 12 to 18 months.**

#### 17. UN revises India's 2024 growth forecast to 6.9%

- **The United Nations (UN) has revised India's growth projections for 2024 and expects the economy to grow by almost 7% this year. According to the UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report, India's economy is now forecast to grow by 6.9% in 2024. This is an increase from the earlier projection of 6.2% made in January.**
- **The report also predicts a growth rate of 6.6% for 2025**, which remains unchanged from the previous forecast. In addition to the growth projection, the **UN report mentions a slowdown in consumer price inflation from 5.6% in 2023 to 4.5% in 2024**. This expected decrease aligns with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) target range of 2-6%.

#### 18. Market cap of BSE-listed companies hits \$5 trillion first time ever

- **The market capitalisation of companies listed on BSE has crossed a record \$5 trillion for the first time - hitting a fresh high on May 21 - data on the BSE website showed. Currently, only four stock markets world over are in the \$5-trillion-plus club, namely, USA, China, Japan and Hong Kong.**
- The surge in the market capitalization of Indian equities was primarily driven by a surge in broader market indices. India's market capitalization has risen nearly 12 percent, while for the US it has gone up by 10 percent, and Hong Kong's has risen 16 percent.

#### 19. India's market capitalisation to GDP ratio at 15-year high of 140%

- **The stock prices of listed companies continue to outpace growth in India's gross domestic product (GDP). The market capitalisation (MCAP) of all companies listed and traded on the BSE is up 61 per cent since the end of March 2023, compared to an estimated 10 per cent growth in India's GDP at current prices in 2023-24 (FY24).**
- **As a result, India's MCAP-to-GDP ratio has hit a 15-year high of 140.2 per cent, up sharply from 95.8 per cent at the end of March 2023.**
- **According to data from BSE, the 4,357 companies available for trade had a combined MCAP of around Rs 416 trillion against India's GDP at current prices of Rs 296.6 trillion in FY24.**
- **The combined MCAP of India's top 30 listed companies that are part of the S&P BSE Sensex is up only 27.2 per cent in this period. The Sensex companies' combined MCAP has risen from Rs 115.9 trillion at the end of March 2023 to Rs 147.4 trillion.** The traded value of the two indices tracks the changes in the combined free-float MCAP rather than the companies' full MCAP.

#### 20. India sees its third unicorn of 2024 in logistics services platform Porter

- **Homegrown logistics services platform Porter has likely become the third unicorn (with valuation of \$1 billion and above) in India this year after a fresh internal round. Founded in 2014 by Pranav Goel, Uttam Digga and Vikas Choudhary, Porter launched an on-demand marketplace for trucks, bikes and packers & movers.**

#### 21. CBDT notifies Cost Inflation Index for financial year 2024- 25

- **The Central Board of Direct Taxes, CBDT has notified the Cost Inflation Index, CII for the financial year 2024- 25 for calculating long-term capital gains. The CII for financial year 2024-25, relevant to assessment year 2025-26, stood at 363.** The Cost Inflation Index is used by taxpayers to compute gains arising out of sale of capital assets after adjusting inflation.

- This notification will come into force with effect from the 1st day of April, 2025. **For the financial year 2023-24, the CII was set at 348. It is popularly used to calculate 'indexed cost of acquisition', while calculating capital gains at the time of sale of any capital asset. An asset is required to be retained for more than 36 months,** (24 months for immovable property and unlisted shares, 12 months for listed securities) to qualify as 'long-term capital gains'. Since prices of goods increase over time resulting in a fall in the purchasing power, the CII is used to arrive at the inflation adjusted purchasing price of assets so as to compute taxable long-term capital gains (LTCG).

## 22. India only country among top 5 largest steel producers in world to see growth in production

- **India has emerged as the sole nation among the top five steel producers in the world to witness growth in production during April, while others experienced declines of up to 7%. India, the second-largest steel producer worldwide, recorded a 3.6% increase in production, reaching 12.1 million tonnes in April.**
- The country has achieved an impressive 8.5% growth in production between January and April this year, having produced 49.5 million tonnes of steel. Japan, the United States, and Russia experienced a 2-6% year-on-year decline in steel production during the month.

## 23. Goldman Sachs raises India's GDP growth forecast to 6.7 percent for calendar year 2024

- **Global investment bank Goldman Sachs has raised India's GDP growth forecast to 6.7 percent for calendar year 2024.** The latest data released by the bank said, they expect a sustained growth momentum with additional fiscal space on account of a bumper dividend transfer from the RBI.
- The financial company said that in India, growth momentum remains strong and core inflation is expected to bottom out in April-June. The report also came on a day when the IMD confirmed its forecast of above-average monsoon rains this year which are expected to spur production in the agricultural sector that was hit by erratic weather last year.

## 24. Google Invests \$350 Million In Walmart-Owned Flipkart

- **Tech major Google is investing nearly \$350 million in Walmart-owned e-commerce firm Flipkart for a minority share, according to sources. The investment is part of the \$1 billion funding round started by Flipkart in 2023. Flipkart's valuation had been adjusted to \$33 billion after fintech firm PhonePe was separated from the group in December 2022.**

## 25. Smartphones Become India's Fourth Largest Export Item With 42% Growth

- **Smartphones are now the fourth-largest export item from India with 42 per cent growth to \$15.6 billion in FY24, up by one notch in the ranking from the preceding year. India started collecting data for smartphones separately from April 2022. While India's top export items are dominated by petroleum products, smartphones replaced motor gasoline.**
- According to commerce department data, the spike in smartphone exports was driven by a 158 per cent increase in shipments to the US at \$5.6 billion, followed by the United Arab Emirates (\$2.6 billion), the Netherlands (\$1.2 billion), and the UK (\$1.1 billion).

## 26. SBI Research says, India's GDP growth likely to touch 8 % in financial year 2024

- **The State Bank of India (SBI) on 29<sup>th</sup> May released a report anticipating India's GDP growth 7.4% in the fourth quarter of the financial year 2023-24, while the overall growth could touch 8%. The report released by the SBI's Economic Research department highlights the potential impact of global economic resilience on India's growth trajectory.**

- The report identifies a consistent growth trend across both urban and rural sectors in India. Urban economic momentum is indicated by strong performance in passenger vehicle sales, airport passenger traffic, GST collections, credit card transactions, petroleum consumption, and toll collection.

## 27. S&P Global Ratings Revised India's Outlook On Economy To Positive From Stable

- **S&P Global ratings has revised India's outlook on economy to positive from stable.** The agency expects broad continuity in economic reforms and fiscal policies regardless of the election outcome. Since September 26 2014, the Agency placed India's outlook on Economy as stable. After a gap of 10 years, the outlook has been upgraded to positive.
- **Robust economic growth, improvement in the quality of government spending, political commitment to fiscal consolidation, GDP expanding close to 7% annually over the next three years, Improvements in infrastructure and connectivity in India, Expectation on general government deficit to dip to 6.8% by fiscal 28 from 7.9% in fiscal 2025, are the rational behind the outlook.**
- The agency, however, retained the Sovereign rating at BBB minus, citing Fiscal setting vulnerabilities.

## National

### 1. Adani Green Energy Secures \$400 Million Finance From International Banks

- **Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) said it has secured USD 400 million finance from a consortium of five international banks for its under construction solar projects of 750 MW in Gujarat and Rajasthan. One of the projects is being developed in Rajasthan with 500 MW capacity and has a long-term power purchase agreement (PPA) with Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).**
- The second one, with 250 MW capacity, is a standalone merchant power project being implemented at the world's largest RE cluster in Khavda, Gujarat. The consortium of lenders includes Cooperative Rabobank U.A., DBS Bank Ltd, Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A., MUFG Bank, Ltd., and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation.
- AGEL has 10,934 MW operational portfolio, largest in India, delivering reliable, affordable, and clean power to the national grid. AGEL's operational portfolio consists of 7,393 MW solar, 1,401 MW wind and 2,140 MW wind-solar hybrid capacity.

### 2. Indian Oil Corporation to Invest Rs 5,215 cr in green power

- **Indian Oil Corporation announced plans to invest Rs. 5,215 crores in developing 1 GW of renewable energy capacity in India.** The investment, approved by its board, will focus on standalone ground-mounted solar, onshore wind, or wind-solar hybrid projects in phases.
- **Indian Oil will contribute Rs. 1,304 crores in equity for the initiative, housing its renewable energy business in a wholly-owned subsidiary.** Recently, the company signed a preliminary pact to build a joint venture with Japan's Panasonic to manufacture lithium-ion cells, to serve two- and three-wheelers.

### 3. REC gets RBI nod to set up subsidiary in GIFT City, Gujarat

- **REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has received a 'No Objection Certificate' (dated May 3, 2024) from the Reserve Bank of India, for setting up a wholly owned subsidiary in International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), Gujarat International Finance Tec-City ("GIFT"), Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**
- The decision to expand operations into GIFT, a burgeoning hub for financial services in India, comes as REC continues to diversify its portfolio and explore new avenues for growth. The proposed subsidiary will engage in a range of financial activities as a finance company within GIFT, including lending, investment, and other financial services.

### 4. Ajrakh from Kutch gets GI tag

- **In a significant stride towards preserving India's rich textile heritage, the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks (CGPDTM) has bestowed the Geographical Indication (GI) certificate upon the traditional artisans of 'Kutch Ajrakh,' hailing from the vibrant region of Kutch in Gujarat.**
- Hand block painting or Ajrakh is an age-old tradition practiced in Ajrakhpur, a village in the Kutch district of Gujarat. The 100-odd families of the village take part in a laborious process that takes up to three weeks to complete. Textiles are treated with vegetable and mineral colours and the fabric goes through a washing cycle about eight times.

### 5. National Archives of India Acquires the private paper collection of Late Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai

- **National Archives of India (NAI) has acquired the private paper collection of Late Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, comprising original correspondences of Shri Kidwai with other eminent leaders like Pt. Nehru, Sardar Patel, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, P.D. Tandon etc.**

### About National Archives of India (NAI): -

- National Archives of India is the custodian of the non-current records of the Government of India and holds them in trust for the use of administrators and researchers as per the provision of the Public Record Act 1993.

### 6. ICMR Releases Updated Dietary Guidelines for Indians in 2024

- **The Hyderabad-based National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), which is part of the Indian Council of Medical Research, has called for avoiding protein supplements for building body mass.** It is also recommended that salt intake be restricted, sugar and ultra-processed foods be minimised, and information on food labels be read to make informed and healthy food choices.
- **According to guidelines, sugar should be less than 5 per cent of total energy intake, and a balanced diet should provide not more than 45 per cent calories from cereals and millet. Adding more, it said sugar should be 15 per cent of calories from pulses, beans and meat.**
- The guidelines also stated that the rest of the calories should come from nuts, vegetables, fruits, and milk, while total fat intake should be less than or equal to 30 per cent energy. As per the central health monitoring body, around 56.4 per cent of the total disease burden in India is due to unhealthy diets.

### 7. DoT in first-of-its-kind initiative brings together 15 startups, academia on "Telecom Design Collaboration Sprint"

- **In a novel initiative, the Department of Telecommunications brought together startups/MSMEs, academia and research institutions under the "Telecom Design Collaboration Sprint". This Sprint was organised by DoT at IIIT, Bangalore.** Fifteen leading startups/MSME in the Radio Access Network, Core ecosystems, IIT Madras, C-DOT, IIT Delhi and other network entities participated.
- This collaboration engaged in deep-Tech rapid ideation and innovative solution towards developing a comprehensive and future-ready telecom stack encompassing comprehensive 5G solution and setting the stage for future advancements to 6G.
- The Sprint was driven by three primary objectives: -
  - o Leveraging Collective Strengths
  - o Fostering Holistic Solutions
  - o Creating Market
  - o The Sprint underscores DoT's commitment to nurturing innovation and fostering industry collaboration to propel India's telecommunications sector towards global leadership in the 5G era and beyond.

### 8. IREDA incorporates 'IREDA Global Green Energy Finance IFSC Limited' in GIFT City, Gujarat

- **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has incorporated a wholly owned subsidiary in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) located in GIFT City, Gujarat. Named "IREDA Global Green Energy Finance IFSC Limited," the subsidiary was officially incorporated on 7th May, 2024.**
- Earlier, on 8th February, 2024, the Reserve Bank of India gave its No Objection letter to set up the finance company in IFSC GIFT City. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), is a Non-Banking Financial Institution engaged in promoting, developing and extending financial assistance.

## 9. New Inter-Services Organisations Act Notified by Defence Ministry

- **The Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Act has been notified.** The bill was passed by both the Houses of Parliament during the Monsoon Session last year in order to bolster effective command, control and efficient functioning of Inter-Services Organisations.
- **The Act will empower commanders-in-chief and officers-in-command of ISOs with disciplinary and administrative powers that will govern the personnel serving in or attached to such organisations.** Currently, armed forces personnel of all three services are governed in accordance with their respective service acts -- **Army Act 1950, Navy Act 1957 and Air Force Act 1950.**

## 10. Infosys Gets ISO 42001:2023 Certification For AI Management System

- **Infosys has announced that it has been certified with ISO 42001:2023, world's first international standard on AI management systems, by TUV India (part of TV Nord Group), an independent provider of technical quality and safety services. Infosys is among the first IT services companies globally to have earned the certification.**
- **The ISO 42001:2023 certification provides a roadmap and systematic approach to AI management through risk mitigation and streamlined processes.** By adhering to the global standard, Infosys can embed strong AI management practices for clients, internal adoption and product development. The AIMS framework is a part of Infosys Topaz Responsible AI Suite.
- The Responsible AI Suite aims to monitor and protect AI models and systems from risks and threats, while enabling businesses to apply AI responsibly. The offerings include a combination of accelerators and solutions designed to drive responsible AI adoption across enterprises.

## 11. Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahdayloka-Locana enter 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register'

- **The Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahdayloka-Locana have been included in 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register'. The 'Ramcharitmanas', 'Panchatantra', and 'Sahdayloka-Locana' are such timeless works that have deeply influenced Indian literature and culture, shaping the nation's moral fabric and artistic expressions.**
- These literary works have transcended time and place, leaving an indelible mark on readers and artists both within and outside India. It is noteworthy that **'Sahdayloka-Locana', 'Panchatantra', and 'Ramcharitmanas' were authored by Acharya Anandvardhan, Pt. Vishnu Sharma, and Goswami Tulsidas, respectively.**
- The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), played a vital role in securing a historic moment during the 10th meeting of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP). This marks the first time IGNCA has submitted nominations to the Regional Register since its inception in 2008.

## 12. Ministry of Tourism participates in IMEX, Frankfurt 2024 to showcase India as a premier global hub for MICE activities

- **Ministry of Tourism, Government of India is participating in IMEX, Frankfurt from 14th-16th May 2024. The Ministry of Tourism aims to showcase the strengths of India as a leading MICE destination to the global market and to act as a catalyst to bring forth a greater number of Conferences and Conventions to be hosted in the country.**
- IMEX is a hub for the global events industry, which offers a valuable and lucrative opportunity for professionals to enhance businesses, foster genuine connections, and gain invaluable insights. **India is positioned at rank 9 in the ICCA ranking of countries in the Asia Pacific region, in 2022.**

### 13. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd celebrates 250th Foundation Day

- **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) has celebrated its 250th Foundation Day on May 14, 2024. To mark the day, a series of events were organised in Mumbai, presided over by Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane.** These included the inauguration of adjacent land acquired from the Mumbai Port Authority (MPA) and; the launch of a prototype of an indigenous midget submarine, commissioning of Solar Electric Hybrid boat & Fuel Cell Electric Ferry; release of MDL's Commemorative Coin; and a day-long technical seminar. From a small dry dock in 1774 to its incorporation in 1934, and subsequently, its stewardship under the Government of India since 1960.

### 14. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Receives First Stamp Released Commemorating Completion Of 200 Years Of Indian Origin Tamils In Sri Lanka

- **Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications & IT has brought out a Commemorating Postage Stamp on Srimath Anagarika Dharmapala, the great Buddhist thinker and visionary from Sri Lanka. Indian spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar received the first stamp released commemorating the completion of 200 years of Indian Origin Tamils in Sri Lanka.**
- The Minister highlighted that Swami Vivekanand and Srimath Anagarika Dharmapala together represented the two great religions at the World Parliament of Religions held at Chicago in 1893.

### 15. IFC Extends US\$500 Million to HDFC Bank to Ramp Up Microloans to Underserved Women Borrowers in India

- **HDFC Bank said it has raised USD 500 million from IFC for on lending to underserved women borrowers.** HDFC will extend finance for income generation, fostering financial inclusion and socio-economic growth. It will extend the microloans to self-help groups and joint liability groups of women enrolled under the Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative (SLI) of the lender.

### 16. Mission ISHAN, India's push for 'one nation, one airspace'

- **India has initiated the process of consolidating its four airspace regions into a single entity spanning the entire nation, in order to refine and strengthen air traffic management (ATM).** The Airports Authority of India has called for expressions of interest to prepare a detailed project report for the Indian Single Sky Harmonized Air Traffic Management (ISHAN) initiative.
- **Currently, Indian airspace is divided into four flight information regions (FIRs) and a sub-FIR, each managed separately. Unifying these FIRs under a single authority in Nagpur is projected to improve efficiency, safety, and seamlessness in air traffic operations.**

### 17. WCD ministry 'officially' dissolves Food and Nutrition Board

- **A board responsible for providing technical and logistical support for functioning of community nutrition programmes has been "officially dissolved" as part of a plan for rationalisation of government bodies. The Food and Nutrition Board has been shut down by the Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry. It was a technical wing of the ministry headquartered at Delhi.**
- The board had a wide network of offices, including four regional offices and as many quality control laboratories in Faridabad, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. **The activities of the FNB were officially closed as per a gazette notification dated June 16, 2021. The formal dissolution was approved on Nov 30 last year.** Consequently, FNB ceased operations effective December 2023.

### 18. Thiruvananthapuram International Airport receives zero waste to landfill accolade

- **The Thiruvananthapuram International airport has received the zero waste to landfill (ZWL) accolade by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-ITC) Centre of Excellence for**

**Sustainable Development. It was the first airport in the country to receive this 'prestigious recognition'.**

- The ZWL assessment verified that Thiruvananthapuram International Airport has implemented the best waste management practices and achieved a 99.50 per cent waste diversion from landfill. The airport has successfully diverted 100 per cent of plastic waste and 100 per cent of MSW waste (wet and dry).

**19. Fischer Medical Ventures makes India's first indigenous MRI system**

- **Chennai-headquartered Fischer Medical Ventures (FMVL), aiming to lessen the country's reliance on imported devices, has manufactured its magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) systems domestically, claiming to be the first company in the country to achieve this.**
- **The company is developing its MRI systems at a production facility in the Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ) in Visakhapatnam.** AMTZ, India's premier medical technology park, provides a conducive environment for production, with access to facilities and a skilled workforce.

**20. Reliance Industries to begin construction on India's first multimodal logistics park near Chennai**

- **Conceptualised 12 years ago, India's first Multimodal Logistics Park at Mappedu near Chennai will see the limelight as Reliance Industries starts construction in June, according to multiple sources.** In 2022, the company beat Adani Group to win the bid for the Rs 1,424 crore project on 184.27 acres of land in Tiruvallur district.
- The project aims to facilitate efficient, cost-effective and value-added logistics services such as cargo aggregation and disaggregation, distribution, intermodal transfer, sorting, packing, and repacking. However, it did not take off due to the poor response from the private sector on issues like connectivity.

**21. GAIL commissions first green hydrogen plant in Madhya Pradesh**

- **The first hydrogen green plant by GAIL (Gas Authority of India Ltd) was inaugurated in Madhya Pradesh.** The plant marks a major step towards new and alternate energy and has been installed in line with the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- **The plant can produce 4.3 TPD of hydrogen through 10MW PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane) Electrolyzer units, by electrolysis of water using renewable power. The purity of hydrogen from this plant shall be 99.999 per cent (by vol.) and will be produced at a pressure of 30 Kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.**

**22. NHAI launches initiative to attract the UAE's investments for India's highway expansion**

- **The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has launched an initiative to monetize its infrastructure, seeking investments from the UAE to sustain and enhance India's expanding national highway network.** NHAI aims to build lasting UAE investor relationships, with positive responses in Dubai and upcoming meetings in Abu Dhabi.
- This initiative represents a strategic move to secure sustainable funding for India's highway expansion, attract significant capital, and foster a beneficial partnership for both India and investors.

## International

### 1. Zimbabwe's ZiG is the world's newest currency

- **Zimbabwe launched the ZiG in April, which is backed by the central bank's reserves comprising 100 million U.S. dollars in foreign currency and 185 million U.S. dollar's worth of gold. The ZiG, Zimbabwe's sixth attempt at a currency solution, is expected to stabilize the economy and help tame inflation.**
- The highest denomination of the new currency, known as Zimbabwe Gold or ZiG, will be the 200 ZiG note, valued at approximately \$15.

### 2. BlackRock and Saudi PIF Forge \$5 Billion Investment Pact

- **BlackRock, a US asset management firm, and Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) signs a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a multi-asset class investment platform in Riyadh, with an initial investment of up to \$5 billion from the \$700 billion Saudi sovereign wealth fund.**
- The platform, known as BlackRock Riyadh Investment Management (BRIM), would include investment strategies across a variety of asset classes, according to a PIF statement issued on May 1 following the signing of a memorandum of understanding for the plan.

### 3. TCS announces creation of Global AI Center of Excellence in Paris

- **Tata Consultancy Services announced the creation of a Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in Paris, during the Choose France Summit.** The TCS AI Centre of Excellence in Paris will leverage TCS global ecosystem of startups, academia, and research organisations to bring the best of global capabilities to French companies.
- **The new AI centre will be based in the upcoming TCS PacePort in the La Defense area of Paris, which will be inaugurated in June 2024, becoming the seventh such facility in TCS' global Pace network, following Amsterdam, London, New York, Pittsburgh, Toronto, and Tokyo.**

### 4. Indonesia's Semeru Volcano Erupts 5 Times In 90 Minutes

- **The Semeru volcano in Indonesia's East Java province erupted five times recently, spewing volcanic ash up to 900 meters over its peak, according to the Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation.** Authorities have urged people to stay out of the danger zone within a 5 km radius and 13 km southeast of the crater to prevent harm from hot clouds, lava flows.

### 5. World's first 6G device launched in Japan: Its 20x faster than 5G

- **A Japanese consortium recently unveiled the world's first high-speed 6G prototype device. It can transmit data at a whopping 100 gigabits per second, covering more than 300 ft. That's a 20x improvement over the current 5G technology.** The prototype device was a result of collaboration among Japan's leading telecom companies, including DOCOMO, NTT Corporation and Fujitsu.

### 6. UAE Launches 'Blue Residency Visa' In Move Towards Sustainability

- **In a move towards sustainability, the United Arab Emirates has announced a new 10-year 'Blue Residency Visa' programme.** Under this programme, individuals who have made 'exceptional efforts and contributions to protecting the environment whether marine or land' will be granted a 10-year resident's visa.

## 7. UAE Launches 'Blue Residency Visa' In Move Towards Sustainability

- **In 'Blue Residency', a 10-year visa program for environmental advocates who have shown outstanding dedication to protecting the environment.** This initiative, in line with the President's directive to extend the 2023 Year of Sustainability, encompasses sustainability efforts both within and outside the UAE.

## 8. Venezuela becomes first country to lose all of its glaciers

- **Venezuela is the first country in modern history to lose all of its glaciers after climate scientists declared its remaining glacier little more than an ice field.**
- The **Humboldt Glacier, also known as La Corona**, was the last remaining one in Venezuela after the country lost at least five others in the past century due to the effects of climate change.

## 9. Artara'24 Fine Arts Exhibition & Competition Makes Its Mark In Dubai

- **The Artara'24 Fine Arts Exhibition and Competition has made its mark in Dubai as a platform for discovering and nurturing emerging artistic talents from the country.** The event aimed to discover hidden artistic gems, with a particular focus on the Indian talent residing in Dubai.
- **Held at the Al Jalila Cultural Center, a venue under the Dubai Cultural Center, Artara'24 featured an impressive collection of over 250 pieces of art,** each telling its own unique story and reflecting the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of the talented participants.

## 10. World's first major law for artificial intelligence gets final EU green light

- **European Union member states gave final agreement to the world's first major law for regulating artificial intelligence, as institutions around the world race to introduce curbs for the technology.** The EU Council said it had approved the AI Act ' a groundbreaking piece of regulatory law that sets comprehensive rules surrounding artificial intelligence technology.
- The AI Act applies a risk-based approach to artificial intelligence, meaning that different applications of the technology are treated differently, depending on the perceived threats they pose to society. The law prohibits applications of AI that are considered 'unacceptable' in terms of their risk level.

## 11. Spain Becomes 99th Member Of International Solar Alliance

- **Spain has become the 99th member of the International Solar Alliance.** Spain handed over the International Solar Alliance Instrument of Ratification. India and France jointly launched the International Solar Alliance during COP21 in Paris. The ISA aims to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement through the rapid and massive deployment of solar energy.
- **Earlier, in March, Panama officially ratified the International Solar Alliance (ISA), marking its entry as the 97th member nation.**

## 12. World's highest observatory begins operations in Chile

- **The University of Tokyo has inaugurated the Atacama Observatory (TAO). It has been built on the summit of Cerro Chajnantor in the Antofagasta Region, at 5,640 meters above sea level.** TAO also houses a 6.5-meter optical-infrared telescope. TAO is officially now the highest observatory in the world, and has been awarded a Guinness World Record.

## Sports

### 1. International Chess Federation awards Grandmaster title to Indian Chess prodigy Vaishali Ramesh Babu

- **Indian Chess Prodigy, Vaishali Ramesh Babu, has officially been awarded the title of Grandmaster by FIDE, the International Chess Federation.** This remarkable achievement makes Vaishali the third Indian female Grandmaster, joining Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli.
- Vaishali's promotion to Grandmaster title carries a unique distinction, as she and her brother, Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, became the world's first Grandmaster brother-sister duo. Vaishali completed the requisite 2500 ELO points at the Llobregat Open tournament in Spain, last year.

### 2. Tejaswin Shankar wins men's High Jump event at USATF Festival

- **India's Tejaswin Shankar clinched victory in the men's High Jump event at the USATF Festival in Tucson, Arizona, USA.** The National record holder Tejaswin cleared 2.23 metres in his first attempt to secure the top spot at the World Athletics Continental Tour ' Silver event. With this jump, he equaled his season-best effort.

### 3. Mumbai City FC beat Mohun Bagan 3-1 to win Indian Super League final

- **Mumbai City FC beat Mohun Bagan Super Giant 3-1 at the Salt Lake Stadium to emerge as the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 Cup Winners at the final in Kolkata.** The Islanders came from behind after Jason Cummings handed the Mariners a lead late in the first half.

#### **About Indian Super League: -**

- Indian Super League was founded on 21 October 2013. ISL is administered by the All India Football Federation and its commercial partner Football Sports Development Limited. Teams in ISL 2024:
  - Bengaluru FC
  - Chennaiyin FC
  - East Bengal FC
  - FC Goa
  - Hyderabad FC
  - Jamshedpur FC
  - Kerala Blasters FC
  - Mohun Bagan Super Giant
  - Mumbai City FC
  - NorthEast United FC
  - Odisha FC
  - Punjab FC

### 4. Indian Milk Producer Amul Appointed As 'Official Sponsor' Of Sri Lanka Men's Team For ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024

- **Sri Lanka Cricket has announced that Indian milk producer Amul has been appointed as the 'Official Sponsor' of the Sri Lanka Men's Team for the duration of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. Sri Lanka will kick off the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 campaign on June 3, 2024, facing South Africa in New York.**
- The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 will be held in the West Indies and the USA from June 1 to 29. CEO of Sri Lanka Cricket Ashley De Silva.

## 5. Coca-Cola India announces its first ever partnership with Hockey India, for the National Women's Hockey League

- **The Coca-Cola India Foundation, announces its first ever partnership with Hockey India, for the National Women's Hockey League 2024. The 1st Phase of the tournament commenced on 30th April, and it will conclude on 9th May 2024, in Ranchi, Jharkhand. The domestic league promises an exhilarating showcase of talent and skill.**
- The National Women's Hockey League features teams that secured top-eight positions in Pune's recently concluded 14th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2024. The participating athletes represent various states, including Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Bengal, Mizoram, Manipur, and Odisha.

## 6. Abha Khatua Sets National Record Winning Gold In Women's Shot Put

- **Abha Khatua has set a national record and won gold medal in Women's Shot Put with a massive throw of 18.41 metres at National Federation Cup Athletics Competition in Bhubaneswar.** Representing Maharashtra at the event, Abha was the joint record holder of 18.06 metres with Manpreet Kaur before this event. Abha has become the sole national record holder.

## 7. Table Tennis, Manika Batra Becomes First Indian Woman To Break Into Top 25 Of World Women's Singles Rankings

- **India's ace women's table tennis player Manika Batra became the first Indian woman paddler to break into the top 25 of the world Women's singles rankings.** She rose to her career-best ranking of 24, following her success in the Saudi Smash, last week. She also equalled G. Sathyan's five year old record for the highest rank achieved by an Indian in singles table tennis.
- Manika, the 2018 Commonwealth Games gold medalist in individual and team categories, jumped 15 spots following her run in Jeddah, where she reached the quarterfinals.

## 8. Neeraj Chopra wins Gold in Federation Cup with throw of 82.27 metres

- **In men's javelin throw, Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal in Federation Cup 2024 in Bhubaneswar.** The 26-year-old superstar struggled in the initial rounds of competition as he was second after three rounds. He took the lead in the fourth round with an effort of 82.27m.
- Neeraj Chopra last took part in a domestic competition at the same event in 2021, when he won a gold with a throw of 87.80m. Since then, he has won a historic gold in the Tokyo Olympics, became Diamond League champion in 2022, world champion in 2023 and defended Asian Games gold in China.

## 9. Sunil Chhetri Announces Retirement, To Play Last Match For India On June 6

- **Indian football icon Sunil Chhetri announced his decision to retire from international football after the FIFA World Cup qualifying match against Kuwait in Kolkata on June 6, bringing the curtains down on a glorious two-decade career.** Chhetri had made his 150th appearance for India in March and scored on the occasion against Afghanistan in Guwahati.
- Chhetri, who made his debut in 2005, has scored 94 goals for the country. He will leave the scene as India's all-time top scorer and most-capped player. He is also third in the list of goal scorers among active players behind Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

## 10. P Shyaamnikhil becomes India's 85th Grandmaster after 12-year wait

- **P Shyaamnikhil became India's 85th Grandmaster by completing his third and final GM norm in the just-concluded Dubai Police Masters chess tournament, ending a 12-year-wait for the player who took to the sport as an eight-year-old.** He had completed the necessary 2500

Elo rating points - mandatory to become a GM - to secure two Grandmaster norms all the way back in 2012.

### 11. Nishad Kumar, Preethi Pal Win Medals At World Para Athletics Championships

- **The Indian team picked up its first medals in the World Para Athletics Championships with high jumper Nishad Kumar and 200 metres runner Preethi Pal winning a silver and bronze in Kobe, Japan.** Kumar, a Tokyo Paralympics silver medalist, cleared 1.99 metres to finish second in the men's T47 high jump final and pick up India's first medal on the third day of competition. **American Roderick Townsend won the gold with a jump of 2.05 metres.**

### 12. Nikhat Zareen And Minakshi Clinch Gold Medals At Elorda Cup In Kazakhstan

- **In Boxing, India's reigning world champion, Nikhat Zareen and another boxer Minakshi clinched gold medals at the Elorda Cup 2024 in Astana, Kazakhstan.** The Indian pugilists concluded their Elorda Cup 2024 campaign with 12 medals, including two gold, two silver and eight bronze medals.
- **Nikhat in the women's 52 kg category, triumphed over Zhazira Urakbayeva of Kazakhstan with a 5-Nil victory, while Minakshi defeated another Uzbekistan boxer Rahmonova Saidahon, 4-1 in the women's 48 kg event.**

### 13. Indian Mixed Team Breaks National Record At Asian Athletic Relay Championships 2024

- **The Indian Mixed team broke the national record at the ongoing Asian Athletic Relay Championships 2024 Bangkok in Thailand.** The team comprising Muhammad Ajmal, Jyothika Sri, Amoj Jacob and Subha Venkatesan won gold in the 4x400m event. Sri Lanka and Vietnam won silver and bronze in the event.

### 14. India's Deepthi Jeevanji Smashes World Record In Women's 400 Metre Event To Win Gold Medal At World Para Athletics Championships

- **Twenty-year old Deepthi Jeevanji smashed the world record in the women's 400m T20 and grabbed her first gold at the World Para Athletics Championships at Kobe in Japan.** Deepthi clocked 55.07 seconds, breaking American Breanna Clark's earlier world record of 55.12 seconds, which she had set during last year's edition of the championships in Paris.

### 15. Ekta Bhyan Secures Gold Medal In Women' F51 Club Throw Competition At World Para Athletic C'ships

- **India's Ekta Bhyan secured a gold medal with a season's best throw of 20.12 metres in the women's F51 club throw competition at the World Para Athletic Championships at Kobe in Japan.** While Kashish Lakra took the silver with an effort of 14.56 metres, Nadjet Bouchet of Algeria won the bronze with a score of 12.70 metres.
- **Deepthi, Para Asian Games gold medalist, had smashed a world record time of 55.07 seconds in the women's 400 metre T20 category race to win gold medal.**

### 16. Satwik-Chirag Reclaim World No. 1 Spot In BWF Rankings

- **The star Indian men's badminton duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have regained their top spot in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) Rankings after a remarkable victory at the Thailand Open Super 500 in Bangkok last week.** Before the tournament, Satwik and Chirag were ranked third but managed to surpass China's Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang.

- **South Korea's Min Hyuk Kang and Seung Jae Seo hold the third position.** They showcased impeccable form throughout the tournament, winning all their matches in straight games. Their dominant performance was highlighted in the final where they defeated China's Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi 21-15, 21-15 in just 46 minutes, securing their second Thailand Open men's double's title.
- The Indian pair first rose to the pinnacle of the world rankings on October 10, 2023, after their groundbreaking gold medal win at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. However, their reign was short-lived as Liang and Wang reclaimed the top spot three weeks later.

#### 17. Italian Open: Alexander Zverev and wins Masters title

- **The 2024 Italian Open is now in the books with Poland's Iga Swiatek victorious on the women's side and Germany's Alexander Zverev the winner on the men's side.** Swiatek trounced Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 6-2, 6-3 in a rematch of the Madrid Masters final won by Swiatek, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6. This is Swiatek's third Italian Open title.
- **This was Zverev's first ATP title in 2024. The third seed in Rome won his second Italian Open.** In 2017, he beat Djokovic 6-4, 6-3 for his first ATP Masters 1000 series title.

#### 18. Sachin Sarjerao Khilari clinches gold medal in shot put at World Para Athletics C'ship

- **In Para Athletics, India's Sachin Sarjerao Khilari clinched the gold medal in the men's shot put at the World Para Athletics Championship in Kobe, Japan.** He also set a new Asian record with a throw of 16.30 metres in the F46 category, to defended his title at the world championships.
- Another Indian, **Dharambir bagged the Bronze Medal in the Men's Club Throw.** His final throw distance of 33.31 metres not only secured him the Bronze Medal but also set a new Asian Record in the F51 Category. **Mariyappan Thangavelu clinched his maiden gold medal at the World Para Athletics by leaping 1.88m in the men's T63 high jump event.**

#### 19. Archery World Cup Stage 2: India Bags Gold In Compound Women's Team At Yecheon, South Korea

- **India bagged Gold medal in the compound women's team event at Archery World Cup stage two in Yecheon, South Korea. The trio of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Swami strikes gold against Turkey in the final.**

#### 20. Dipa Karmakar clinches India's first-ever gold medal in women's pole-vault at Asian Championships in Tashkent

- **Dipa Karmakar scripted history clinching India's first-ever gold medal at the Asian Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.** The 30-year-old Olympian registered an average score of 13.566 in the women's Vault final. This is the first time that an Indian gymnast has won a gold medal in any event at the Asian Championships.
- **She is the first female gymnast from India to compete in the Olympics, and at Rio 2016. She also became the first Indian to ever win a gold medal at an international gymnastics competition when she won the women's vault gold medal at the 2018 FIG World Cup in Mersin, Turkey.**

#### 21. KKR lifts their third trophy in IPL

- **In Cricket, Kolkata Knight Riders lifted their third trophy in the Indian Premier League with a crushing eight-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in a completely one-sided final on 27 May.** Having lost the toss, KKR produced a clinical effort with the ball to dismiss SRH for 113, the lowest-ever total in an IPL title clash. Mitchell Starc was declared Player of the Match.
- **Harshal Patel of Punjab Kings (PBKS) won the Purple Cap, taking 24 wickets.**

- **Royal Challengers Bangalore's (RCB) Virat Kohli claimed the Orange Cap with 741 runs.**
- **Nitish Kumar Reddy, with 303 runs, was named Emerging Player of the Season.**

KP Classes

- **Sunil Narine was awarded both the Most Valuable Player and Ultimate Fantasy Player of the Season.**

## 22. F1 Star Charles Leclerc Makes History at Monaco Grand Prix, Wins Home Race for the First Time

- **Charles Leclerc claimed his first victory at the Monaco Grand Prix.** This historic win makes him the first Monegasque to ever stand on the top step of the podium at the prestigious event. McLaren's Oscar Piastri finished second, 8 seconds behind Leclerc. His Ferrari teammate Carlos Sainz finished 3rd followed by McLaren's Lando Norris in 4th.

## 23. Praggnanandhaa topples World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen for first time in Classical event at Norway Chess 2024

- **Praggnanandhaa toppled Magnus Carlsen for the first time in a Classical event.** The 18-year-old Indian prodigy took down the World No. 1 with the White pieces in the 3rd round of Norway Chess 2024. Praggnanandhaa got an early edge out of the opening and eventually converted it into a victory. With this win, Pragg now takes the sole lead with 5.5 points in the event.

## Agreements & MoUs

### 1. NPCI inks pact with Bank of Namibia for developing UPI-like instant payment system

- **NPCI International Payments Limited, the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), entered into an agreement with the Bank of Namibia for developing an instant payment system like Unified Payment Interface for the African nation.**
- This partnership marks NPCI's first-ever collaboration with a central bank to deploy the UPI stack.
- The collaboration is aimed at developing real-time person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions in Namibia. The agreement aims at improving accessibility, affordability, connectivity with both domestic and international payment networks, and interoperability of payments.

### 2. C2FO's TReDS platform goes live with SBI, Dabur India as first participants

- **C2FO, a leading on-demand working capital platform, one of its platform, that addresses liquidity challenges faced by MSMEs, has gone live with State Bank of India and Dabur India, as inaugural participants.** This follows the recent approval received by C2FO's wholly-owned subsidiary, C2FO Factoring Solutions Private, from the Reserve Bank of India, to operationalise the TReDS.

#### About TReDS: -

- TReDS, an initiative introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and backed by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), addresses the liquidity & working capital challenges faced by MSMEs.
- TReDS serves as an electronic platform facilitating the financing and discounting of trade receivables of MSMEs through multiple financiers. About 50,000 Indian MSMEs are part of C2FO's India network. Founded in 2008, and headquartered in Kansas City (USA), C2FO has delivered more than USD 300 billion in funding around the world.

### 3. TSSEZL, Hygenco ink pact for setting up green ammonia & green hydrogen project in Odisha

- **Tata Steel Special Economic Zone Limited (TSSEZL) and HHP Five Private Limited (Hygenco) inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish a green hydrogen and green ammonia project at TSSEZL's Gopalpur Industrial Park (GIP) in Odisha's Ganjam district.**
- Under the agreement, Hygenco will acquire land in Ganjam district to establish its green hydrogen, green ammonia, and derivatives unit, according to the agreement. Hygenco, known for producing low-cost green hydrogen, aims to produce 1 million tonnes per annum (1 MnTPA) from this plant in phases, with the initial phase scheduled for commissioning by December 2026, it said.

### 4. YES Bank collaborates with ANQ to launch 2 co-branded credit cards Pi, Phi

- **YES Bank has partnered with Bengaluru-based financial services provider, ANQ, to unveil two co-branded credit cards -- Pi and Phi.**
- The strategic partnership aims to bridge the gap between traditional banking and the fintech industry, offering innovative solutions to meet evolving consumer needs

#### About YES Bank-ANQ: -

- The YES Bank-ANQ Pi credit card is a digital-only card that offers credit on UPI for domestic transactions, providing users with convenient and secure payment options. YES Bank is a full-service commercial bank headquartered in Mumbai. ANQ is a digital banking platform that harnesses the power of decentralised Finance (DeFi) to deliver next-generation financial services.

## 5. CAG of India, Auditor General of Nepal sign MoU to enhance collaboration in auditing

- **Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Toyam Raya, Auditor General of Nepal.**
- The agreement aims to enhance collaboration and exchange of expertise in the field of auditing between the two countries' Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs).
- Through this MoU, a platform will be established for capacity development, knowledge exchange, and mutual assistance in conducting audits. The partnership between the SAIs of India and Nepal is expected to pave the way for enhanced collaboration in training programs, knowledge exchange, and assistance in audits.

## 6. FPSB India, IFSCA sign pact to promote GIFT IFSC as 'Global Finance Hub'

- **Financial Planning Standards Board (FPSB) India announced that it has signed a pact with the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), GIFT City, Gandhinagar, to promote GIFT IFSC as a 'Global Finance Hub'. FPSB India and IFSCA aim to enhance the financial market ecosystem and nurture skilled professionals for GIFT City's expanding financial workforce.**
- Both organisations will jointly organise international and domestic events to raise awareness and establish GIFT IFSC as a 'Global Finance Hub', the statement added.
- Some key highlights of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) include talent pipeline support, ecosystem development, promotional activities and research collaboration.

## 7. Fship Partners With India Post For Enhanced E-commerce Delivery

- **Fship, a tech-driven logistics platform, has partnered with India Post, a government-operated postal service.** This collaboration aims to benefit direct-to-consumer (D2C) start-ups, small and medium businesses (SMBs), and MSMEs across India by enhancing last-mile delivery services for e-commerce products.
- By partnering with India Post, Fship aims to expand its reach nationwide, including in remote areas where India Post is the exclusive courier service. The Indian logistics market is set to grow at 8.8 percent annually to reach \$484.43 billion by 2029, while the e-commerce market is expected to hit \$18.81 trillion by the same year, with a 15.80 percent CAGR.

## 8. Indian Coast Guard inks MoU with private sector for indigenous marine grade steel to enhance indigenous content in shipbuilding

- **Indian Coast Guard and Jindal Steel & Power, on May 07, 2024, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi for the supply of indigenous marine grade steel to enhance the indigenous content in shipbuilding.** Through this partnership, both entities have committed to foster indigenization, enhance capabilities to produce and use these items in the Nation's interest.
- The MoU underscores the importance of public-private partnerships in addressing complex security challenges, emphasizing the need for collaboration between government agencies and the private sector. Several key benefits including quality, grades and dimensions along with the designated steel plants to manufacture the product are stipulated in the MoU.

## 9. South Indian Bank and Northern Arc Capital join hands to set new benchmarks in the financial sector

- **South Indian Bank has formed an association with Northern Arc Capital aiming to explore and maximise commercial prospects by combining efforts in loan origination, underwriting, disbursement, collection, and reconciliation procedures.**
- This collaboration has been formalised with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), demonstrating both institutions' commitment to a mutually beneficial partnership. The cooperation

represents a shared commitment to leveraging synergies, expertise, and resources to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of lending operations.

#### 10. Indian Coast Guard sign MoU with Hindalco Industries

- **Indian Coast Guard has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hindalco Industries for manufacturing and supply of indigenous marine-grade aluminium for construction of ships.** The Indian Coast Guard fleet is presently operating 67 ships with aluminium hull with capability of operating in shallow waters.
- Defence Ministry said, to further boost coastal security, Indian Coast Guard has planned to induct more such vessels where the indigenously manufactured marine-grade aluminium will be utilised. The Ministry said, the MoU will also provide benefits such as quarterly pricing, priority in supplies and turnover discount.

#### 11. YES BANK and EBANX Announce Strategic Partnership to Empower Cross-Border Commerce in India

- **YES BANK, a leading private sector bank in India, and EBANX, a global fintech company specialized in payment solutions for emerging markets, announced a strategic partnership for payment processing in India, for the global digital economy.** This partnership will leverage EBANX's extensive global experience and proficiency in cross-border payments alongside.
- This collaboration represents a significant milestone in the digital payments landscape, aimed at streamlining cross-border payment processing and enhancing global commerce opportunities for global merchants and Indian customers in India.

#### 12. DRDO Collaborates with IIT Bhubaneswar for AI-Driven Surveillance

- **The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has collaborated with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar to set up advanced research and development in AI-driven surveillance and other defense projects.** The DRDO has been actively working towards enhancing its technological capabilities in response to evolving global defense dynamics.
- DRDO has chosen IIT Bhubaneswar as its academic partner to leverage the institution's research capabilities in AI and machine learning as it recognizes the immense potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in the case of modern warfare.

#### 13. South Indian Bank and Northern Arc Capital Forge an Alliance for Joint Lending Initiatives Leveraging nPOS

- **South Indian Bank has entered into an alliance with Northern Arc Capital. The MOU underscoring the commitment of both institutions to a mutually beneficial partnership.** The partnership is aimed at exploring and maximizing business opportunities through combined efforts in the areas of loan origination, underwriting, disbursement, collection and reconciliation processes.
- The alliance will focus on co-lending and partnership lending activities, as well as facilitate seamless loan transfers between banks and originators. e. The partnership will enable the bank to leverage nPOS, Northern Arc's proprietary technology platform for co-origination, co-lending and pool buyouts & to seamlessly connect with multiple originators for loan orientations.

#### 14. AIIMS New Delhi Signed MoU With University of Bolton Institute of Medicine

- **AIIMS New Delhi has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with University of Bolton Institute of Medicine to collaborate in the field of medical research, innovation and education.** The medical institute said in a release that the MoU was signed through a virtual event by executives from both institutions.

- It added that the partnership will encompass various initiatives such as staff and student exchange, educational conferences and collaborative degree programmes.

#### 15. ReNew inks initial pact with Societe Generale for \$1 billion debt financing

- **Energy firm ReNew announced that it has signed an initial pact with European bank Societe Generale for up to \$1 billion financing as debt and advisory solutions over the next three years.**
- The MoU aims to support the financing and development of the company's various strategic energy transition projects both in India and globally.
- Both parties will leverage their respective expertise to strengthen the collaboration on utility-scale energy projects including solar, wind, complex renewables, green hydrogen, energy storage and solar modules manufacturing. **ReNew has a clean energy portfolio of 15.6 GW on a gross basis as of May 9, 2024.**

#### 16. DAHD and UNDP signs MoU on Digitalization of Vaccine Cold Chain Management, Capacity Building, and Communication Planning

- **The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India on Digitalization of Vaccine Cold Chain Management, Capacity Building, and Communication Planning.**

#### 17. Tata Motors' arms partner with Bajaj Finance to provide financing to passenger, EV dealers

- **Tata Motors on 20th May said its passenger vehicles and passenger electric mobility subsidiaries have tied up with Bajaj Finance to provide supply chain finance solutions to their respective dealers.** Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV) and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TPEM), subsidiaries of Tata Motors, have joined hands with Bajaj Finance to extend the supply chain finance solutions to its passenger and electric vehicle dealers, the company said in a statement. Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the participating companies will come together to leverage Bajaj Finance's wide reach to help dealers of TMPV and TPEM access funding with minimal collateral.

#### 18. SBI General Insurance signs bancassurance partnership with Jana Small Finance Bank to increase insurance penetration

- **SBI General Insurance, one of India's top general insurance firms, has signed a strategic bancassurance collaboration agreement with Jana Small Finance Bank, a leading financial institution in India, to facilitate the sale of non-life insurance products.**
- Under this strategic relationship, SBI General Insurance will provide Jana Small Finance Bank customers with a comprehensive variety of general insurance products. These products will include a broad range of insurance options, such as health, personal injury, house, auto, and travel insurance. Kishore Kumar Poludasu, MD & CEO, SBI General Insurance

#### 19. Airbus Helicopters, SIDBI sign MoU for helicopter financing in India

- **Airbus Helicopters and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for financing the purchase of Airbus' helicopters in India.** Under the MoU, both Airbus Helicopters and SIDBI would identify potential civil helicopter operators in India interested in financing solutions for purchasing the helicopters.
- While Airbus would provide the technical and helicopter-industry knowledge, SIDBI would be responsible for evaluating the prospects and financing them exclusively for Airbus. This collaboration marks the foray of SIDBI into helicopter financing and meeting the financial and development needs of India's rotary wing sector.

## 20. Cisco and Tata Communications partner to launch Webex Calling in India

- **Cisco and Tata Communications launched their Webex Calling solution in India with cloud public switched telephone network, aimed at helping enterprises move from on-premises phone systems to a global cloud calling system.** The calls will be routed via Tata Communications' data centre in the Mumbai region, thereby helping organisations stay compliant with local regulations, Webex Calling is a modern and complete business phone system that delivers enterprise-grade calling through a globally available cloud platform with over 14 million users around the world. It provides businesses with powerful innovations, flexible deployment options, and centralised administration.

## 21. TCS gets core banking transformation deal from Kuwait's Burgan Bank

- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on May 22 announced that it has bagged a deal to modernize the core banking technology of Burgan Bank, a leading commercial bank in Kuwait, coming at a time when the IT services giant is seeing increased growth and demand in the emerging markets including the Middle East.**
- TCS will help Burgan Bank consolidate multiple standalone legacy applications into a contemporary universal banking solution that drives innovation and strengthens customer relationships. Burgan Bank is one of the youngest commercial banks in Kuwait, with a regional network of over 160 branches and 360 ATMs.

## 22. Reliance Jio arm, Tech Mahindra bag orders from Ghana for building 4G, 5G telecom infrastructure

- **Ghana has signed deals with a Reliance Jio subsidiary, Tech Mahindra, and other vendors to build 4G and 5G infrastructure as the African country aims to enhance its telecom capabilities.**
- Ghana's state-backed Next-Gen Infrastructure Company has partnered with Jio's arm Radisys, Tech Mahindra & Nokia to build the necessary infrastructure for delivering affordable 5G service.

## Schemes

### 1. HDFC Bank, Atal Innovation Mission empower social sector startups with Rs 19.6 crore grants

- **HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, announced the winners of its Parivartan Start-up Grants programme for FY2024. This year, 41 incubators and accelerators in the field of social impact entrepreneurship will receive grants totaling Rs 19.6 crore to support 170 start-ups working across specific focus areas.**
- This year's programme is undertaken in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission, a Government of India initiative under NITI Aayog. The focus areas for the 2024 grants include Climate Innovation, Financial Inclusion, Agriculture and Sustainable Rural Economy, Accessible and Affordable Healthcare, Education and Livelihood Enhancement, Gender Diversity and Inclusion.

### 2. Cabinet Approves Over Rs 10,300 Crore for IndiaAI Mission

- **The Cabinet has approved an allocation of over Rs 10,300 crore for the IndiaAI Mission, marking a significant step towards bolstering India's AI ecosystem.** The overarching aim of this financial outlay is to ensure a structured implementation of the IndiaAI Mission through a public-private partnership model aimed at nurturing India's AI innovation ecosystem.
- This substantial financial infusion, slated over the next five years, is poised to catalyse various components of the IndiaAI Mission, including pivotal initiatives like the IndiaAI Compute Capacity, IndiaAI Innovation Centre (IAIC), IndiaAI Datasets Platform, IndiaAI Application Development Initiative, IndiaAI FutureSkills, IndiaAI Startup Financing, and Safe & Trusted AI.

### 3. MEA, MeitY And CSC E-Governance Services India Ltd Sign MoU To Provide EMigrate Services Through Common Services Centres

- **External Affairs Ministry, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Common Services Centers eGovernance Services India Limited have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide the eMigrate services through CSC in the country.** eMigrate project aims to assist mainly the blue-collar workers going to Emigration Check Required countries.
- The Electronics and Information Technology Ministry said that the project was conceptualized to address issues faced by the migrant workers by making emigration process online seamless and also to bring foreign employers and registered recruitment agents and insurance companies on one common platform aimed at promoting safe and legal migration.

### 4. Reliance's tech pact with Norway's Nel to accelerate new energy investments

- **Reliance Industries Ltd's technology partnership with Norway's Nel ASA will help accelerate its new energy investments, including in the production of green hydrogen that will aid billionaire Mukesh Ambani's pivot towards green energy.** Nel ASA has about 10-15 per cent global market share in electrolyzers with 350MW and 400MW deliveries in 2023-2024.
- Reliance (RIL) on May 21 entered into a technology licensing agreement that provides the company with an exclusive license for Nel's alkaline electrolyzers in India and also allows it to manufacture the Norwegian company's alkaline electrolyzers for captive purposes globally.

## Appointments & Resignations

### 1. Senior IIS officer, Maushumi Chakravarty assumes charge of DG of Akashvani News

- **Senior Indian Information Service officer, Maushumi Chakravarty** assumed the charge of **Director General of Akashvani News**. A 1991 batch IIS officer, Ms Chakravarty has vast experience of working in several media organisations of the I&B Ministry, including the Press Information Bureau and Central Bureau of Communication.

About All India Radio (AIR): -

- All India Radio (AIR) aka Akashvani, is an Indian state-owned public radio broadcaster founded by the Government of India, owned by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and one of Prasar Bharati's two divisions. It was established in 1936

### 2. MCA approves Hitesh Sethia as Jio Financial Services' MD and CEO for 3 yrs

- Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA) has given its nod for appointment of **Hitesh Kumar Sethia as Managing Director and CEO of Jio Financial Services** for three years period from November 15, 2023. The MCA approval is under and in respect of the provisions of the Companies Act 2013.

### 3. RBI approves re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank for three years with effect from May 5**. Pursuant to the aforementioned approval by the RBI and based on the recommendation of the Nomination & Remuneration Committee, the board of directors of the bank approved Chakraborty's re-appointment.

### 4. Paytm Money Poised for Leadership Shift as Varun Sridhar Steps Down, Rakesh Singh named as New CEO

- **Paytm Money, the wealth management arm of One97 Communications, named Rakesh Singh**, a seasoned banking professional and former CEO of Fisdom's broking division, as the new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**, after Varun Sridhar stepped down from the post.

### 5. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank names Carol Furtado as Executive Director

- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has named Carol Furtado as Executive Director, effective May 1, 2024**. The decision was approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), marking a strategic move for the bank as it seeks to enhance its operational prowess and strategic direction.
- Furtado's tenure with Ujjivan SFB dates back to its inception, where she has held pivotal roles, including Chief Human Resource Officer, Head of Operations and Service Quality, and Chief Business Officer (CBO). The bank anticipates seeking shareholders' approval at its upcoming 8th Annual General Meeting (AGM).

### 6. Paytm's President & COO Bhavesh Gupta resigns, moves into an advisory role

- **One97 Communications Limited (OCL), which owns the brand Paytm, announced the resignation of its President & Chief Operating Officer Bhavesh Gupta** and his moving into an advisory role in the CEO office post May 31. OCL also announced the appointment of Rakesh Singh as the new Chief Executive Officer of Paytm Money Ltd (PML).

- **Varun Sridhar**, former head of Paytm Money Ltd, now leads as **CEO at Paytm Services Pvt Ltd (PSPL)**, which is into mutual fund distribution. OCL has reported movement to the TPAP model for UPI Payments and is now working with Yes Bank, Axis Bank, State of India and HDFC Bank.

## 7. Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra Assumes Role as President of GST Appellate Tribunal

- **Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman administered the oath of integrity and secrecy to retired Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra as the President of the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT), in New Delhi.** Justice Mishra's appointment marks the beginning of the operationalisation of the GSTAT, a crucial body for resolving GST-related disputes.

### About GSTAT: -

- The GSTAT is the Appellate Authority to hear various appeals under the Central Goods and Services Tax Act. It consists of a Principal Bench and various State Benches. As per the approval of the GST Council, the Government has notified the Principal Bench, to be located in New Delhi, and 31 State Benches at various locations across the country.

## 8. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank appoints Sanjeev Nautiyal as MD & CEO

- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank said that Reserve bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Sanjeev Nautiyal as the managing director (MD) & chief executive officer (CEO) of the bank for the period of 3 years** with effect from 1 July 2024.
- He will join the Bank much prior to his taking charge as the MD&CEO and be designated as the President in the interim.
- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank was established as a non banking financial services company in the year 2005 with the mission to provide a full range of financial services to the economically poor who were not adequately served by financial institutions.**

## 9. SBI General Insurance names Jaya Tripathi as Head ' Key Relations Group

- **SBI General Insurance**, one of India's top general insurers, has named **Jaya Tripathi as Head of Key Relations Group.** Her new role will involve leading the expansion of new business prospects and alliances, driving sales team growth, and deepening partner relationships to increase profitability.

## 10. Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla assumes charge as Chief of Personnel of Indian Navy

- **Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla has assumed charge as the Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy.** He was commissioned in the Indian Navy on 1st of January 1989. In a career spanning 35 years, he has held a number of specialist, staff and operational appointments, both afloat and ashore.
- After completing his Specialisation Course in Communication and Electronic Warfare, he served as a specialist onboard several frontline warships. He subsequently had the privilege of holding challenging, fulfilling and eventful Commands at sea, which include, INS Nishank, INS Taragiri, INS Beas and the coveted appointment of Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet (FOCEF).

## 11. RBI appoints R Lakshmi Kanth Rao as executive director effective May 10

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed R Lakshmi Kanth Rao as executive director (ED)** with effect from May 10, 2024, according to the regulator's press release.
- As executive director, Rao will handle the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), the Right to Information Act (FAA), and the Department of Communication.

- Rao was previously serving as chief general manager in charge in the Department of Regulation. Rao has served as a member of several committees and working groups and has contributed to policy formulation.

## 12. N Chandrasekaran to chair Tata Electronics

- **N Chandrasekaran, the chairman of Tata Sons,** is set to assume **the additional role of chairman at Tata Electronics.** This transition comes as Tata Electronics earmarks around \$14 billion towards venturing into the semiconductor industry. Chandrasekaran will succeed Banmali Agrawala, who has served in this post for the past few years, pending regulatory approvals.
- **Established in 2020, Tata Electronics is the sole Indian vendor assembling iPhone enclosures for Apple. The company plans to scale up its existing facility in Hosur, Tamil Nadu and has acquired a facility in Karnataka previously operated by Taiwan's Wistron.**

## 13. Singapore's Deputy Leader Lawrence Wong to Be Sworn in as Nation's Fourth PM

- **Singapore's deputy leader Lawrence Wong** is set to be **sworn in as the nation's fourth Prime Minister.** Fifty-one-old US-trained economist Mr Wong will succeed 72-year-old Lee Hsien Loong, who stepped down after two decades at the helm. Lee's resignation marked the end of a family dynasty led by his father Lee Kuan Yew.
- Since becoming an independent nation in 1965, Singapore has only had three Prime Ministers ' all from the ruling People's Action Party.

## 14. Ippopay Names Former RBI Regional Director S M N Swamy as Senior Advisor

- **Ippopay Technologies Private Limited,** a leading payment infrastructure provider based in Chennai, has **named S M N Swamy, a former Regional Director of the RBI, as a Senior Advisor** as it seeks to improve its governance and compliance. This addition to the company corresponds with its goal of assuring enhanced operations under the leadership of an industry expert.

## 15. RBI approves appointment of Pradeep Natarajan as IDFC FIRST Bank's Whole Time Director

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of **Pradeep Natarajan** as **Whole Time Director on the Board of IDFC FIRST Bank,** the private sector lender said.
- The bank further said it will take the necessary steps to complete the formalities for the appointment of Natarajan as Executive Director.

## 16. Kapil Sibal defeats Pradeep Rai to become president of Supreme Court Bar Association

- Senior Advocate **Kapil Sibal** has won the election for the **President post of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA).** Kapil Sibal secured 1,066 votes and defeated his nearest rival and senior advocate Pradeep Rai.
- According to reports by Bar and Bench, Pradeep Kumar Rai received 689 votes.

## 17. Lai Ching-Te Of Taiwan's Ruling DPP Sworn In As New President

- **Lai Ching-te of Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)** was **sworn in as the self-governing island's new President.** A trained physician Lai succeeds Tsai Ing-wen to lead the democracy amid increasing threats from China, which claims the self-governing island as its territory. Taiwan has had an independent government since 1949.
- **Vice President Hsiao Bi-khim, was also officially sworn in. She was Taiwan's de facto ambassador to the US from 2020 to 2023 and formerly served as a DPP lawmaker for several terms.**

## 18. Mahindra Finance appoints Mahesh Rajaraman as CRO

- **Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services** on 21 May said it has appointed **Mahesh Rajaraman as Chief Risk Officer (CRO)** of the company with effect from August 1, 2024. In a regulatory filing, Mahindra Finance said Mallika Mittal has tendered her resignation and ceased to be the CRO of the company with effect from May 17.

## 19. IndiaFirst Life Insurance names Rushabh Gandhi as its next MD & CEO

- **IndiaFirst Life Insurance's board** has approved the appointment of **Rushabh Gandhi as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO)** for five years effective July 1, 2024, or the date of regulatory approvals, whichever is earlier. R M Vishakha, the current MD and CEO of the life insurer, will retire on June 30, 2024.

## 20. Vietnam Names Security Chief Lam as President

- **Vietnam's parliament elected police minister To Lam as the state president**, in a move analysts see as a "stepping stone" for Lam to bid later for the position of chief of the ruling Communist Party, the country's top job. Mr. Lam was confirmed by Vietnam's National Assembly after his predecessor resigned amid an ongoing anti-corruption campaign.

## 21. RBI approves appointment of Pradeep Kumar Sinha as Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India has granted its approval for the appointment of **Pradeep Kumar Sinha as the Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank**. Sinha is set to assume this role for a term of three years, starting from July 1, 2024. Sinha will step into the position vacated by G. C. Chaturvedi, who is due to retire as Non-Executive Part-time Chairman on June 30, 2024.

## 22. Jetha Ahir new chairman of NAFED

- **Jetha Ahir**, who has served as the deputy speaker of the Gujarat Assembly in the past, has been **elected uncontested as the chairman of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)**. Ahir is also the chairman of Panchmahal's Pancharmrut Dairy as well as the Panchmahal District Cooperative (PDC) Bank.

## Awards

### 1. Assam's Purnima Devi Barman Receives 'Green Oscar' Whitley Gold Award 2024

- **A wildlife biologist from Assam has been honoured with a leading UK wildlife charity award for her conservation efforts of the endangered Greater Adjutant Stork and its wetland habitat. She received it in recognition of her conservation of the stork known locally as 'Hargila' in Assamese.**
- **Dr Purnima Devi Barman won the GBP 1,00,000 Whitley Gold Award from the Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN),** which supports grassroots conservation leaders from around the world, at a Royal Geographical Society awards ceremony in London.
- The Gold Award from WFN noted how the numbers of the Hargila' translating as 'bone-swallower' ' had dwindled to an estimated 450 birds in Northeast India before Ms Barman's intervention. The Whitley Awards also celebrated six other grassroots conservationists ' from Guyana, Papua New Guinea, Bhutan, Cameroon, Nepal and Brazil ' for their locally-led solutions.

### 2. Palestinian Journalists Covering Gaza Named Winners of 2024 UNESCO Press Freedom Prize

- **Palestinian journalists covering Gaza have been named winners of the 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.** The winners were chosen upon the recommendation of an international jury of media professionals. The UNESCO has recorded the deaths of 26 journalists, but the actual number could be much more.
- **The UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Prize is given annually, as a 'tribute to the courage of journalists facing difficult and dangerous circumstances,' according to UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay.**

### 3. DBS Bank India Recognised as 'Best Employer' 2023 by Kincentric

- **DBS Bank India has been recognised as a 'Best Employer' 2023 by Kincentric for the fourth consecutive year.** The award acknowledges organisations with exceptional employee experiences and a strong culture of engagement.
- **In 2023, DBS Bank India established a gender-agnostic Leadership Diversity Council as the apex governing body for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion agenda.**
- The Kincentric Best Employers study is one of the most respected annual studies with a robust evaluation methodology designed to understand alignment across business objectives, people processes, and employee experience.

### 4. Pulitzer 2024 winners announced

- **The Pulitzer Prizes, administered by Columbia University in New York was presented across 15 journalism categories and eight arts categories encompassing books, music, and theatre, highlight exceptional contributions in public service, investigative reporting, feature photography, and more.**
- The Public Service award, considered the most esteemed, includes a gold medal, while other winners receive \$15,000 in recognition of their exceptional work.
- One of the standout moments of this year's Pulitzers was the acknowledgment of The Associated Press for its powerful feature photography capturing the global migration journey through Latin America to the US.
- Similarly, **The New York Times and Reuters were honoured for their in-depth coverage of the Hamas-Israel war that occurred on October 7th and its aftermath.**
- **ProPublica clinched the Public Service award for its revelatory reporting that "pierced the thick wall of secrecy"** surrounding the US Supreme Court, exposing how billionaires gifted travel and other favours to justices.
- **Special citations were also awarded to journalists covering the war in Gaza and the late hip-hop critic Greg Tate. The New York Times staff was recognised for their comprehensive**

**coverage of the October 7th Hamas attack, delving into intelligence failures and Israel's response in Gaza.**

- **In the literary realm, Jayne Anne Phillips' "Night Watch," a gripping mother-daughter saga set in a West Virginia asylum after the civil war, received the Pulitzer Prize for fiction.** The drama prize was awarded to Eboni Booth's "Primary Trust," a compelling narrative about a bookstore worker's unforeseen journey after losing his job.
- **Nathan Thrall's A Day in the Life of Abed Salama: Anatomy of a Jerusalem Tragedy won for general nonfiction, and Jacqueline Jones received the history prize for No Right to an Honest Living: The Struggles of Boston's Black Workers in the Civil War Era.**
- **Tyshawn Sorey's saxophone concerto Adagio (For Wadada Leo Smith) was the winner for music.**

**5. HSL CMD receives PSU Samarpan Award by Gov Connect**

- **Hindustan Shipyard Limited's (HSL) Chairman and Managing Director (C&MD) Cmde Hemant Khatri has been honoured with the esteemed 'PSU Samarpan Award' by Gov Connect at the award ceremony held in New Delhi.** 'PSU Samarpan Award' by Gov Connect is an initiative by ilouge Media
- Hindustan Shipyard Limited (Hindustan Shipyard), Visakhapatnam was set up in 1941 by Scindia Steam Navigation Company and was later taken over by the Government of India (GOI) in 1952. It became a fully owned Government Company from July 1961.

**6. POWERGRID gets global recognition for Learning & Development, receives ATD Best Awards for the third time**

- **POWERGRID, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, has been conferred the prestigious ATD BEST Awards 2024 for its strategic approach to talent development driving business results. This is the third time POWERGRID has been honoured with the ATD BEST Award, having previously received it in 2021 and 2023.**

**About ATD BEST Awards: -**

- The ATD BEST Awards, established by the Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA, is one of the most esteemed international recognitions in the field of Learning and Development (L&D). It honors organizations that leverage talent development as a strategic business tool and demonstrate enterprise-wide success through effective employee development practices.

**7. NTPC gets global recognition for Talent Development, secures 3rd rank at ATD BEST Awards 2024**

- **NTPC has achieved an impressive milestone by securing the 3rd rank globally at the ATD BEST Awards 2024,** this being the highest ranking among all Indian companies. Notably, NTPC is the only PSU to have received this prestigious award seven times in the past eight years.

**8. Scientist Srinivas Kulkarni honoured with 2024 Shaw Prize in astronomy**

- **Shrinivas R Kulkarni, an Indian-origin professor of astronomy from the US will be bestowed the prestigious Shaw Prize in Astronomy for his ground-breaking discoveries about millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and other variable or transient astronomical objects.**

### **About Shaw Prize: -**

- The Shaw Prize consists of three annual prizes: Astronomy, Life Science and Medicine, and Mathematical Sciences, each bearing a monetary award of USD 1.2 million. Hong Kong-based film and television personality and philanthropist Run Run Shaw (1907-2014) founded the Shaw Foundation Hong Kong and The Sir Run Run Shaw Charitable Trust.

### **9. 'Kairos' by Jenny Erpenbeck wins 2024 International Booker Prize**

- **German writer Jenny Erpenbeck and translator Michael Hofmann have won the International Booker Prize.** Their novel Kairos follows the destructive love affair between a 19-year-old student and a married man in his 50s who meet on a bus in East Berlin around 1986.
- Their relationship comes to embody the German Democratic Republic's "crushed idealism" and eventual "dissolution of a whole political system". Last year's winner, Time Shelter by Bulgarian author Georgi Gospodinov and translated by Angela Rodel, was also set during and after the fall of the Iron Curtain.

### **10. NHPC conferred with 'The Economic Times HR World Future Ready Organization Award 2024-25'**

- **NHPC, India's premier hydropower company, has been conferred with the prestigious 'The Economic Times HR World Future Ready Organization Award 2024-25'.** The Award has been given to NHPC in recognition of its preparedness in the areas of upskilling of employees, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) interventions, Diversity and Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) initiatives.

### **11. FTII student bags 'La Cinef' Award at 77th Cannes Film Festival**

- **'SUNFLOWERS WERE THE FIRST ONES TO KNOW', a course end film by Chidanand Naik, a student of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), received the Cannes' La Cinef Award for Best Short at 77th Cannes Film Festival in France.** The winner was officially announced on 23rd May 2024 at the festival where the student Director Shri Chidanand Naik received the award.
- This is the first time a film by a student from 1-year Television course of FTII has been selected and won at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival. Before joining FTII in 2022, Chidanand S Naik was also selected as one of the 75 Creative Minds at 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI), an initiative of Ministry of I&B to recognize and support budding young artists in the field of Cinema.
- **'La Cinef' is an official section of the festival aimed at encouraging new talents and recognises films from film schools across the world.** The film was among 18 shorts (14 live-action and 4 animated films) selected from a total of 2,263 films submitted by 555 film schools all over the world.

### **12. Payal Kapadia Scripts History; All We Imagine As Light Wins Grand Prix at Cannes**

- **Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia made history by winning the country's first ever Grand Prix Award at the 77th Cannes Film Festival.** Her Malayalam-Hindi film All We Imagine As Light stars Kani Kusruti and Divya Prabha as nurses working in Mumbai. The movie also stars Chhaya Kadam and Hridhu Haroon.
- After Shaji Karun's Swaham, which competed for the Palme d'Or at the 1994 Cannes, Kapadia's film was the first Indian title in 30 years to be selected for the prestigious Competition section. Kapadia is also the first Indian woman to be nomination in the category.

### 13. Indian Army Major Radhika Sen selected to receive 2023 Military Gender Advocate of Year Award

- **Indian Army Major Radhika Sen has been selected to receive the 2023 Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award.** The award recognises her advocacy for women and girls while serving as a peacekeeper. Sen is the second Indian peacekeeper to receive the honour after Major Suman Gawani, who served with the UN Mission in South Sudan and received the award in 2019.
- Hailing from Himachal Pradesh, Sen is a biotech engineer who was studying for a master's degree at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay when she decided to join the Army. She was assigned to MONUSCO in 2023 as the Engagement Platoon Commander with the Indian Rapid Deployment Battalion, and completed her tenure in April 2024.

### 14. PFC receives 'CSR Champion Award' at Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024

- **Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC) has been honoured with the Corporate Social Responsibility award in the NF (Non-Fossil Fuel) business category at the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024, held in Goa.** PFC's win in the CSR NF category is a testament to its unwavering commitment to social responsibility and sustainable business practices.

### 15. REC wins 'Sustainability Champion ' Editor's Choice Award' at Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024

- **REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been honoured with the 'Sustainability Champion ' Editor's Choice Award' at the 'Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024'.** The Award ceremony was organised by Outlook Group, in collaboration with IIT Goa.
- This award recognizes REC's commitment to sustainability initiatives and its efforts in driving progress towards a greener future. The award highlights the corporation's pledge to sustainability initiatives, leading the path toward a greener future.

## Ranks & Reports

### 1. India's services exports growth enters slow lane in FY24: RBI data

- **After recording double-digit growth for two consecutive years, India's services exports decelerated in FY24 to a three-year low, with a modest increase of 4.9 per cent to \$341.1 billion, data released by the Reserve Bank of India showed.**
- However, **net services exports grew at a robust pace of 13.6 per cent to \$162.8 billion as services imports contracted 2 per cent to \$178.3 billion during the financial year ended March 31.** In FY24, **merchandise exports had contracted 3.2 per cent to \$437.1 billion, leading to a trade deficit of \$240.2 billion,** data released by the commerce ministry last month showed.
- **The latest round of RBI's survey of Professional Forecasters on Macroeconomic Indicators projects the CAD to GDP ratio at 1.2 per cent and 1.1 per cent for FY25 and FY26.**

### 2. India Ranks 159 of 176 Countries on Press Freedom Index

- **Reporters Without Borders (RWB), also known as Reporters sans frontières (RSF) in French, is an international non-profit organisation that strives to protect the right to freedom of information. The organisation has consultative status at the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, and the International Organisation of the Francophonie.**
- **India has been ranked 159<sup>th</sup> two ranks above last year in the 2024 World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). It had ranked 161<sup>st</sup> in 2023.** Additionally, it also highlights the challenges that journalists face, thereby promoting the freedom of the press and encouraging governments to take action to protect journalists and their work.

#### **The top 10 countries with the best press freedom 2024: -**

Rank Country Global Score: -

- 1 Norway (91.89)
- 2 Denmark (89.6)
- 3 Sweden (88.32)
- 4 Netherlands (87.73)
- 5 Finland (86.55)
- 6 Estonia (86.44)
- 7 Portugal (85.9)
- 8 Ireland (85.59)
- 9 Switzerland (84.01)
- 10 Germany (83.84)

#### **The top 10 countries with the worst press freedom: -**

Rank Country Global Score

- 180 Eritrea (16.64)
- 179 Syria (17.41)
- 178 Afghanistan (19.09)
- 177 North Korea (20.66)
- 176 Iran (21.3)
- 175 Turkmenistan (22.01)
- 174 Vietnam (22.31)
- 173 Bahrain (23.21)
- 172 China (23.36)

- 171 Myanmar (24.41)

### 3. India Overtakes Japan To Become World's Third Largest Solar Power Generator: Report

- **India has overtaken Japan to become the world's third-largest solar power generator in 2023, according to a report by the global energy think tank, Ember. The Global Electricity Review 2024, released on 1<sup>st</sup> May, offers a detailed analysis of power generation systems worldwide in 2023.**
- **It was published alongside the world's first open dataset on electricity generation in 2023, covering 80 countries representing 92% of global electricity demand.** From ranking ninth in 2015, India has substantially expanded its solar generation capacity. **The report indicates that its share of solar power surged from 0.5 percent in 2015 to 5.8 percent in 2023.**
- **The report shows that solar power's share in global electricity production surged to a record 5.5% in 2023. India witnessed the world's fourth-largest increase in solar generation in 2023 (+18 Terawatt hours or TWh), following China, the United States (+33 TWh), and Brazil. Together, these top four solar growth countries accounted for 75% of overall growth in 2023.**

### 4. Mumbai and Delhi feature among the World's Top 50 Wealthiest cities, surpassing Washington DC

- **Mumbai and Delhi have secured positions among the top 50 wealthiest cities in a global survey of wealth distribution, while Bengaluru found a spot in the top 10 most promising 'cities to watch' list for future growth, according to the 2024 World's Wealthiest Cities Report released by Henley & Partners and New World Wealth.**
- **Mumbai, ranked 24th on the list out of 50,** boasts a significant affluent population with 58,800 millionaires, 236 centi-millionaires, and 29 billionaires. The city has experienced an impressive 82% growth in millionaires from 2013 to 2023. Delhi, securing the 37th spot, houses 30,700 millionaires, 123 centi-millionaires, and 16 billionaires.
- **The United States, with 11 cities securing positions in the top 50, is at the top of the charts. New York City leads the global ranking with a staggering 349,500 millionaires,** 744 centi-millionaires, and 60 billionaires, holding over \$3 trillion in total resident wealth.
- The Bay Area, encompassing **San Francisco and Silicon Valley, stands second globally** with 305,700 millionaires and substantial growth rates in wealth over the past decade.
- Tokyo, once a frontrunner, has experienced a decline in its high-net-worth-individual (HNWI) population, slipping to third place with 298,300 millionaires.
- **Singapore, characterised as a business-friendly destination, has climbed to fourth place,** attracting a significant influx of millionaires and centi-millionaires.
- **London, Los Angeles, Paris, Sydney, Hong Kong and Beijing are also in the top 10.**

### 5. India overtakes Australia, Japan and Singapore in data centre capacity

- **India has become the country with the highest data center capacity in the Asia-Pacific region, surpassing major countries like Australia, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Singapore, and Korea.** The country is expected to record the highest capacity addition of 850 MW during the 2024-2026 period, higher than major APAC countries.
- The sector has seen significant investments from global operators, real estate developers, and private equity funds. In 2023, there was an addition of 255 MW of new supply, resulting in a total stock of approximately 1,030 MW by the end of the year.

### 6. India ranks first in adoption of GenAI across Asia-Pacific: Deloitte India

- **With 93 per cent of students and 83 per cent of employees actively engaging with the technology, India ranks first in the adoption of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)**

**across Asia-Pacific, a report released by Deloitte India showed.** It, however, added that only 50 per cent of these employees believe their managers know they use this technology.

- The findings were a part of the "Generative AI in the Asia Pacific: Young Employees Lead as Employers Play Catch-Up" report, based on a survey of 11,900 individuals across 13 countries in the region. It also noted that over the next five years, an increase of a whopping 182 per cent is anticipated in the daily usage of GenAI.

#### 7. 4,000 Animal And Plant Species Affected By Smuggling Worldwide: UN

- **Wildlife trafficking has not substantially reduced over the past two decades, despite positive signs in reducing trafficking of iconic species like elephant and rhino, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reported in Vienna.** During the six years, around 13 million individual animals and plants had been seized that had been intended for use as food, medication or luxury
- **The global scope and scale of wildlife crime remain substantial with seizures during 2015-2021 indicating an illegal trade in 162 countries and territories affecting around 4,000 plant and animal species," the office's third edition of the World Wildlife Crime Report says,**
- It noted that some of the species worse affected, including rare orchids, succulents, reptiles, fish, birds and mammals, received little public attention, though wildlife trafficking had played a major role in their local or global extinctions.

#### 8. Student Enrollment Under SC Category Grows By 44 %

- **The student enrollment under the Scheduled Caste category has grown by 44 per cent, from 46 lakh in 2014-15 to 66 lakh in 2021-22. According to a report of the National Commission for Backward Class, minority female student enrollment also witnessed over 42 per cent increase, from over 10 lakh in 2014-15 to 15 lakh in 2021-22.**
- **Female SC enrollment increased by 51 per cent, whereas that of ST students went up by 65.2 per cent.** According to the report, during the academic year 2020-21, a 27 per cent reservation for OBC students was implemented in Central Schools, resulting in over 34 thousand OBC children securing admissions.

#### 9. India climbs to 39th position in World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index

- **India's rank on the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024 has risen to 39th place, with global tourism activities returning to pre-pandemic levels, the annual report showed. While the US topped the list, India is ranked highest in South Asia and among the lower-middle-income economies, the WEF said.**
- **India was ranked 54th in the previously published index in 2021,** though changes made to the index parameters limit its comparability to earlier years. After the **US, Spain, Japan, France and Australia figure among the top five in the 2024 list.** The biennial index analysed the travel and tourism sectors of 119 countries around a range of factors and policies.
- **Germany was ranked 6th, followed by the UK, China, Italy and Switzerland in the top ten.** The index, prepared in collaboration with the University of Surrey, showed **India is highly price-competitive (18th) and boasts competitive Air Transport (26th) and Ground and Port (25th) infrastructure.** Country's overall Travel and Tourism Development Index score is 2.1% below its 2019.

#### 10. Inflation seen closer to target in FY26: RBI's state of the economy report

- **The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) state of the economy report observed that any durable alignment of headline retail inflation with the target of 4 per cent could recommence in the second half of FY25 and sustain until numbers closer to the target are seen during the course of FY26, dashing hopes of any reduction in the policy repo rate in the current financial year.**

- **The RBI has projected consumer price index inflation of 4.5 per cent in FY25, with Q1 at 4.9 per cent; Q2 at 3.8 per cent; Q3 at 4.6 per cent; and Q4 at 4.5 per cent. According to the 'State of Economy' report more than 60 per cent of the FDI equity flows were directed towards manufacturing, electricity and other energy, computer services, financial services and, retail.**
- **Singapore, Mauritius, the US, the Netherlands, Japan and the UAE contributed to more than 80% of the flows.** Net FDI declined to US\$ 10.6 billion during 2023-24 from \$ 28.0 billion a year ago, mainly reflecting higher repatriation. **The net foreign direct investment in India -- inflows minus the outflows -- dropped sharply by 62.17 per cent to \$10.58 billion in May 2024.**

#### 11. Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index: At 350, Delhi highest ranked Indian city

- **Delhi has scored the 350th rank in the Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index, which has compared the world's 1000 largest cities on parameters ranging from economics to human capital. The list of 1000 largest cities, spread across 163 different countries, also feature several other Indian cities, including Bengaluru, Mumbai and Chennai.**
- **The index contains five categories: Economics, Human Capital, Quality of Life, Environment, and Governance**, which are aggregated to create an overall score for each city. **New York ranks first on the index, followed by London, San Jose, Tokyo, Paris, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Melbourne and Zurich.**
- **In India, Bengaluru is ranked 411, Mumbai 427, Chennai 472, Kochi 521, Kolkata 528, Pune 534, Thrissur 550, Hyderabad 564 and Kozhikode 580.** South Indian cities appear to be ranked higher on the list.

#### 12. Kerala tops youth unemployment rate, Delhi registers lowest: PLFS Survey

- **Kerala recorded the highest unemployment rate among the 15-29 age group in urban areas for the January-March quarter of 2024, while Delhi had the lowest joblessness rate, according to the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI).**
- The survey, which **covered 22 states and Union territories**, identified Jammu & Kashmir, Telangana, Rajasthan, and Odisha as other states with high unemployment rates in this age category. **The overall unemployment rate for the 15-29 age group was 17 % for the January-March period, an increase from 16.5 per cent in the previous quarter but slightly lower than the 17.3 % in 2023**
- For all age groups, **the unemployment rate was 6.7 per cent , marginally up from 6.5 per cent in the previous quarter and slightly below the 6.8 per cent from the previous year.**

## Important Days

### 1. Labour Day | 1 May

- **May 1 is observed as 'May Day', also referred to as 'International Workers' Day' and 'Labour Day' in different countries across the world.** The day commemorates the contributions of workers, and the labour movement. The origins of International Labour Day can be traced back to the late 19th-century labour movement in the United States.
- The specific date of May 1st was chosen to commemorate a nationwide strike for an eight-hour workday that commenced on that day in 1886. It's a day dedicated to honouring the contributions of working people in every industry and sector.

### 2. World Tuna Day | 2 May

- **World Tuna Day, observed annually on May 2** is dedicated to raising awareness about the critical importance of tuna conservation. Tuna is popular for its numerous health benefits, as it provides Omega-3 fatty acids, protein and vital vitamins. In 2016, the United Nations General Assembly officially declared May 2 as World Tuna Day.
- The United Nations established World Tuna Day to promote sustainable fishing practices and safeguard tuna populations for future generations. This day serves as an opportunity to educate people about the challenges facing tuna and to advocate for balanced fishing practices that ensure the long-term health and viability of tuna stocks.

### 3. World Press Freedom Day | 3 May

- **Every year on May 3, the whole world celebrates Press Freedom Day.** The day is commemorated to highlight the significance of press freedom globally and to recognise the challenges encountered by journalists. The day also pays tribute to all the journalists who have lost their lives. **World Press Freedom Day was first declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993.**
- The initiative to celebrate World Press Freedom Day was first started by an African journalist during a UNESCO conference in Namibia in 1991. In 2024, **the theme for World Press Freedom Day is 'A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis.'**

### 4. Coal Miners Day | 4 May

- **Coal Miners Day, observed annually on May 4 in India,** commemorates the dedicated efforts and significant contributions of coal miners. The history of Coal Miners Day dates back to the opening of the first coal mine in Scotland in 1575. In India, the first coal mine was established in 1774 at the Raniganj Coalfield by John Summer and Suetonius Grant Heatly.

### 5. International Firefighters Day | 4 May

- **International Firefighters' Day is observed every year on May 4,** and this time, it will be observed on Saturday. On December 2, 1998, members of the Geelong West Fire Brigade answered a call to aid firefighters combating a wildfire in Linton, Victoria, Australia. It also serves as a day of remembrance for firefighters who lost their lives protecting others.

### 6. World Asthma Day | 7 May

- **World Asthma Day is an annual event that aims to raise awareness about asthma, globally. Every year this day is observed on the first Tuesday of May.** Asthma is a chronic respiratory condition characterised by inflammation and narrowing of the airways, leading to symptoms such as wheezing, coughing, chest tightness, and shortness of breath. **The theme for 2024 is 'Asthma Education Empowers.'**

## 7. BRO celebrates its 65th Raising Day

- **The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is celebrating its 65th Raising Day on May 07, 2024.** The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is a road construction executive force, partly integral to and in support of the Army. It started operations in May 1960 with just two projects-Project Tusker (renamed Project Vartak) in the east and Project Beacon in the west.
- In 2023-24, the BRO completed a total of 125 infrastructure projects worth Rs 3,611 crore. This includes the construction of Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh on Balipara-Chardwar-Tawang Road. The BRO will soon commence the construction on 4.10-km long Shinkun La Tunnel. Once done, this tunnel will become the world's highest tunnel at 15,800 ft bypassing Mila Tunnel in China

## 8. Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives During the Second World War | 8 May

- **By resolution of 22 November 2004, the UN General Assembly declared 8 May as a time of remembrance and reconciliation while recognizing that Member States may have individual days of victory.** The resolution urges 'Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and individuals' to pay tribute to the victims of World War II.

## 9. Maharana Pratap Jayanti | 9 May

- **Maharana Pratap Jayanti is marked on both May 9 and June 2.** He was born on May 9, 1540, according to the Julian calendar but according to the proleptic Gregorian calendar, his birth date is May 9, 1540. In the Hindu calendar, Maharana Pratap was born on Tritiya, Jyeshtha, Shukla Paksha, 1597 Vikram Samvat, which typically falls in late May or early June on the Western calendar.

About Maharana Pratap: -

- Maharna Pratap was a legendary Rajput monarch whose name is associated with bravery. Maharana Pratap was born on May 9, 1540. Maharana Pratap hailed from Rajasthan. His father was Maharana Udai Singh II, the reigning monarch of Mewar. After a hunting mishap in January 1597, he sustained serious injuries and on January 29 of that year, at the age of 56, he passed away.

## 10. International Thalassemia Day | 8 May

- **Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder that causes a body to have less hemoglobin than normal. Celebrated every year,** International Thalassemia Day serves as a crucial platform to emphasize the importance of disease prevention, raise awareness, sensitize stakeholders, promote early detection, and ensure quality care for those affected by thalassemia.
- **This year's theme, "Empowering Lives. Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassemia Treatment for All," encapsulates the collective mission toward universal access to comprehensive Thalassemia care.**

## 11. International Day of Argania | 10 May

- **In 2021, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 10 May the International Day of Argania.** The argan tree (*Argania spinosa*) is a native species of the sub-Saharan region of Morocco, in the southwest of the country, which grows in arid and semiarid areas. It's the defining species of a woodland ecosystem, also known as Arganeraie, which is rich in endemic flora.
- The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated in 1988 the endemic production area as the Arganeraie Biosphere Reserve. Also, all know-how concerning the argan tree was inscribed in 2014 on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

## 12. World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day | 8 May

- **World Red Cross Day is an annual observance held on May 8<sup>th</sup>** to honour the humanitarian work and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- The day serves as an opportunity to highlight the vital humanitarian values and activities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- These organisations play a crucial role in providing aid and assistance to people affected by various natural disasters, armed conflicts, and other crises globally. World Red Cross Day originates from the significant events following World War I, where the Red Cross made significant contributions to fostering peace.
- **The theme announced for World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day in 2024 is 'I give with joy, and the joy I give is a reward.'** The non-profit organisation's motto, 'Per Humanitatem ad Pacem,' translates to 'With humanity, towards peace,' which reflects their message of promoting world peace.

## 13. World Migratory Bird Day | 11 May

- **World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is celebrated every year in May and October.** This year, it falls on 11 May and 12 October, due to the varying cyclic patterns of bird migration in different hemispheres. WMBD is an annual awareness-raising campaign to highlight the necessity of conserving migratory birds and their habitats.
- World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated annually on the second Saturday in May and October. The day was first established in 1993 to raise awareness about the plight of migratory birds and their habitat.

## 14. National Technological Day | 11 May

- **National Technology Day is celebrated annually on May 11** to commemorate India's achievements in the science and technology. National Technology Day is celebrated every year on May 11. This date was chosen to mark the anniversary of the successful nuclear tests conducted at Pokhran on May 11, 1998.
- **The theme for National Technology Day 2024 is 'School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate'** National Technology Day aims to celebrate all of India's achievements in tech so as to encourage more youngsters to work for the country's scientific progress.

## 15. International Day of Plant Health | 12 May

- **The International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) is observed on 12 May** to raise awareness about the necessity of protecting plant health in order to prevent hunger, reduce poverty, safeguard biodiversity, and promote economic development. **The theme of International Day of Plant Health 2024 is 'Plant Health, Safe Trade, Digital Technology.'**
- The United Nations established the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) to draw public attention to the necessity of safeguarding plant health in order to prevent hunger, reduce poverty, safeguard biodiversity, and promote economic development. The IDPH resolution was unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly in March 2022.

## 16. International Nurses Day | 12 May

- **International Nurses Day is observed on May 12 every year.** This day marks the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale who laid the foundation of modern nursing. International Nurses Day aims to highlight the importance of nurses in the healthcare sector. **The theme for International Nurses Day 2024 is Our Nurses. Our Future. The economic power of care.**

## 17. UN Proclaims 25th May as World Football Day

- **The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 25th May as the World Football Day**, by adopting a resolution during the 80th plenary meeting of the General Assembly in New York. The year 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the first international football tournament in history with the representation of all regions as part of the 1924 Summer Olympic Games, held in Paris.
- The resolution was passed unanimously by the 193-member General Assembly. Taher M. El-Sonni, Permanent Representative of the State of Libya to the United Nations, introduced the draft resolution under Sport for development and peace: building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal during the meeting.
- The genesis of World Football Day stems from the historic event of May 25, 1924, during the summer Olympic Games in Paris, where the first international football tournament featuring representation from all regions took place.

## 18. International Day of Families | 15 May

- **Every year the International Day of Families is celebrated on May 15th.** This year marks the 30th anniversary of the International Day of Families. The theme for International Day of Families 2024 is 'Families and Climate Change'. It "aims to raise awareness of how climate change impacts families and the role families can play in climate action.
- The observance event will feature presentations on the outcomes of major regional IYF+30 preparatory activities, civil society initiatives, recommendations on family policies for climate action, and an interactive discussion. Additionally, two publications titled "Climate Change and Families" and "Home, Family, and Climate Change" will be unveiled during the event.

## 19. International Day of Living Together in Peace | 16 May

- **The International Day of Living Together in Peace is observed on 16 May every year.** The United Nations General Assembly established this day to support the international community's efforts to promote peace, unity, and solidarity. 16 May was officially declared as the 'International Day of Living Together in Peace' by the UN General-Assembly, in its resolution 72/130.

## 20. International Day of Light | 16 May

- The International Day of Light is an annual celebration established by UNESCO to recognise the significance of light and light-based technologies in revolutionising our society and various aspects of our daily lives.
- **May 16th is annually observed as International Day of Light**, which commemorates the first successful operation of the laser by physicist and engineer Theodore Maiman in 1960. The first-ever IDL was held on May 16, 2018. The origin of the day can be traced back to 2015, when the UN observed the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies in 2015.

## 21. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day | 17 May

- **The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) celebrates World Telecommunication Day on May 17.** It is officially known as World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. The day emphasises the impact of the internet and other communication tools on society. Many sections of the world continue to encounter connectivity issues.
- Since 1969, World Telecommunication Day has been observed on May 17 to commemorate the foundation of the ITU and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865. **This year's theme, 'Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development,' focuses on the importance of leveraging new technical advancements.**

## 22. National Endangered Species Day | 17 May

- **National Endangered Species Day is celebrated every year on the third Friday of May.** This year, it falls on 17 May 2024. The day is dedicated to raising awareness about the plight of endangered species and the need to take action to protect them. National Endangered Species Day was first established by David Robinson and the Endangered Species Coalition in 2006. **The theme of National Endangered Species Day 2024 is 'Celebrate Saving Species.'**

## 23. World Hypertension Day | 17 May

- **World Hypertension Day is observed every year to raise awareness of the prevention, detection and treatment of high blood pressure.** High blood pressure is the primary risk factor for developing cardiovascular disease. **The theme for 2024 is "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer!"**
- The World Hypertension League (WHL) established World Hypertension Day in an effort to increase public awareness of hypertension. The World Hypertension League sponsored the inaugural World Hypertension Day on May 14, 2005. **May 17 has been recognized as World Hypertension Day annually since 2006.**

## 24. International Museum Day | 18 May

- **International Museum Day is celebrated every year on May 18,** and this year it falls on Saturday. The event focuses on a different theme each year, reflecting relevant topics or challenges encountered by museums globally.
- The inaugural International Museum Day was organised in 1977 by ICOM, following the adoption of a resolution aimed at creating an annual event to unite the creative efforts of museums and raise global awareness about their activities.

## 25. World AIDS Vaccine Day | 18 May

- **World AIDS Vaccine Day, also recognized as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, is observed annually on May 18.** AIDS stands for Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome - a chronic and potentially life-threatening condition caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
- May 18 was chosen as the date for World AIDS Vaccine Day to commemorate the anniversary of a speech given by then-US President Bill Clinton on May 18, 1997. In his speech, Clinton advocated for the development of an AIDS vaccine.
- The first World AIDS Vaccine Day was observed on May 18, 1998, to commemorate the anniversary of Clinton's speech.

## 26. World Bee Day | 20 May

- To raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development, the **UN designated 20 May as World Bee Day.** In recognition of the pivotal role that youth can play in addressing challenges bees and other pollinators are facing, **World Bee Day 2024 focuses on the theme "Bee engaged with Youth."**

## 27. International Tea Day | 21 May

- Re-emphasizing the call from the Intergovernmental Group on Tea to direct greater efforts towards expanding demand, particularly in tea-producing countries, where per capita consumption is relatively low, and supporting efforts to address the declining per capita consumption in traditional importing countries General Assembly decided to designate 21 May as International Tea Day. **The UN formally declared May 21 as the International Tea Day.**

## 28. World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development | 21 May

- **Held every year on 21 May, UNESCO leads the celebration of World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development** highlighting not only the richness of the world's cultures, but also the essential role of intercultural dialogue for achieving peace and sustainable development.
- According to UNESCO data, the cultural and creative sector is one of the most powerful engines of development worldwide. It accounts for more than 48 million jobs globally 'almost half of which are held by women ' representing 6.2% of all existing employment and 3.1% of global GDP. The UNGA, declared this day in the year 2002.

## 29. National Anti-Terrorism Day | 21 May

- **On 21 May, every year Anti Terrorism Day is observed** to provide knowledge to the youth about terrorism, and its impact on human suffering, and lives. This day also makes people aware of an anti-social act of terrorism. The objective of the day is to promote national harmony, mitigate terrorism, and unite people of all castes, creeds, and sex. The official announcement of National Anti-Terrorism Day was made on 21 May 1991.

## 30. International Day for Biological Diversity | 22 May

- **The International Day for Biological Diversity traces its roots back to a pivotal decision made by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000.** The primary goal behind this initiative was to champion the preservation and sustainable utilisation of the diverse array of life on our planet.
- This date holds special significance as it commemorates the momentous adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, back in 1992. **The theme for 2024, Be Part of the Plan, emphasises the need for a collective and coordinated approach to address and reverse the loss of biodiversity.**

## 31. World Turtle Day | 23 May

- **Every year, World Turtle Day is observed on May 23.** It was started in the year 2000 by American tortoise Rescue as a way of urging people to come together to understand tortoises and turtles better. It is observed to raise awareness about the lifestyle and habitat of turtles as well as tortoises and urge people to understand them better and contribute to their wellbeing.

## 32. International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories | 25-31 May

- **In the UN Charter, a Non-Self-Governing Territory is defined as a territory 'whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government.'** From 1960 to 2002, 54 territories attained self-government. At present, there are 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories remaining. **It was established by United Nations General Assembly in 1999.**

## 33. World Football Day | 25 May

- 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the first international football tournament in history with the representation of all regions, which took place on May 25, 1924, during the summer Olympic games held in Paris. In recognition of this milestone, on May 7, 2024, the General Assembly passed Resolution A/RES/78/281 proclaiming May 25 as World Football Day.
- The resolution acknowledges "the global reach of football and its impact in various spheres, including commerce, peace and diplomacy, and recognizing that football creates a space for cooperation."

#### 34. International Day of the Markhor | 24 May

- The markhor (*Capra falconeri*) is an iconic and ecologically significant species found across the mountainous regions of Central and South Asia, including Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. **The UN General Assembly proclaimed 24 May the International Day of the Markhor, celebrate it for the first time in 2024.**
- The markhor was categorized as 'near threatened' in 2014 and is on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species, and has been included in Appendix I to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora since 1992.

#### 35. World Hunger Day | 28 May

- **On May 28th, the world unites for World Hunger Day.** This day raises awareness about the urgent issue of global hunger. In 2011, The Hunger Project, a global organisation dedicated to ending hunger and poverty, established World Hunger Day as a yearly event. **The theme for World Hunger Day 2024 is "Thriving Mothers, Thriving World."**

#### 36. International Day of UN Peacekeepers | 29 May

- **The General Assembly has designated 29 May as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.** This is the date when in 1948 the first UN peacekeeping mission named the "United Nations Truce Supervision Organization", or UNTSO, began operations in Palestine. **The theme for the 2024 International Day of UN Peacekeepers is 'Fit for the future, building better together'.**

#### 37. Hindi Journalism Day | 30 May

- **The journey of Hindi journalism began on May 30, 1826, with publication of the first Hindi newspaper, 'Udant Martand,' started by Pt. Jugal Kishore Shukla.** This day is dedicated to the special contribution of Hindi journalists working for public welfare, imbued with truth & courage. The Hindi publication of Udant Martand was a milestone in the history of Indian journalism.

#### 38. International Day of Potato | 30 May

- **In December 2023, General Assembly announced that May 30 will be observed as International Potato Day every year.** Potatoes rank among the top five staple food items used throughout the world. The day will be celebrated to highlight the significance of potatoes from the Andean region to the world. The first ever International Potato Day will be observed this year on May 30. **Theme for 2024 is "Harvesting Diversity, Feeding Hope"**.

## Summit & Conferences

### 1. Tri-service Conference, 'Parivartan Chintan', chaired by CDS General Anil Chauhan to be held in New Delhi

- **Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan will chair a two-day conference, 'Parivartan Chintan-2' on the jointness and integration of the Armed Forces in New Delhi began on 10th May.** Parivartan Chintan, a pioneering conference for the heads of all Tri-Services Institutes and aims at generating novel reformative ideas and initiatives.
- **Members from all the subcommittees of the apex Chiefs of Staff Committee; the CDS as its permanent chairman, and the three Service Chiefs, shall review the progress made in multiple domains, and ideate on the necessary reforms to achieve the desired end state towards transformation through jointness and integration.**

### 2. India Showcases Its Green Hydrogen Potential At World Hydrogen Summit 2024 In Netherlands

- **India has set up its pavilion at the 2024 World Hydrogen Summit, currently underway in Rotterdam, Netherlands from May 13-15. Organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy,** the India Pavilion stands as one of the largest at the event, showcasing the country's advancements in green hydrogen technology and facilitating engagement with stakeholders.
- **India launched its National Green Hydrogen Mission in January 2023 with an overall outlay of Rs 19,744 crore. It targets to achieve green hydrogen production capacity of 5 million tonnes by the end of 2030. Additionally, scheme guidelines have been notified for utilizing green hydrogen in key sectors such as steel, transportation, and shipping.**
- Union Power Minister RK Singh recently highlighted that approximately 44 percent of India's energy needs are currently met by non-fossil sources. This is projected to surge to around 65 percent by 2030, surpassing the commitments made by the country at the COP summit in 2021.

### 3. India to facilitate the first-ever focused working group discussions on Antarctic tourism

- **India is set to play a pivotal role in facilitating the first-ever focused discussions on regulating tourism in Antarctica at the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection. India has been a Consultative Party to the Antarctic Treaty since 1983.**
- National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa under Ministry of Earth Sciences, and the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat will organize these meetings in Kochi, Kerala. **The ATCM and CEP are high-level global annual meetings conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Antarctic Treaty, a multilateral agreement of 56 Contracting Parties signed in 1959.**

### 4. 10th World Water Forum opens in Indonesia's Bali

- **The 10th World Water Forum under the theme of "Water for Shared Prosperity" officially opened on Indonesia's island of Bali. The 10th World Water Forum focused on four topics, namely water conservation, clean water and sanitation, food and energy security, and mitigation of natural disasters.**

About the World Water Forum: -

- The World Water Forum is the largest international gathering in the water sector involving various stakeholders, which has been co-hosted by the World Water Council and a host city. The Forum is held every three years and has been taking place since 1997.

## Science & Technology

### 1. IIT-Madras startup Mindgrove launches first India-made microcontroller chip

- **India is finally set to have a made-in-India microcontroller chip powering electronic devices. Mindgrove Technologies, incubated by IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation and IIT Madras Incubation Cell, and supported by Peak XV Partners, has launched Secure IoT, India's debut high-performance SoC (system on chip).**
- A system-on-chip (SoC) combines many electronic parts into one chip, like a mini-computer. It goes into the printed circuit board (PCB) and is used in various devices, making them smaller and more efficient. With Secure IoT, Indian Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) can integrate an Indian SoC into their products and help reduce the cost of their feature-rich devices.

### 2. NASA Launches Small Climate Satellite to Study Earth's Poles

- **The first of a pair of climate satellites designed to study heat emissions at Earth's poles for NASA is in orbit after lifting off atop Rocket Lab's Electron rocket from the company's Launch Complex 1 in Mhia, New Zealand.** The PREFIRE mission was jointly developed by NASA and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- The agency's PREFIRE (Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-InfraRed Experiment) mission consists of two shoebox-size cube satellites, or CubeSats, that will measure the amount of heat Earth radiates into space from two of the coldest, most remote regions on the planet.

## Defence

### 1. Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo system successfully flight-tested by DRDO

- **Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system was successfully flight-tested from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.** This canister-based missile system consists of several advanced sub-systems, namely two-stage solid propulsion system, electromechanical actuator system, precision inertial navigation system etc.
- **SMART is a next-generation missile-based light-weight torpedo delivery system, designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation to enhance the anti-submarine warfare capability of the Indian Navy far beyond the conventional range of lightweight torpedo.** The system carries advanced light-weight torpedo as payload along with parachute-based system.

### 2. India's first indigenous bomber UAV unveiled in Bengaluru

- **Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace Technologies, an Indian defence and aerospace company marked a milestone in Bengaluru by unveiling the FWD-200B, pegged to be the country's first indigenous bomber unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).** The FWD-200B is a medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) unmanned combat aerial vehicle designed and manufactured entirely in India.
- With a payload capacity of 100 kgs, it can carry optical surveillance payloads as well as precision air-strike weapons. With a 12–20-hour endurance, 200 kts/370 kmph max speed, and 200 km ground control station range, the FWD-200B is envisioned as the 'nation's eagle eye' and an aerial shield against threats.

### 3. Army, IAF conduct joint exercise at multiple locations in Punjab

- **The Kharga Corps, under the aegis of the Indian Army's Western Command, has completed Gagan Strike-II, a three-day joint exercise conducted at multiple locations in Punjab to refine processes and validate the employment of attack helicopters in support of mechanised operations in developed terrain.**
- The exercise, incorporating Apache and ALH-WSI helicopters, unarmed aerial vehicles, and the Army's Special Forces, was aimed at validating and exercising various force multipliers in support of the ground offensive by the Strike Corps, along with live firing by helicopters as demanded by mechanised forces during offensive manoeuvres.

### 4. INDIA- FRANCE JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE SHAKTI COMMENCES IN MEGHALAYA

- **The 7th edition of India- France Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI commenced at Umroi, in a fully developed and modern Foreign Training Node in Meghalaya.** The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 13th to 26th May 2024. Exercise SHAKTI is a biennial training event conducted alternatively in India and France. **Last edition was conducted in France in November 2021.**
- Aim of Exercise SHAKTI is to enhance joint military capability of both sides to undertake multi-domain operations in a Sub Conventional scenario under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate. The joint exercise will focus on operations in the semi-urban and mountainous terrain.

### 5. Indian Air Force testes BHISHM state-of the-art indigenous mobile hospital, for airdrop in Agra

- **Indian Air Force has tested BHISHM Cube, a state-of the-art indigenous mobile hospital, for airdrop in Agra.** This innovative technology is a great leap forward in providing rapid and comprehensive medical aid during emergencies anywhere.
- **This cube is a part of the broader initiative named Project BHISHM ' Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita and Maitri, is tailored to treat up to 200 casualties.** These cubes are robust, waterproof, and light, designed for various configurations, making them ideal for diverse emergency scenarios.

## 6. Indian Army sets up one of world's highest tank repair facilities near China border

- **With over 500 of its tanks and infantry combat vehicles deployed in Eastern Ladakh, the Indian Army has created a record of sorts by setting up two of world's highest tank repair facilities in that area to support its operations there.**

## 7. DRDO Successfully Flight-Tested RudraM-II Air-To-Surface Missile From Su-30 MK-I Platform Of IAF

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II air-to-surface missile from Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force in Odisha.** RudraM-II is an indigenously-developed solid-propelled air-launched missile system. A number of state-of-the-art indigenous technologies developed by DRDO laboratories have been incorporated in the missile.

KP Classes

## Obituary

### 1. Sahitya Akademi award-winning Urdu litterateur Salam Bin Razzaq passes away

- **Renowned Urdu litterateur and academician, Shaikh Abdussalam Abdurrazzaq, famous by his pseudonym Salam Bin Razzaq, passed away.** Razzaq won the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu literature for his acclaimed short stories collection, 'Shikasta Buton Ke Darmiyan', in 2004. **Some of Razzaq's literary creations include 'Nangi Dopahar Ka Sipahi', 'Muabbir', and 'Zindagi'.**

### 2. Canadian Author Alice Munro and Nobel Laureate Passes Away at Age Of 92

- **Canadian author Alice Munro and Nobel laureate passed away at the age of 92.** She wrote short stories for more than 60 years, often focusing on life in rural Canada. She was often compared to Russian writer Anton Chekhov for the insight and compassion found in her stories.
- **Munro was recipient of the Nobel Prize for literature in 2013.**
- The Nobel committee called Munro a 'master of contemporary short stories'. Her first major breakthrough came in 1968, when her short story collection, Dance of The Happy Shades, about life in the suburbs of western Ontario, won Canada's highest literary honour, the Governor General's Award. It was the first of three Governor General's Awards she would win in her lifetime.
- **Munro has published thirteen collections of stories as well as one novel, Lives of Girls and Women, and two volumes of Selected Stories. Her last collection of stories, Dear Life, was published in 2012.** It included a collection of partly-autobiographical stories.

### 3. Hindi writer Malti Joshi dies at 90

- **Renowned Hindi writer and Padma Shri recipient Malti Joshi died on 16 May.** She was 90. Popularly known as 'Malwa ki Meera', **Joshi was awarded the Padma Shri by the then President Ramnath Kovind in 2018.** Some of her most popular works include 'Madhayantar', 'Pataakshep', 'Parajay', 'Ek Ghar Sapno Ka', 'Woh Tera Ghar, Ye Mera Ghar', and her novel 'Aurat Ek Raat Hai'. **She wrote more than 60 books in Hindi and Marathi languages.**

### 4. Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi, minister die in helicopter crash

- **Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and foreign minister have passed away in a helicopter crash.** The eighth President of Iran, Ebrahim Raisolsadati, more popularly known as Ebrahim Raisi, was a principlist and a Muslim jurist, who became the Iranian President in 2021. Ebrahim Raisi was born on December 14, 1960.

### 5. N Vaghul, doyen of Indian banking, passes away

- **Narayanan Vaghul, a doyen of Indian banking who was instrumental in bringing up ICICI, passed away at his residence in Chennai.** A banker par excellence, Vaghul, who **received the Padma Bhushan award in 2009,** was the youngest Chairman of a bank when he helmed the Bank of India at the age of 44.

## Person in news

### 1. Kareena Kapoor Khan appointed UNICEF India National Ambassador

- **UNICEF India announced Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan as its new National Ambassador.** Kareena had earlier served as a Celebrity Advocate for UNICEF India. Besides Kareena, UNICEF India has also appointed its first-ever Youth Advocates, who are peer leaders and champions on issues like climate action, mental health, innovations and Girls in STEM.
- The four advocates are Gauranshi Sharma from Madhya Pradesh on right to play and disability inclusion; **Kartik Verma from Uttar Pradesh on climate action and child rights advocacy; singer Nahid Afrin from Assam on mental health and early childhood development; and Vinisha Umashankar from Tamil Nadu is a budding innovator and STEM pioneer.**

### 2. Kaamya Karthikeyan becomes youngest Indian to scale Mt Everest

- **Sixteen-year-old Kaamya Karthikeyan has become the youngest Indian mountaineer to scale the Mt Everest from the Nepal side. She also becomes the second youngest girl in the world to achieve this feat.**
- Kaamya has completed six milestones in her mission to summit the highest peak of all seven continents and aims to climb **Mt. Vinson Massif in Antarctica this December to become the youngest girl to accomplish the 7summits challenge'.**

### 3. Jyoti Ratre Becomes India's Oldest Woman To Conquer Mount Everest

- **Jyoti Ratre, an entrepreneur and fitness enthusiast from Madhya Pradesh, has become the oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest.** The 55-year-old mountaineer reached the summit at 6:30 a.m. on May 19. This was Ratre's second attempt to summit the highest peak in the world. In 2023, she had to return from 8,160 mt due to harsh weather.

### 4. Indian mountaineer Satyadeep Gupta becomes first person to scale Mt. Everest and Mt. Lhotse twice in one season

- **Indian mountaineer Satyadeep Gupta has scripted history by becoming the first person to scale Mt. Everest and Mt. Lhotse twice in one season.** He also set another record by being the first Indian to traverse from Mt. Everest to Mt. Lhotse in 11 hours and 15 minutes. Gupta conquered the 8,516 metre-high Mt. Lhotse, followed by towering 8,849 metre high Mt. Everest.
- **This historic achievement marks the first Double Dual Ascent of the world's highest and the fourth highest peaks in a single season. Gupta had previously summited Mt Everest on May 21 and Mt Lhotse on May 22.**

## Insurance

### 1. HDFC Life announces the 'No Jhanjhat Life Insurance Fatafat' campaign

- **HDFC Life, a leading insurer in India, has unveiled its latest campaign, 'No Jhanjhat Life Insurance Fatafat'**. This campaign promises a seamless and swift life insurance purchasing experience, tailored for today's fast-paced world. Leading the charge in innovation, HDFC Life leverages cutting-edge technology to enhance accessibility and convenience.

### 2. ICICI Pru Life launches ULIP having fund value-based distributor payouts

- **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launched ICICI Pru Platinum, a Unit Linked Investment Plan (ULIP) that ties the distributor's commission to their customers' Assets Under Management (AUM)**. According to the product specifications, customers have unlimited free switches between asset classes without any cost or tax implications.

### 3. Irdai imposes a fine of Rs 1 crore on IPO-bound Go Digit Insurance

- **The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on Go Digit General Insurance for non-disclosure of a change in the conversion ratio of compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS)**. The company had not furnished the full particulars of the revision to the regulator, violating Section 26 of the Insurance Act.
- **The insurance regulator had earlier issued a show cause notice after noticing that Go Digit had changed its conversion ratio of 63,00,000 CCPS issued by Go Digit Infoworks Services Pvt Ltd (GDISPL), the parent company of the general insurer, to FAL Corporation, owned by Fairfax Group**. It was changed from "1 CCPS for 2.324 equity shares" to "2.324 CCPS for each equity share.
- Previously, IRDAI had rejected the conversion of CCPS into shares because it would have resulted in GDISPL, the holding company of Digit Insurance, becoming a subsidiary of the Fairfax group, which is not allowed by regulations.
- In March, Go Digit General Insurer received final approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to raise funds worth Rs 1,250 crore through an initial public offering (IPO), which will be used to augment the company's capital base, maintain solvency levels, and fulfil general corporate purposes.

### 4. Tata AIG General Insurance partners Aurum for its vault services

- **Aurum, an asset protection firm has announced a strategic partnership with Tata AIG General Insurance, to provide comprehensive insurance coverage to its customers for their valuables**. Coupled with renowned Aurum's security infrastructure and technology, Tata AIG's insurance coverage for safe vault owners will provide them with ease of mind in protecting their high- value possession

### 5. TATA AIG unveils India's first Satellite-based In-Orbit Third-Party Liability Insurance

- **TATA AIG, India's leading general insurance provider, announced the launch of India's first Satellite In-Orbit Third-Party Liability Insurance policy, which will provide critical financial protection to meet the growing needs of satellite manufacturers and operators in the Indian space sector**.
- TATA AIG's Satellite In-Orbit Third-Party Liability Insurance provides complete coverage for third-party bodily injury and property damage in the event of an incident involving a satellite in orbit, in accordance with international standards and best practices. India aims to grow its worldwide launch market share fivefold to \$47.3 billion by 2032.

## 6. Tata AIG introduces surety bonds for infrastructure sector

- **TATA AIG General Insurance, a private general insurer, has rolled out Surety Insurance Bonds to support the government's ambitious agenda on infrastructure development, which has been allocated 3.3 percent of the GDP in FY 2024.**
- A surety bond is a legally binding agreement between three parties: the obligee (the entity requiring the bond), the principal (the party required to fulfil a certain task or duty), and the surety (the party ensuring that the principal can perform the assignment).
- The surety bond, which is most typically used in construction and infrastructure projects, guarantees that the principal will meet the commitments indicated in a contract. If the principal fails to meet these obligations, the surety compensates the obligee, reducing their financial risk.

KP Classes

## India & World

### 1. Sri Lankan Cabinet Approves Renovation Of Kankesanthurai Port With Indian Financial Grant

- **Sri Lanka's Cabinet has approved the plan to renovate the Kankesanthurai port in the Northern part of the island.** The project will be executed under an Indian financial grant. The project had faced delays as estimated costs surpassed available funds. Recognizing the project's significance, India has pledged to cover the entire estimated cost of the project.
- Sri Lanka cabinet had mentioned that the project's full cost was \$61.5 million. **Situated in the northern region of Sri Lanka, the 16-acre Kankesanthurai Port or KKS Port, is located 104 km from Karaikal Port in Pondicherry, India. India's pledge to cover the entire estimated cost of 61.5 million dollars under a grant given the significance of the project.**

### 2. 2nd Session of India-Nigeria Joint Trade Committee held in Abuja

- **A seven-member delegation from India led by Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, accompanied by High Commissioner of India to Federal Republic of Nigeria, and Economic Adviser, Department of Commerce, Ms. Priya P. Nair held a Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting with their Nigerian counterparts in Abuja from 24 April-30 April 2024**
- **Nigeria is a major partner- the 2nd largest trading partner of India in Africa region. Bilateral trade between India and Nigeria stood at USD 11.8 billion in 2022-23.** In the year 2023-24, the bilateral trade stands at 7.89 billion showing a declining trend. With a total investment of USD 27 Billion, approximately 135 Indian companies are actively engaged in Nigeria's vibrant

### 3. Adani Green signs a 20-yr agreement with Sri Lanka government for wind power stations

- **The Sri Lankan government approved a deal with Gautam Adani's renewable energy wing Adani Green to develop wind power stations in the country. Adani Green Energy will be developing wind power stations in Mannar and Poonerin in Sri Lanka.** The Sri Lankan Cabinet has appointed a negotiation committee to evaluate project proposal which was furnished by Adani Green.
- The renewable energy company got the approval in February 2023 to invest \$442 million towards the development of the 484 megawatts wind power plants in the two areas located in Northern Sri Lanka.
- A power purchase agreement for 20 years has been signed between the two parties. As per the agreement, Adani will be paid 8.26 cents per kilowatt-hours (kWh).

### 4. India contributes \$5,00,000 to U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund

- **India has contributed \$500,000 to U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund, underscoring its commitment to support multilateral efforts in the global fight against the scourge of terrorism.** Since 2018, India has also been actively supporting programs combating threat. With its current contribution, India's cumulative financial support to the trust fund now stands at \$2.55 million
- The contribution is a testament to India's commitment to international cooperation on countering terrorism and continued implementation of the announcement made by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to contribute to the trust fund during the special meeting of the counter-terrorism committee held in New Delhi in October 2022 under India's presidency of the body.

### 5. India inks 10-year deal to operate Iran's Chabahar port

- **India and Iran signed a 10-year long-term bilateral contract for the operation of Chabahar Port, a vital cog in India's trade plans with central Asia and parts of Europe.** Under the agreement ' signed between India Port Global Limited and the Ports and Maritime Organization of Iran. India will develop the strategic port for 10 years.

- The Chabahar Port, located on Iran's southwestern coast, has easy access to India's west coast. It also forms a crucial link in the International North-South Transport Corridor. The long-term contract will give a significant boost to economic activities and establish our growing role in developing global trade & commerce. A formal 10-year agreement had been signed in 2016.

#### **6. PhonePe launches cross-border UPI payments in Sri Lanka**

- **On May 15, PhonePe announced that it has enabled UPI payment acceptance in collaboration with LankaPay.** Earlier in February, India's instant payment technology service, the Unified Payment Interface (UPI), was launched in Sri Lanka and Mauritius in a virtual event that was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

#### **7. India to extend budgetary support of \$50 million to Maldives**

- **In a goodwill gesture, India has decided to extend vital budgetary support to the Maldives government with the rollover of a USD 50 million Treasury Bill for another year on the Maldivian government's special request.**
- The State Bank of India has subscribed for one more year to the USD 50 million Government Treasury Bill, issued by the Ministry of Finance of Maldives, upon maturity of the previous subscription. These Government Treasury Bills are subscribed by SBI under government-to-government, a unique arrangement at zero cost (interest-free) to the Government of Maldives.

#### **8. IOCL exports premium fuel to Sri Lanka**

- **Sri Lanka is about to receive 100 Octane premium petrol, known as XP100 rating fuel, which helps enhance the performance of vehicles, particularly high-end luxury cars and bikes.** This will be the first ever fuel produced with the highest Octane rating to be released to Sri Lanka by the IOC.
- It is special that this type of petrol, named XP100, has been developed locally in India. It is reported that the high-Octane fuel stock has been shipped to Sri Lanka from the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in Mumbai.

#### **9. India assumes Chair of Colombo Process for 2024-26**

- **India assumed the Chair of Colombo Process for 2024-26, for the first time since its inception. India looks to promote safe, orderly and legal migration.** Colombo Process is a Regional Consultative Process of migrant worker origin countries from South and South East Asia. It serves as a forum for exchange of best practices on overseas employment.

## Environment

### 1. Scientists discover deepest blue hole in the world

- **A recent discovery in Mexico has discovered a deepest blue hole ever recorded: Taam Ja'. Blue holes are large marine caverns or sinkholes, typically formed in limestone or other carbonate rock beds.** They stand out dramatically as dark blue water-filled pits, contrasting sharply with the lighter blue of surrounding shallow waters.
- **Situated in Chetumal Bay off the southeastern coast of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, Taam Ja', which translates to 'deep water' in the Mayan language, has recently claimed the title of the world's deepest blue hole, surpassing the Dragon Hole located in China.** The Dragon Hole in China was once believed to be the world's deepest blue hole, reaching a depth of 987 feet.

### 2. Remal Makes Landfall On Bangladesh Coast

- **Cyclone Remal made landfall on the Bangladesh coast.** The cyclone is likely to land into the adjoining West Bengal region around midnight on 27th May, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted. It is the first cyclone over the Bay of Bengal in this pre-monsoon season.
- The cyclone that is hurtling towards the West Bengal and Bangladesh coastlines with landfall has been named 'Remal' as per the standard convention of naming tropical cyclones in the region. The IMD follows a specific naming convention for tropical cyclones forming in the North Indian Ocean, including the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.
- **The name 'Remal', means 'sand' in Arabic. The name was given by Oman. Cyclone Remal is the first pre-monsoon cyclone in the Bay of Bengal this season.** In view of the effective cyclone warning and disaster mitigation in the North Indian Ocean region, the WMO came together in 1972 to establish the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC).
- The PTC originally comprised eight member nations ' Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sultanate of Oman and Thailand. However, the panel expanded in 2018 and included Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen in its list of member nations.

## Apps & Portals

### 1. Google launches wallet app in India for Android users, but without payment features

- **Tech giant Google 8 May announced the launch of the Google Wallet app in India, enabling users to save their travel tickets, gift cards and event passes in one place.** It however does not support payment features such as saving credit cards or debit cards in the wallet for on-tap payments.
- **Google has partnered with 20 of India's top brands to enable the Google Wallet experience, including PVR & INOX, Air India, Indigo, Flipkart, Pine Labs, Kochi Metro, Abhibus and many others, with more partners to be added in the months to follow.** Google Wallet is now available for download from the Google Play Store for all Android users in India.

## Acquisitions & Mergers

### 1. KKR acquires Bengaluru-based medical devices company Healthium MedTech

- **Global investment firm KKR announced acquiring Bengaluru-based medical devices company Healthium Medtech from an affiliate of funds advised by private equity firm Apax Partners.** The transaction needs regulatory approvals and is expected to close in the third quarter of calendar year 2024. The investment will be made through KKR's Asian Fund IV.
- **Apax had acquired Healthium in 2018,** strengthening its existing portfolio of wound-treatment devices and consumables, and investing in new franchises such as arthroscopy and advanced wound care through its own research and development.
- **Healthium is the fourth-largest surgical suture manufacturer in the world** with a market share of about 18 per cent in India.

### 2. Greenko Energies gets CCI nod to acquire additional stake in Sikkim Urja

- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of additional shares in Sikkim Urja Limited (formerly Teesta Urja Limited) by Greenko Energies Private Limited.**
- Sikkim Urja Ltd is a special purpose vehicle incorporated for the purpose of the implementation of the 1,200 megawatt hydropower project in North Sikkim.
- Greenko Energies is a limited liability company incorporated in India. It is an (indirectly) wholly-owned subsidiary of Greenko Mauritius. Greenko Mauritius is wholly-owned by Greenko Energy Holdings (GEH), a company incorporated in Mauritius, which is the holding company of the Greenko group of companies.

### 3. Reliance acquires petrochemicals step-down subsidiary for Rs 314 cr

- **Reliance Industries Ltd said it has acquired a step-down subsidiary engaged in the manufacture of petrochemicals and hydrogen, for Rs 314.48 crore.** In a stock exchange filing, the firm said Reliance Chemicals and Materials Ltd (RCML) is a step-down wholly owned subsidiary of the Company through Reliance Projects & Property Management Services Ltd (RPPMSL).
- **RCML was incorporated in India on November 2, 2022,** to undertake the business of manufacturing petrochemicals, vinyls, hydrogen & its derivatives, rare and industrial gases, bio-energy products and carbon fibre.

### 4. Birla Fertility acquires Kerala-based AMRC IVF to foray into South India

- **Birla Fertility and IVF, a part of the CK Birla group, announced the acquisition of an 86 per cent stake in Kerala-based fertility chain AMRC IVF for an undisclosed amount.** According to industry sources, the deal is valued at below Rs 100 crore, and the transaction will be financed through internal accruals.
- As part of the deal, Birla IVF will integrate seven centres of AMRC, spread across Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, marking the network's entry into South India. The deal aligns with the company's plans to increase its coverage to 100 centres across the country by FY28, with an expected investment of Rs 500 crore.

### 5. Hinduja Group gets IRDAI approval for Reliance Capital acquisition

- **Hinduja Group's IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL) on May 10 received the long-awaited Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's approval for the acquisition of Reliance Capital.** The approval is valid for three months and subject to certain 'regulatory, statutory, and judicial clearances/compliances'.

- The acquisition will include the takeover of Reliance Capital's insurance arms ' wholly-owned subsidiary Reliance General Insurance and 51:49 JV with Nippon Life, Reliance Nippon Life Insurance. The insurance regulator has cleared the transfer of Reliance Capital's 26 per cent stake in Reliance Nippon Life to Aasia Enterprises.

## 6. Warburg Pincus to acquire Shriram Housing Finance for Rs 4,630 crore

- **The board of Shriram Finance Ltd (SFL) approved the sale of its housing-finance subsidiary Shriram Housing Finance Ltd (SHFL) to Warburg Pincus, a leading global growth investor, for Rs 4,630 crore.** Warburg Pincus will acquire the stake through its affiliate Mango Crest Investment from all the sellers.
- The transaction is subject to regulatory approvals.
- SFL holds a controlling stake in SHFL while private-equity firm Valiant Partners LP (Valiant), Mauritius, holds the rest. As part of this transaction, Valiant will sell its equity stake to Warburg Pincus. SFL is one of India's leading non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

## 7. India's Adani Energy Solutions acquires Essar Transco for \$227.5m

- **Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL), India's largest private transmission and distribution company, has completed the acquisition of a 100 per cent stake in Essar Transco Limited for an Enterprise Value of Rs. 1,900 crore, following the necessary regulatory approvals. The transaction was finalized as per agreements signed in June 2022.**
- The acquired asset includes a fully operational 400 kV, 673 circuit kilometers inter-state transmission line, which connects Mahan in Madhya Pradesh to the Sipat pooling substation in Chhattisgarh. Commissioned on September 22, 2018, this project is governed under the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission's regulated return framework.

## 8. Fintech start-up BharatX acquires healthcare finance start-up Zenifi

- **Y-Combinator-backed buy now pay later startup BharatX said it has acquired healthcare fintech startup Zenifi to foray into medical loans segment in the country.** The company, however, didn't disclose the deal amount. Zenifi co-founder and CEO Padam Kataria will join BharatX as the Head of Business ' Healthcare to build the healthcare lending business of the company.

## FinTech

### 1. Galytix launches GenAI credit agent solution, CreditX, for Indian banking sector

- **Galytix, a London-headquartered GenAI-focused fintech, has launched Generative AI-based Credit Agent solution, CreditX,** for the Indian banking sector that would help banks here to deliver credit better, faster and cheaper. Generative AI is a recently developed type of artificial intelligence 'a general-purpose technology' capable of producing new and original content. Raj Abrol, Co-founder and CEO- Galytix

### 2. Setu unveils Sesame, India's first domain-specific LLM for BFSI sector

- **Setu, a leading Indian fintech company and part of the Pine Labs Group, unveiled Sesame, India's first Large Language Model (LLM) specifically designed for the banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) sector. Developed in collaboration with indigenous AI research firm Sarvam AI,** the company said this marks a "ChatGPT moment" in financial services.
- Sesame leverages the rich data ecosystem enabled by India's digital infrastructure to power various features. These include improved credit underwriting, fraud detection, loan monitoring, upsell or cross-sell, and personal finance advisory. Setu and Sarvam AI have together created Sesame to be both domain- and region-specific by training it on custom data relevant to BFSI.

## QUICK LEARNERS

### BANKING

<b>Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)</b>	4.50%
<b>Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)</b>	18.00%

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

### APPOINTMENTS

<b>APPOINTMENT</b>	<b>POST</b>
<b>Maushumi Chakravarty</b>	Director General of Akashvani News
<b>Hitesh Sethia</b>	Managing director and CEO of Jio Financial Services
<b>Atanu Chakraborty</b>	Part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank
<b>Rakesh Singh</b>	CEO of Paytm Money
<b>Carol Furtado</b>	Executive Director of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
<b>Varun Sridhar</b>	CEO of Paytm Services Pvt Ltd (PSPL)
<b>Sanjay Kumar Mishra</b>	President of GST Appellate
<b>Sanjeev Nautiyal</b>	Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
<b>Jaya Tripathi</b>	Head of Key Relations Group in SBI General Insurance
<b>Sanjay Bhalla</b>	Non-Executive Independent Director of RBL Bank
<b>Deepak Kumar Sharma</b>	Chief of Personnel of Indian Navy
<b>R Lakshmi Kanth Rao</b>	Executive director of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
<b>N Chandrasekaran</b>	Chairman of Tata Electronics
<b>Lawrence Wong</b>	Prime Minister of Singapore
<b>S M N Swamy</b>	Senior Advisor of Ippopay Technologies Private Limited
<b>Pradeep Natrajan</b>	Executive Director of IDFC FIRST Bank
<b>Kapil Sibal</b>	President of Supreme Court Bar Association
<b>Lai Ching-Te</b>	President of Taiwan
<b>Mahesh Rajaraman</b>	Chief Risk Officer (CRO) of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services
<b>Rushabh Gandhi</b>	Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IndiaFirst Life Insurance
<b>To Lam</b>	President of Vietnam
<b>Pradeep Kumar Sinha</b>	Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank
<b>Jetha Ahir</b>	Chairman of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)

## IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
<b>1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	May Day also referred as International Workers Day and Labour Day	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	World Tuna Day	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	World Press Freedom Day	A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis
<b>4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Coal Miners Day	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	International Firefighters Day	
<b>5<sup>th</sup> May</b>	International No Diet Day	Embrace Yourself: Reject Diet Culture, Love you
<b>7<sup>th</sup> May</b>	World Asthma Day	Asthma Education Empowers
<b>7<sup>th</sup> May</b>	65 <sup>th</sup> Raising Day of Border Roads Organisation	
<b>8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives During the Second World War	
<b>8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	International Thalassemia Day	Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassemia Treatment for All
<b>8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day	I give with joy, and the joy I give is a reward
<b>9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Maharana Pratap Jayanti	
<b>9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	World Lupus Day	
<b>10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	International Day of Argania	
<b>11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	World Migratory Bird Day	
<b>11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	World Technologies Day	School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate
<b>12<sup>th</sup> May</b>	International Day of Plant Health (IPDH)	Plant Health, Safe Trade, Digital Technology
<b>12<sup>th</sup> May</b>	International Nurses Day	Our Nurses. Our Future. The economic power of care
<b>15<sup>th</sup> May</b>	International Day of Families	Families and Climate Change
<b>16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	International Day of Living Together in Peace	
<b>16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	International Day of Light	
<b>16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	National Dengue Day	Our Responsibilities for a safer Tomorrow
<b>17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development
<b>17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	National Endangered Species Day	Celebrate Saving Species
<b>17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	World Hypertension Day	Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer!
<b>18<sup>th</sup> May</b>	International Museum Day	
<b>18<sup>th</sup> May</b>	World AIDS Vaccine Day	

<b>20<sup>th</sup> May</b>	World Bee Day	Bee engaged with Youth
<b>21<sup>st</sup> May</b>	International Tea Day	

KP Classes

<b>21<sup>st</sup> May</b>	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	
<b>21<sup>st</sup> May</b>	National Anti-Terrorism Day	
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	International Day for Biological Diversity	Be the Part of the Plan, emphasises the need for a collective and coordinated approach to address and reverse the loss of biodiversity
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	World Turtle Day	
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	International Day to End Obstetric Fistula	Breaking the cycle: Preventing Fistula Worldwide
<b>24<sup>th</sup> May</b>	International Day of the Mother	
<b>25-31<sup>st</sup> May</b>	International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self Governing Territories	
<b>25<sup>th</sup> May</b>	World Football Day	
<b>29<sup>th</sup> May</b>	International Day of UN Peacekeepers	Fit For the Future, Building better together
<b>30<sup>th</sup> May</b>	International Day of Potato	Harvesting Diversity, Feeding Hope
<b>31<sup>st</sup> May</b>	World No-Tobacco Day (WHO)	

## SPORTS

NAME OF THE SPORTS PERSON	RELATED FIELD
<b>Vaishali Ramesh Babu</b>	Chess
<b>Tejaswin Shankar</b>	High Jump
<b>Abha Khatua</b>	Shot Put
<b>Manika Batra</b>	Table tennis
<b>Neeraj Chopra</b>	Javelin throw
<b>Sunil Chhetri</b>	Football
<b>P Shyaamnikhil</b>	Chess
<b>Nishad Kumar</b>	Athlete (High Jump)
<b>Preethi Pal</b>	Athlete (High Jump)
<b>Roderick Townsend</b>	Athlete (High Jump)
<b>Nikhath Zareen</b>	Boxing
<b>Minakshi</b>	Boxing
<b>Zhazira Urabayeva</b>	Boxing
<b>Rahmonova Saidahon</b>	Boxing
<b>Muhammad Ajamal</b>	Athlete
<b>Jyothika Sri</b>	Athlete
<b>Amoj Jacod</b>	Athlete
<b>Subha Venkatesan</b>	Athlete
<b>Ekta Bhyan</b>	Athlete (Club throw)
<b>Kashish Lakra</b>	Athlete (Club throw)
<b>Nadjet Boucherf</b>	Athlete (Club throw)
<b>Satwiksairaj Rankireddy</b>	Badminton
<b>Chirag Shetty</b>	Badminton
<b>Alexander Zverev</b>	Badminton
<b>Sachin Arjerao Khilari</b>	Athlete (Club throw)

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<b>Mariyappan Thangavelu</b>	Athlete (Club throw)
<b>Jyothi Surekha Vennam</b>	Archery

KP Classes

<b>Parneet Kaur</b>	Archery
<b>Aditi Swami</b>	Archery
<b>Dipa Karmakar</b>	Pole Vault
<b>Harshal Patel</b>	Cricket
<b>Nitish Kumar Reddy</b>	Cricket
<b>Sunil Narine</b>	Cricket
<b>Charles Leclerc</b>	Racing
<b>Carlos Sainz</b>	Racing
<b>Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa</b>	Chess
<b>Magnus Carlsen</b>	Chess

## SCHEMES

NAME OF THE SCHEME	THEME
<b>Atal Innovation Mission</b>	The focus areas for the 2024 grants include Climate Innovation, Financial Inclusion, Agriculture and Sustainable Rural Economy, Accessible and Affordable Healthcare, Education and Livelihood Enhancement, Gender Diversity and Inclusion.
<b>IndiaAI Mission</b>	To catalyse various components of the IndiaAI Mission, including pivotal initiatives like the IndiaAI Compute Capacity, IndiaAI Innovation Centre (IAIC), IndiaAI Datasets Platform, IndiaAI Application Development Initiative, IndiaAI FutureSkills, IndiaAI Startup Financing, and Safe & Trusted AI.

## OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
<b>Salam Bin Razzaq</b>	Literature
<b>Alice Munro</b>	Literature
<b>Malti Joshi</b>	Literature
<b>Ebrahim Raisi</b>	Politics
<b>N Vaghul</b>	Banking

## DEFENCE

DEFENCE EXERCISE NAME	COUNTRIES INVOLVED
<b>Gagan Strike-II</b>	Indian Army
<b>Exercise SHAKTI</b>	India-France

## INDIA AND WORLD

COUNTRIES INVOLVED	FIELD OF CO-OPERATION
<b>Indian and Sri Lanka</b>	To renovate the Kankesanthurai port in the Northern part of the island. Indi's pledge to cover the entire estimated cost of 61.5 million dollars under a grant to cover the entire estimated cost of the project.
<b>India-Nigeria</b>	Bilateral trade agreement between India and Nigeria held a Joint Trade Committee (JTC) with the Nigerian counterparts in Ambuja
<b>Adani – Sri Lanka</b>	Approval of Sri Lankan government Adani Green to develop wind power stations.
<b>India-United Nations</b>	India has contributed \$500,000 to U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund, underscoring its commitment to support multilateral efforts in global fight against the scourge terrorism.
<b>India-Iran</b>	India and Iran signed a 10-year long term bilateral contract for the operation of Chabahar Port, a vital cog in India's trade plans with central Asia and parts of Europe

<b>Sri Lanka - PhonePe</b>	PhonePe has enabled UPI payment acceptance in collaboration with LankaPay.
<b>India-Maldives</b>	India has decided to extend vital budgetary support to the Maldives government with the rollover of a USD 50 million Treasury Bill for another year on the Maldivian government's special request.
<b>India-Sri Lanka</b>	Sri Lanka is about to receive 100 Octane premium petrol, known as XP100 rating fuel, which helps enhance the performance of vehicles, particularly high-end luxury cars and bikes. This will be the first ever fuel produced with the highest Octane rating to be released to Sri Lanka by the IOC.

## ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

ENTITY	ACQUIRED BY/MERGED WITH
<b>Healthium Medtech</b>	KKR (Global Investment Firm)
<b>Sikkim Urja Limited (Formerly Teesta Urja Limited)</b>	Greenko Energies
<b>Reliance Chemicals and Materials Ltd (RCML)</b>	Reliance Industries Ltd.
<b>AMRC IVF</b>	Birla Fertility
<b>Reliance Capital</b>	IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL)
<b>Shriram Housing Finance</b>	Warburg Pincus
<b>Essar Transco Limited</b>	Adani Energy Solutions
<b>Zenifi</b>	BharatX

## AWARDS

AWARDEE	AWARDS NAME	RELATED FIELD
<b>Purnima Devi Barman</b>	Whitley Gold Award	Wildlife conservation
<b>DBS Bank</b>	Best Employer 2023	Banking
<b>Hindustan Shipyard Limited's (HSL)</b>	ATD Best Award 2024	Talent development driving business results
<b>NTPC Limited</b>	ATD Best Award 2023	3 <sup>rd</sup> rank globally in Talent development (only PSU to receive this award)
<b>Srinivas Kulkarni</b>	Shaw Prize	Astronomy
<b>Jenny Erpenbeck</b>	International Booker Prize 2024	Books
<b>National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)</b>	The Economic Times HR World Future Ready Organisation Award 2024-25	Upskilling of employee
<b>SUNFLOWER WERE THE FIRST ONES TO KNOW</b>	La Cinef Award	Short-Film
<b>Payal Kapadia</b>	Grand Prix Award	Filmmaking
<b>Major Radhika Sen</b>	Military Gender Advocate of Year Award 2023	Advocacy for women and girls while serving as a peacekeeper
<b>Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC)</b>	Corporate Social Responsibility Award in the Non-Fossil Fuel Business Category	
<b>REC Limited</b>	Sustainability Champion Editors Choice Award	

## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCE

SUMMIT/ CONFERENCE NAME	THEME	LOCATION
Parivartan Chintan		New Delhi
World Hydrogen summit 2024		Netherlands
10 <sup>th</sup> World Water Forum	Water for Shared Prosperity	Bali, Indonesia
46 <sup>th</sup> Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting		Kochi, Kerala
26 <sup>TH</sup> Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection		Kochi, Kerala

## RANKS AND REPORTS

NAME OF THE REPORT/INDEX	RELEASED BY	RANKING OF INDIA/STATE/COMPANY ETC	COUNTRY WHICH TOPPED THE LIST
Press Freedom Index	Reporters Without Borders (RSF)	159 <sup>th</sup>	Norway
Global Electricity Review 2024	Ember (Global Think Tank)	3rd	
World Wealthiest Cities Report 2024	Henley & Partners and New World Wealth	Mumbai (24 <sup>th</sup> ), Delhi (37 <sup>th</sup> )	New York
Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) across Asia-Pacific		1 <sup>st</sup>	India
United Nations Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report			
World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024	World Economic Forum	39 <sup>th</sup>	United States (US)
Global Cities Index	Oxford Economics	Delhi (350 <sup>th</sup> ), Bengaluru (411 <sup>th</sup> ), Mumbai (427 <sup>th</sup> ), Mumbai (427 <sup>th</sup> ), Kochi (521 <sup>st</sup> ), Kolkata (528 <sup>t</sup> ), Pune (534 <sup>th</sup> ), Hyderabad (564 <sup>th</sup> )	New York
Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)	Kerala (Highest unemployment rate)	

## IMPORTANT STATIC & CURRENT INFO

### INDIAN STATES, CAPITALS, CHIEF MINISTERS & GOVERNORS

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

### UNION TERRITORIES, LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS & ADMINISTRATORS

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

## UNION MINISTERS & PORTFOLIO

UNION MINISTER	PORTFOLIO
<b>Narendra Modi</b>	Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space
<b>Rajnath Singh</b>	Ministry of Defence
<b>Amit Shah</b>	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Cooperation
<b>Nitin Gadkari</b>	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
<b>Nirmala Sitharaman</b>	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Corporate Affairs
<b>Piyush Goyal</b>	Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ministry of Textiles Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution
<b>Narendra Singh Tomar</b>	Ministry of agriculture and Farmers welfare
<b>Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar</b>	Ministry of External Affairs
<b>Arjun Munda</b>	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
<b>Smriti Zubin Irani</b>	Ministry of Women and child Development Ministry of Minority Affairs
<b>Dharmendra Pradhan</b>	Ministry of Education Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
<b>Pralhad Joshi</b>	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry of coal Ministry of Mines
<b>Narayan Tatu Rane</b>	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>Sarbananda Sonowal</b>	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
<b>Dr. Virendra Kumar</b>	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
<b>Giriraj Singh</b>	Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Panchayati Raj
<b>Jyotiraditya M. Scindia</b>	Ministry of Civil Aviation Ministry of Steel
<b>Ashwini Vaishnaw</b>	Ministry of Railways Ministry of Communications Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
<b>Pashu Pati Kumar Paras</b>	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
<b>Gajendra Singh Shekhawat</b>	Ministry of Jal Shakti
<b>Kiren Rijiju</b>	Ministry of Earth Sciences
<b>Raj Kumar Singh</b>	Ministry of Power Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
<b>Hardeep Singh Puri</b>	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
<b>Man-sukh L. Mandaviya</b>	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
<b>Bhupender Yadav</b>	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Labour and Employment
<b>Mahendra Nath Pandey</b>	Ministry of Heavy Industries
<b>Parshottam Rupala</b>	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
<b>G. Kishan Reddy</b>	Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
<b>Anurag Singh Thakur</b>	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
<b>Arjun Meghwal</b>	Ministry of Law and Justice

KP Classes

## Practise Questions

### Banking & Finance

1. In April 2024, The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) allowed non-resident Indians (NRIs) to own up to \_\_\_\_\_ in global funds at the GIFT City and gave passive funds more exposure to group companies.

- a. 100% b. 75% c. 50% d. 49% e. 35%

2. In April 2024, Financial services platform Groww and digital payment processing company Worldline ePayments have secured RBI licence to operate as online payment aggregators. Which of the following have received a final nod from the banking regulator to operate as payment aggregators in 2024?

I. CCAvenue II. Decentro III. MSwipe IV. Tata Pay V. Zoho

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

3. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on May 2 said it has imposed monetary penalty of three co-operative banks for rule violations. Which among the following is/are among the banks that were fined by RBI? I.

Lokmangal Co-operative Bank II. The Udgir Urban Co-operative Bank III. The Satara Sahakari Bank IV. The Bharath Co-Operative. Bank

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

4. In April 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced an 8 per cent interest rate on the Floating Rate Savings Bond (FRSB) 2024. FRBs have a maturity period of \_\_\_\_\_ years, The minimum investment amount for FRBs is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Three, Rs. 1000 b. Five, Rs. 5000 c. Seven, Rs. 1000 d. Ten, Rs. 10000 e. Twelve, Rs. 5000

5. In April 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed standalone primary dealers (SPDs) to borrow in foreign currency from their parent companies and entities it has authorised. Which of the following statements is true about NOSTRO account?

- a. A bank account held in another country by a domestic bank, but in the currency of the foreign country

b. A account can be opened only with money received from abroad and not from local rupee sources.

c. A term deposit accounts that can be maintained in four currencies

d. A account that can be maintained by any resident individual even when he had not been abroad at any time.

e. None of the above

6. In May 2024, Neobanking startup Fi, backed by investors such as Peak XV and Temasek, has secured a non-banking finance company (NBFC) licence from the Reserve Bank of India, enabling it to provide loans from its own books. According to RBI, NBFCs whose asset size is of \_\_\_\_\_ or more as per last audited balance sheet are considered as systemically important NBFCs.

a. Rs. 500 cr b. Rs. 400 cr c. Rs. 300 cr d. Rs. 200 cr e. Rs. 100 cr

a. Rs. 500 cr b. Rs. 400 cr c. Rs. 300 cr d. Rs. 200 cr e. Rs. 100 cr

7. In May 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the guidelines for custodian banks to issue Irrevocable Payment Commitments (IPCs) in light of the T 1 settlement regime for stocks. The maximum intraday risk to the custodian banks issuing IPCs would be considered as capital market exposure (CME) at \_\_\_\_\_ of the settlement amount.

- a. 10% b. 20% c. 30% d. 40% e. 50%

8. In May 2024, Galytix, a \_\_\_\_\_--headquartered

GenAI-focused fintech, has launched Generative AI-based Credit Agent solution, CreditX, for the Indian banking sector that would help banks here to deliver credit better, faster and cheaper.

- a. Delhi b. London c. Berlin d. Paris e. Sydney

9. In May 2024, GetVantage, a start-up providing RBF to emerging businesses, has secured a non-banking financial company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), becoming the first RBF and alternative funding platform in the country to do so. R in RBF stands for \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Real b. Rupee c. Revenue d. Receipt e. Roll

10. Sebi came out with a framework for administration and supervision of research analysts and investment advisers, whereby a stock exchange can be authorised to oversee and manage such

entities. To be recognised as a RAASB and IAASB, a stock exchange must have been operational for at least 15 years, possess a net worth of at least \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Rs. 100 crore b. Rs. 200 crore c. Rs. 300 crore  
d. Rs. 400 crore e. Rs. 500 crore

11. In April 2024, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lifted the curbs on BoB World the mobile application (app) of Bank of Baroda with immediate effect, the bank said in a notification to the exchanges. About \_\_\_\_\_ of savings accounts and \_\_\_\_\_ of current accounts are

sourced digitally in the first quarter of 2023-24.

- a. 74 per cent; 81 per cent  
b. 92 per cent; 68 per cent  
c. 98 per cent; 91 per cent  
d. 96 per cent; 78 per cent  
e. 84 per cent; 94 per cent

12. In April 2024, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cautioned the non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) extending gold loans against breaching the Rs 20,000 cap on cash loan disbursement. NBFCs are required to maintain a Loan-to-Value (LTV) ratio not exceeding \_\_\_\_\_ for loans granted against the collateral of gold jewellery.

- a. 50 % b. 65 % c. 70 % d. 75 % e. 80 %

13. Canara Bank, a leading state-owned lender, has reported robust financial performance for the fourth quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24, with a notable

18.4 per cent increase in net profit. The bank's net profit surged to Rs 3,757.23 crore, marking a significant rise compared to the same period last year. Identify the incorrect statement(s) in context of the same. I. In terms of asset quality, Canara Bank witnessed a notable decline in the gross Non-Performing Asset (NPA) ratio, which improved to 3.14 per cent compared to the previous quarter. II. The bank's NII stood at Rs 9,580 crore, marking an 11.18 per cent increase compared to the previous year. III. The NIM remained healthy at 4.89 per cent, reflecting the bank's ability to manage its interest income and expenses.

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

14. In April 2024, L&T Finance Ltd (LTF) has launched The Complete Home Loan, offered through a digitised process, along with a dedicated relationship manager and optional home décor finance. The loan will be given against an architect's certificate or contract certification when the house is ready for interior decoration and it will be about \_\_\_\_\_ of the entire home loan, not

exceeding 75 lakh, and can go up to \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. 10 %; 5 years b. 15 %; 15 years c. 15 %; 10 years  
d. 5 %; 10 years e. 12 %; 20 years

15. In May 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said 15 NBFCs, including Tata Capital Financial Services and Revolving Investments, have surrendered their certificates of registration due to various reasons. Which of the following are is/are among the entities that have surrendered their certificates of registration? I. Tata Cleantech Capital II. Naperol Investments III. USG Financial Services IV. Urja Capital

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

16. In May 2024, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of \_\_\_\_\_ on Sundaram Home Finance for failing to comply with specific provisions of the Know Your Customer (KYC) directive, 2016, the central bank said.

- a. Rs 1,00,000 b. Rs 1,50,000 c. Rs 2,00,000  
d. Rs 2,50,000 e. Rs 3,00,000

17. Which of the following bank on 14 May announced that it has secured the distinction of being the first bank to become a trading-cum-clearing (TCM) Member of India International Bullion Exchange at the GIFT City in Gujarat to conduct trades on the IIBX platform and settle them on behalf of its clients?

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

18. In May 2024, which of the following bank has launched PIXEL, its first virtual credit card with Visas network, in two variants: PIXEL Play and PIXEL Go and allows users to build their own cards with personalised benefits, offers, etc.?

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

19. The country's largest lender, State of India (SBI), has recently increased interest rates on short-term retail fixed deposits (FDs) by 25 to \_\_\_\_\_ basis points (bps).

- a. 30 b. 50 c. 75 d. 85 e. 65

20. State-owned Bank of Maharashtra recorded the highest growth rate last fiscal in terms of total business and deposit mobilisation among public sector lenders at a time when most banks are facing

difficulty in achieving double-digit growth. It was followed by which bank?

- a. Indian Bank
- b. State Bank of India
- c. Indian Overseas Bank
- d. Canara Bank
- e. UCO Bank

21. In May 2024, which bank has launched premium banking services under the label Grandeur targeting elite and rising affluent class to drive business growth, which has an eligibility threshold of average monthly balance of 5 lakh or a Net Relationship Value (NRV) of 20 lakh, with additional

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

22. Payments firm Pine Labs has received approval from a Singapore court to merge its India and Singapore entities, Pine Labs Limited (PLS) and Pine Labs Private Limited (PLI). Pine Labs has become the \_\_\_\_\_ fintech company which relocated its domicile to India from overseas.

- a. second
- b. third
- c. fourth
- d. first
- e. fifth

23. During the 608th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India in May 2024, which was held in Mumbai, the board of RBI has approved the transfer of \_\_\_\_\_ as surplus to the Central Government for the accounting year 2023-24.

- a. Rs 1,02,748 crore
- b. Rs 2,78,963 crore
- c. Rs 2,10,874 crore
- d. Rs 2,96,148 crore
- e. Rs 3,15,887 crore

24. In May 2024, Liminal Custody, a digital asset custody and wallet infrastructure platform, announced the registration of its Indian entity First Answer India Technologies Private Limited with the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of India. Liminal Custody is a \_\_\_\_\_ based digital asset custody and wallet infrastructure platform,

- a. Singapore
- b. Germany
- c. France
- d. Canada
- e. New Zealand

25. In May 2024, the RBI has imposed a penalty of \_\_\_\_\_ on Hero FinCorp Limited for non-compliance with certain provisions relating to fair practice code.

- a. Rs. 1.5 Lakh
- b. Rs. 2.3 Lakh
- c. Rs. 3.1 Lakh
- d. Rs. 3.9 Lakh
- e. Rs. 5.3 Lakh

26. The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of \_\_\_\_\_ on ICICI Bank for

non-compliance with norms relating to loans, and \_\_\_\_\_ fine on another private sector lender, Yes Bank, for violating norms relating to customer service and unauthorised operation of internal/office accounts.

- a. Rs 2 crore and Rs 81 lakh
- b. Rs 1 crore and Rs 91 lakh
- c. Rs 1 crore and Rs 96 lakh
- d. Rs 2 crore and Rs 14 lakh
- e. Rs 1 crore and Rs 90 lakh

27. In May 2024, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das launched an online portal named PRAVAAH portal for regulatory applications and approvals for transacting in government securities. V in PRAVAAH stands for

- a. Verification
- b. Validation
- c. Value
- d. Variability
- e. Vision

28. In May 2024, The Prudential Authority of the South African Reserve Bank has imposed a financial penalty of \_\_\_\_\_ on the State Bank of India's South Africa branch under Section 45C of the country's Financial Intelligence Centre Act 38 of 2001 for non-compliance with certain provisions of the FIC Act or other related orders or directives.

- a. 5 million rand
- b. 10 million rand
- c. 15 million rand
- d. 20 million rand
- e. 25 million rand

29. According to recent newspaper reports, which of the following banks have asked the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to approve a third-party transaction model to resolve a deadlock between their home authorities and Indian policymakers regarding audit oversight rights? I. Credit Agricole II. Societe Generale III. Deutsche Bank IV. BNP Paribas

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

30. In May 2024, The Reserve Bank of India barred which of the following group's asset reconstruction company from acquiring financial assets and security receipts, and also its non-banking financial arm from undertaking any structured transaction for wholesale exposure, other than repayment and/ or closure of accounts in its normal course of business?

- a. Bajaj Finance group
- b. Morgan Stanely group
- c. Muthoot Finance Ltd group
- d. Edelweiss group
- e. Wells Fargo group

31. In May 2024, The Reserve Bank has

imposed a fine of \_\_\_\_\_ on foreign

KP Classes

lender HSBC for Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) violations reporting requirements under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme of FEMA, 1999 were not followed by HSBC.

- a. Rs 26.38 lakh b. Rs 36.38 lakh c. Rs 46.38 lakh  
d. Rs 56.38 lakh e. Rs 66.38 lakh

## Economy

1. In April 2024, The Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collections for April this year have recorded the highest ever collection of \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Rs 1.59 Lakh Crore  
b. Rs 1.96 Lakh Crore  
c. Rs 2.00 Lakh Crore  
d. Rs 2.10 Lakh Crore  
e. Rs 2.60 Lakh Crore

2. According to Ministry of Commerce and Industry data released in May 2024, The growth in output of eight key infrastructure industries slowed to 5.2% year-on-year in March from 7.1% in February on the back of a sequential deterioration recorded by five of its constituents. Overall in FY24, growth in the core sector stood at \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. 6.9% b. 7% c. 7.2% d. 7.5% e. 8%

3. In April 2024, India has cut its windfall tax on petroleum crude to 8,400 Indian rupees (\$100.66) a metric ton from 9,600 rupees with effect from May 1, the government said. Which of the following statement is true regarding windfall tax?

- a. It is a tax on profits earned from the sale of assets, such as stocks, bonds, real estate, or other investments.  
b. It is a higher tax imposed on specific industries when they make unusual and above-average profits.  
c. It is a tax levied on the purchase and sale of securities, such as stocks, mutual funds.  
d. It is a direct tax levied on the profits of companies registered in India.  
e. None of the above

4. In May 2024, Shares of ICICI Bank surged over 5%, sending its market capitalisation past the `8- trillion mark and into the league of the top five companies by market value. The private lender has become the second bank to cross this milestone, after \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Axis Bank b. HDFC Bank c. HSBC Bank d. YES Bank e. Kotak Mahindra

5. According to data released by the Reserve Bank of India in May 2024, Indias services exports decelerated in FY24 to a three-year low, with a

modest increase of \_\_\_\_\_ to \$341.1 billion

- a. 4.9% b. 3.8% c. 7.8% d. 2.6% e. 5.2%

6. In May 2024, Growth in Indias dominant services sector slowed marginally in April, but remained robust due to strong demand, a private business survey released by HSBC said. The headline Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) figure, released by HSBC, slid to \_\_\_\_\_ in April.

- a. 48.6 b. 50.3 c. 56.8 d. 60.8 e. 62.3

7. In May 2024, India Ratings and Research revised upward the country's GDP growth estimate for FY25 to \_\_\_\_\_ from earlier projections.

- a. 6.8% b. 7% c. 7.1% d. 7.4% e. 7.6%

8. According to the Index of Industrial Production data released in May 2024, For the full financial year 2023-24, the factory output grew to \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. 4.6% b. 4.8% c. 5% d. 5.8% e. 5.2%

9. According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in May 2024, Indias headline retail inflation was recorded at \_\_\_\_\_ in April.

- a. 4.52 percent b. 4 percent c. 4.60 percent d. 4.83 percent e. 5.20 percent

10. According to Delhi-based think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) data that released in May 2024, Indias imports from its key free trade agreement partner nations grew at a faster pace compared to total inbound shipments entering the country. Imports from the FTA partners saw a nearly \_\_\_\_\_ increase, totalling \$187.92 billion in 2023-24.

- a. 24% b. 30% c. 35% d. 38% e. 42%

11. According to the data of economic think tank GTRI released in May 2024, China has emerged as the largest trading partner of India with \$ 118.4 billion two-way commerce in 2023-24, slightly edging past which country which was the top trading partner of New Delhi during 2021-22 and 2022-23?

- a. UAE b. US c. Japan d. Singapore e. Russia

12. As per the data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry India's total exports of merchandise and services in April 2024 is estimated to be 64.56 billion dollars against 60.40 billion dollars in April 2023. Which among the following is/are the main drivers of merchandise export

growth during April 2024? I. Electronic goods II. Organic & Inorganic Chemicals III. Food items IV. Petroleum products

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

13. As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey quarterly bulletins unemployment rate in urban areas for persons ages 15 and above has decreased to \_\_\_\_\_ during the previous quarter January to March 2024, and the female unemployment rate decreased to \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. 5.8 %; 8.1 %    b. 6.7 %; 8.5 %    c. 7.1 %; 7.3 %  
d. 7.7 %; 6.3 %    e. 8.1 %; 7.2 %

14. In May 2024, Moody's Ratings projected a 6.6% growth rate for the Indian economy in the fiscal year ending March 2025 (FY25). The RBI, Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Fitch Ratings each estimate a \_\_\_\_\_ growth rate for FY25 while S&P Global Ratings and Morgan Stanley predict a 6.8% growth rate.

- a. 6.8 %    b. 7 %    c. 7.1 %    d. 7.3 %    e. 8.1 %

15. According to the UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report released in May 2024, India's economy is now forecast to grow by \_\_\_\_\_ in 2024.

- a. 6.2%    b. 6.5%    c. 6.9%    d. 7%    e. 7.2%

16. The market capitalisation of companies listed on BSE has crossed a record \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ for the first time - hitting a fresh high on May 21 - data on the BSE website showed.

- a. \$5 trillion    b. \$4 trillion    c. \$3 trillion    d. \$2 trillion    e. \$1 trillion

17. The stock prices of listed companies continue to outpace growth in India's gross domestic product (GDP). As a result, in May 2024, India's mcap-to-GDP ratio has hit a 15-year high of \_\_\_\_\_, up sharply from 95.8 per cent at the end of March 2023.

- a. 100.25%    b. 110.26%    c. 120.59%    d. 140.02%    e. 150.99%

18. In May 2024, Founded in 2014 by Pranav Goel, Uttam Dugga and Vikas Choudhary, homegrown logistics services platform Porter has likely become the \_\_\_\_\_ unicorn (with valuation of \$1 billion and above) in India this year after a fresh internal round.

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

19. The Central Board of Direct Taxes, CBDT has notified the Cost Inflation Index, CII for the financial year 2024-25 for calculating long-term capital gains in May 2024. The CII for financial year 2024-25, relevant to assessment year 2025-26, stood at \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. 333    b. 343    c. 353    d. 363    e. 373

20. India has emerged as the sole nation among the top five steel producers in the world to witness growth in production during April 2024, while others experienced declines of up to 7%. India is the \_\_\_\_\_-largest steel producer worldwide.

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

21. The latest data released by Global investment bank Goldman Sachs has raised India's GDP growth forecast to \_\_\_\_\_ for calendar year 2024.

- a. 6.2%    b. 6.5%    c. 6.7%    d. 6.9%    e. 7.2%

22. According to commerce department data released in May 2024, Smartphones are now the \_\_\_\_\_-largest export item

from India with 42 per cent growth to \$15.6 billion in FY24, up by one notch in the ranking from the preceding year.

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

23. In May 2024, The State Bank of India (SBI) released a report by the SBI's Economic Research department anticipating India's GDP growth 7.4% in the fourth quarter of the financial year 2023-24, while the overall growth could touch \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. 7.8%    b. 8%    c. 8.2%    d. 8.5%    e. 8.4%

24. In May 2024, which of the following global rating agencies has revised India's outlook on economy to positive from stable due to robust economic growth, improvement in the quality of government spending, political commitment to fiscal consolidation, GDP expanding close to 7% annually over the next three years?

- a. S&P Global Ratings    b. Moody's    c. Fitch Group  
d. Brickwork Ratings    e. CRISIL

### National

1. In April 2024, Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) said it has secured a \_\_\_\_\_ finance from a consortium of five international banks for its under

construction solar projects of 750 MW in Gujarat and Rajasthan.

- a. USD 100 million   b. USD 200 million   c. USD 300 million   d. USD 400 million   e. USD 500 million

2. In April 2024, Which among the following company has announced plans to invest 5,215 crore in developing 1 GW of renewable energy capacity in India, once approved by its board, it will focus on standalone ground-mounted solar, onshore wind, or wind-solar hybrid projects in phases?

- a. Indian Oil Corporation   b. Bharat Petroleum  
c. Hindustan Petroleum  
d. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation   e. Oil India

3. In May 2024, which of the following maharatna company has received a No Objection Certificate (dated May 3, 2024) from the Reserve Bank of India, for setting up a wholly owned subsidiary in International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), Gujarat International Finance Tec-City ("GIFT"), Gandhinagar, Gujarat?

- a. REC   b. BHEL  
c. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited  
d. GAIL India Limited  
e. Coal India Limited

4. In a significant stride towards preserving India's rich textile heritage in May 2024, the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks (CGPDTM) has bestowed the Geographical Indication (GI) certificate upon which of the following from the Gujarat district of Kutch?

- a. Ayuvastra   b. Kalamkari   c. Patola   d. Ajrakh   e. Gadwal

5. In May 2004, Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc. (SMFG), said it has invested 1,300 crore in its wholly-owned subsidiary SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd./SMICC (formerly Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd.) via rights issue to fuel growth. Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc. is a company based in which country?

- a. Australia   b. Japan   c. China   d. Russia   e. Brazil

6. In May 2024, the Hyderabad-based National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), which is part of the Indian Council of Medical Research releases Updated Dietary Guidelines for Indians in 2024. According to guidelines, sugar should be less than \_\_\_\_\_ of total energy intake.

- a. 2%   b. 5%   c. 7%   d. 10%   e. 6%

7. In May 2024, In a novel initiative, which of the following has brought together start-ups/MSMEs, academia and research institutions under the "Telecom Design Collaboration Sprint" to nurturing innovation and fostering industry collaboration to propel India's telecommunications sector towards global leadership in the 5G era and beyond?

- a. Central Bureau of Communication  
b. Indian Telephone Industries Limited  
c. Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council  
d. Department of Telecommunications  
e. Controller General Of Communication Accounts

8. In May 2024, which of the following has incorporated a wholly owned subsidiary in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) located in GIFT City, Gujarat after Reserve Bank of India gave its No Objection letter to set up the finance company in IFSC GIFT City?

- a. REC   b. IREDA   c. ONGC   d. Power Grid Corp   e. NTPC

9. In May 2024, The Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Act has been notified. The bill was passed by both the Houses of Parliament during the Monsoon Session. Currently, armed forces personnel of all three services are governed in accordance with the their respective service acts -- Army Act, Navy Act and Air Force Act. The Navy act was passed in which year?

- a. 1947   b. 1957   c. 1950   d. 1967   e. 1960

10. In May 2024, which of the following companies has announced that it has been certified with ISO 42001:2023, world's first international standard on AI management systems, by TUV India (part of TV Nord Group), an independent provider of technical quality and safety services?

- a. Wipro   b. TCS   c. Infosys   d. Tech Mahindra  
e. Cognizant

11. In May 2024, which among the following have been included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register from India? I. Ramcharitmanas II. Vinaya Patrika III. Shakuntala IV. Panchatantra V. Sahdayaloka-Locana

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

12. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India is participating in IMEX, Frankfurt from 14th-16th May 2024. India is positioned at rank \_\_\_\_\_ in the ICCA(International

Congress and Convention Association) ranking of countries in the Asia Pacific region, in 2022.

a. 5 b. 2 c. 9 d. 12 e. 1

13. The Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) celebrated its 250th Foundation Day on May 14, 2024. The Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited was taken over by Government of India in which year?

a. 1940 b. 1950 c. 1960 d. 1970 e. 1980

14. In May 2024, which of the following banks has said it has raised USD 500 million from IFC for onlending to underserved women borrowers for fostering financial inclusion and socio-economic growth?

a. Axis Bank b. HDFC Bank c. HSBC Bank d. ICICI Bank e. YES Bank

15. In May 2024, The Airports Authority of India has called for expressions of interest to prepare a detailed project report for the Indian Single Sky Harmonized Air Traffic Management (ISHAN) initiative. Currently, Indian airspace is divided into \_\_\_\_\_ flight information regions

(FIRs)

a. 2 b. 3 c. 4 d. 5 e. 6

16. After officially closed as per a gazette notification dated June 16, 2021, In May 2024, which of the following technical body has been shut down by the Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry?

a. Food and Nutrition Body (FNB)  
b. National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)  
c. National Commission for women (NCW)  
d. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)  
e. Central Adoption Resource Agency

17. In May 2024, which of the following international airports has received the zero waste to landfill (ZWL) accolade by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-ITC) Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development making it the first airport in the country to receive this 'prestigious recognition'?

a. Madurai International airport  
b. Jaipur International airport  
c. Thiruvananthapuram International airport  
d. Cochin International airport  
e. Mysore International airport

18. In May 2024, Fischer Medical Ventures (FMVL), aiming to lessen the country's reliance on imported devices, has manufactured its magnetic resonance

imaging (MRI) systems domestically, claiming to be the first company in the country to achieve this.

Fischer Medical Ventures (FMVL) is a company based in which city?

a. Chennai b. Bengaluru c. Hyderabad  
d. Kolkata e. Mumbai

19. After being Conceptualised 12 years ago, In June 2024, Reliance Industries is set to begin construction on Indias first multimodal logistics park in which state of India?

a. Rajasthan b. Gujarat c. Maharashtra d. Tamil Nadu e. Andhra Pradesh

20. In May 2024, which of the following company has inaugurated its first hydrogen green plant in Madhya Pradesh marking a major step towards new and alternate energy and has been installed in line with the National Green Hydrogen Mission?

a. GAIL Limited  
b. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation.  
c. Reliance Industries.  
d. Indian Oil Corporation Limited.  
e. Adani Total Gas Limited.

### International

1. In April 2024, which of the following country has launched a new currency backed by the central bank's reserves comprising 100 million U.S. dollars in foreign currency and 185 million U.S. dollars worth of gold to counter inflation?

a. Argentina b. Turkey c. Venezuela  
d. Zimbabwe e. Iran

2. In April 2024, the National Archives of India (NAI) acquired the private paper collection of the Late Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, comprising original correspondences of Shri Kidwai with other eminent leaders like Pt. Nehru, Sardar Patel, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, P.D. Tandon etc. National Archives of India is the custodian of the non-current records of the Government of India and holds them in trust for the use of administrators and researchers as per the provision of the Public Record Act

\_\_\_\_\_.

a. 1967 b. 1981 c. 1993 d. 2001 e. 2005

3. In May 2024, which of the following company has announced the creation of a Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in Paris, during the Choose France Summit to leverage global ecosystem of startups, academia, and research organisations to bring the best of global capabilities to French companies?

a. Infosys b. Wipro c. Tech Mahindra d. TCS e. Accenture

4. In May 2024, PhonePe has launched cross-border UPI payments in which of the following countries?

a. Thailand b. USA c. Nepal d. Sri Lanka e. Russia

5. Semeru volcano, which was seen in news for emitting ashes 5 times in one day in May 2024, is located in which country?

a. US b. Indonesia c. Japan d. Malaysia e. Singapore

6. In May 2024, a company from which country has recently unveiled the world's first high-speed 6G prototype device, that's a 20x improvement over the current 5G technology?

a. China b. South Korea c. Japan d. Russia e. Singapore

7. In a move towards sustainability, which country has recently announced a new 10-year 'Blue Residency Visa' programme?

a. Nepal  
b. United Arab Emirates c. China d. Iran  
e. Bangladesh

8. In May 2024, Which country became first country to lose all of its glaciers?

a. Venezuela b. Germany c. Russia d. India e. Japan

9. The Artara24 Fine Arts Exhibition and Competition has made its mark in Dubai as a platform for discovering and nurturing emerging artistic talents from the country. Artara24 featured an impressive collection of over how many pieces of art?

a. 210 b. 240 c. 250 d. 270 e. 300

10. In May 2024, which country/union gave final agreement to the world's first major law for regulating artificial intelligence, as institutions around the world race to introduce curbs for the technology?

a. United States of America b. United Kingdom c. European Union d. African Union  
e. Gulf Cooperation Council

11. India and France jointly launched the International Solar Alliance during COP21 in Paris. In May 2024, which has become the 99th member of the International Solar Alliance?

a. Panama b. Poland c. Sweden d. Spain e. Azerbaijan

12. In May 2024, The University of Tokyo has inaugurated the Atacama Observatory (TAO), built at 5,640 meters above sea level in which country?

a. Chile b. Paraguay c. Brazil d. Argentina  
e. Ecuador

## Sports

1. In April 2024, Indian Chess Prodigy, Vaishali Ramesh Babu, has officially been awarded the title of Grandmaster by FIDE, the International Chess Federation. This remarkable achievement makes Vaishali the \_\_\_ Indian female Grandmaster.

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

2. Tejaswin Shankar, who was recently seen in news for achieving a remarkable feat at the USATF Festival in Tucson, Arizona, USA is associated with which sport?

a. Long Jump b. Javelin Throw c. Marathon Running  
d. High Jump e. Shot Put

3. In May 2024, Mumbai City FC beat Mohun Bagan Super Giant 3-1 at the Salt Lake Stadium to emerge as the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 Cup Winners at the final in Kolkata. Which of the following is/are the teams in ISL? I. Bengaluru FC II. Chennaiyin FC III. East Bengal FC IV. FC Goa V. Hyderabad FC

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

4. In April 2024, Who among the following has been appointed as the Official Sponsor of the Sri Lanka Cricket Team for the duration of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024?

a. Pepsi b. Make My Trip c. RedBus d. Amul  
e. Dream11

5. In May 2024, A foundation set up which of the following companies has announced its first ever partnership with Hockey India, for the National Women's Hockey League 2024?

a. Hero Honda b. Pepsi Co c. ITC d. Coca Cola  
e. Godrej

6. Abha Khatua has set a national record and won gold medal at National Federation Cup Athletics Competition in Bhubaneswar. She is associated with which sport?

a. Long Jump b. Shot Put c. Javelin Throw  
d. Marathon Running e. High Jump

7. In May 2024, Indias ace womens table tennis player Manika Batra became the first Indian woman paddler to break into the top 25 of the world Womens singles rankings. Manika Batra, won the gold at which edition of Commonwealth games?  
a. 2006 b. 2010 c. 2014 d. 2018 e. 2022
8. In May 2024, in the men's javelin throw, who among the following has won the gold medal in Federation Cup 2024 in Bhubaneswar?  
a. Neeraj Chopra b. Shivpal Singh c. Davinder Singh d. D.P Manu e. Vipin Kasana
9. Indian football icon Sunil Chhetri announced his decision to retire from international football after the FIFA World Cup qualifying match against Kuwait in Kolkata on June 6, bringing the curtains down on a glorious two-decade career. In which of the following year Sunil Chhetri had made his debut in football?  
a. 2003 b. 2005 c. 2006 d. 2007 e. 2009
10. In May 2024, P Shyaamnikhil became Indias 85th Grandmaster by completing his third and final GM norm in the just-concluded Dubai Police Masters chess tournament. How many Elo rating points does a person have to complete to become a Grandmaster?  
a. 1000 b. 1500 c. 2000 d. 2500 e. 3000
11. In May 2024, The Indian team picked up its first medals in the World Para Athletics Championships with Nishad Kumar and Preethi Pal winning a silver and bronze in Kobe, Japan. Nishad Kumar is associated with which sport?  
a. Shot Put b. Long Jump c. High Jump d. Javelin Throw e. Pole Vault
12. Elorda Cup 2024, which was seen in news recently, is associated with which sport?  
a. Boxing b. Weightlifting c. Badminton d. Tennis e. Golf
13. In May 2024, the Indian Mixed team broke the national record at the ongoing Asian Athletic Relay Championship 2024 by winning a gold medal in the 4x400m at \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Thailand b. Mauritius c. Japan d. Sri Lanka e. Vietnam
14. In May 2024, who among the following has smashed the world record in the women's 400 m T20 and grabbed her first gold at the World Para Athletics Championships in Kobe, Japan?  
a. Jyothika Sri b. Subha Venkatesan c. Avani Lekhara d. Deepthi Jeevanji e. Bhavinaben Patel
15. In May 2024, who among the following secured a gold medal with a seasons best throw of 20.12 metres in the womens F51 club throw competition at the World Para Athletic Championships at Kobe in Japan?  
a. Jyothika Sri b. Subha Venkatesan c. Avani Lekhara d. Deepthi Jeevanji e. Ekta Bhyan
16. In May 2024, The star Indian mens badminton duo of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have regained their top spot in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) Rankings after a remarkable victory at the Thailand Open Super 500 in Bangkok.  
a. Srikanth Kidambi and Lakshya Sen  
b. H. S. Prannoy and Srikanth Kidambi  
c. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty  
d. Chirag Shetty and Lakshya Sen  
e. H. S. Prannoy and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy
17. Poland's Iga Swiatek and Alexander Zverev won the women's and men's singles in Italian Open 2024 in May. Alexander Zverev belongs to which country?  
a. Germany b. Italy c. Spain d. France e. Australia
18. In Para Athletics, Indias Sachin Sarjerao Khilari clinched the gold medal in the mens shot put at the World Para Athletics Championship in Kobe, Japan. Mariyappan Thangavelu, who clinched his maiden gold medal at the World Para Athletics is associated with which sport?  
a. High Jump b. Javelin Throw c. Pole Vault d. Long Jump e. Disc Throw
19. In May 2024, Babulal Hembrom, a Jharkhand State Sports Promotion Society (JSSPS) cadet, secured two bronze medals at IWF World Youth Weightlifting Championship. Jharkhand State Sports Promotion Society (JSSPS) is supported by which coal company, in its endeavour to promote sports facilities in coal bearing states?  
a. NLC India Limited  
b. Coal India Limited c. SJVN d. NLC India e. Central Coal Field Ltd
20. India bagged Gold medal in the compound womens team event at Archery World Cup stage two in Yecheon, South Korea. The trio of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Swami strikes gold against \_\_\_\_\_ in the final.

a. China b. Turkey c. Thailand d. Nepal e. South Korea

21. In May 2024, Dipa Karmakar scripted history clinching India's first-ever gold medal in which sport at the Asian Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan?  
a. Pole Vault b. Judo c. Equestrian d. Water Polo e. Sailing

22. In Cricket, Kolkata Knight Riders lifted their third trophy in the Indian Premier League with a crushing eight-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in a completely one-sided final on May 26th. The 2024 edition is the \_\_\_\_\_ edition of IPL.  
a. 15 b. 16 c. 17 d. 18 e. 19

23. Charles Leclerc, who was seen in news recently for achieving a remarkable feat in sports is associated with \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Tennis b. Football c. Cricket d. Car Racing e. Basketball

24. In May 2024, Who among the following has toppled World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen for the first time in a Classical event at Norway Chess 2024?  
a. Vidit Gujrathi b. Gukesh D c. Arjun Erigaisi  
d. Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa  
e. Pentala Harikrishna

### Agreements & MoUs

1. In April 2024, NPCI International Payments Limited, the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), entered into an agreement with which of the following banks for developing an instant payment system like Unified Payment Interface for the African nation which marks NPCI's first-ever collaboration with a central bank to deploy the UPI stack?  
a. Bank of Nigeria b. Bank of Namibia c. Access Bank d. Bank of Cameroon e. Zenith Bank

2. In April 2024, A seven-member delegation from India led by Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, accompanied by High Commissioner of India to Federal Republic of Nigeria, and Economic Adviser, Department of Commerce, held a Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting with their Nigerian counterparts in Abuja. Nigeria is a major partner- the \_\_\_\_\_ largest trading partner of India in Africa region.  
a. 2nd b. 4th c. 3rd d. 5th e. 9th

3. C2FO, a leading on-demand working capital platform, one of its platform, that addresses liquidity challenges faced by MSMEs, has gone live with \_\_\_\_\_ and Dabur India, as inaugural participants.  
a. Axis Bank b. Canara Bank c. HDFC Bank  
d. State Bank of India e. ICICI Bank

4. BlackRock and Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) signs a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a multi-asset class investment platform in Riyadh, with an initial investment of up to \$5 billion from the \$700 billion Saudi sovereign wealth fund. BlackRock is a \_\_\_\_\_ based asset management firm?  
a. China b. Russia c. Ukraine d. United State  
e. India

5. In May 2024, which bank has partnered with Bengaluru-based financial services provider, ANQ, to unveil two co-branded credit cards -- Pi and Phi with an aim to bridge the gap between traditional banking and the fintech industry, offering innovative solutions to meet evolving consumer needs?  
a. Axis Bank b. HDFC Bank c. HSBC Bank d. YES Bank  
e. Kotak Mahindra

6. In May 2024, Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the auditor general of which country to enhance collaboration and exchange of expertise in the field of auditing between the two countries Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs)?  
a. Myanmar b. Bangladesh c. Nepal d. Sri Lanka  
e. Maldives

7. Which of the following organization has announced that it has signed a pact with the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), GIFT City, Gandhinagar, to promote GIFT IFSC as a 'Global Finance Hub'?  
a. Securities and Exchange Board of India.  
b. Reserve Bank of India.  
c. Financial Planning Standards Board  
d. Association of Mutual Funds in India  
e. National Securities Depository Limited

8. In May 2024, which of the following logistic platforms has partnered with India Post to benefit direct-to-consumer (D2C) start-ups, small and medium businesses (SMBs), and MSMEs across India by enhancing last-mile delivery services for e-commerce products?  
a. Delhivery b. Ecom Express c. Fship d. Blue Dart  
e. Rivigo

9. In April 2024, which among the following has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Steel & Power in New Delhi for the supply of indigenous marine grade steel to enhance the indigenous content in shipbuilding?
- Indian Navy
  - Indian Coast Guard
  - Indian Army
  - Border Security Force of India
  - None of the Above
10. In April 2024, South Indian Bank has formed an association with which among the following financial institutions to explore and maximise commercial prospects by combining efforts in loan origination, underwriting, disbursement, collection, and reconciliation procedures?
- Shriram City Union Finance Limited
  - Tata Investment Corporation Limited
  - L&T Finance Holdings Limited
  - Reliance Capital Limited
  - Northern Arc Capital
11. In May 2024, CCAvenue, the payments platform of fintech firm Infibeam Avenues, will partner with which of the following small finance bank to provide merchants registered with it to access to SFBS customer base?
- Jana Small Finance Bank
  - Utkarsh Small Finance Bank
  - Shivalik Small Finance Bank
  - ESAF Small Finance Bank
  - Fincare Small Finance Bank
12. In May 2024, Indian Coast Guard has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which of the following companies for manufacturing and supply of indigenous marine-grade aluminium for construction of ships?
- Global Aluminium
  - Hindalco Industries
  - Delhi Aluminium Udyog
  - Vedanta Industries
  - Bharat Aluminium Company Limited
13. In May 2024, which of the following private sector bank and EBANX, a global fintech company specialized in payment solutions for emerging markets, announced a strategic partnership for payment processing in India, for the global digital economy?
- YES Bank
  - Axis Bank
  - ICICI Bank
  - HDFC Bank
  - HSBC Bank
14. In May 2024, The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has collaborated with which of the following IIT's to set up advanced research and development in AI-driven surveillance and other defense projects?
- IIT Madras
  - IIT Bombay
  - IIT Bhubaneswar
  - IIT Roorkee
  - IIT Kanpur
15. In May 2024, which of the following banks has entered into an alliance with Northern Arc Capital aimed at exploring and maximizing business opportunities through combined efforts in the areas of loan origination, underwriting, disbursement, collection and reconciliation processes?
- Federal Bank
  - South Indian Bank
  - Bank of Baroda
  - Axis Bank
  - Canara Bank
16. In May 2024, AIIMS New Delhi has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which of the following university from England to collaborate in the field of medical research, innovation and education?
- University of Bolton, Institute of Medicine
  - University of Salford, Institute of Medicine
  - Lancaster University, Institute of Medicine
  - Manchester Metropolitan University, Institute of Medicine
  - Edge Hill University, Institute of Medicine
17. In May 2024, Energy firm ReNew has signed an initial pact with European Bank Societe Generale for up to \_\_\_\_\_ financing as debt and advisory solutions over the next three years.
- \$500 million
  - \$900 million
  - \$1 billion
  - \$1.5 billion
  - \$2.3 billion
18. In May 2024, Who won the election for the President post of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)?
- Kapil Sibal
  - Pradeep Kumar Rai
  - Dinesh Kumar Triparthi
  - Vikas Pathak
  - Mahonar Naidu
19. In May 2024, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DHAD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which among the following on Digitalization of Vaccine Cold Chain Management, Capacity Building, and Communication Planning?
- United Nations Development Programme
  - European Union
  - World Health Organization
  - United Nations Population Fund
  - None of the Above

20. In May 2024 Tata Motors has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which among the following to provide supply chain finance solutions to their respective dealers?

- a. Bajaj Finance Ltd.
- b. IDFC Finance Holding Company Limited
- c. Tata Capital Limited
- d. Muthoot Finance Ltd. e. HDFC Finance

21. In May 2024, which among the following Insurance company has signed a strategic bancassurance collaboration agreement with Jana Small Finance Bank, a leading financial institution in India, to facilitate the same of non-life insurance products?

- a. Generali India Insurance Company Limited
- b. ERGO General Insurance Company Limited
- c. National Insurance Company Limited
- d. SBI General Insurance Company Limited
- e. United India Insurance Company Limited

22. In May 2024, Airbus Helicopters and which of the following financial institution has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for financing the purchase of Airbus helicopters in India and identify potential civil helicopter operators in India interested in financing solutions for purchasing the helicopters?

- a. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- b. Small Industries Development Bank of India
- c. National Housing Bank
- d. Securities and Exchange Board of India
- e. Exim Bank of India

23. In May 2024, Cisco and which of the following communications company has launched their Webex Calling solution in India with cloud public switched telephone network, aimed at helping enterprises move from on-premises phone systems to a global cloud calling system?

- a. Tata Communications b. Jio c. Bharti Airtel d. BSNL e. Vodafone Idea

24. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on May 22 announced that it has bagged a deal to modernize the core banking technology of Burgan Bank. Burgan Bank is a leading commercial bank in \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Qatar b. Bahrain c. Oman d. Kuwait e. UAE

25. Which country's state-backed Next-Gen Infrastructure Company has signed deals with a Reliance Jio subsidiary, Tech Mahindra, and other vendors to build 4G and 5G infrastructure as the

African country aims to enhance its telecom capabilities?

- a. Sudan b. Ghana c. Zimbabwe d. Tanzania e. Niger

26. In May 2024, which of the following two ministries and Common Services Centers eGovernance Services India Limited have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide the eMigrate services through CSC in the country?

- a. External Affairs Ministry and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- b. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Ministry of Finance
- c. Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Home Affairs
- d. Ministry of Home Affairs and External Affairs Ministry
- e. Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

### Schemes

1. Which of the following banks has announced the winners of its Parivartan Start-up Grants programme for FY2024 undertaken in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission, a Government of India initiative under NITI Aayog?

- a. Axis Bank b. ICICI Bank c. HDFC Bank d. DBS Bank e. Standard Chartered Bank

2. In May 2024, The Cabinet with an aim of this financial outlay is to ensure a structured implementation of the IndiaAI Mission through a public-private partnership model aimed at nurturing Indias AI innovation ecosystem has approved an allocation of over \_\_\_\_\_ for the IndiaAI Mission, marking a significant step towards bolstering Indias AI ecosystem.

- a. Rs 10,300 crore b. Rs 11,300 crore c. Rs 12,300 crore d. Rs 13,300 crore e. Rs 14,300 crore

### Appointments & Resignations

1. In April 2024, Senior Indian Information Service officer, Maushumi Chakravarty assumed the charge of Director General of Akashvani News. All India Radio (AIR) aka Akashvani, is an Indian state- owned public radio broadcaster established in which year?

- a. 1936 b. 1946 c. 1956 d. 1976 e. 1986

2. In April 2024, Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA) has given its nod for appointment of who

among the following as Managing Director and CEO  
of Jio

KP Classes

Financial Services for three years period from  
November 15,2023?

- a. Kundapur Vaman Kamath  
b. Hitesh Kumar Sethia c. Rajiv  
Mehrishi d. Sunil Mehta e. Rama  
Vedashree

managing

3. In April 2024, The Reserve Bank of India has  
approved the appointment of who among the  
following as part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank for  
three years with effect from May 5?

- a. Keki M Mistry  
b. Atanu Chakraborty c.  
MD Ranganath d. Sandeep Parekh e.  
Lily Vadera

4. Paytm Money, the wealth management arm  
of One97 Communications, named whom as the  
new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), after Varun  
Sridhar stepped down from the post?

- a. Sunil Kumar Mehta b. Rakesh Singh c. Arun  
Kumar  
d. Margherita Della Valle  
e. None of the Above

5. In April 2024, which among the following  
banks named Carol Furtado as Executive Director of  
the bank?

- a. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank  
b. Fincare Small Finance Bank  
c. Jana Small Finance Bank d.  
Canara Bank e. Axis Bank

6. One97 Communications Limited (OCL),  
which owns the brand Paytm, announced the  
resignation of its President & Chief Operating Officer  
Bhavesh Gupta and his moving into an advisory role  
in the CEO office post May 31. In May 2024, OCL  
also announced the appointment of who among the  
following as the new Chief Executive Officer of  
Paytm Money Ltd (PML)?

- a. Ravi Chandra Adusumalli b. Vijay Shekar c.  
Rakesh Singh d. Neeraj Arora e. Madhur Deora

7. Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala  
Sitharaman today administered the oath of integrity  
and secrecy to retired Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra  
as the President of the GST Appellate Tribunal  
(GSTAT), in New Delhi. As per the approval of the GST  
Council, the Government has notified the Principal  
Bench, to be located in New Delhi, and

\_\_\_\_\_State Benches at various  
locations across the country.

- a. 15 b. 28 c. 29 d. 31 e. 35

8. In May 2024, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank  
said that Reserve bank of India (RBI) has approved  
the appointment of Sanjeev Nautiyal as the

director (MD) & chief executive officer (CEO) of the bank for the period of 3 years with effect from 1 July 2024. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank was established as a non banking financial services company in which year?

a. 2004 b. 2005 c. 2006 d. 2007 e. 2008

9. In April 2024, SBI General Insurance, one of Indias top general insurers, has named \_\_\_\_\_ as Head of Key Relations Group.

a. Jaya Tripathi b. Anup Rau c. Arvind Sahay d. Nilesh Sathe  
e. Venkatachamlam Iyer

10. Who among the following has assumed charge as the Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy in May 2024?

a. Dinesh Kumar Tripathi  
b. Krishna Swaminathan  
c. Rajesh Pendharkar d. Sanjay Bhalla  
e. Vennam Srinivas

11. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed who among the following as executive director (ED) with effect from May 10, 2024?

a. Anil Kumar Sharma b. Rabi N. Mishra  
c. R. Lakshmi Kanth Rao d. Muneesh Kapur  
e. Ajay K. Choudhary

12. Who among the following is set to assume the additional role of chairman at Tata Electronics succeeding Banmali Agrawala, who has served in this post for the past few years?

a. Natarajan Chandrasekaran b. Om Prakash Bhatt  
c. Vedika Bhandarkar  
d. Hanne Birgitte Sorensen e. Usha Sangwan

13. Singapores deputy leader Lawrence Wong is set to be sworn in as the nations Prime Minister, succeeding 72-year-old Lee Hsien Loong, who stepped down after two decades. Once appointed, Lawrence Wong will become the \_\_\_\_\_ PM of Singapore.

a. 4th b. 5th c. 6th d. 7th e. 8th

14. In May 2024, Ippopay Technologies Private Limited, a leading payment infrastructure provider based in \_\_\_\_\_ has named S M N Swamy, a former Regional Director of the RBI, as a Senior Advisor as it seeks to improve its governance and compliance.

a. Bangalore b. Kolkata c. Delhi d. Chennai  
e. Mumbai

leading

15. In May 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of who among the following as Whole Time Director on the Board of IDFC FIRST Bank?

- a. Pradeep Natarajan b. Vishal Kapoor c. Ajit Kumar  
d. Rakesh Mohan Pandey e. Sidharath Sharma

16. Lai Ching-te of Taiwans ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) was sworn in as the self-governing islands new President. Taiwan has had an independent government since which year?

- a. 1947 b. 1948 c. 1949 d. 1950 e. 1951

17. In May 2024, Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services has appointed who among the following as the Chief Risk Officer (CRO) of the company with effect from August 1, 2024?

- a. Mallika Mittal b. Mahesh Rajaraman  
c. Pradeep Natarajan d. Pradeep Rai e. SMN Swamy

18. In May 2024, IndiaFirst Life Insurances board has approved the appointment of who among the following as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) for five years effective July 1, 2024, or the date of regulatory approvals, whichever is earlier?

- a. Shailendra Singh  
b. K. S.. Gopalakrishnan c.  
R.M. Vishakha d. Rushabh Gandhi e.  
Debadatta Chand

19. In May 2024, who among the following has been appointed as the new President of Vietnam?

- a. Vuong Dinh Hue b. To Lam c. Nguyen Phu Trong  
d. Vo Van Thuong e. Nguyen Xuan Phuc

20. In May 2024, who among the following has been appointed as the Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank?

- a. Kishor Kumar  
b. Dinesh Kumar Khara  
c. Pradeep Kumar Sinha d. Padmaja Chundururu e.  
S.K Panigrahy

21. In May 2024, Who among the following has been elected uncontested as the chairman of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)?

- a. Jethabhai Ahir b. Tarlok Singh  
c. Siddappa S. Hotti d. Bijender Singh  
e. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav

### Awards

1. In May 2024, Who among the following Indian wildlife biologist has been honoured with a

UK wildlife charity award, Whitley Gold Award from the Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) for her conservation efforts of the endangered Greater Adjutant Stork and its wetland habitat?

- a. Uma Ramakrishnan
- b. Krithi Karanth
- c. Purnima Devi Barman
- d. K. Ullas Karanth
- e. Nanda Bose

2. In May 2024, journalists of which country has been awarded the 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize as a tribute to the courage of journalists facing difficult and dangerous circumstances,?

- a. Ukraine journalists
- b. Palestine journalists
- c. Sudan journalists
- d. Afghanistan journalists
- e. Niger journalists

3. In May 2024, which of the following banks has been recognised as a 'Best Employer' 2023 by Kincentric for the fourth consecutive year which acknowledges organisations with exceptional employee experiences and a strong culture of engagement?

- a. Axis bank
- b. Citi Bank
- c. HSBC Bank
- d. DBS Bank
- e. Standard Chartered Bank

4. The Pulitzer Prizes, administered by Columbia University in New York was presented across 15 journalism categories and eight arts categories encompassing books, music, and theatre, highlight exceptional contributions in public service, investigative reporting, feature photography, and more in May 2024. "Night Watch," written by who among the following has received the Pulitzer Prize for fiction?

- a. Jayne Anne Phillips
- b. Eboni Booth
- c. Nathan Thrall
- d. Jacqueline Jones
- e. Tyshawn Sorey

5. In May 2024, Hindustan Shipyard Limited's (HSL) Chairman and Managing Director (C&MD) Cmde Hemant Khatri has been honoured with the esteemed 'PSU Samarpan Award' by Gov Connect at the award ceremony held in New Delhi. Hindustan Shipyard Limited (Hindustan Shipyard), Visakhapatnam was later taken over by the Government of India (GOI) in which year?

- a. 1942
- b. 1952
- c. 1962
- d. 1972
- e. 1982

6. In May 2024, POWERGRID, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, has been conferred the prestigious ATD BEST Awards 2024 for its strategic approach to talent development driving business

results. This is the \_\_\_\_\_time  
POWERGRID has been honoured with the ATD BEST  
Award, having previously received it in 2021 and  
2023.

a. 1st b. 2nd c. 3rd d. 4th e. 5th

7. In May 2024, which company has achieved  
an impressive milestone by securing the 3rd rank  
globally at the ATD BEST Awards 2024, this being  
the highest ranking among all Indian companies?

a. NHPC b. NTPC  
c. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation d. GAIL e.  
SJVN

8. Shrinivas R Kulkarni, an Indian-origin professor  
of astronomy from the US will be bestowed the  
prestigious Shaw Prize in Astronomy for his ground-  
breaking discoveries about millisecond pulsars,  
gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and other variable or  
transient astronomical objects. The Shaw Prize  
consists of how many annual prizes?

a. 2 b. 3 c. 4 d. 5 e. 6

9. In May 2024, Who among the following has  
won the International Booker Prize for the novel  
"Kairos"?

a. Eleanor Wachtel b. Natalie Diaz  
c. William Kentridge d. Jenny Erpenbeck e. Aaron  
Robertson

10. In May 2024, which among the following  
hydropower companies has been conferred with the  
prestigious "The Economic Times HR World Future  
Ready Organisation Award 2024-25?"

a. National Hydroelectric Power  
Corporation(NHPC) b. Tata Power Hydro  
c. GMR Energy Limited  
d. NTPC Hydro Limited e. SJVN Limited

11. In May 2024, SUNFLOWERS WERE THE FIRST  
ONES TO KNOW has received the Cannes La Cinef  
Award for Best Short at the 77th Cannes Film  
Festival in France. Who among the following is the  
director of "SUNFLOWERS WERE THE FIRST ONES TO  
KNOW"?

a. Tahneed Rahman b. Manoj Kumar  
c. Anurag Singh Kashyap d.  
Chidanand Naik e. Neeraj Ghaywan

12. Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia made history  
by winning the countrys first ever Grand Prix Award at  
the 77th Cannes Film Festival. She won the award for  
which of the following movie?

a. Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know  
b. All We Imagine as Light c.  
Manthan d. Santosh e. Bunnyhood

13. In May 2024, who among following Indian  
has been selected to receive the 2023 Military  
Gender Advocate of the Year Award for her  
advocacy for women and girls while serving as a  
peacekeeper?

a. Radhika Sen b. Arti Sarin c. Shakti Devi  
d. Madhuri Kanitkar  
e. Suman Gawani

14. In May 2024, which of the following PSU's  
has been honoured with the Corporate Social  
Responsibility award in the NF (Non-Fossil Fuel)  
business category at the Outlook Planet  
Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024, held in Goa?

a. REC b. GAIL  
c. Power Finance Corporation  
d. Power Grid Corporation of India  
e. Indian Railway Finance Corporation

15. In May 2024, which of the following PSU's  
has been honoured with the Sustainability  
Champion Editors Choice Award at the Outlook  
Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024 held  
in Goa?

a. REC b. GAIL  
c. Power Finance Corporation  
d. Power Grid Corporation of India  
e. Indian Railway Finance Corporation

### Ranks & Reports

1. As per the data released by the Reserve  
Bank of India, After recording double-digit growth  
for two consecutive years, Indias services exports  
decelerated in FY24 to a three-year low, with a  
modest increase of how many per cent to \$341.1  
billion?

a. 3.2 % b. 4.1 % c. 4.9 % d. 5.5 % e. 5.8  
%

2. The Organisation for Economic  
Co-operation and Development, revised Indias  
FY25 growth forecast upward to \_\_\_from 6.2%  
projected earlier.

a. 6.3 % b. 6.6 % c. 6.9 % d. 7.1 % e. 7.4  
%

3. India has been ranked 159 two ranks above  
last year in the 2024 World Press Freedom Index  
released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). Which  
of the following is/are NOT named among the top 10  
countries with the best press freedom 2024? I.  
Finland II. New Zealand III. Sweden IV. Iceland

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

4. The Global Electricity Review 2024, released in May 2024, offers a detailed analysis of power generation systems worldwide in 2023. India has overtaken which country to become the world's third-largest solar power generator in 2023, according to a report by the global energy think tank, Ember?  
a. Japan b. China c. Brazil d. Germany e. Australia
5. In May 2024, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) revealed in its World Migration Report 2024 that India's remittances surged to \$111 billion last year, surpassing all other nations. Which of the following is/are NOT among the top five recipients of remittances in 2022 according to the report? I. Russia II. Mexico III. Ghana IV. Philippines V. France  
a. I and III only b. II and IV only c. I, II and V only  
d. III, IV and V only e. III and V only
6. Mumbai and Delhi have secured positions among the top 50 wealthiest cities in a global survey of wealth distribution according to the 2024 World's Wealthiest Cities Report released by Henley & Partners and New World Wealth. Which of the following city leads the global ranking according to the report?  
a. London b. Bay Area c. New York d. Hong Kong e. Paris
7. In May 2024, which of the following has become the country with the highest data center capacity in the Asia-Pacific region, surpassing major countries like Australia, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Singapore, and Korea?  
a. China b. New Zealand c. India d. US e. Russia
8. According to a report released by Deloitte India in May 2024, which country ranks first in the adoption of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) across Asia-Pacific, with 93 per cent of students and 83 per cent of employees actively engaging with the technology?  
a. China b. USA c. India d. Australia e. China
9. Wildlife trafficking has not substantially reduced over the past two decades, despite positive signs in reducing trafficking of iconic species like elephant and rhino, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in its World Wildlife Crime Report reported. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ edition of Wildlife Crime Report  
a. 2nd b. 3rd c. 4th d. 5th e. 6th
10. India's rank on the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024 has risen to 39th place, with global tourism activities returning to pre-pandemic levels, the annual report showed. Which of the following country is ranked highest in South Asia and among the lower-middle-income economies?  
a. Maldives b. Sri Lanka c. Bhutan d. India e. Nepal
11. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) state of the economy report in May 2024, observed that any durable alignment of headline retail inflation with the target of 4 per cent could recommence in the second half of FY25. The RBI has projected consumer price index inflation of \_\_\_\_\_ in FY25,  
a. 4% b. 4.2% c. 4.5% d. 5% e. 5.2%
12. Delhi has scored the 350th rank in the Oxford Economics Global Cities Index, which has compared the world's 1000 largest cities on parameters ranging from economics to human capital. Which of the following cities were NOT ranked among the top 5? I. London II. New York III. Shanghai IV. Wellington  
a. I, II and III only b. I only c. III and IV only  
d. II and IV only e. IV only
13. \_\_\_\_\_ according to the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), Kerala recorded the highest unemployment rate among the 15-29 age group in urban areas for the January-March quarter of 2024, while Delhi had the lowest joblessness rate. Identify the CORRECT statement(s) in context of same? I. The survey covered 22 states and Union territories. II. The overall unemployment rate for the 15-29 age group was 15 % for the January-March period, an increase from 16.5 per cent in the previous quarter. III. For all age groups, the unemployment rate was 6.7 per cent.  
a. I and III Only b. II Only c. III Only d. I and III Only  
e. I, II and III
14. According to the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) released in May 2024, which state recorded the highest unemployment rate among the 15-29 age group in urban areas for the January-March quarter of 2024?  
a. Uttar Pradesh b. Bihar c. Kerala  
d. Jharkhand e. Odisha

## Important Days

- International Labour Day is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_ to commemorate the contributions of workers, and the labour movement.  
a. April 27 b. April 29 c. April 30 d. May 1 e. May 2
- World Tuna Day, observed annually on May 2 is dedicated to raising awareness about the critical importance of tuna conservation. In which year the United Nations General Assembly officially declared May 2 as World Tuna Day?  
a. 2016 b. 2017 c. 2018 d. 2019 e. 2020
- Every year on May 3, the whole world celebrates Press Freedom Day which commemorated to highlight the significance of press freedom globally and to recognise the challenges encountered by journalists. The theme for 2024 is  
a. Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for All Other Human Rights  
b. Journalism Under Digital Siege  
c. A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis  
d. Information as a Public Good  
e. Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and the Rule of Law
- Coal Miners Day, observed annually on May 4 in India, commemorates the dedicated efforts and significant contributions of coal miners. In India, the first coal mine was established in which among the following at the Raniganj Coalfield?  
a. 1734 b. 1774 c. 1847 d. 1851 e. 1893
- International Firefighters Day is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. 12 April b. 21 April c. 4 May d. 8 June e. 18 August
- World Asthma Day is an annual event that aims to raise awareness about asthma, globally. Every year this day is observed on the first Tuesday of May. The theme for 2024 is  
a. Asthma Education Empowers  
b. Asthma care for All  
c. Closing Gaps in Asthma Care  
d. Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions  
e. Enough Asthma Deaths
- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is celebrating its 65th Raising Day on May 07, 2024. It started operations in May 1960. The BRO will soon commence the construction on 4.10-km long Shinkun La Tunnel. Once done, this tunnel will become the world's highest tunnel at 15,800 ft bypassing Mila Tunnel in which country?  
a. South Korea b. China c. Japan d. Russia e. Germany
- The UN General Assembly declared 89 May as a time of remembrance and reconciliation while recognizing that Member States may have individual days of victory based on the resolution passed in which year?  
a. 2001 b. 2002 c. 2004 d. 2006 e. 2008
- Maharana Pratap Jayanti is marked on both May 9 and June 2. He was born on May 9, 1540, according to the Julian calendar but according to the proleptic Gregorian calendar, his birth date is \_\_\_\_\_, 1540.  
a. May 14 b. May 19 c. July 18 d. August 21 e. August 19
- Celebrated every year, International Thalassaemia Day serves as a crucial platform to emphasize the importance of disease prevention, raise awareness, sensitize stakeholders, promote early detection, and ensure quality care for those affected by thalassaemia. On which of the following dates International Thalassaemia Day is celebrated?  
a. 8 May b. 9 May c. 10 May d. 19 May e. 21 May
- The argan tree (*Argania spinosa*) is a native species of the sub-Saharan region of Morocco, in the southwest of the country, which grows in arid and semiarid areas. In May 2024, In 2021, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed \_\_\_\_\_ the International Day of Argania.  
a. May 8 b. May 9 c. May 10 d. May 11 e. May 12
- World Red Cross Day is an annual observance held on \_\_\_\_\_ to honour the humanitarian work and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.  
a. May 8 b. May 9 c. May 10 d. May 11 e. May 12
- World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is celebrated every year in May and October. In 2024, the day is observed on May 11th, The theme for 2024 is  
a. Water: Sustaining Bird Life. b. Light Pollution  
c. Protect Insects, Protect Birds  
d. Sing, Fly, Soar Like a Bird!  
e. Birds Connect our World

14. National Technology Day is celebrated annually on May 11 to commemorate India's achievements in the science and technology. This date was chosen to mark the anniversary of the successful nuclear tests conducted at Pokhran on May 11 in which year?  
a. 1958 b. 1968 c. 1978 d. 1998 e. 1990
15. The International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) is observed on 12 May to raise awareness about the necessity of protecting plant health in order to prevent hunger, reduce poverty, safeguard biodiversity, and promote economic development. The theme of International Day of Plant Health 2024 is  
a. Plant health for environmental protection  
b. Protecting plants, protecting life  
c. Plant health, safe trade and digital technology  
d. Plant Health for Human Health  
e. Save Plants- Save Planet
16. International Nurses Day which aims to highlight the importance of nurses in the healthcare sector is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_  
a. May 12 b. May 13 c. May 14 d. May 15 e. May 16
17. The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed which day as the World Football Day, by adopting a resolution during the 80th plenary meeting of the General Assembly in New York?  
a. May 20 b. May 23 c. May 25 d. May 27 e. May 29
18. Every year the International Day of Families is celebrated on May 15th. The theme for 2024 is  
a. Families and Climate Change  
b. Families and Urbanization  
c. Families and New Technologies  
d. Demographic Trends and Families  
e. Families and inclusive societies
19. The International Day of Living Together in Peace is observed every year on which of the following dates?  
a. 12 May b. 13 May c. 15 May d. 16 May e. 18 May
20. May 16th is annually observed as International Day of Light, which commemorates the first successful operation of the laser by physicist and engineer Theodore Maiman in 1960. The first-ever IDL was held on May 16, \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. 2015 b. 2016 c. 2018 d. 2019 e. 2021
21. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) celebrates World Telecommunication Day on May 17. The theme for 2024 is \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Empowering the least developed countries through information and communication technologies  
b. Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development  
c. Digital technologies for older persons and healthy ageing  
d. Accelerating digital transformation in challenging times  
e. Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
22. National Endangered Species Day is celebrated every year on the third Friday of May. This year, it falls on 17 May 2024. National Endangered Species Day was first established by David Robinson and the Endangered Species Coalition in which year?  
a. 2003 b. 2004 c. 2005 d. 2006 e. 2007
23. The World Hypertension League (WHL) established World Hypertension Day in an effort to increase public awareness of hypertension. The day is observed every year on  
a. 14 May b. 15 May c. 16 May d. 17 May e. 18 May
24. International Museum Day is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. April 21 b. May 18 c. June 3 d. September 1 e. August 20
25. World AIDS Vaccine Day, also recognized as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, is observed annually on \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. March 21 b. May 18 c. June 23 d. January 2 e. February 5
26. The first World AIDS Vaccine Day was observed in which year, to commemorate the anniversary of Clinton's speech?  
a. 1972 b. 1998 c. 1985 d. 1945 e. 1967
27. To raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development, the UN designated \_\_\_\_\_ as World Bee Day.  
a. May 18 b. May 19 c. May 20 d. May 21 e. May 22
28. Re-emphasizing the call from the Intergovernmental Group on Tea to direct greater efforts towards expanding demand, the United Nations decided to designate which among the following dates as International Tea Day?

a. 18 May b. 20 May c. 21 May d. 24 May e. 25 May

29. Held every year on 21 May, UNESCO leads the celebration of World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development highlighting not only the richness of the world's cultures, but also the essential role of intercultural dialogue for achieving peace and sustainable development. The United Nations General Assembly declared this day in the year \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. 2001 b. 2002 c. 2005 d. 2006 e. 2008

30. On 21 May, every year Anti Terrorism Day is observed to provide knowledge to the youth about terrorism, and its impact on human suffering, and lives. The official announcement of National Anti-Terrorism Day was made on 21 May \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. 1991 b. 1996 c. 2000 d. 2003 e. 2004

31. The International Day for Biological Diversity is observed every year on May 22. The theme for 2024 is  
a. Be part of the Plan  
b. From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity  
c. Building a shared future for all life  
d. We're part of the solution #ForNature  
e. Our Solutions are in Nature

32. The World Turtle Day, observed to raise awareness about the lifestyle and habitat of turtles as well as tortoises and urge people to understand them better and contribute to their wellbeing is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. May 21 b. May 22 c. May 23 d. May 24 e. May 25

33. In the UN Charter, a Non-Self-Governing Territory is defined as a territory whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government. From 1960 to 2002, 54 territories attained self-government. At present, there are \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Self-Governing Territories remaining.  
a. 12 b. 13 c. 15 d. 17 e. 21

34. 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the first international football tournament in history with the representation of all regions, which took place on May 25, 1924, during the Summer Olympic Games held in Paris. In which year the General Assembly had passed the resolution proclaiming May 2024 as World Football Day?  
a. 1999 b. 2000 c. 2005 d. 2015 e. 2024

35. The markhor (*Capra falconeri*) is an iconic and ecologically significant species found across the mountainous regions of Central and South Asia, including Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The International Day of Markhor is observed every year on 24 May, the day was first observed in which year?  
a. 2021 b. 2022 c. 2023 d. 2024 e. 2020

36. On May 28th, the world unites for World Hunger Day to raise awareness about the urgent issue of global hunger. The theme for 2024 is \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Celebrating sustainable solutions to hunger and poverty  
b. Thriving Mothers, Thriving World  
c. Leave No One Behind  
d. Access Ends Hunger  
e. Grow, nourish, sustain. Together. Our actions are our future

37. The General Assembly has designated 29 May as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. The theme for 2024 is  
a. Peace Begins With Me.  
b. People Peace Progress: The Power of Partnerships  
c. Fit for the future, building better together  
d. The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security  
e. Women in Peacekeeping A Key to Peace

38. Hindi Journalism Day is observed every year on 30 May, The journey of Hindi journalism began on May 30, 1826, with publication of the first Hindi newspaper, *Udant Martand*, started by who among the following?  
a. Pt. Jugal Kishore Shukla  
b. Gopal Ganesh Agarkar  
c. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar  
d. Dadabhai Naoroji  
e. B.G. Tilak

39. In December 2023, General Assembly announced that \_\_\_\_\_ will be observed as International Potato Day every year to highlight the significance of potatoes from the Andean region to the world?  
a. May 28 b. May 29 c. May 30 d. May 31 e. June 1

### Summit & Conferences

1. Organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, the India Pavilion stands as one of the largest at the World Hydrogen Summit,

showcasing the countrys advancements in green  
hydrogen

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technology and facilitating engagement with stakeholders. Identify the INCORRECT statement(s) regarding the same. I. India had launched its National Green Hydrogen Mission in January 2022. II. It targets to achieve green hydrogen production capacity of 5 million tonnes by the end of 2030. III. As per the recent reports approximately 44 percent of Indias energy needs are currently met by non- fossil sources.

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

2. India is set to play a pivotal role in facilitating the first-ever focused discussions on regulating tourism in Antarctica at the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection. India has been a Consultative Party to the Antarctic Treaty since which year?

- a. 1953    b. 1963    c. 1973    d. 1983    e. 1993

3. The World Water Forum is the largest international gathering in the water sector involving various stakeholders, which has been co-hosted by the World Water Council and a host city. In May 2024, The 10th World Water Forum was inaugurated in Indonesia under which theme?

- a. Water for All: Harmony between Humans and Nature  
b. Water Security for Peace and Development  
c. Transboundary Waters  
d. Water for Shared Prosperity  
e. Sustainable Water Management for Humans and Nature

### Science & Technology

1. India is finally set to have a made-in-India microcontroller chip powering electronic devices. Mindgrove Technologies supported by Peak XV Partners, has launched Secure IoT, Indias debut high-performance SoC (system on chip). Mindgrove is a startup based from which IIT?

- a. IIT Madras    b. IIT Kanpur    c. IIT Bombay    d. IIT Roorkee    e. IIT Lucknow

2. Which of the following space agency has launched PREFIRE (Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-InfraRed Experiment) to Study Earth's Poles and measure the amount of heat Earth radiates into space from two of the coldest, most remote regions on the planet?

- a. ISRO    b. JAXA    c. NASA    d. Roscosmos  
e. European Space Agency

### Defence

1. In April 2024, SMART designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation to enhance the anti-submarine warfare capability of the Indian Navy was successfully flight- tested from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. S in SMART stands for

- a. Supersonic    b. Scientific    c. System  
d. Short    e. Self

2. In May 2024, which of the following Indian defence and aerospace company marked a milestone in Bengaluru by unveiling the FWD-200B, pegged to be the countrys first indigenous bomber unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)?

- a. Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace Technologies  
b. Honeywell Technology Solutions  
c. Tata Advanced Systems  
d. Collins Aerospace  
e. Park Controls & Communications

3. Which of the following statement is true for Parivartan Chintan-2, which was seen in news recently?

- a. Tri-service Conference  
b. Navy Exercise between Indian and Thailand  
c. Army Exercise between India and UK  
d. Paramilitary exercise in Andaman and Nicobar exercise  
e. Defence exercise between Army and Navy

4. In May 2024, The Kharga Corps, under the aegis of the Indian Army's Western Command, has completed Gagan Strike-II, a three-day joint exercise conducted in which state to refine processes and validate the employment of attack helicopters in support of mechanised operations in developed terrain?

- a. Maharashtra    b. Punjab    c. Rajasthan  
d. Odisha    e. Bihar

5. The 7th edition of India- France Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI commenced at Umroi, in a fully developed and modern Foreign Training Node in Meghalaya with an aim to enhance joint military capability of both sides to undertake multi-domain operations in a Sub Conventional scenario under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate. Last edition of this exercise was conducted in which year?

- a. 2019    b. 2020    c. 2021    d. 2022    e. 2023

6. In May 2024, the Indian Air Force has tested BHISHM Cube, a state-of-the-art indigenous hospital, for airdrop in \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. Agra b. SriHarikota c. Vishakhapatnam d. Mumbai  
e. None of the Above
7. In May 2024, Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II air-to-surface missile from Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force in which state of India?
- a. Tamil Nadu b. Odisha c. Rajasthan d. Maharashtra  
e. Gujarat

### Obituary

1. Renowned Urdu litterateur and academician, Shaikh Abdussalam Abdurrazzaq, famous by his pseudonym Salam Bin Razzaq, passed away recently. Razzaq won the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu literature for his acclaimed short stories collection, Shikasta Buton Ke Darmiyan, in which year?
- a. 2000 b. 2002 c. 2004 d. 2008 e. 2010
2. Recently, Canadian author Alice Munro and Nobel laureate passed away at the age of 92. Munro was recipient of the Nobel Prize for literature in which year?
- a. 2000 b. 2001 c. 2003 d. 2013 e. 2023
3. Renowned Hindi writer and Padma Shri recipient Malti Joshi died on 16 May. Popularly known as Malwa ki Meera, Joshi was awarded the Padma Shri in which year?
- a. 2018 b. 2019 c. 2020 d. 2021 e. 2022
4. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and foreign minister have passed away in a helicopter crash. He is the \_\_\_\_\_ president of Iran.
- a. 5th b. 6th c. 7th d. 8th e. 9th
5. Narayanan Vaghul, a doyen of Indian banking who was instrumental in bringing up ICICI, passed away recently, Vaghul, received the Padma Bhushan award in which year?
- a. 2004 b. 2005 c. 2007 d. 2009 e. 2012

### Person in news

1. In May 2024, UNICEF India announced Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan as its new National Ambassador. UNICEF India has also appointed how many first-ever Youth Advocates who are peer leaders and champions on various issues?
- a. 3 b. 4 c. 5 d. 6 e. 7

2. Who among the following has become the youngest Indian mountaineer to scale the Mt Everest from the Nepal side?  
a. Arishka Laddha b. Baljeet Kaur  
c. Kaamya Karthikeyan  
d. Premalata Agrawal  
e. Sangeeta Sindhi Bahl
3. Who among the following has become the oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest in May 2024?  
a. Jyoti Ratre  
b. Premalata Agrawal  
c. Arunima Sinha d. Malavath Purna  
e. Anshu Jamsenpa
4. In May 2024, Who among the following Indian mountaineer has scripted history by becoming the first person to scale Mt. Everest and Mt. Lhotse twice in one season to traverse from Mt. Everest to Mt. Lhotse in 11 hours and 15 minutes?  
a. Aditya Gupta b. Romil Barthwal c. Satyadeep Gupta d. Bhawna Dehariya e. Abdul Nassar P

### Insurance

1. In April 2024, which of the following company has unveiled its latest campaign, No Jhanjhat Life Insurance Fatafat which promises a seamless and swift life insurance purchasing experience, tailored for today's fast-paced world?  
a. HDFC Life Insurance  
b. Max Life Insurance  
c. Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance  
d. Life Insurance Corporation Of India  
e. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
2. In May 2024, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launched ICICI Pru Platinum a ULIP that ties the distributors commission to their customers Assets Under Management (AUM). U in ULIP stands for \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Unit b. Union c. Uniform d. Usury  
e. Universal
3. In May 2024, The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) imposed a penalty of \_\_\_\_\_ on Go Digit General Insurance for non-disclosure of a change in the conversion ratio of compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS).  
a. Rs 1 crore b. Rs 2 crore c. Rs 3 crore d. Rs 4 crore e. Rs 5 crore
4. Aurm, an asset protection firm has announced a strategic partnership with which of

general insurance companies to provide comprehensive insurance coverage to its customers for their valuables?

- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd.
- Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Co. Ltd.
- Tata-AIG General Insurance Co. Ltd.
- HDFC ERGO General Insurance Co. Ltd.
- IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance Co. Ltd.

5. In May 2024, which of the following general insurance provider, announced the launch of Indias first Satellite In-Orbit Third-Party Liability Insurance policy, which will provide critical financial protection to meet the growing needs of satellite manufacturers and operators in the Indian space sector?

- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd.
- Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Co. Ltd.
- Tata-AIG General Insurance Co. Ltd.
- HDFC ERGO General Insurance Co. Ltd.
- IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance Co. Ltd.

6. In May 2024, which of following private general insurance companies has rolled out Surety Insurance Bonds to support the governments ambitious agenda on infrastructure development, which has been allocated 3.3 percent of the GDP in FY 2024?

- Future Generali India Life Insurance Co. Ltd
- SBI General Insurance Co Ltd
- Shriram General Insurance Co Ltd
- Tata AIG General Insurance Co Ltd
- Universal Sompo General Insurance Co Ltd

## India & World

1. In April 2024, Indias pledge to cover the entire estimated cost of 61.5 million dollars for the construction of Kankesanthurai port under a grant given the significance of the project. The Kankesanthurai port is located in which country?

- Myanmar
- Bangladesh
- Mauritius
- Sri Lanka
- Madagascar

2. In May 2024, The Sri Lankan government has approved a deal with which of the following Indian companies to develop wind power stations in Mannar and Poonerin in Sri Lanka while a power purchase agreement for 20 years has been signed between the two parties?

- Tata Power
- Adani Green Energy
- JSW Energy
- NTPC
- Suzlon

3. In May 2024, India has contributed \_\_\_\_\_ to U.N. Counter-

Terrorism Trust Fund, underscoring its commitment to support multilateral efforts in the global fight against the scourge of terrorism.

- \$500,000
- \$400,000
- \$300,000
- \$200,000
- \$100,000

4. In May 2024, India and Iran signed a \_\_\_\_\_ year long-term bilateral contract for the operation of Chabahar Port, a vital cog in Indias trade plans with central Asia and parts of Europe.

- 10
- 15
- 20
- 30
- 50

5. In a goodwill gesture, India has decided to extend vital budgetary support to the Maldives government with the rollover of a

\_\_\_\_\_ Treasury Bill for another year on the Maldivian government's special request.

- USD 50 million
- USD 40 million
- USD 30 million
- USD 20 million
- USD 10 million

6. Sri Lanka is about to receive 100 Octane premium petrol, known as XP100 rating fuel, which helps enhance the performance of vehicles, particularly high-end luxury cars and bikes. This will be the first ever fuel produced with the highest Octane rating to be released to Sri Lanka by which company?

- Indian Oil Corporation
- Hindustan Petroleum
- Bharat Petroleum
- Oil India Limited
- ONGC

7. In May 2024, The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has launched an initiative to monetize its infrastructure, seeking investments from which country to sustain and enhance Indias expanding national highway network with an aim to build lasting investor relationships?

- Germany
- UAE
- USA
- France
- Saudi Arabia

8. Colombo Process is a Regional Consultative Process of migrant worker origin countries from South and South East Asia. In May 2024, which country has assumed the Chair of Colombo Process for 2024-26, for the first time since its inception. India looks to promote safe, orderly and legal migration?

- Sri Lanka
- Maldives
- Bangladesh
- India
- Malaysia

## Environment

1. Blue holes are large marine caverns or sinkholes, typically formed in limestone or other carbonate rock beds. A recent discovery in which

country has

KP Classes

discovered a deepest blue hole ever recorded: Taam Ja in May 2024?

- a. Cuba b. Brazil c. Mexico d. Venezuela e. Colombia

2. Cyclone Remal made landfall on the Bangladesh and West Bengal coast in May 2024. The name Remal, means sand in Arabic. The name was given by which country?

- a. Iran b. Qatar c. Saudi Arabia d. Yemen e. Bangladesh

### Apps & Portals

1. In April 2024, which among the following tech giants has announced the launch of the wallet app in India, enabling users to save their travel tickets, gift cards and event passes in one place?

- a. Apple b. Amazon c. Alphabet d. Microsoft e. Google

### Acquisitions & Mergers

1. In May 2024, Global investment firm KKR announced acquiring Bengaluru-based medical devices company Healthium Medtech from an affiliate of funds advised by private equity firm Apax Partners. Apax had acquired Healthium in which year?

- a. 2017 b. 2018 c. 2019 d. 2020 e. 2021

2. In May 2024, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of additional shares in Sikkim Urja Limited (formerly Teesta Urja Limited) by Greenko Energies Private Limited. Greenko Energies is a limited liability company incorporated in which country?

- a. India b. Germany c. Mauritius d. Maldives e. Madagascar

3. In April 2024, Reliance Industries Ltd has acquired a step-down subsidiary engaged in the manufacture of petrochemicals and hydrogen, for Rs 314.48 crore. In which year the RCML was incorporated in India?

- a. 2011 b. 2018 c. 2019 d. 2021 e. 2022

4. In April 2024, Birla Fertility and IVF, a part of the CK Birla group, announced the acquisition of an \_\_\_\_\_ stake in Kerala-based fertility chain AMRC IVF for an undisclosed amount.

- a. 45 % b. 51 % c. 67 % d. 86 % e. 91 %

5. Hinduja Groups IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL) on May 10 received the long-awaited Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of

Indias approval for the acquisition of which of the following?

- a. Aditya Birla Finance Ltd b. Reliance Capital  
c. L & T Finance Ltd  
d. Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited  
e. HDB Financial Services

6. In May 2024, The board of Shriram Finance Ltd (SFL) approved the sale of its housing-finance subsidiary Shriram Housing Finance Ltd (SHFL) to Warburg Pincus, a leading global growth investor, for \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Rs 3,025 crore b. Rs 4,630 crore c. Rs 5,049 crore  
d. Rs 6,637 crore e. Rs 7,000 crore

7. Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL), India's largest private transmission and distribution company, has completed the acquisition of a 100 per cent stake in Essar Transco Limited for an Enterprise Value of \_\_\_\_\_,

following the necessary regulatory approvals.

- a. 1,900 crore b. 1,800 crore c. 1,700 crore  
d. 1,600 crore e. 1,500 crore

8. In May 2024, Shareholders and non-convertible debenture (NCD) holders of IDFC First Bank have approved a proposal to merge parent IDFC Ltd with the lender. IDFC launched a banking subsidiary named IDFC Bank in which year?

- a. 2012 b. 2013 c. 2014 d. 2015 e. 2016

9. In May 2024, Fusion Micro Finance has entered into a loan agreement with the United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) for an overall facility of \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. \$5 million b. \$10 million c. \$20 million  
d. \$25 million e. \$30 million

10. In May 2024, State Bank of India has executed transaction documents to acquire a 6.125 per cent stake in CCIL IFSC Limited for 6.125 crore. CCIL IFSC, which will be incorporated with an authorised and paid-up capital of \_\_\_\_\_,

will operate the foreign currency settlement system and act as a clearing house and system operator at the IFSC within GIFT City

- a. 100 crore b. 200 crore c. 300 crore  
d. 400 crore e. 500 crore

11. According to newspaper reports in May 2024, which of the following company is investing nearly \$350 million in Walmart-owned e-commerce firm

Flipkart for a minority share?

- a. Apple
- b. Tesla
- c. Walmart
- d. Cisco
- e. Target

KP Classes

## FinTech

1. In May 2024, which of the following company has unveiled Sesame, Indias first Large Language Model (LLM) specifically designed for the banking, financial

services, and insurance (BFSI) sector developed in collaboration with indigenous AI research firm Sarvam AI, the company said this marks a "ChatGPT moment" in financial services?  
a. CRED b. Upstock c. Acko d. Setu  
e. Fampay

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## Answer keys

### Banking & Finance Answer Keys

1. a 2. d 3. c 4. c 5. a 6. a 7. c 8. b  
9. c 10. b 11. c 12. d 13. c 14. c 15.  
d 16. b 17. b 18. d 19. c 20. b 21. d  
22. b 23. c 24. a 25. c 26. b 27. b 28.  
b 29. d 30. d 31. b

### Economy Answer Keys

1. d 2. d 3. b 4. b 5. a 6. d 7. c 8. d  
9. d 10. d 11. b 12. c 13. b 14. b 15.  
c 16. a 17. d 18. c 19. d 20. b 21. c  
22. c 23. b 24. a

### National Answer Keys

1. d 2. a 3. a 4. d 5. b 6. b 7. d 8. b  
9. b 10. c 11. d 12. c 13. c 14. b 15.  
c 16. a 17. c 18. a 19. d 20. a

### International Answer Keys

1. d 2. c 3. d 4. d 5. b 6. c 7. b 8. a  
9. c 10. c 11. d 12. a

### Sports Answer Keys

1. b 2. d 3. c 4. d 5. d 6. b 7. d 8. a  
9. b 10. d 11. c 12. a 13. a 14. d 15.  
e 16. c 17. a 18. a 19. e 20. b 21. a  
22. c 23. d 24. d

### Agreements & MoUs Answer Keys

1. b 2. a 3. d 4. d 5. d 6. c 7. c 8. c  
9. b 10. e 11. c 12. b 13. a 14. c 15.  
b 16. a 17. c 18. a 19. a 20. a 21. d  
22. b 23. a 24. d 25. b 26. a

### Schemes Answer Keys

1. c 2. a

### Appointments & Resignations Answer Keys

1. a 2. b 3. b 4. b 5. a 6. c 7. d 8. b  
9. a 10. d 11. c 12. a 13. a 14. d 15.  
a 16. c 17. b 18. d 19. b 20. c 21. a

### Awards Answer Keys

1. c 2. b 3. d 4. a 5. b 6. c 7. b 8. b  
9. d 10. a 11. d 12. b 13. a 14. c 15.  
a

### Ranks & Reports Answer Keys

1. c 2. b 3. d 4. a 5. a 6. c 7.  
c 8. c  
9. b 10. d 11. c 12. c 13. d 14. c

### Important Days Answer Keys

1. d 2. a 3. c 4. b 5. c 6. a 7. b 8. c  
9. b 10. a 11. c 12. a 13. c 14. d 15.  
c 16. a 17. c 18. a 19. d 20. c 21. b  
22. d 23. d 24. b 25. b 26. b 27. c 28.  
c 29. b 30. a 31. a 32. c 33. d 34. e  
35. d 36. b 37. c 38. a 39. c

### Summit & Conferences Answer Keys

1. d 2. d 3. d

### Science & Technology Answer Keys

1. a 2. c

### Defence Answer Keys

1. a 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. c 6. a 7. b

### Obituary Answer Keys

1. c 2. d 3. a 4. d 5. d

### Person in news Answer Keys

1. b 2. c 3. a 4. c

### Insurance Answer Keys

1. a 2. a 3. a 4. c 5. c 6. d

### India & World Answer Keys

1. d 2. b 3. a 4. a 5. a 6. a 7. b 8. d

### Environment Answer Keys

1. c 2. b

### Apps & Portals Answer Keys

1. e

### Acquisition & Mergers Answer Keys

1. b 2. a 3. e 4. d 5. b 6. b 7. a 8. d  
9. d 10. b 11. c

### FinTech Answer Keys