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CURRENT AFFAIRS

April

- TOPIC WISE CURRENT AFFAIRS
- 150 QUESTION FOR PRACTICE
- DETAILED ANALYSIS OF IMPORTANT EVENTS



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PREFACE

This is our special edition of Current Affairs Magazine for various Central & State level Competitive Examinations, covering content from the month of April 2025.

The Magazine is divided into three sections:

Section 1: Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short

The first section is dedicated to Topic Wise Current Affairs with a short description to provide information about all major happenings this month.

Section 2: Practice Questions with Answers

The Second Section contains 150 Multiple Choice Questions based on daily current affairs.

Section 3: Detailed Analysis of important Event

The Third Section covers some major happenings in this month along with analysis. The content has been covered from various online & offline sources including reputed newspapers like The Hindu, Indian Express etc. All the news topics have been explained keeping in mind their underlying issues. Every issue has been covered comprehensively. Some of the information provided may not be directly relevant for the examination. As the content is very wide, we have only covered a limited set of issues. You can utilize it smartly along with Daily Study of News Papers as well as other sources.



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Section 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs

Section 2

Question with Answers

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Section 3

Detailed Analysis of Events

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SECTION 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short



1: Important Days



World Autism Awareness Day : 02 April :-

Every year on April 2, a global awareness event called World Autism Day is held to promote awareness of autism spectrum illnesses. This particular day is intended to raise awareness about autism as an illness and to help individuals who suffer from it. It is a global healthcare event that promotes autistic people's acceptance, support, and inclusion, as well as advocacy for their rights. Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are a diverse group of conditions characterized by some degree of difficulty with social interaction and communication. The 2025 theme is "Advancing Neurodiversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".



International Day of Mine Awareness : 04 April :-

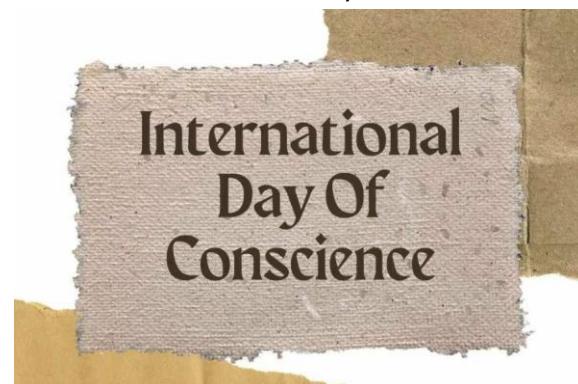
Every year on April 4, the International Mine Awareness Day is observed to raise public awareness of mine activity and its associated safety risks. On December 8, 2005, the United Nations General Assembly designated April 4 as International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. It was initially observed in 2006 to promote anti-mine initiatives and to protect civilians from mines

and explosives, primarily remnants of war. The day aspires for a world free of landmines, emphasising the UN's accountability framework and Theory of Change in mine action. The theme for 2025 is "Safe Futures Start Here".



National Maritime Day (India) : 05 April :-

Every year, April 5 is designated as National Maritime Day to raise awareness of international trade and the economy. The maritime sector has a significant impact on international trade and the economy. Ships are mostly employed for the transfer of goods across borders. The SS Loyalty, the first ship of The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd, made history in Indian navigation by sailing to the United Kingdom, which was a watershed moment in India's maritime history because the sea routes were previously under British control. This day was first observed on April 5, 1964, informing people and spreading awareness about intercontinental commerce and the economy worldwide.



International Day of Conscience : 05 April :-

The International Day of Conscience is observed yearly on April 5. The International Day of Conscience is a worldwide awareness event that recognizes the importance of the human conscience. It was established on July 25, 2019, by the UN General Assembly through UN Resolution 73/329. On April 5, 2020, the first International Day of Conscience was observed. It calls on societies worldwide to promote dialogue, cultivate empathy, and adopt conscientious behaviors that uphold human dignity, contribute to sustainable development, and foster peaceful coexistence among diverse cultures.



International Day of Sport for Development and Peace :

06 April :-

Every year on April 6th, we mark International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSOP). This day is a global commemoration of the benefits that sports and physical activity can have on individuals and communities around the world. The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace was established in 2013 when the United States General Assembly recognized April 6 as the day of the inaugural Modern Olympics, which took place in Athens in 1896. The 2025 theme is "Levelling the Playing Field: Sport for Social Inclusion".



World Health Day : 07 April :-

Every year on April 7, World Health Day raises awareness of a significant topic in global health. The celebration of World Health Day, which began at the First Health Assembly in 1948 and went into effect in 1950, has attempted to raise awareness of a specific health subject in order to highlight a priority area of concern for the WHO. The WHO was established to address major health issues and function autonomously, without government influence. The World Health Day 2025 theme is "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures".



World Homoeopathy Day : 10 April :-

World Homoeopathy Day is marked yearly on April 10 to promote the importance of medicine, as well as to commemorate Dr. Samuel Hahnemann's birth anniversary. Homoeopathy drugs are generally safe to use because they produce little negative effects. Homoeopathy first gained popularity in the nineteenth century, following considerable pioneering work by the German physician and chemist Samuel Hahnemann (1755-1843). The theme for World Homoeopathy Day 2025 is 'Education, Practice and Research'.



National Safe Motherhood Day (India) : 11 April :-

Every year on April 11, National Safe Motherhood Day is marked to emphasize the significance of maternal health

and welfare while also reducing the country's maternal mortality rate. In 2003, the Indian government formally recognized the day as National Safe Motherhood Day. The day also commemorates the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi. Maternal well-being refers to a woman's health while pregnant. A pregnant woman should have a positive experience at each stage of pregnancy to ensure her child is born healthy. Maternal well-being is a comprehensive effort to reduce maternal mortality.



World Parkinson's Day : 11 April :-

World Parkinson's Day takes place on April 11 each year to raise awareness about this degenerative neurological disorder. Parkinson's disease affects about 10 million individuals globally, according to the Parkinson's Foundation's most recent data. On April 11, 1997, the World Health Organization and the European Parkinson's Disease Association (EPDA) established World Parkinson's Day. It commemorates the birth of Dr. James Parkinson. He was the first doctor to recognize Parkinson's as a legitimate medical condition. This day aims to raise awareness among individuals and encourage community service on our part.



Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Remembrance Day : 13 April

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, also known as the Amritsar massacre, was a horrific episode that took place

on April 13, 1919, in Amritsar, Punjab, India. British Indian Army forces, led by General Reginald Dyer, opened fire on a throng of unarmed Indian civilians gathering in Jallianwala Bagh, a public garden, to peacefully protest the arrest and deportation of two national leaders, Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew. The troops, armed with rifles and machine guns, blocked the only exit to the garden and opened fire on the crowd, killing and injuring hundreds of people. The incident is remembered every year in India as a day of remembrance and is considered a national tragedy.



Ambedkar Jayanti : 14 April :-

Ambedkar Jayanti honors the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, the 'Father of the Indian Constitution' and the first Law Minister of independent India. Ambedkar Jayanti, also known as Equality Day, honors Dr. Ambedkar's lifelong dedication to working for the rights of women, workers, and underprivileged people in India. Dr. Ambedkar was born on April 14, 1891, in Mhow, located in present-day Madhya Pradesh. He worked tirelessly to eliminate social discrimination and promote equal rights for all citizens under the law.



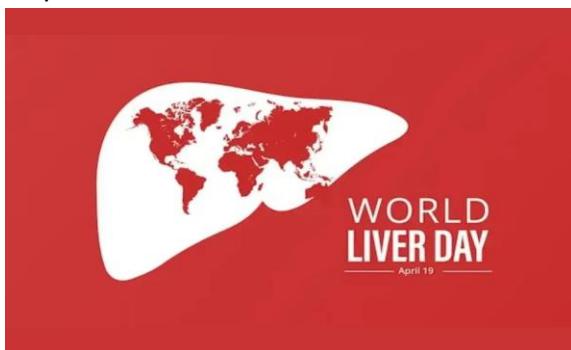
World Art Day : 15 April :-

Every year, on April 15, people gather to commemorate World Art Day. It is an event of significance dedicated to recognizing artists' efforts and emphasizing the value of art in our lives. World Art Day was officially declared on April 15, 2012, at a General Assembly meeting of the International Association of Art (IAA) in Guadalajara, Mexico. The opening celebration was a special tribute to the birthday of the famous artist Leonardo da Vinci, as he is considered the symbol of freedom of expression and peace.



World Heritage Day : 18 April :-

Every year on April 18, World Heritage Day is marked by promoting awareness about the conservation of our cultural variety. The day is widely recognized as the International Day for Monuments and Sites, and in certain countries it is celebrated as World Heritage Day. World Heritage Day was declared on April 18 by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in 1982. This year's theme is "Heritage under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts: Preparedness and Learning from 60 years of ICOMOS Actions".



World Liver Day : 19 April :-

Every year on April 19, World Liver Day is commemorated to promote awareness about liver-related disorders and the need of prioritising their

health. This day aims to raise awareness about liver illnesses, prevention, early detection, and treatment. In 2010, the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) established the inaugural World Liver Day to commemorate the organization's founding anniversary in 1966. From that point forward, April 19 has been celebrated every year as World Liver Day. This year's World Liver Day theme is 'Food is Medicine'.



National Civil Service Day (India) : 21 April :-

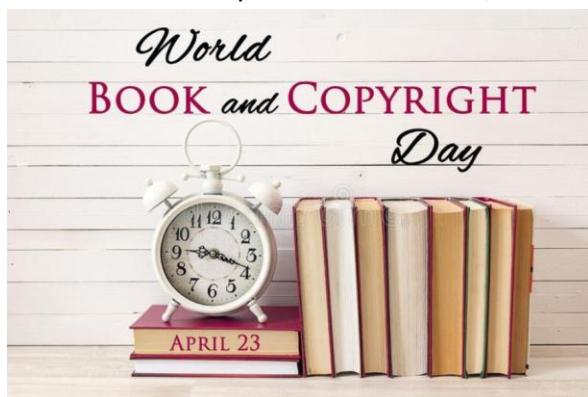
Every year on April 21, the Government of India celebrates National Civil Service Day to recognize the officers who work in the country's many public departments. On this day, civil servants are honored for their efforts and dedication to serve the people. It is also an acknowledgement of their significant involvement in the country's governance. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first Home Minister of Independent India, addressed probationers of Administrative Services Officers in 1947 at Metcalf House in Delhi, referring to civil officials as the 'steel frame of India'. The first celebration was held on April 21, 2006, at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.



World Earth Day : 22 April :-

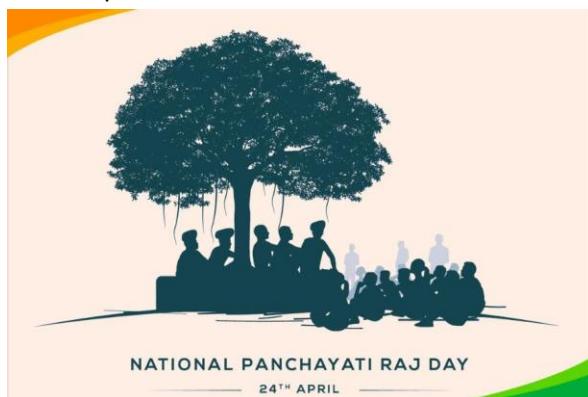
Every year on April 22, people around the world come together to celebrate Earth Day, a movement that

promotes environmental conservation and sustainability awareness. On April 22, 1970, U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson established the inaugural Earth Day as a nationwide environmental education event. In 1990, Earth Day went global, mobilizing more than 200 million people in 141 nations. Since then, it has become one of the largest civic observances in the world, promoting climate action and eco-conscious living. The official theme for Earth Day 2025 is "Our Power, Our Planet".



World Book and Copyright Day : 23 April :-

World Book and Copyright Day, often known as World Book Day, is observed annually on April 23 to emphasize the value of reading books. UNESCO has designated April 23rd as World Book Day to honour renowned literary personalities such as William Shakespeare, Miguel Cervantes, and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, who died on this date. This date was set in 1995 by the UNESCO General Conference in Paris to pay respect to and commemorate authors and books around the world. The Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, has decided to designate Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) as World Book Capital for 2025.



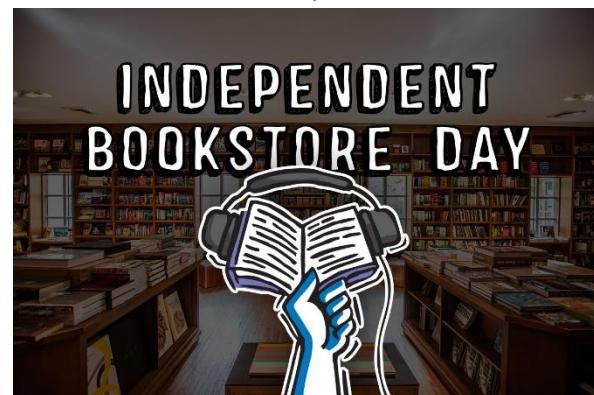
National Panchayati Raj Day : 24 April :-

Every year on April 24, India celebrates National Panchayati Raj Day, which commemorates the constitutional amendment that established Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The PRIs are India's third layer of governance, behind the national and state governments, and are in charge of local governance in rural areas. The day marks the establishment of the first Panchayati Raj system in India on April 24, 1993. In modern India, the Panchayati Raj system was first introduced in 1959 by the Jawaharlal Nehru-led government.



World Malaria Day : 25 April :-

World Malaria Day, a global event led by the World Health Organization (WHO) to spread awareness about malaria and encourage efforts to prevent, treat, and eventually get rid of the disease. This year's theme is "Malaria ends with us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite," which focuses on boosting action at all levels—from international leaders to local communities—to speed up progress toward ending malaria for good. It was instituted by WHO Member States during the World Health Assembly of 2007. It is an occasion to highlight the need for continued investment and sustained political commitment for malaria prevention and control.



Independent Bookstore Day: 26 April :-

That's exactly why Independent Bookstore Day was created—to celebrate these hidden literary gems. It's a day for book lovers to honor the printed page, the beauty of bound stories, and the richness of educational texts. When people think of bookstores, names like Barnes and Noble often come to mind—perhaps even the nostalgic memory of the long-gone Borders. But tucked away in many hometowns are those charming, small independent bookstores that carry a special kind of magic, even though they rarely get the recognition they deserve.

**Tell a Story Day: 27 April :-**

Celebrated every year on April 27th in the United States, National Tell a Story Day invites people of all ages to share their favorite tales. These stories can come from books or be completely made up from your imagination. Memories from childhood, when retold, create lasting impressions on both the speaker and the listener. Whether you read, create, or remember a story, this day is about coming together with loved ones to enjoy the magic of storytelling. It's a perfect day to let creativity and memories come to life through words.

**International Day for Safe and Healthy Workplaces: 28 April :-**

Artificial intelligence and digital innovations are reshaping occupational safety and health. Robots now perform dangerous tasks, handle toxic substances, work in extreme conditions, and take over repetitive duties. Meanwhile, digital sensors and devices help identify hazards at an early stage. However, without proper OSH safeguards, these technologies can also increase accident risks, cause ergonomic issues, intensify workloads, and blur work-life boundaries.

**International Dance Day : 29 April :-**

International Dance Day, also known as World Dance Day, is observed on April 29th and celebrates the diverse tapestry of dances from throughout the world. This global festival honors the many different dance genres that millions of people throughout the world enjoy. The dance committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) collaborated with UNESCO's performing arts division to officially establish International Dance Day in 1982. It was designated to be celebrated annually on April 29th, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre, the pioneering figure credited with shaping modern ballet.

**Ayushman Bharat Diwas : 30 April :-**

Ayushman Bharat Day is observed annually on the last day of April. For the current year, the day is April 30, 2025. The government began celebrating this day to promote awareness about its Ayushman Bharat Yojana and how it hopes to improve people's lives. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2018 healthcare plan is called

the Ayushman Bharat Yojana (PM-JAY). Every year, nearly 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable households receive free health care coverage of Rs 5 lakh through the PM-JAY scheme. The government provides the patients with 15 days of pre-hospital care and three days of pre-hospitalization care through this program.

2: Agreements



DARPG and Bhashini Collaborate for a Multimodal, Multilingual Grievance Redressal System :-

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) has partnered with Digital India Bhashini to develop a multimodal, multilingual e-Governance solution for the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS). The action follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's directive to strengthen Grievance Redressal mechanisms to make them more sensitive, accessible, and relevant. With the multilingual multimodal solution, it is envisaged that citizens will be able to file grievances on the CPGRAMS portal through 22 regional languages in an intuitive interface that will make grievance lodging much easier.



India Post & Nippon India Mutual Fund Join Hands to Offer Door-to-Door KYC Services :-

To simplify and extend customer onboarding in the mutual fund business, India Post has partnered with Nippon India Mutual Fund to provide door-to-door KYC (Know Your Customer) verification services. This effort seeks to make mutual fund investments more accessible, particularly to senior individuals, rural investors, and those with mobility issues. This collaboration between India Post and Nippon India Mutual Fund is in line with the Government of India's focus on Jan Nivesh, an initiative aimed at fostering financial inclusion for the general public.



India-UAE to scale up defence ties, deepen cooperation Coast Guards of both countries :-

India and the UAE have agreed to deepen defence ties through training exchanges, formalisation of Coast Guard-to-Coast Guard cooperation, and defence industry cooperation. The Ministry of Defence issued a statement that read: "Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a meeting with the Crown Prince of Dubai and Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Defence of UAE Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

at South Block, New Delhi". Before that, Prime Minister Narendra Modi convened a working lunch for His Highness the Crown Prince at his residence on Lok Kalyan Marg.



India & Italy Strengthen Ties, Expand Cooperation :-

India and Italy have agreed to strengthen their cooperation in trade, military, clean energy, and high technology, as well as to collaborate on the ambitious India-Middle-East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC). Ways to expand India-Italy collaboration within the scope of the Joint Strategic Action Plan (JSAP) 2025-29 were notably discussed during meetings between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Italian Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani. During the delegation-level talks, Jaishankar and Tajani reviewed the growing bilateral cooperation under the ambit of JSAP.



Maharashtra-ROSATOM Partnership for Thorium Reactor :-

Russia's state-owned enterprise ROSATOM and Maharashtra have inked a Memorandum of Understanding for the construction of a thorium-fueled small modular reactor. In the midst of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, the Memorandum of

Understanding between ROSATOM's 'Small Modular Reactor with Thorium Fuel' program and Mahagenco was signed. The main objective of this MoU is to jointly develop a thorium reactor in Maharashtra, commercialise thorium reactors as per safety standards of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), and establish an assembly line for thorium reactors under the 'Make in Maharashtra' initiative.



MoU between Ministry of Labour and Swiggy for Gig and Logistics Employment Opportunities :-

Food delivery and rapid commerce platform. Swiggy and the Ministry of Labour and Employment have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi to improve job linkages in the gig and logistics sectors via the National Career Service (NCS) portal. This agreement will integrate Swiggy's gig opportunities directly into the NCS site, offering real-time, validated job posts. Under the MoU, Swiggy will post verified delivery, logistics, and support roles directly onto the NCS portal through real-time API integration, ensuring seamless job listings and application tracking.



India signs pact to host International Big Cat Alliance HQ

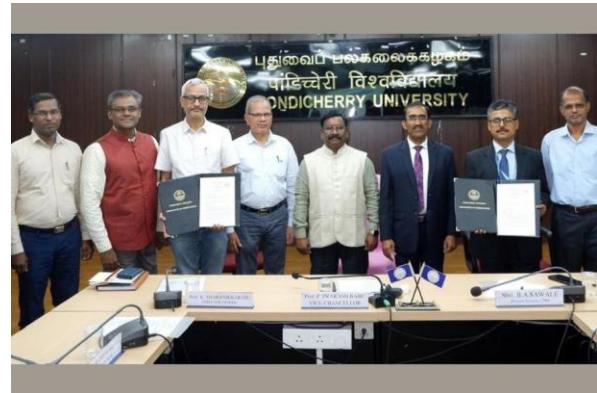
The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) inked an agreement with the central government to establish India as the alliance's headquarters and secretariat, more than two months after it became a full-fledged treaty-based intergovernmental organisation. The IBCA was established at the initiative of India to focus on the global conservation of seven big cats: the tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar, and cheetah. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the IBCA in April 2023 during the 50th year celebrations of Project Tiger.



ISRO signs MoU for space medicine :-

The Framework Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Space Medicine was signed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the Department of Space (DOS), and the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The alliance aims to promote space medicine and its applications throughout the country. V Narayanan,

Chairman, ISRO, highlighted that maintaining human health and performance in the extreme environment of outer space is very important for the successful long-duration human space missions.



Pondicherry University signs MoU with Central Power Research Institute :-

Pondicherry University and the Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) Bengaluru have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote academic and research partnership. The partnership brings together two leading institutions to advance innovation in electrical power systems, renewable energy technology, and sustainable development solutions, according to a press statement. The MoU envisages opening up multiple avenues for the collaboration, including joint research projects, faculty exchange programs and expert lectures, student internships and hands-on training at CPRI facilities.

3: Appointments



SBI Chief CS Setty Appointed as Chairman of Indian Banks Association (IBA) :-

SBI's C S Setty was chosen head of the Indian Banks' Association. According to an official announcement, the governing committee of the industry advocacy group has elected Setty, the SBI chairman, to lead the body until the next annual general meeting. It has also elected A Manimekhala, MD and CEO of Union Bank of India, Swarup Kumar Saha, MD and CEO of Punjab and Sind Bank, and Madhav Nair, country head and India CEO of

Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, as deputy chairmen. Private sector lender Karur Vyasa Bank's MD and CEO B Ramesh Babu has been appointed as the honorary secretary of the association.



Steve Waugh Appointed to Centre for Australia-India Relations Advisory Board :-

Former Australian cricketer Steve Waugh has been named to the Advisory Board of the Centre for Australia-India Relations, according to a statement from Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong. According to the statement, the Centre collaborates with government, industry, academia, and the community to increase understanding of the Australia-India connection and encourage businesses to take advantage of economic cooperation opportunities. Waugh is a former Australian men's cricket captain and has long been a champion of strengthening ties between Australia and India.



Nidhi Tiwari Appointed as Private Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi :-

Nidhi Tewari has been appointed as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Private Secretary. Nidhi Tewari has previously served as the Deputy Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) from November 2022. She previously worked as an Under Secretary in the Ministry

of External Affairs' Disarmament and International Security Affairs Division. According to the memorandum issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Tewari's appointment with immediate effect.



Shirley Botchwey Becomes First African Woman Secretary General of the Commonwealth :-

Shirley Botchwey took office as the Commonwealth's 7th Secretary-General. This made her the first woman from Africa to occupy this position. Ms. Botchwey has two decades of leadership experience in diplomacy, international relations, governance, and public service. She previously served as Ghana's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration from January 2017 until January 2024, as well as a member of the National Security Council. The Secretary-General is nominated by Commonwealth leaders and can serve a maximum of two terms of four years each.



Tata Sons' N Chandrasekaran Joins IMF Advisory Council on Growth :-

N Chandrasekaran, chairman of Tata Sons, was appointed to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Advisory Council on Entrepreneurship and Growth, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva announced. The

Council, which includes experts from business, finance, academia, and politics, will provide recommendations on policies to promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and productivity-led growth. Chandrasekaran, often known as Chandra, is a member of the Reserve Bank of India's board. The IMF's statement highlighted that the Council will engage in structured discussions approximately every three months under Chatham House rules, ensuring open and candid exchanges.



Salila Pande Appointed as MD & CEO of SBI Card :-

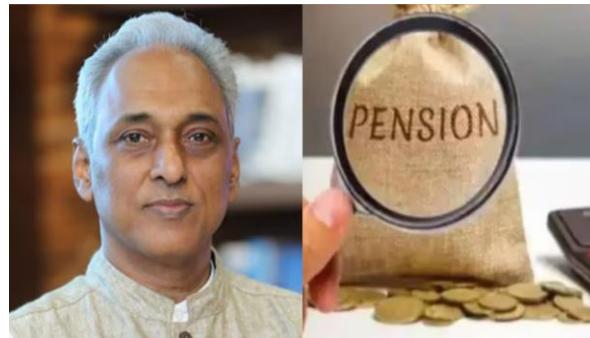
SBI Card has named Salila Pande as its managing director and CEO. Pande has been with the State Bank of India (SBI) for about 30 years, holding various major leadership positions both in India and abroad. According to a company release, before taking over SBI Card, one of the country's major pure-play credit card issuers, she was the chief general manager at Mumbai Metro Circle, where she oversaw the retail business of the bank's key financial market. She also served on the board of SBI California as an executive director.



H. Shankar Assumes Charge as Managing Director of CPCL :-

H. Shankar has officially taken over as the Managing Director of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd (CPCL). A Mechanical Engineer with an MBA, he joined the CPCL

Board of Directors as Director (Technical) in October 2020 and has served as Managing Director since July 16, 2024. With over 30 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, he has led CPCL's main infrastructure projects, launched new value-added and sustainable products, and oversaw the development of nationally significant fuels for the space and defense sectors, according to a release.



Sivasubramanian Ramann Appointed as New Chairperson of PFRDA :-

The government has named Sivasubramanian Ramann as the next Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has authorized his nomination for a five-year term. Ramann is currently the Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and Chief Technology Officer of the CAG of India. PFRDA is the statutory body regulating and developing India's pension sector. It was established under the PFRDA Act, 2013, and operates under the Ministry of Finance.



Mohsin Naqvi Appointed as President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) :-

Mohsin Naqvi has been named the next president of the Asian Cricket Council. Naqvi, who is also the president of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), succeeded Shammi

Silva as the head of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC). Naqvi will hold the office for two years, beginning April 3, 2025. Silva took over as ACC president in December of last year, following Jay Shah's appointment as chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC). Although India is the designated host for the Asia Cup, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) is expected to finalise the UAE as the neutral venue.



Sohini Rajola Appointed as Executive Director at NPCI :-

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has named Sohini Rajola as executive director - expansion as part of its leadership team. Rajola will be in charge of increasing the use of NPCI's payment solutions. She will lead product enhancement activities that are in line with the body's strategy and market needs, as well as oversee the organization's business development and go-to-market plans. Her responsibilities will also include managing strategic alliances and partnerships with banking institutions, fintech companies, government authorities, and regulatory institutions.



Seema Agrawal Named DGP of Fire and Rescue Services

Senior IPS officer and Director-General of Police (DGP) Seema Agrawal was recently appointed as DGP/Director

of Fire and Rescue Services. She was most recently the DGP of Civil Supplies. She was appointed after the retirement of DGP-rank officer and Director Abhash Kumar on March 31. Similarly, the state administration has transferred seven more IPS officers. Rupesh Kumar Meena, Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Civil Supplies-CID, would assume the additional role of DGP. IGP Vijayendra S. Bidari has been posted as IGP/Additional Commissioner of Police, Headquarters, Greater Chennai Police.



Dr. Mohan Rajan Elected Vice-President of All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS) :-

Mohan Rajan, Chairman and Medical Director of Rajan Eye Care Hospital, has been appointed Vice-President of the All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS), which represents over 29,000 ophthalmologists. Dr. Mohan Rajan's election was announced at the society's general meeting during the Asia Pacific Academy Congress in New Delhi. He is the fifth president from Tamil Nadu in 84 years of the AIOS, according to a press release. Dr. Mohan Rajan will take over as President of AIOS in 2027, the press release added.



Oman India Joint Investment Fund appoints Satish Chavva as CEO :-

Satish Chavva has been appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) by the Board of Oman India Joint Investment Fund - Management Company Private Ltd. (OIJIF), a private equity fund manager founded by the Oman Investment Authority (OIA) and the State Bank of India. He comes from British International Investment (BII), the UK's development financing agency, where he held various positions, including leading Direct Private Equity for South Asia. He has over 20 years of experience across private equity investing and finance.

**Viral Davda Appointed Deputy CIO at Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) :-**

Viral Davda, a professional with over 20 years of experience, has been named as Bombay Stock Exchange Limited's Deputy Chief Information Officer (CIO). This is a significant career milestone for him since it demonstrates BSE's commitment to improving its IT infrastructure to keep up with changing market demands. Davda offers extensive knowledge from his 15-year employment at the National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX), where he held a variety of senior leadership positions. Recently, he was Chief Technology Officer (CTO) since April 2021.

**Neelam Dhungana Appointed Acting Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank :-**

Dr. Neelam Dhungana Timsina, Deputy Governor, has been named acting Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank for the time being. The Rastra Bank has been without a governor since April 6, when outgoing Governor Mahaprasad Adhikari completed his term. Amid accusations of a delay in appointing a governor because of a conflict between two ruling alliance parties, government spokesperson Minister for Communications and Information Technology Prithvi Subba Gurung has confirmed the formation of a governor recommendation committee, which will be coordinated by Finance Minister Bishnu Prasad Poudel.

**Mirabai Chanu Appointed Chairperson of IWLF Athletes Commission :-**

Mirabai Chanu, an Olympic silver medalist, and S. Sathish Kumar, a Commonwealth Games gold medalist, have been voted chairwoman and vice-chairperson of the Indian Weightlifting Federation's Athletes' Commission. Their term will be four years. Mirabai is one of India's most decorated weightlifters, holding multiple national records and historic milestones to her name. Her personal best in the total lift is 205kg — 86kg in snatch and 119kg in clean and jerk — which also stands as the national record.



Union Government Appoints Five Special Directors to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) :-

The Union government appointed five special directors to the Enforcement Directorate (ED), including four IRS and one IPS officer, according to an official order. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the names of Viplav Kumar Choudhry, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the 1997-batch AGMUT cadre, and T Sankar and N Padmanaban, Indian Revenue Service (IRS) Income Tax cadre officers from the 2003 and 2005 batches, respectively. Rajnish Dev Barman and Manu Tentiwal, IRS officers from the Income Tax cadre belonging to the 1999 and 2003 batches respectively, were also appointed by the ACC.



Judge Kaveri Baweja Appointed as Registrar (Vigilance) of Delhi High Court :-

The Delhi High Court has appointed Special Judge Kaveri Baweja of the Rouse Avenue Court, who has handled numerous major cases, including the Delhi excise policy case in which former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was arrested, as the High Court's Registrar (Vigilance). Along with the excise policy case, in which she had remanded Kejriwal to the custody of the Enforcement Directorate and had denied regular bail to former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, she also heard various other significant matters.



Mangi Lal Jat Appointed Secretary of DARE & DG of ICAR

Agronomist Mangi Lal Jat took over as Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. His term will run for three years. Jat succeeds Himanshu Pathak, who has voluntarily retired. He has over 25 years of extensive knowledge in agronomy, climate resilience farming, and conservation agriculture. Prior to this, he was serving as Deputy Director General (Research) and Director of the Global Research Program at International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad.



Government Re-Appoints T. Rabi Sankar as RBI Deputy Governor :-

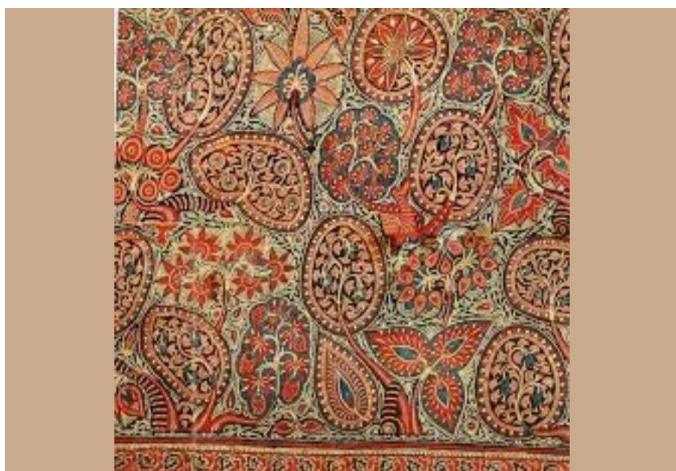
The central government is extending the term of RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar by one year, beginning May 3, 2025. The Cabinet's Appointments Committee has authorized his reappointment for the extended term. He was named RBI Deputy Governor in May 2021 for a three-year term. He joined the RBI in 1990 and held several posts at the central bank. He was Executive Director of the Reserve Bank before being elevated to the post of deputy governor. He has served as an IMF Consultant (2005-11) on developing government bond markets and debt management.

4: Awards



Renowned Historian MyNaa Swamy to Receive Prestigious Ugadi Award :-

The Andhra Pradesh government announced that famous historian and archaeologist MyNaa Swamy received the coveted Ugadi Award for his excellent contributions to historical research and social service. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu delivered the award, which comprises the 'Kalaratna' title, the 'Hamsa' medal, a certificate of appreciation, and a cash prize, at the Ugadi Awards ceremony at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada. His efforts have brought over 100 previously unknown inscriptions to public attention, deciphering them in Telugu, Kannada, and Sanskrit.



Ahmedabad's Famous Saudagari Block Print Receives GI Tag :-

The famed Saudagari block print, created by artisans in Jamalpur, Ahmedabad, has been granted Geographical Indication (GI) status for its exceptional artistry. The artwork is created by hand on fabric. Block prints are seen on kurtis, chunris, kurtas, dhotis, turbans, and shoals. This distinctive handcrafted textile art has been passed down through centuries and remains an important component of Gujarat's cultural history. The people of the Chhipa community are famous for printing and printing work. Once upon a time in the Jamalpur area of Ahmedabad, the people of the Hida community were engaged in large-scale block printing work.



Dalai Lama presented with Gold Mercury Award for peace :-

The Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader, received the coveted Gold Mercury Award for Peace and Sustainability during a ceremony at his house in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh. Gold Mercury International, a worldwide recognized think tank and international non-governmental organization (INGO) committed to advancing peace, governance, and sustainable development, awarded the award. The Dalai Lama joins a distinguished list of past laureates who have demonstrated extraordinary dedication to global peace and sustainability.



Kumbakonam Betel Leaf and Thovalai Flower Garland Receive GI Tag :-

The famed Kumbakonam vetrilai (Kumbakonam betel leaf) and Thovalai maanikka maalai have been designated Geographical Indications (GI). The Kumbakonam betel leaf grows in the Cauvery Delta region, notably in the Thiruvaiyaru, Papanasam, Thiruvidaimarudhur, Kumbakonam, and Valaigaman blocks of Thanjavur and Tiruvarur. Thovalai maanikka maalai is a unique sort of garland created exclusively in Thovalai. It comes in a range of shapes and sizes, standing out from other garlands due to its unique technique and gem-like appearance.



Warangal Chapata Chilli Receives GI Tag :-

The Warangal Chapata chilli, also known as Tomato chilli, from Telangana State has been designated as a Geographical Indication by the Indian government's GI Registry. Tomato chilli is named by its brilliant red color and spherical shape, which resembles a tomato. This is the 18th Telangana produce to receive the coveted GI label. The Warangal Chapata chili contains three fruit types: single patti, double patti, and odalu. The farmers

are expecting a near doubling of the price from its current ₹300 per kilogramme to ₹550.



YuvaSpark Founder Akarsh Shroff Conferred with National Youth Award :-

Akarsh Shroff of Bengaluru received the prestigious National Youth Award for his 'commitment to improve the quality of early childhood education at anganwadi facilities in India'. Mansukh Mandaviya, the Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, presented the award during a ceremony at Parliament House in Delhi. In 2018, Akarsh, then a 17-year-old high school student, established YuvaSpark. The organisation has built technology platforms that have digitised learning at over 600 anganwadi centres across rural India.



PM Narendra Modi conferred Sri Lanka's highest civilian honour 'Mitra Vibhushana' :-

Sri Lanka has bestowed its highest civilian honor, the Mithra Vibhushana, on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who stated that the award represents the historic links and strong affinity between the two countries. Former Maldivian president Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat have already received the prize, which was established in 2008. President

Anura Kumara Dissanayake awarded the medal to Modi during a ceremony held at the presidential secretariat in Colombo. The Dharma Chakra on the medal reflects the shared Buddhist heritage that has shaped the cultural traditions of both nations.



West Bengal Secures GI Tags for Nolen Gurer Sandesh :-

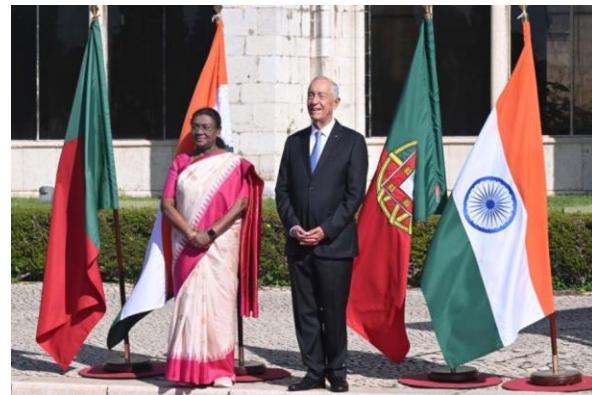
West Bengal has gained Geographical Indication (GI) tags for seven state products, among them the famed 'Nolen Gurer Sandesh' and Baruipur guavas, a development likely to strengthen the local economy and bring global prestige to the state's traditional offerings, an official said. The same jaggery can be found in 'Joynagar Moya', another traditional sweet meat that got the GI classification a few years ago. The other five items to receive the GI tag Kamarpukur's white 'bonde', Murshidabad's 'Chhanabora', Bishnupur's 'motichur laddoo', Radhunipagal rice, and Malda's Nistari silk yarn.



Sudarsan Pattnaik Wins Fred Darrington Award for Excellence in Art and Culture :-

Sudarsan Pattnaik, an Odisha sand sculptor, earned the first Fred Darrington prize for excellence in art and culture for his 10-foot-high Lord Ganesha sand sculpture, which will be on display in Dorset, south-west England,

until November. The prize was established at SandWorld to commemorate 100 years since famed sand sculptor Darrington began creating exquisite sand sculptures on Weymouth Beach in 1925. Pattnaik, a Padma Shri awardee, is also the first Indian sculptor to exhibit at SandWorld, an annual international sand art festival, that takes place in Weymouth in Dorset.



President Receives 'City Key Of Honour' Of Lisbon :-

At a celebration conducted at Lisbon City Hall (Portugal), President Droupadi Murmu was presented with the 'City Key of Honour' by the Mayor. Speaking during the event, President Murmu thanked the Mayor and the people of Lisbon for the generosity. She stated that Lisbon is known for its open-mindedness, kindness, and culture, as well as tolerance and respect for variety. President Murmu further said that this year holds special significance as we celebrate 50 years of India-Portugal bilateral relations.



Rajesh Unni Honored With National Maritime Varuna Award :-

Mumbai Prominent shipmanager Synergy Marine Group announced that its founder, Rajesh Unni, has received the National Maritime Varuna Award, India's highest individual distinction in the maritime sector. Shyam

Jagannathan, Director General of Shipping (DGS), gave the award in Mumbai at the 62nd National Maritime Day celebrations, according to a business statement. The National Maritime Varuna Award, given by DGS, recognises sustained and extraordinary contributions that have significantly shaped the country's maritime landscape.



UP Police Investigation Portal Wins SKOCH Award for Excellence in Police & Safety :-

The Uttar Pradesh Police's "investigation, prosecution, and conviction portal" received the renowned SKOCH Award at the national level in the "police & safety" category. The portal, developed in-house by UP Police's technology services branch, is critical in identifying and monitoring significant and sensitive crimes such as mafia-related offences, Pocso cases, rape, and other terrible acts. It enables real-time oversight of investigations, ensures the timely filing of charge sheets, and facilitates swift and effective monitoring of court trials, thereby accelerating the process of justice delivery.



Oscars to introduce Best Stunt Design category in 2027

The Oscars are finally adding a best stunt category. In a statement, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Board of Governors announced the creation of

a new category to honor stunt performers. The Achievement in Stunt Design award will be presented at the 100th Academy Awards for films released in 2027. The specific criteria and voting rules for the new category will be detailed in the 2027 Academy Awards rulebook. Meanwhile, details around the award's presentation format will be decided in the coming years.



President Droupadi Murmu Conferred Honorary Doctorate in Slovakia :-

President Droupadi Murmu received the Doctorate Honoris Causa degree from the Constantine the Philosopher University in Slovakia over her two-day state visit. According to a post on X by the President's Secretariat, the University granted President Murmu an honorary degree in acknowledgment of her efforts in public service and governance, advocacy for social justice and inclusion, contributions to education, women's empowerment, and the preservation and promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity.



Aamir Khan Honoured at Macau Comedy Festival 2025:-

Several films starring Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan have been significantly more successful in China than in India itself. This is why Aamir was honored at the Macau Comedy Festival, which he just visited. Rajkumar Hirani's

3 Idiots, a comedy released in 2009, was a huge success in China. Aamir Khan will next appear in RS Prasanna's Sitaare Zameen Par, a spiritual successor to his directorial debut, Taare Zameen Par, from 2007. Also starring Genelia D'Souza and Darsheel Safary, Sitaare Zameen Par is slated to release in cinemas this year.



P. Sivakami Honoured with Verchol Dalit Literary Award

2025 :-

P. Sivakami, a retired IAS officer, writer, and politician, earned the Verchol Dalit Literary Award and a financial reward of ₹1 lakh from the Neelam Cultural Centre, founded by filmmaker Pa. Ranjith. In her lecture, Sivakami stated that there appeared to be an innate hostility between non-Dalit writers who wrote about Dalit lives and Dalit writers, possibly because the former felt intimidated by the latter. She urged the youngsters to believe in themselves instead of following a party or personality. Expressing disappointment on the scant attention given to Dalit literature written in Tamil, especially from critics, she said it has become important for the works to get translated into English.



Shreyas Iyer Named ICC Men's Player of the Month – March 2025 :-

Shreyas Iyer, an Indian batsman, has been crowned the ICC Men's Player of the Month for March 2025 after

playing a key role in their Champions Trophy victory in Dubai. Iyer was the competition's best run-scorer, with 243 runs, including vital knocks against New Zealand in the group stages and final. The 30-year-old scored 172 runs in three matches in March, averaging 57.33 and with a low strike rate of 77.47, including some magnificent shots. Iyer scored 79 off 98 balls which included 4 fours and 2 sixes in a win against New Zealand in a Group A fixture of the Champions Trophy.



Poshan Tracker Application Wins PM's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2024 :-

On the 17th Civil Services Day, the Ministry of Women and Child Development's PoshanTracker Application got the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2024 in the Innovation category (center). The Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, accepted the award on behalf of the Ministry. Union Minister for Women and Child Development Annapurna Devi said it is making the work of Anganwadi workers easier and more efficient in tracking nutrition for millions of beneficiaries.



Jasprit Bumrah, Smriti Mandhana win top Wisden awards :-

India's Jasprit Bumrah and Smriti Mandhana have been named the world's top cricketers in the current edition

of the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack. Bumrah earned the award in the men's category following a stellar 2024 in which he performed across forms and was named player of the tournament when India won the Twenty20 World Cup in the West Indies. Opener Mandhana won the women's honour after a prolific 2024 that included five hundreds, four of them in one-day internationals. Mandhana also led Royal Challengers Bengaluru to its first Women's Premier League title last year.



Achyuta Samanta Conferred Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma Award 2025 :-

Founder of KIIT and KISS Achyuta Samanta received the Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma Award 2025 at Kokrajhar, Assam. The Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma Trust established the award to commemorate Samanta's tremendous contributions to society via education and social empowerment. The award is named after Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma, a revered spiritual leader and social reformer of the Bodo community, widely known as the Mech Gandhi of Assam, who dedicated his life to the propagation, preservation, and promotion of education.



Kumar Mangalam Birla won the 2025 Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award:-

Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of Aditya Birla Group and Padma Bhushan awardee, was presented with the

Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award by RSS Chief Shri Mohan Bhagwat at a ceremony in Mumbai on April 24. He was recognized for his significant contribution to India's growth. Previous recipients of this award include Prime Minister Narendra Modi, renowned singer Asha Bhosale, and actor Amitabh Bachchan. The award was in recognition of his pivotal role in shaping India's growth story.



Kyoorius Creative Awards 2025 sees more than 4,000 submissions; judging starts on April 25:-

Mumbai – The 2025 Kyoorius Creative Awards (KCA) has recorded over 4,000 entries from more than 500 participants across multiple categories, making it the highest number of entries and participants in the event's history. This edition also features wider regional involvement, with submissions coming from countries like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, reinforcing the growing influence and importance of the Kyoorius Creative Awards in South Asia. The awards night is scheduled for May 24, 2025, at Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai. New Delhi: The 2025 edition of the Kyoorius Creative Awards (KCA) has received 4000+ entries from over 500 entrants across disciplines, marking the highest number of submissions and entrants in the awards' history.



Elets SmartGov Summit & Awards 2025 wraps up, highlighting digital innovation :-

The much-awaited Elets SmartGov Summit & Awards 2025 came to a close today at the Marriott Hotel in Jaipur. Hosted by the Department of Personnel and the Department of IT, Government of Rajasthan, in partnership with Elets Technomedia Pvt. Ltd., the summit—led by Program Chair Dr. Krishna Kant Pathak, Secretary of the Department of Personnel—served as a key platform for shaping India's digital landscape, highlighting the transformative role of AI, IT, and digital innovations in governance.



IISc Ranked No. 1 in Times Higher Education Asia Rankings 2025:-

The Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2025 were released on April 23, revealing the top universities in Asia. This year's rankings include 853 universities from 35 countries and regions, spotlighting institutions that excel in research, teaching, and innovation across the continent. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) continues to lead, ranking 38th overall in Asia and securing the top position among Indian universities. However, several Indian institutions saw a

decline in their rankings compared to last year, reflecting the increasing competition in higher education.



NICDC Wins Udyog Vikas Award for Driving Industrial Growth :-

The National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) received the Udyog Vikas Award during the Udyog Vikas event organized by Janmabhumi Daily, Kerala's major news daily. Shri Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma, Minister of State for Heavy Industries, Public Enterprises, and Steel, attended the occasion and emphasized the Union Government's unwavering commitment to establishing world-class Greenfield Industrial Smart Cities across India. Shri Varma lauded the transformational potential of the Integrated Manufacturing Cluster (IMC) at Palakkad.



Madhusudan Sai Honored with Fiji's Highest Recognition for Humanitarian Efforts :-

Madhusudan Sai, a humanitarian from Karnataka, received Fiji's highest accolade, the 'Companion of the Order of Fiji'. Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, the President of Fiji, gave the award at a function held at the President's official residence, the State House of Fiji. Previous

recipients of the 'Companion of the Order of Fiji' include Prime Minister Narendra Modi and India's President Droupadi Murmu. According to the press release, Sai was

conferred the award for establishing the Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Hospital in Fiji.

5: Banking



RBI Launches WhatsApp Channel for Verified Financial Updates :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has opened a WhatsApp channel to give financial news and information to citizens, particularly those in distant and neglected areas of the country. The channel is an extension of the regulator's public awareness campaign, 'RBI Kehta Hai' (RBI Says), which has been proactively spreading important information about safe banking practices, consumer rights, and responsible financial behavior through a variety of channels, including SMS, TV ads, digital media, and print. The verified WhatsApp account will serve as an additional channel through which the RBI can share timely and relevant information directly with users in a simple, secure, and convenient manner.

Bandhan Bank announced the launch of the Elite Plus Savings Account, which is aimed at high-net-worth customers. Customers can deposit an unlimited amount of cash each month into the savings account, which also includes free RTGS, NEFT, and IMPS transactions. The account will have enhanced debit card insurance and personal accident coverage of up to Rs 15 lakh. Separately, the state-owned Bank of Baroda has introduced a new retail term deposit scheme, the bob Square Drive Deposit Scheme, which offers an annual interest rate of 7.15 percent, plus 50 basis points for elderly persons, for a 444-day period.



RBI Permits NPCI to Enhance UPI Transaction Limits for P2M Payments :-

Based on changing customer needs, the Reserve Bank allowed NPCI to increase the transaction limitations in UPI for P2M (person-to-merchant) payments. With the exception of certain P2M payment use cases, which have higher restrictions of ₹2 lakh and ₹5 lakh, the transaction value for UPI, which covers both Person to Person (P2P) and Person to Merchant (P2M) payments, is currently restricted at ₹1 lakh. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.



Bandhan Bank launches Elite Plus; Bank of Baroda unveils new term deposit :-



SEBI Action Against Gensol Engineering Ltd (GEL) :-

In a major action against Gensol Engineering Limited (GEL) and its promoters, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has barred promoter brothers Anmol Singh Jaggi and Puneet Singh Jaggi from holding directorships or other critical positions in the business. GEL and the Jaggi brothers have been forbidden from entering the market. SEBI will also appoint a forensic auditor to examine books of accounts of GEL and its related parties. Forensic auditor to submit report within 6 months of appointment.



CRISIL Projected 12-13% Growth for Banking Credit :-

According to Crisil Ratings, bank credit in India is predicted to increase by 12–13 percent in the current fiscal year (FY26), which is somewhat higher than the 11.0–11.5% predicted for FY25. Three tailwinds will enhance the loan offtake, according to the statement: reduced interest rates, a boost to consumption from tax cuts, and recent positive regulatory actions. Credit growth in the corporate sector, which accounts for around 41 per cent of bank loans, is expected to be 9-10 per cent, compared with an estimated 8.0 per cent for FY25.



IndusInd Bank names Santosh Kumar as Deputy CFO :-

IndusInd Bank, a private sector lender, has promoted Santosh Kumar, currently the chief accountant, to the position of deputy chief financial officer (CFO) and special officer - finance and accounting, starting April 18. He has also been recognized as a key managerial staff, overseeing the bank's financial and accounting functions until a full-time CFO is hired. Following the resignation of Gobind Singh in January, who served as the bank's CFO for over three years, Arun Khurana, deputy chief executive officer and whole-time director, took on the responsibilities, effective January 21.



RBI imposes penalty on Kotak Mahindra Bank, IDFC First Bank, PNB :-

The RBI announced penalties against Kotak Mahindra Bank, IDFC First Bank, and Punjab National Bank for regulatory compliance violations. According to a statement issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Kotak Mahindra Bank has been fined Rs 61.4 lakh for failing to comply with certain guidelines on 'Guidelines on Loan System for Delivery of Bank Credit' and 'Loans and Advances - Statutory and Other Restrictions'. A penalty of Rs 38.6 lakh has been imposed on IDFC First Bank for non-compliance with certain directions of 'Know Your Customer (KYC)'. Penalty of Rs 29.6 lakh has

been imposed on Punjab National Bank for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Customer Service in Banks'.



MTNL Defaults On Over Rs 8,300 Crore In Loans With Multiple Banks :-

The state-owned telecom company, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), has informed numerous banks that it has defaulted on debt repayments totaling more than Rs 8,300 crore. In an exchange filing, the business disclosed that it had failed to meet its financial obligations to a consortium of lenders, which included Union Bank of India, Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India, UCO Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank, and Indian Overseas Bank. The company had previously notified the stock exchanges of similar defaults in a series of letters throughout the past months.



Government Clarifies No GST on UPI Transactions Above ₹2,000 :-

The government stated that it does not intend to collect GST on UPI transactions above ₹2,000. The Finance Ministry clarified that claims that the government is considering levying GST on UPI transactions over ₹2,000 are inaccurate, deceptive, and have no substance. "Currently, there is no such proposal before the

government," the Ministry said in a statement. UPI transaction values have seen an exponential increase, growing from ₹21.3 lakh crore in FY 2019-20 to ₹260.56 lakh crore by March 2025.



SBI Card and Tata Digital Launch Co-branded Tata Neu SBI Card :-

SBI Card and Tata Digital have launched a co-branded lifestyle credit card that rewards you with NeuCoins for your transactions. The SBI card is available in two versions: Tata Neu Infinity SBI Card and Tata Neu Plus SBI Card. The card is intended to provide benefits in several categories such as travel, food, electronics, fashion, and healthcare. Users can earn up to 10 per cent NeuCoins on eligible spends. These rewards are credited monthly to the user's NeuPass account and can be easily redeemed through the Tata Neu app or website.



RBI's gold reserves jump nearly Rs 12,000 crore in a week :-

India's central bank observed a substantial increase in the value of its gold holdings during the week ended April 11, owing to a global surge in gold prices amid increased geopolitical and economic uncertainties. According to data issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the value of its gold assets increased by Rs 11,986 crore in just one week. With this increase, the total value of the RBI's gold

reserves now stands at Rs 6,88,496 crore. This sharp increase also reflects a broader trend over the past year. The RBI's gold holdings have nearly tripled in value during this period, underlining a significant rise in gold purchases by the central bank.



RBI Permits Minors Above 10 to Operate Bank Accounts Independently :-

Children over the age of ten can now open and manage their own savings or term deposit bank accounts on their own thanks to new regulations released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). All commercial banks and cooperative banks, including district central cooperative banks, state cooperative banks, and main (urban) cooperative banks, are subject to this regulation. This move comes after a review of the older guidelines, which were first issued many years ago. The RBI has now simplified and combined the rules for opening and running deposit accounts for minors.



RBI Eases LCR Norms, Imposes 2.5% Additional Run-Off Factor on Digital Deposits :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relaxed the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) requirements, requiring banks to provide an additional 2.5 percent run-off factor for digital deposits. A significant modification concerns the treatment of retail deposits enabled with internet and

mobile banking (IMB) features. While the draft proposed an additional 5% run-off factor, the final guidelines reduced it to 2.5% in response to industry feedback. Under the revised guidelines, stable IMB-enabled retail deposits (those from which withdrawals are infrequent) will now attract a 7.5% run-off rate, up from the previous 5%.



Q4 Results: Tech Mahindra's profit rises 76.51%, Axis Bank's profit hits Rs 7,117.50 crore:-

Q4 Results Update: The fiscal fourth-quarter earnings season is now in full motion, with major IT companies already reporting their Q4 figures. Earlier this month, firms like Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys, Wipro, HCL Tech, along with key banks such as HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and Yes Bank, announced their Q4 results. The market is closely watching these earnings to gauge the economic recovery and performance trends. Investors are keen to see how these results influence the broader financial landscape.



Stock Market Update: Sensex and Nifty plunge amid Axis Bank decline and growing global tensions:-
Sensex and Nifty Update for 25 April 2025: The equity benchmark indices, Sensex and Nifty, suffered notable losses on Friday, largely due to a sharp drop in Axis Bank's stock and escalating geopolitical tensions following a terrorist attack in Jammu & Kashmir. The 30-share BSE

Sensex lost 588.90 points, closing at 79,212.53, wiping out earlier gains, while the NSE Nifty dropped 207.35 points to end at 24,039.35. Market sentiment weakened amid rising concerns over border tensions with Pakistan and underwhelming earnings reports.



Swipe Surge: Credit Card Spending Crosses ₹21 Lakh Crore on Strong Consumer Demand:-

Credit card usage in India hit a new high of ₹21.16 lakh crore in FY25, recording a 15% rise driven by strong consumer demand and increasing preference for digital payments. Although new credit card issuance expanded, certain banks witnessed a decline, prompting lenders to focus more on credit quality and cross-selling opportunities. Experts believe the upward trend in credit card spending is likely to continue with the festive and travel seasons ahead. SBI Cards and Payment Services Share Price: ₹867.55 ▼-59.00 (-6.37%)



Indian Bank Cuts Home, Vehicle Loan Rates:-

Indian Bank, a public sector lender, has reduced interest rates on home loans to 7.90% and vehicle loans to 8.25%. The rate cut follows the Reserve Bank of India's decision to lower the short-term lending rate by 25 basis points to 6% on April 9, a move also mirrored in February. The bank announced that its home loan interest rate has been reduced from 8.15% to 7.90%, while vehicle loan rates were lowered from 8.50% to 8.25%. This adjustment aligns with the recent monetary policy changes.



RBI cancels licence of Jalandhar-based Imperial Urban Co-op Bank :-

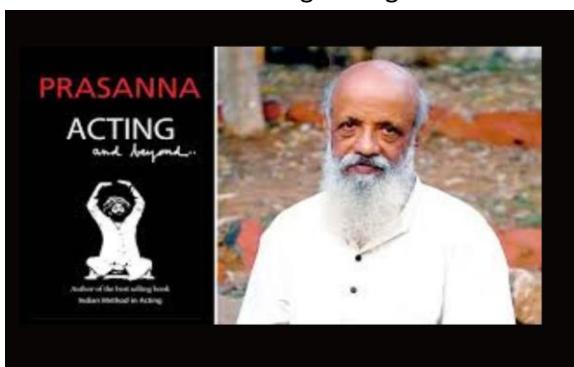
The Reserve Bank of India has terminated the licence of Jalandhar-based Imperial Urban Co-operative Bank, citing insufficient capital and income possibilities. The Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Government of Punjab, has also been requested to issue an order to wound up the bank and appoint a liquidator. On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to Rs 5 lakh from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

6: Books and Author



Trees of Bhuj: Book detailing tree biodiversity in Kutch's capital launched :-

Trees of Bhuj, a book about the tree biodiversity of Kutch's capital city, was released on March 26. Bhuj is the country's largest district. The writers of the book are Pankaj Joshi, a botanist and researcher, and Ekta Joshi, a faculty member at Lalan College in Bhuj-Kutch. The same day, a web page (treesofbhuj.in) went live, which provides full information on all of the trees featured in the book. Bhuj is a semi-dryland region rich in biodiversity. It has a vast tree population that plays a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance.



Prasanna Heggedu's book 'Acting and beyond' to be released on April 6 :-

The Socialist Study Centre Trust will host a book launch and discussion for senior theatre director and Gandhian Prasanna Heggedu's "Acting and Beyond". The event will take place on Sunday, April 6, at the Indian Institute of Educational Theatre on the Hardwicke PU College campus. According to the press release, Prasanna's "Acting and Beyond" explores the core of performance.

The book focuses on primal elements—truth and imitation. It resists the theatrics of fame, instead strongly anchors itself in the raw and integral mechanics of the craft.



Tamil Nadu to co-publish innovative toddler books with international partners :-

In a first, the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation (TNTB&ESC) plans to co-publish creative books for toddlers with publishers in London and Singapore. The arrangement was signed at the recent Bologna Children's Book Fair. The future book collection will comprise sound books, pop-up books, case books, board books, flip books, and poster books with material in Tamil and English. While TNTB&ESC is primarily known for printing textbooks for schools, it also engages in various other publishing activities including translations, republishing classics and producing children's literature.



Book on hockey Olympians' families released :-

Sukhwinderjit Singh Manauli, a senior sports writer, launched his new book, 'Hockey Olympians' Family', at the Chandigarh Press Club here. The book was released

to commemorate 50 years since India's men's hockey team won the World Cup. The releasing event was attended by Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, 1975 Hockey World Cup squad member and Olympic medalist Ashok Dhyan Chand, and Olympic medalists Surinder Singh Sodhi and Ajit Singh. In the book, Manauli has documented almost all families that have produced multiple international hockey players, including Olympians.



Nikita Ghag Launched Her Book ROAR LIKE A LIONESS and Song Ajnabee :-

Nikita Ghag, an acclaimed actress, politician, novelist, and philanthropist, debuted her new book 'ROAR LIKE A LIONESS' accompanying her song 'Ajnabee' at an exclusive launch event. As Secretary of the Maharashtra Pradesh BJP Chitrapat Aaghadi, Ghag has worked to improve the entertainment sector while also advocating for critical social causes. Ghag's book, ROAR LIKE A LIONESS, embodies her path and worldview, providing readers with compelling insights into empowerment, resilience, and effective leadership. The simultaneous release of her song Ajnabee, showcases her diverse creative talents and artistic vision.



A Book Comprising Articles On Late Pandit Taranath Titled Taranada Released :-

A book titled "Taranada," which contains pieces about the late Pandit Taranath, has been published at Srujana Rangamandir on the Karnatak College campus in Dharwad. The Pt. Rajeev Taranath Memorial Trust and the GB Joshi Memorial Trust have collaborated to organize the event in memory of Pandit Rajeev Taranath, the renowned sarod master. According to a press release, the evening began with the screening of a documentary about Pt. Rajeev Taranath by Naguvana Creations, followed by the release of the book. Jnanpith award-winning Kannada writer Chandrasekhar Kambar released the book.



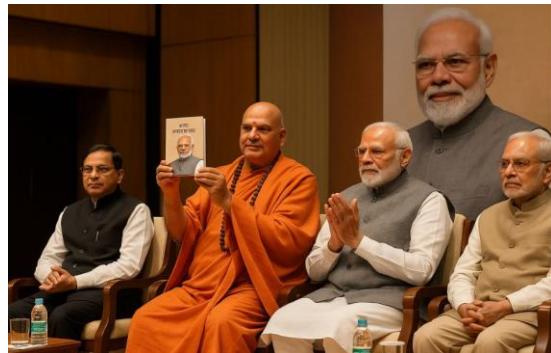
Suresh Rituparna's book unveiled at Hindu College :-

Suresh Rituparna, director of the KK Birla Foundation, launched his latest book, Kal Jab Main Nahi Rahunga, at Delhi University's Hindu College. The occasion also marked the opening of the college's newly rebuilt seminar hall, currently known as the Shyam Kasturi Auditorium. Harivansh Singh, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, was the chief guest at the launch, which also included renowned Hindi poet Buddhanath Mishra. Kal Jab Main Nahi Rahunga is a poetic compilation that spans four decades of visual memories and travel, presented through verses and photographs.



Collection of poetry launched at Punjabi University :-

The Literary Society of the Punjabi Department at Punjabi University hosted a book launch event for Dr Waryam Singh Sandhu's debut poetry collection, 'Varihyan Pichhon', who was a well-known short story writer, essayist, and history researcher. Prof Rajinder Pal Singh, a critic, stated that Sandhu was a famous Punjabi short story writer who had demonstrated through his writings and activities that he had never deviated from progressive values. He had consistently opposed the rise of communalism and the oppression of power in Punjabi society.

**PM Modi's book on Indian culture 'Sanskriti Ka Paanchva Adhyay' released :-**

Sanskriti Ka Paanchva Adhyay, a book assembled from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's thoughts and remarks on culture, was released in New Delhi. The book is a curated collection of Prime Minister Modi's speeches on various occasions, which showcase Indian culture,

customs, spiritual values, and cultural history. Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Pujya Swami Avdheshanand Giri Maharaj, the Head of the Juna Akhara, gave the book its ceremonial release. The foreword of the book is written by Ram Bahadur Rai, and the compilation has been done by Dr. Prabhat Ojha.

**Senior Journalist Edlabadkar's two new books launched :-**

Two emotional collections of columns by prominent journalist, columnist, and writer Prakash Edlabadkar were unveiled during a literary event at the Vidarbha Sahitya Sangh (VSS) campus. The books, titled 'Kaivalyache Vatsalya' and 'Chandanyache Zad', are collections of Edlabadkar's popular articles from a Marathi daily. The event was co-organized by VSS and Rudra Prakashan. Speaking about his newly released works, Edlabadkar said, "Both books are deeply personal and dedicated to my parents."

7: Defence**14th Edition of India-Russia Naval Exercise INDRA :-**

The 14th edition of the India-Russia joint naval exercise INDRA, an essential component of the two countries'

maritime partnership, began off the coast of Chennai on March 28 and will run till April 2. Since its commencement in 2003, exercise INDRA has maintained a long-term strategic connection between the two navies. The exercise is being carried out in two phases: the harbour phase from March 28 to 30 in Chennai, and the sea phase from March 31 to April 2 in the Bay of Bengal. It will see participation of Russian Federation Naval Ships Pechanga, Rezkiy and Aldar Tsydenzhapov along with Indian Naval Ships Rana, Kuthar and Maritime patrol aircraft P8I.



Exercise Tiger Triumph 2025 :-

The fourth edition of Exercise Tiger Triumph, a bilateral tri-service India-US humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise, began on April 1 in Visakhapatnam. The exercise aims to improve interoperability for conducting HADR operations as well as the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to establish a Combined Coordination Center (CCC) that will allow for rapid and smooth coordination between Indian and US Joint Task Forces (JTF) during crises or contingencies. Participants from both sides would also engage in Training Visits, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges, Sports Events and Social interactions.



India's Defence Exports Surge to Record High in FY 2024-25 :-

India's defence exports have reached a new high of Rs 23,622 crore (approx. USD 2.76 billion) in 2024-25, up 12.04 percent from the previous fiscal year, according to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Singh further stated that the government is on track to meet its aim of Rs 50,000 crore in defence exports by 2029. India's defence exports in 2023-24 totalled Rs 21,083 crore. An impressive growth of Rs 2,539 crore or 12.04% has been registered in the just-concluded FY over the defence exports figures of FY 2023-24, which were Rs 21,083 crore, he added.



Navika Sagar Parikrama II: INSV Tarini Reaches Cape Town, South Africa :-

INSV Tarini, part of the Navika Sagar Parikrama II expedition, has landed in Cape Town, South Africa, marking the end of the fourth phase of its world circumnavigation, according to the Ministry of Defence. According to the MoD, the vessel and its crew were greeted enthusiastically by Ruby Jaspreet, Consul General of India in Cape Town; Rear Admiral (JG) Lisa Hendricks, Chief of Staff of the South African Navy Fleet; and Captain Atul Sapahia, India's Defence Adviser in Pretoria. The expedition, was flagged off by Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff of the Indian Navy, on October 2, 2024, from Goa.



Russia Launches Nuclear Submarine Armed With Zircon Hypersonic Missile :-

Russian President Vladimir Putin just unveiled Perm, a nuclear-powered submarine armed with hypersonic Zircon missiles. Perm is the first of its class to come equipped with Zircon (Tsirkon) missiles as standard. Hypersonic missiles fly at Mach 5, or at least five times the speed of sound in the upper atmosphere. However, the fundamental attribute of a hypersonic missile is its maneuverability, which means that its trajectory can be

changed depending on the desired target. According to Russia, the Zircon can reach eight times the speed of sound, has a range of 625 miles and can carry a 660-pound warhead.



Indian Army successfully showcases MUM-T capability during Exercise SARVSHAKTI :-

The Indian Army's Trishakti Corps successfully validated Manned-Unmanned Teaming (MUM-T) during Exercise SARVSHAKTI. The goal of Exercise SARVSHAKTI was to improve interoperability, rapid decision-making, and battlefield awareness through the use of drones, autonomous systems, and AI-powered platforms. Lt Gen Zubin A Minwalla, General Officer Commanding, Trishakti Corps has said that the successful validation of MUM-T is not only a technological achievement but also a testament to the evolving capabilities of the Indian soldier.



India-Sri Lanka Sign Historic Defense Pacts For The Future :-

India and Sri Lanka inked seven Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) in a variety of areas, including defence, energy, digital infrastructure, health, and trade, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi was greeted warmly in Colombo as the first foreign leader hosted by the

Dissanayaka government. The defence deal will bring New Delhi and Colombo closer together in terms of collaborative maritime surveillance, military drills, and equipment support. The other MoUs focus on implementing India's UPI payment system in Sri Lanka, enhancing renewable energy trade through a proposed grid connectivity project, and ferry and aviation services to improve people-to-people ties.



India Clears Mega Deal to Buy 26 Rafale Marine Fighter Jets from France for Navy :-

The mega Rs 63,887 crore (Euro 6.6 billion) deal with France for the direct acquisition of 26 Rafale-Marine fighter jets, which will primarily operate from the deck of the domestic aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, has been approved by the PM-led cabinet committee on security in the midst of China's ongoing naval incursions into the Indian Ocean Region. The govt-to-govt contract for the 22 single-seat Rafale-M jets and four twin-seat trainers, which includes some weapons, simulators, crew training and five-year performance-based logistics support, will be inked "within this month", officials said.



DRDO Successfully Conducts Release Trials of LRGB 'Gaurav' from Su-30 MKI :-

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the Long-Range Glide Bomb (LRGB) 'Gaurav' onboard a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft. The LRGB is a 1,000-kg glide bomb created and produced in-house by Research Centre Imarat, Armament Research and Development Establishment, and Integrated Test Range in Chandipur. The system has been realised with the support of Development-cum-Production Partners — Adani Defence Systems & Technologies, Bharat Forge and various Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, the statement said.



India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise DUSTLIK-VI :-

The sixth edition of the India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise DUSTLIK-VI began on April 16 at the Foreign Training Node in Aundh, Pune. The exercise, which will run until April 28, aims to improve interoperability and cooperation between the two countries' military forces. The Indian contingent, which consists of 60 people, is represented by a battalion of the JAT Regiment and elements from the Indian Air Force. The Uzbekistan side is represented by personnel from the Uzbekistan Army. The previous edition took place in the Termez District of Uzbekistan in April 2024.



5 Military Personals Honored With Prestigious MacGregor Memorial Medal :-

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan awarded the MacGregor Memorial Medal to five military personnel for their extraordinary achievements to military reconnaissance, exploration, and adventure in 2023 and 2024. The 2023 winners included Air Force Wing Commander D. Panda and Navy Electrical Artificer (Radio) Rahul Kumar Pandey. The Navy's Chief Electrical Aircraft Artificer (Radio) Ram Ratan Jat and the Air Force's Sergeant Jhumar Ram Poonia received the medal in 2024. Colonel Ranvir Singh Jamwal, Director of the National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports in Arunachal Pradesh, was also awarded.



India's Defence Production Target by 2029 To Achieve 3 Lakh Crore :-

India's defense industry is expected to exceed ₹1.6 lakh crore in value this year, according to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Singh spoke at The Week's Defence Conclave 2025 - Force of the Future, where he laid out a clear and ambitious roadmap for India's defence sector. "This year, defence production should cross ₹1.60 lakh crore, while our target is to produce defence equipment worth ₹3 lakh crore by the year 2029," he stated. This planned leap is not just about numbers. It's part of a broader vision to build a strong domestic military-industrial base, cut dependence on foreign suppliers, and position India as a global defence hub.



Indian Air Force Joins Multinational Exercise Desert Flag-10 in UAE :-

A unit of the Indian Air Force arrived at Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates to take part in Exercise Desert Flag 10. The UAE Air Force is hosting the exercise, which will include contingents from Australia, Bahrain, France, Germany, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Korea, Turkey, the UAE, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, as well as the Indian Air Force. The primary aim of the exercise is to undertake complex and diverse fighter engagements, with the exchange of operational knowledge and best practices with some of the most capable air forces in the world.



India Signs \$7.4 Billion Deal with France for Rafale Fighter Jets :-

India has sealed a deal with France to purchase 26 Rafale fighter aircraft for its navy for 630 billion rupees (\$7.4 billion), according to a statement from the Indian defence ministry. According to the ministry, India would purchase 22 single-seater and four twin-seater fighters from France's Dassault Aviation, strengthening its defense ties with its second-largest arms supplier. The Indian Air Force currently operates 36 Rafale fighters, while the navy's aircraft fleet mainly comprises Russian MiG-29 jets. The purchase was approved earlier this month by India's security cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

8: Economy



India's Core Sector Growth Slows to 2.9% in February :-

According to government-released official figures, India's core sector growth dropped to 2.9% in February from 4.6% in January 2025. In February 2025, there was a favorable increase in the output of steel, coal, cement, fertilizers, electricity, and refinery products. February

showed a slight 1.7% increase in coal production, which was less than the 4.6% gain in January. In contrast, crude oil production witnessed a sharper decline, contracting by 5.2% in February, a significant drop from the 1.1% contraction seen in the previous month.



India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) Rises to 1.1% of GDP in Q3 FY25 :-

In the October-December 2024 quarter of the current fiscal year (Q3FY25), India's current account deficit (CAD) increased slightly to \$11.5 billion, or 1.1% of GDP, from \$10.4 billion, or 1.1% of GDP, the previous year due to an increase in service exports. According to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) most recent data, CAD decreased sequentially from \$16.7 billion in Q2FY25, or 1.8% of GDP. The current account is expected to witness a surplus of \$4-6 billion in Q4FY25, aided by a seasonal uptick in merchandise exports and the resulting moderation in the merchandise trade deficit, as well as healthy services surpluses.



Renault to Acquire Nissan's Stake in India Manufacturing Unit, Taking Full Ownership :-

Renault, the French automaker, has announced plans to purchase out its Japanese partner Nissan's stake in their Indian joint venture, Renault Nissan Automotive India Private Ltd. Renault Group will own 100% of Renault Nissan Automotive India Private Ltd (RNAIPL) after acquiring Nissan's 51% ownership, according to a statement. Renault Group and Nissan have signed a share purchase agreement to this effect. Upon the completion of this transaction, Renault Group would own 100 per cent of RNAIPL, it added.



GST collections rise 9.9% to Rs 1.96 lakh crore in March 2025 :-

India's GST income collection increased by 9.9% year on year, reaching Rs 1.96 lakh crore in March. The breakdown shows that Central GST is Rs 38,100 crore, whereas State GST is Rs 49,900 crore. The Integrated GST was Rs 95,900 crore, while GST cess revenues totaled Rs 12,300 crore in March. The net GST collections for March totaled Rs 1.76 lakh crore, up 7.3% year on year. The gross GST collections for FY25 totalled Rs 22.08 lakh crore, indicating a 9.4% increase. After refund adjustments, the net GST collections for FY25 stood at Rs 19.56 lakh crore, up by 8.6%.



Centre Withholds SSA Funds to Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal for FY 2024-25 :-

As of March 27, 2025, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal had received zero funds from the Centre's share of the Ministry of Education's flagship Samagra Shiksha scheme (SSA) for the fiscal year 2024-25, according to a reply given by Minister of State for Education Jayant Choudhary in the Rajya Sabha. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal have accepted national allocations of ₹ 328.90 crore, ₹ 2,151.60 crore, and ₹ 1,745.80 crore for the current fiscal year. However, no money have been given to these states by the designated date.



RBI Keeps FPI Investment Caps Unchanged for FY2025-26 :-

For fiscal year 2025-26, India's central bank maintained the same investment limits for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in government and corporate bonds. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has maintained the existing ceilings of 6% for government securities, 2% for state government securities, and 15% for corporate bonds for the current fiscal year beginning April 1, according to a press statement. The general limit for foreign investment in government bonds would continue to be Rs 2.79 trillion (\$32.71 billion) for April-September and Rs 2.89 trillion for October-March, the central bank said.

**RBI MPC meeting: Governor Sanjay Malhotra announces repo rate cut to 6% :-**

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously on Wednesday (April 9, 2025) to lower the policy rate (repo rate) by 25 basis points (bps) to 6% with immediate effect. This is the second time in a row that the MPC has lowered interest rates by 0.25 percent. With the repo rate drop, loan borrowers should expect cheaper EMIs in the near future. The repo rate previously stood at 6.25% and was last reduced by the MPC at its February 2025 monetary policy review. Since then the global economic circumstances have evolved, in particular US President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariffs on major economies have added to global growth worries.

**Juspay Becomes India's First Unicorn of 2025 :-**

Juspay, a Bengaluru-based payments infrastructure business, raised \$60 million in a Series D round headed by Kedaara Capital, with participation from current investors SoftBank and Accel. While early rumors indicated that the company was trying to raise up to \$150 million, the final deal is substantially smaller and contains both major and secondary components. Despite the scaled-back round, the fresh capital has pushed Juspay past the \$1 billion valuation mark, making it India's first unicorn of the year. Juspay is also eyeing international expansion across Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Europe, the UK, and North America.

**BlackRock emerges as largest investor in Adani's \$750 million bond issue :-**

Funds operated by BlackRock, the global investment juggernaut, emerged as the largest subscribers to the Adani Group's \$750-million private bond issue. The US-based asset manager, which manages \$12 trillion in assets, has taken on one-third of the \$750 million offering, which has a 3-5 year maturity, according to sources with direct knowledge of the situation. This investment comes at a time when Adani Group officials

are under scrutiny following a U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) indictment in a bribery case in November last year.



India Set to Become Fastest-Growing Major Aviation Market by 2026 :-

According to forecasts by global airports industry group Airports Council International (ACI), India's air passenger traffic growth rate is expected to surpass that of China in 2026, and the former is anticipated to be the world's fastest-growing significant aviation market during the next three decades. While China's aviation market is far larger than India's, India's growth is likely to accelerate due to fast increasing air travel demand from a gigantic population base with low per capita air travel, indicating a significant growth opportunity.



India's Exports Rise Marginally by 0.7% in March 2025 :-

According to the most recent government data, India's exports increased modestly by 0.7% to USD 41.97 billion in March, while the trade deficit was USD 21.54 billion. Imports grew by 11.3% year on year to USD 63.51 billion in March, according to figures issued by the Commerce Ministry. During the fiscal year 2024-25 (April-March), the country's exports increased by 0.08 percent to USD 437.42 billion, while imports increased by 6.62% to USD

720.24 billion. The country's overall exports of goods and services increased by 5.5 pc to USD 820.93 billion.



Hike In Minimum Pension under EPS, Complete Evaluation by 2025 :-

A legislative commission has directed the labour ministry to conduct a third-party evaluation of the Employee Pension Scheme (EPS) — the first such exercise since its creation 30 years ago — within a specific timetable, preferably by the end of 2025, in order to improve its effectiveness. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour, led by Bharatiya Janata Party Member of Parliament Basavaraj Bommai, has requested that the ministry consider increasing the minimum pension of ₹1,000 under EPS as soon as possible due to rising living costs.



India's Pharma Exports in FY25 Cross \$30 Billion Mark :-

India's pharmaceutical exports reached \$30 billion in the previous fiscal year, with the United States maintaining an important market, accounting for more than one-third of the country's overall pharmaceutical exports. According to official trade data, pharmaceutical exports exceeded \$30 billion in Fiscal Year 2024-25, representing a more than 9% rise from about \$27.5 billion in Fiscal

Year 2023-24. In March 2025, pharma exports registered a year-on-year surge of over 30 per cent, rising to 3,681 million dollar from 2,806 million dollar in the same month of the previous fiscal year, as per the data.



India Imposes 12% Tariff on Steel Imports :-

A 12 percent provisional safeguard levy has been placed on some non-alloy and alloy steel flat goods by the central government in an effort to shield the domestic steel industry from an increase in low-cost imports. The Ministry of Steel made the announcement with the intention of giving Indian businesses that are struggling with market distortions brought on by an increase in foreign steel imports quick relief. The government has set the import prices between USD 675 per tonne to USD 964 per tonne for the five steel product categories. Any shipment imported below these import prices would attract the safeguard duty.



Stocks in Focus on Adani Green, Axis Bank, Tech Mahindra, SBI Life, HUL, and others. :-

Domestic markets saw some volatility but managed to close higher, continuing the current trend. Currently trading, stocks of companies like HUL, Axis Bank, Tata Consumer, LTI Mindtree, and Adani Green will be in focus due to important announcements, Q4 results, and other

factors. Let's take a closer look at these. Investors are eagerly awaiting the market reactions to these key updates. These stocks could see significant movements based on the latest developments and performance reports.



Government data reveals net direct tax collection in FY25 reached Rs 22.26 trillion:-

The provisional net direct tax collection for FY 2024-25 slightly missed the revised target, increasing by 13.57% to ₹22.26 trillion, according to data released by the finance ministry on Friday. In FY24, the net direct tax collection was ₹19.60 trillion. The government had initially set a target of ₹22.07 trillion in the July 2024 Budget, which was later revised to ₹22.37 trillion in the February 2025 Budget. These direct tax collection figures are provisional and the collections are expected to grow as last stage reconciliation and adjustments for FY25 are still underway, officials said. Gross direct tax collections (before refunds) during the financial year grew 15.59 per cent to ₹27.03 trillion while refunds increased 26.04 per cent to ₹4.77 trillion.



India requires robust veterinary infrastructure to strengthen rural economy: Union Minister :-

Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, S P Singh Baghel, emphasized on Saturday the urgent need for improved veterinary facilities and

skill development to uplift the rural economy. He highlighted that better veterinary services would not only enhance livestock health but also increase farmers' incomes. The minister also stressed the importance of promoting modern technology and training programs to empower rural communities. India houses over 536 million livestock, the world's largest population, with nearly 70 per cent of rural households depending on animals for income, food and security.



China Reaffirms Commitment to Boost Jobs and Economy Amid US Tariffs:-

Chinese officials have once again pledged to bolster support for employment and the national economy, as tensions with the United States over trade tariffs persist. Despite ongoing economic challenges resulting from the trade war with the Trump administration, China has emphasized its determination to mitigate the impact on workers and businesses. Officials stated they will continue implementing measures to stabilize the job market and stimulate economic growth.



Fitch lowers India growth forecast for FY26 to 6.4% :-

Fitch Ratings cut India's FY26 GDP growth prediction to 6.4% from 6.5% previously, citing a substantial increase in global trade tensions. The FY25 growth forecast has also been cut downward by 10 basis points, to 6.2%. The United States has placed high tariffs on numerous countries, including India, with an effective rate that exceeds 100% for China. Global gross domestic product (GDP) growth is now forecast at 1.9%, reduction from 2.3% projected earlier, according to the 'Global Economic Outlook - April 2025 update' by the rating agency.



India lifted 17.1 crore out of extreme poverty in 10 years :-

Over the previous ten years, India has successfully lifted more than 17.1 crore people out of abject poverty. According to the World Bank's Spring 2025 Poverty and Equity Report, five states—Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh—accounted for two-thirds of the overall drop in extreme poverty. Extreme poverty in rural regions has decreased from 18.4% in 2011-12 to 2.8% in 2022-23. While, in urban areas, poverty reduced from 10.7% to 1.1% over the same period. It added that India has witnessed positive trends in employment growth, particularly since 2021-22.

9: International



India Launches 'Operation Brahma' For Quake-Hit Myanmar :-

India launched Operation Brahma to aid rescue and relief efforts after a 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar and neighboring Thailand, resulting in 1,644 deaths per day. The country provided tons of rations, tents, medicines, sleeping bags, rescue teams and equipment, a canine squad, and a fully operational field hospital. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who heads the military-led government in Myanmar, his first call with the military leader since the February 2021 coup there.



Saudi Arabia Bans Visas for 14 Nations Including India :-

With the Hajj pilgrimage approaching, Saudi Arabia has temporarily halted the issuing of specific visas to citizens of 14 countries, including India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. The prohibition on Umrah, business, and family visit visas will last until about mid-June, when the pilgrimage to Makkah concludes. The action was purportedly made to deter anyone from attempting to perform Hajj without formal registration. The kingdom has a quota system, which allocates specific Hajj slots to

each country to regulate the number of pilgrims. People participating illegally in the Hajj bypass this system.



US Pauses Higher Tariffs for Most Countries :-

President Donald Trump reduced proposed tariffs on imports from most US trading partners to 10% for 90 days to allow for trade talks with those countries. Trump announced the suspension hours after exports from almost 90 countries were subjected to higher, so-called reciprocal duties imposed by the US. The president also said in a social media post that he was raising the tariffs imposed on imports from China to 125% "effective immediately" due to the "lack of respect that China has shown to the World's Markets."



India Supports Sierra Leone's USD 990,000 Aid Through UN Partnership :-

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund will supply Sierra Leone with over a million dollars in funds for a project for differently abled people in the West African country. In response to the Government of Sierra Leone's request, India would contribute \$990,000 in financing support for the project "Enabling Economic Independence For Specially Abled Persons In Sierra

Leone (Persons With Disabilities)". The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is partnering with India towards the project.



Trump Administration Freezes \$2.3 Billion in Funding to Harvard University :-

The US Department of Education claimed it was withholding around \$2.3 billion in federal funds for Harvard University due to the school's refusal to comply with White House demands, including the elimination of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. The requests, which are an addendum to an earlier letter, include a ban on face masks, which looked to be targeted at pro-Palestinian protestors, as well as the suspension of any students who commandeered university premises during the protests. Harvard President Alan Garber, in a letter to the Harvard community, said the demands violated the University's First Amendment rights.



Beijing Halts Boeing Orders Amid Escalating US-China Trade War :-

According to a source, China has instructed its airlines to halt deliveries of jets from American aviation giant Boeing as a trade war between Beijing and the United States heats up. Since President Donald Trump took office in January, the world's two largest economies have been involved in a tit-for-tat trade war, with the US now

levying tariffs of up to 145% on Chinese goods. Beijing has reacted furiously to what it calls unlawful "bullying" by Washington and has imposed retaliatory duties of 125 percent on US imports, dismissing further hikes as pointless.



UAE Assumes Chair of INTERPOL's Committee on Governance :-

The UAE, represented by the Ministry of Interior, has been voted to lead the group on Governance, INTERPOL's major advisory group. This achievement exemplifies the UAE's strong reputation, strategic position in creating significant international ties, and continued commitment to international cooperation. Lieutenant Colonel Dana Humaid Al Marzouqi, Director General of the International Affairs Office at the Ministry of Interior, secured 67 per cent of the votes from the representatives of INTERPOL members.



New York City declares April 14 as Dr BR Ambedkar Day

New York City has designated April 14 as Dr. BR Ambedkar Day, in recognition of his towering legacy in furthering democracy, dignity, women's empowerment, and justice for historically marginalized communities. According to a top official in the mayor's office, Dilip Chauhan, deputy commissioner for the New York City mayor's Office for International Affairs, made the

statement in front of Union Minister Ramdas Athawale. "His advocacy resonates far beyond the borders of India, making him an icon for the modern human rights movement," Athawale said.



India hasn't informed the World Bank about its move on the Indus Waters Treaty :-

The Hindu that India has not yet notified the World Bank about its decision to place the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) on hold. The World Bank has historically served as a key mediator in resolving disagreements between India and Pakistan over the water-sharing arrangements outlined in the treaty. The move marks a significant shift in India's approach to the long-standing agreement. It could potentially impact diplomatic ties and future cooperation on water management between the two nations.

10: Miscellaneous



Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan Inaugurates 62nd National Maritime Day and Merchant Navy Week
 Maharashtra Governor C P Radhakrishnan launched the 62nd National Maritime Day and Merchant Navy Week at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai. Addressing the officers, the Governor emphasized the importance of the maritime industry in achieving Viksit Bharat's goals. He advocated for improved coordination among the Directorate General of Shipping, the Shipping Corporation of India, the Container Corporation, the Railways, and traders. He further expressed the need for the modernisation of ports in the country.



DDLJ Statue To Be Unveiled at London's Leicester Square :-

According to Yash Raj Films, the Heart of London Business Alliance has announced that a new statue would be added to the thrilling 'Scenes in the Square' movie trail in Leicester Square, with the historic blockbuster Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (DDLJ) statue constructed in London. This will mark the beginning of the 30-year anniversary festivities for DDLJ, one of the most beloved blockbuster Hindi films of all time, a timeless and multi-award-winning rom-com that also marked Aditya Chopra's directorial debut. The bronze statue will depict the two Bollywood megastars, Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol, in an iconic DDLJ pose.



ICC Initiative to Support Displaced Afghan Women Cricketers :-

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has collaborated with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Cricket Australia (CA), and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to assist a group of displaced Afghan female cricketers. The global cricket body would set aside funds to provide direct financial assistance to cricketers, as well as 'advanced coaching, world-class facilities, and targeted mentorship', the ICC stated on the margins of its Board Meeting in Zimbabwe. A total of 21 female cricketers, previously contracted by the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB), fled their home country after the Taliban regained control in 2021.



Punjab: Milkfed Launches 'Veera' Mascot for Verka to Boost Nationwide Presence :-

Milkfed, India's seventh largest milk cooperative in Punjab, has launched its mascot 'Veera' for its dairy brand 'Verka' in an effort to popularize its products and increase sales across the country. The mascot, Veera, which means brother, is a smiling young Sikh kid offering pleasantries with folded hands. The mascot was launched during the foundation stone-laying ceremony of a project of worth 135 crore rupees in Amritsar district, aimed at enhancing the capacity of sterilized

flavored milk and new fermented dairy products like Lassi, Curd and Flavored Milk.



Ministry of Ayush Organized Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme :-

The Ministry of Ayush held an exclusive meeting of the Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme at Ayush Bhawan to improve the service orientation and professional abilities of its staff. The effort was carried out in partnership with the Capacity Building Commission under the Mission Karmayogi framework. The programme represents the Ministry's ongoing effort to develop a responsive and efficient workforce. The first phase of the session was inaugurated earlier on March 18 by Vaidya Rajesh Koticha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, who underscored the importance of applying training insights to everyday tasks for better service delivery.



Union Minister inaugurated Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU) :-

Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya opened the world's 17th Athlete Passport Management Unit at the National Dope Testing Laboratory in New Delhi. The Athlete Passport Management Unit is a specialized division that monitors and manages athletes' biological passports, ensuring fair play and maintaining the

integrity of clean sport. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister called APMU a key milestone in the country's fight against doping, enabling the longitudinal tracking of Athletes Biological profiles through the Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) system.



BRICS Land Restoration Partnership :-

Brics countries, including India, have launched the "Brics Land Restoration Partnership" to address issues of degradation of land, desertification, and soil fertility loss in the group's 11 member countries, reaffirming their commitment to making the global agri-food system fair, inclusive, innovative, and sustainable. These countries endorsed the measure during the 15th Brics Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in Brasilia, Brazil. It was the inaugural agriculture ministers' meeting of the expanded Brics, which now comprises 11 members. India was represented by Union agriculture and rural development minister minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at the meet.

11: National



Government to Launch 'Sahkar' Taxi Service Under Cooperative Model :-

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah stated the government's intentions to introduce a new app-based taxi service, "Sahkar," similar to Ola and Uber, in a major step to strengthen the cooperative sector. While the House was debating the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which contains provisions for the establishment of a national cooperative university, the announcement was made in Parliament. Shah said the upcoming service will be operated under the cooperative model, ensuring that drivers become stakeholders rather than just service providers.

Indian Ports Bill 2025 :-

Sarbananda Sonowal, the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, has presented the Indian Ports Bill, 2025 to the Lok Sabha. With an emphasis on encouraging integrated port development, improving ease of doing business, and guaranteeing the best possible use of the nation's vast coastline, the bill seeks to simplify and harmonize India's port regulations. Establishing and empowering State Maritime Boards to effectively administer non-major ports is a crucial component of the law. The bill also seeks to establish the Maritime State Development Council to promote structured growth within the port sector.



90th Anniversary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will celebrate its 90th anniversary in 2025, marking nine decades of financial governance, economic stability, and monetary policy control in India. The RBI was established on April 1, 1935, under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, and has played an important role in establishing India's financial landscape. Smt. Droupadi Murmu, the Hon'ble President of India, unveiled a commemorative postage stamp to celebrate the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 90th anniversary at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) in Mumbai.



Central Govt. to set up 728 Eklavya Model Residential School :-

The centre aims to establish 728 Eklavya Model Residential Schools, which will help around 3.5 lakh Schedule Tribe students across the country. As of now, 721 schools have been sanctioned around the country, with 477 schools believed to be operational. Durgadas Uikey, Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, stated in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha that the Central Sector Scheme of Eklavya Model Residential School was launched in 2018-19 to serve tribal students in their

home environment. The Minister highlighted that the government is implementing several initiatives in collaboration with other government bodies.



Parliament Passed The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 :-

Parliament enacted the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, and the Rajya Sabha approved it. The Upper House passed the Bill, with 128 members voting in favor and 95 voting against it. The Rajya Sabha debated the Bill for around 12 hours. The Lok Sabha has already adopted the Bill. The Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2025 seeks to streamline the management of Waqf properties while also protecting heritage sites and promoting social welfare. The Bill also seeks to improve the economic and social status of Muslim women, particularly widows and divorced women.



New Pamban Bridge Inaugurated by PM Modi :-

On the occasion of Ram Navami, Prime Minister Narendra Modi opened the New Pamban Bridge in Tamil Nadu, the country's first vertical-lift sea bridge. PM Modi also flagged off a Coast Guard ship that passed under the bridge, as well as the new Rameswaram-Tambaram train (Chennai). According to the Ministry of Railways, the 2.07-kilometer-long bridge over the Palk Strait in Tamil

Nadu demonstrates India's engineering competence and imaginative infrastructure development. Located in the Ramanathapuram district, the bridge connects Rameswaram Island with Mandapam on the mainland.

Meeting of All India Institutes of Medical Sciences

5, डॉ. अम्बेडकर अंतरराष्ट्रीय केन्द्र, नई दिल्ली

Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam International Centre, New Delhi



Union Minister J.P. Nadda launches 'Inter-AIIMS Referral Portal' for seamless patient care :-

J.P. Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, announced the launch of the Inter-AIIMS Referral site, which was built in-house by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, to transform healthcare administration and patient referral systems across the country. According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Inter-AIIMS Referral portal will leverage cutting-edge technologies, including facial recognition systems and automated workflows, to ensure seamless, secure, and transparent referral processes.



Justice BR Gavai to succeed Sanjeev Khanna as the next CJI :-

The incumbent Chief Justice of India, Sanjeev Khanna, has proposed to the Union Law Ministry that Justice Bhushan Ramakrishna Gavai be appointed to succeed him in the top position. Justice Gavai is set to take his oath as the

52nd Chief Justice of India on May 14. Justice Sanjiv Khanna was sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India by President Droupadi Murmu in November of last year, following the retirement of Justice D Y Chandrachud. Justice Khanna's tenure, however, has been brief, lasting for six months, as he is scheduled to retire on May 13, 2025.



Supreme Court issues guidelines to curb child trafficking :-

The Supreme Court established tough standards for the prevention and speedier prosecution of child trafficking-related offenses throughout the country. The Bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan urged High Courts across the country to issue orders to lower courts to complete child trafficking matters within six months. The Supreme Court also directed that such matters be heard on a daily basis to avoid delays in justice. The Court issued the directions while hearing anticipatory bail pleas filed by the accused in a child trafficking case from Uttar Pradesh.



Senthilbalaji, Ponmudy resign; Tensions rise at LoC :-

Tamil Nadu Ministers K. Ponmudy and V. Senthilbalaji stepped down on April 27, 2025 night. Chief Minister

M.K. Stalin recommended Governor R.N. Ravi to accept their resignations and to induct Mano Thangaraj into the Cabinet. The swearing-in ceremony is scheduled for April 28 at Raj Bhavan. Meanwhile, Pakistan continued

ceasefire violations at the LoC for the third straight night amid rising tensions. In response to the Pahalgam attack, the Indian Navy and Air Force held major drills as Pakistan moved heavy equipment near the LoC.

12: Obituaries



Val Kilmer, star of Batman and Top Gun, dies at 65 after battling cancer :-

Val Kilmer, one of the most prominent Hollywood performers of his time, died at the age of 65. He had been battling throat cancer for some years and was last seen in the hit picture Top Gun: Maverick. Kilmer rose to prominence after playing Iceman in Tom Cruise's original Top Gun; he later starred as Bruce Wayne/Batman in the successful 1995 film Batman Forever. He played renowned rock star Jim Morrison in the film The Doors, which is still one of his most popular roles. His other memorable role came in director Michael Mann's crime classic Heat, which also featured Al Pacino and Robert De Niro.



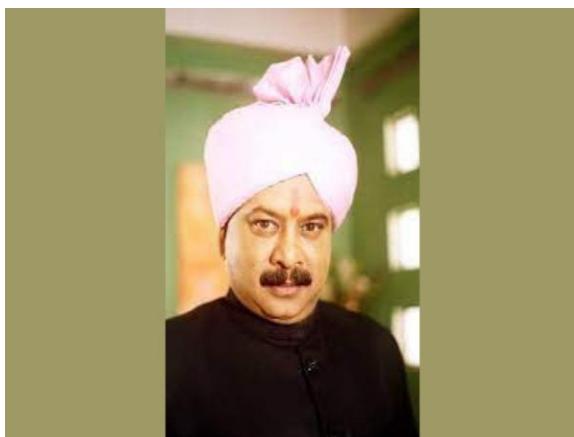
Veteran actor, director Manoj Kumar passes away aged 87 :-

Manoj Kumar, a veteran Indian actor and filmmaker known for his patriotic films and affectionately known as 'Bharat Kumar,' died at the age of 87. He died at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital. Manoj Kumar, born Harikrishna Giri Goswami, played a vital role in defining the scene of nationalistic cinema in Bollywood. His portrayal of nationalist figures on television earned him the prestigious title 'Bharat Kumar.' In recognition of his impact on the industry, he was honored with the Padma Shri in 1992 and later, in 2015, received the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award.



Veteran Actor Ravikumar Passes Away at 71 :-

Ravikumar Menon, a veteran Tamil and Malayalam actor, died at a private hospital in Chennai. The 71-year-old was apparently being treated for cancer. In addition to television shows, he has appeared in a number of Tamil and Malayalam films, portraying both main and supporting roles. He had previously acted in Malayalam in the 1968 film Lakshaprabhu, but his lead debut came in the 1975 film Ullasa Yaathra. In 1997, Ravikumar also ventured into acting in television shows with Naga's Iyandhira Paravai from the Marmadesam series for Raj TV.



Veteran Marathi Actor Dr. Vilas Ujawane passes away at 70 :-

Dr. Vilas Ujawane, a veteran Marathi actor who made significant contributions to theatre, television, and film, died at Om Hospital in Borivali, Mumbai. He was seventy years old. Dr. Ujawane, a stalwart of Marathi entertainment, carved out a niche for himself with his loud voice, remarkable acting ability, and distinct on-screen presence. He earned accolades for his performances in Marathi plays, television serials, and films, with his role in the popular TV series *Vadalvat* remaining one of his most memorable.



Brahma Kumari centenarian chief Dadi Ratan Mohini passes away :-

Dadi Ratan Mohini, the spiritual leader and Brahma Kumari's top administrator, died. Her 100th birthday was marked on March 25. Dadi Ratan Mohini was the second Brahma Kumari leader to attain the astounding 100-year mark. The first, Dadi Janki (January 1, 1916 - March 27, 2020), also served as the organization's leader. Dadi

Ratan Mohini—originally named Lakshmi—was born on March 25, 1925, in Hyderabad, Sindh. She grew up in a wealthy and religious family. In 1954, she represented the Brahma Kumaris at the World Peace Conference in Japan, and she later traveled across Asia, doing spiritual service in Hong Kong, Singapore, and Malaysia.



Folk Dancer Ram Sahay Pandey Passed Away :-

Ram Sahay Panday, an internationally famous folk dancer and Padma Shri laureate, died in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar area after a protracted illness, according to family sources. He was 92. For 60 years, the artist from Bundelkhand popularized the Rai folk dance by combining it with Mridangam music. According to sources, Ram Sahay, a Sagar district inhabitant, has performed over 100 times in 18 nations. The artist received Padma Shri, the country's fourth-highest civilian award, in 2022. Madhya Pradesh chief minister Mohan Yadav expressed grief over his death.



Darshan Mehta, former MD and CEO of Reliance Brands, dies at 60 :-

Darshan Mehta, the former Managing Director and CEO of Reliance Brands Ltd. (RBL), died. He was sixty. Mehta, who had worked with Reliance Brands since its start in 2007, was instrumental in reshaping India's luxury and lifestyle retail scene. During his 17-year stint as President and CEO, Mehta guided RBL in bringing over 90 global fashion and lifestyle brands to India, including Valentino, Versace, Armani, Bottega Veneta, Coach, Jimmy Choo, Muji, Zegna, Boss, and Pottery Barn.



Senior Congress leader Kumari Ananthan passes away at 93 in Chennai :-

Kumari Ananthan, former president of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC), died at the age of 93 following a brief illness. Kumari Ananthan's whole family had an engagement in politics. He was the father of Telangana's previous Governor, Tamilisai Soundararajan. His nephew, Vijay Vasanth, is the current MP for the Kanyakumari constituency. His younger brother, Vasanthakumar, was also an MP in the Kanyakumari constituency. Kumari Ananthan served as both MP and MLA. He was first elected as MP from the Nagercoil constituency in 1977 and as MLA from the Thiruvottiyur constituency in 1980.



Congress leader Sooranad Rajasekharan passes away at 75 :-

Sooranad Rajasekharan, veteran Congress leader, died at a private hospital in Kochi, according to party sources. He was 75. According to sources, Rajasekharan, who also served on the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee's (KPCC) political affairs committee, had been battling cancer for some time. Rajasekharan was born in Sooranad, Kollam district, and began his political career as a KSU activist at DB College, Sasthamkotta. Later, he became a state committee member of KSU and Youth Congress. He also worked as a journalist and became the president of the Kollam Press Club.



Telangana environmentalist, Padma Shri awardee Daripalli Ramaiah dies at 87 :-

Daripalli Ramaiah, a popular Telangana green warrior and Padma Shri awardee, died at the age of 87 in Khammam after suffering a heart arrest, according to his family. Ramaiah, also known as "Vanajeevi Ramaiah" (forest dweller Ramaiah) and the "tree-man" of Telangana, went on a lifetime mission of planting plantations and conserving trees while farming in his hometown of Reddipalli. "He planted one crore saplings in different parts of Khammam district and even used part of his three-acre land to grow trees," said Satyanarayana, a local villager.



Veteran Kannada actor Bank Janardhan passed away at 77 :-

Bank Janardhan, a veteran Kannada actor noted for his perfect comic timing and unforgettable supporting parts, passed away on Sunday night, April 13. The actor has worked in cinema for nearly four decades, appearing in over 500 films and television episodes. He became well-known as a result of his extensive film and television career. Janardhan began his career as a stage actor, but he took a brief hiatus to work at a bank, earning him the nickname "Bank Janardhan." The actor has made a lasting impact through his roles on both big and small screens, starring in iconic films like 'Shh', 'Tarle Nan Maga', 'Belliappa Bangarappa', and many more.



Mario Vargas Llosa, Nobel Prize-winning author, dies at 89 :-

Mario Vargas Llosa, a Peruvian author and Nobel literature laureate, has died. He was 89. He was an acclaimed writer and essayist known for books such as "The Time of the Hero" (La Ciudad y los Perros) and "Feast of the Goat," and he received numerous awards, including the Nobel Prize in 2010. Vargas Llosa released his first collection of stories, "The Cubs and Other Stories" (Los Jefes), in 1959. But he burst onto the literary

stage in 1963 with his groundbreaking debut "The Time of the Hero," a novel that drew on his experiences at a Peruvian military academy and angered the country's military.



Kathak legend Kumudini Lakhia passes away :-

Kumudini Lakhia, an eminent Kathak exponent and choreographer, died at the age of 95 from an age-related illness in her Ahmedabad residence. Lakhia was honored with India's second-highest civilian award, the Padma Vibhushan, on Republic Day this year in recognition of her lifelong contribution to Kathak. Lakhia was born on May 17, 1930, in Ahmedabad and went on to become a well-known Indian Kathak dancer and choreographer. She also worked as a choreographer in Hindi film "Umrao Jaan" (1981), among others.



Pope Francis Dies at 88 :-

Pope Francis, the first Latin American pontiff, died on April 21, according to the Vatican. He enchanted the world with his humble demeanor and care for the poor. He was 88. The pope had suffered from a variety of maladies over his 12-year pontificate, most recently surviving a severe battle of double pneumonia. Francis, originally from Argentina and the first pope from the

Americas, was also the first pope in more than a century to live outside the Vatican's apostolic palace, an ornate Italian Renaissance building located next to St. Peter's Square.



26 Killed In Deadly Pahalgam Terror Attack :-

Twenty-six persons were killed on April 22 when terrorists opened fire at Baisaran, a famous grassland near the resort town of Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir, at 3 p.m. An Indian Navy officer and an Intelligence Bureau official were also slain in the incident. The event occurred at Baisaran, sometimes known as "mini Switzerland" due to its meadows and panoramic vistas, about six kilometres from Pahalgam. The site is especially popular during the spring and summer months, attracting tourists from across India and abroad.

13: Ranks & Reports



UPI Transactions Hit Record Rs 24.77 Trillion in March 2025 :-

In March, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system processed 19.78 billion transactions worth Rs 24.77 trillion, setting new records for value and volume in the digital payments system. According to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India, which handles UPI, the value climbed by 13% and the volume increased by 14% since February. In FY25, the value of transactions increased 30 per cent to Rs 260.56 trillion compared to Rs 199.96 trillion FY24. Volume increased 42 per cent to 185.85 billion transactions from 131.14 billion in FY24.



India's growth to be highest amongst advanced, emerging G20 nations: Moody's :-

According to Moody's Ratings, India's GDP is expected to grow at 6.5% in fiscal year 2025-26, preserving its position as the fastest-growing among mature and emerging G-20 nations. The credit agency cited tax cuts and continuing monetary easing as important drivers of this development. Despite global economic uncertainty, India is projected to attract investments while mitigating potential capital outflows. In its latest report on emerging markets, Moody's noted that these economies are facing challenges due to shifting U.S. policies, which are impacting global capital flows, trade, and supply chains.



India Records Highest Child Adoptions in 12 Years :-

According to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, India saw a record number of child adoptions, 4,515 in FY 2024-25, the highest in the previous 12 years. Domestic adoptions accounted for 4,155 of the total, according to the Ministry, demonstrating the country's growing support for legal adoption. This was made possible by a robust identification campaign based on data from the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), which added 8,598 new children to the adoption pool. CARA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.



EY Report Projects 6.5% Growth in FY26 For India :-

The Indian economy is expected to grow at 6.5% in the fiscal year beginning April 1, according to EY Economy Watch, emphasizing that a well-calibrated fiscal approach that promotes human capital development while remaining fiscally prudent could greatly improve long-term growth prospects. According to the March issue of EY Economy Watch, India's real GDP would rise by 6.4% in FY25 (April 2024–March 2025 fiscal year). For the next, it projects 6.5% growth, highlighting the need

to realign fiscal policy to support the country's journey toward Viksit Bharat.



Rajasthan Tops Solar Installations In Indian Railways Stations and Service Buildings :-

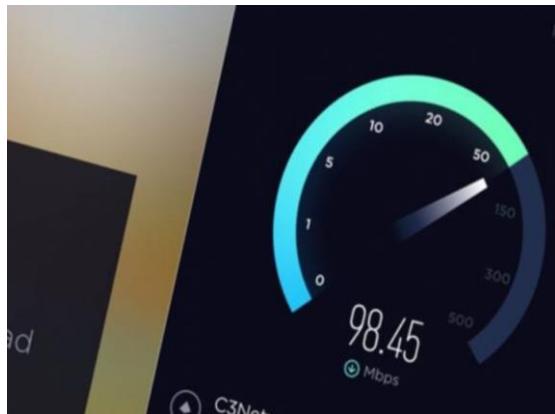
Indian Railways has made a huge step toward meeting its goal to renewable energy by installing 2,249 solar power plants at railway stations and other buildings across the country by February 2025. Indian Railways has installed 1,489 solar units in the last five years, more than 2.3 times the previous five-year total of 628 units. Rajasthan has emerged as the top state in this endeavor, with 275 installations, the most among all states and union territories. Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnav provided this information in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.



India Ranks 36 in Network Readiness Index :-

According to a UN survey, India now ranks 36th out of 170 nations on a worldwide index measuring a country's readiness for frontier technologies, up from 37th last year. According to UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) 2025 Technology and Innovation Report, India scored 36th in 2024 on the 'Readiness for Frontier Technologies' index, up from 48th in 2022. Bhutan, India, Morocco, the Republic of Moldova, and Timor-

Leste improved their positions in human capital due to more years of schooling and a greater share of high-skill employment in their working populations, the report said.



Mumbai ranks lowest among Indian cities in fixed broadband speed: Ookla :-

According to Ookla's Speedtest Global Index, Mumbai had the lowest fixed broadband speed performance among Indian cities in February 2025, ranking 123 (out of 200). India's global ranking has decreased from 94 to 95 since January 2025. Mumbai had the lowest fixed broadband performance of the two Indian cities included in the Index, with a download speed of 58.24 Mbps and an upload speed of 56.30 Mbps. Overall, India recorded a download speed of 61.66 Mbps and an upload speed of 57.89 Mbps, with a latency of 7 milliseconds.



Unemployment Rate Dips Marginally to 4.9% in 2024 :-

According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the unemployment rate among those aged 15 and above fell from 5% in 2023 to 4.9% in 2024, indicating moderate increases in employment chances. In rural areas, the

overall unemployment rate fell slightly to 4.2% in 2024 from 4.3% in 2023, with minor reductions for both men and women. While the urban male unemployment rose to 6.1 per cent from 6 per cent, the female unemployment rate declined to 8.2 per cent from 8.9 per cent during the given periods, keeping the overall urban rate stable at 6.7 per cent.



Gujarat, Telangana excel as govt releases first Panchayat Advancement Index data :-

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj announced that the government has launched a Panchayat Advancement Index, a tool for measuring the success of nearly 2.5 lakh gram panchayats across India on nine specific Sustainable Development Goals. According to PAI data for 2022-23, 699 panchayats are in the top categories, with the majority coming from Gujarat and Telangana. Under the index, based on scores achieved by different gram panchayats, they are grouped into various categories of performance Achiever, Front Runner, Performer, Aspirant and Beginners.



ADB Projected India Economy Grow By 6.7% in FY2025

According to the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Asian Development Outlook (ADO) report for April 2025, India's economy is expected to grow at 6.7% in the current fiscal year, fueled by strong domestic demand, rising rural incomes, and moderate inflation. The ADB expects GDP to increase at 6.8% in FY26 (2026-27), aided by favourable fiscal and monetary policy. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also revised its growth forecast for the current fiscal year, lowering it to 6.5% from the earlier estimate of 6.7%, citing the impact of global trade and policy uncertainties.



Kerala & Tamil Nadu Unite for Nilgiri Tahr Census 2025

Kerala and Tamil Nadu will collaborate to conduct a Nilgiri Tahr census. Over the course of four days, the survey will cover 89 census blocks in Kerala and 176 in Tamil Nadu. Forest Minister A.K. Saseendran, who introduced the plan, noted that the synchronized mountain ungulate survey is being carried out to honor Eravikulam National Park's 50th anniversary of establishment. Both Kerala and Tamil Nadu's Forest departments have begun preparations to conduct the census across the contiguous Nilgiri Tahr habitats, covering areas both inside and outside protected forest zones.



Singapore Airports Top The World Airport Rankings 2025 :-

Singapore Changi Airport has been designated the World's Best Airport 2025 by Skytrax, an airline rating authority. Singapore Changi Airport has won this prestigious award for the thirteenth time in its history. Doha's Hamad International Airport, the former three-time winner of World's Best Airport, was ranked second this year, in addition to collecting awards for World's Best Airport Shopping and Best Airport in the Middle East. Although no Indian airport featured in the list of the world's top 20, Delhi International Airport earned the title of Best Airport in India and South Asia.



Morgan Stanley lowers India's FY26 GDP growth estimate :-

Morgan Stanley cut its India growth prediction by 40 basis points to 6.1% in 2025-26, citing changes in trade and tariff policies. The US-based financial services giant also stated that it now predicts a weaker rebound in 2026-27, at 6.3%, as opposed to its previous forecast of 6.5% growth. According to a research report on India Economics and Strategy, growth will slow to 5.7% in the December 2025 quarter, down from 6.2% the previous year. Slower growth and lower inflation, it said, should allow the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to respond with a deeper easing cycle, of a cumulative 100 basis points, and two more interest rate cuts in 2025.



UNCTAD projects India's economy to grow by 6.5 % in 2025 :-

According to the most recent UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) study, India is anticipated to be the fastest-growing major economy in 2025, with a 6.5 percent growth rate, while global growth is expected to transition to a recessionary path. The research titled "Trade and Development Foresights 2025" lists India as one of the countries driving growth through increased government spending and monetary policy stimulation. The report projected China's growth rate at 4.4 per cent, while the US economy is expected to grow at 1 per cent.



India's textile exports grew 7 pc to USD 21.35 bn during Apr-Oct period of FY25: Govt :-

India's textile and apparel exports, including handicrafts, increased by 7% between April and October to USD 21.35 billion, according to the government. The sector's export shipments totaled USD 20 billion during the same period in the preceding fiscal year, FY 2023-24. Exports increased in all primary commodities from April to October of FY 2024-25 compared to the same period in FY 2023-24, with the exception of wool and handloom,

which fell by 19% and 6%, respectively, according to the Ministry.



India's Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system yields Rs. 3.48 lakh crore in savings, boosts welfare efficiency: report :-

According to a new analysis from the BlueKraft Digital Foundation, India's Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system has led to in aggregate savings of Rs. 3.48 lakh crore by closing leakages in welfare distribution. The Ministry of Finance has welcomed the findings, which highlight DBT's revolutionary influence on public spending efficiency, subsidy rationalisation, and social inclusion. The report evaluates data from 2009 to 2024 and introduces a Welfare Efficiency Index (WEI), a composite metric that tracks fiscal and social outcomes. The index surged nearly threefold—from 0.32 in 2014 to 0.91 in 2023.



An encounter has erupted in Bandipora, Jammu and Kashmir:-

Two security personnel were wounded during an encounter with terrorists in Bandipora district, Jammu and Kashmir, on Friday, according to officials. The clash

took place as security forces engaged with militants in the region. The injured personnel were immediately rushed to the hospital for treatment. Authorities are continuing their efforts to track down the terrorists involved in the incident. Security forces have cordoned off the area and are conducting search operations. The situation remains tense as operations continue in the region.



IISc Ranked No. 1 in Times Higher Education Asia Rankings 2025:-

The Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2025 were released on April 23, revealing the top universities in Asia. This year's rankings include 853 universities from 35 countries and regions, spotlighting institutions that excel in research, teaching, and innovation across the continent. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) continues to lead, ranking 38th overall in Asia and securing the top position among Indian universities. However, several Indian institutions saw a decline in their rankings compared to last year, reflecting the increasing competition in higher education.



Govt Bans 16 Pakistani YouTube Channels Over Pahalgam Terror Attack Misinformation :-

The Indian government has banned 16 Pakistani YouTube channels for spreading misinformation about India and its military in relation to the Pahalgam terror attack. The Centre also expressed strong disapproval to BBC India head Jackie Martin regarding their coverage, particularly for referring to terrorists as "militants." A letter was sent to BBC for its reporting on the attack. In Jammu and Kashmir, the state assembly observed a two-minute silence to honor the 26 victims of the attack, with Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather condemning the killings of innocent tourists.



ICIMOD Report On The Hindu Kush Himalaya :-

Snow cover in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region between November and March this year was 23.6% below normal, a record low in the last 23 years. Snow persistence is the amount of time snow lingers on the ground following a snowstorm. According to the 2025 Hindu Kush Himalaya Snow Update from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), this is the third straight year of below-average seasonal snowfall in the region. On average, snowmelt contributes about 23 per cent to the total yearly water flow in major river basins.

14: Schemes & Committees



Amit Shah Unveils Schemes and Projects Worth Over Rs 800 Crore in Bihar :-

Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced initiatives and laid the groundwork for projects worth more than Rs 800 crore in Bihar on International Cooperative Day. Shah launched two schemes: Rs 111 crore from the cooperative department and Rs 421 crore from the urban development and housing department. He also lay the groundwork for 133 police buildings, totaling Rs 181 crore, as well as three road transport and national highway projects worth Rs 109 crore. Shah also remotely inaugurated a makhana processing unit at the Fishermen's Cooperative Society in Darbhanga district.



Free Bus Service for Women in Jammu & Kashmir :-

Women in Jammu and Kashmir will now be able to use government buses for free, after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah officially launched the services in the Union territory. In its first budget in the UT, the National

Conference (NC) administration offered free travel for women in J&K on all State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) and Smart City buses. Flanked by senior officers, ministers and party leaders, Omar launched the free service, at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar.



Andhra Pradesh's 'Zero Poverty – P4 Policy' Initiative :-

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu introduced the 'Zero Poverty - P4' program as part of the Swarnadra 2047 vision, with the goal of ensuring Andhra Pradesh is free of poverty by 2029. The 'P4' project stands for Public-Private-People Partnership, with wealthier persons ready to contribute designated as 'Margadarsies' (mentors) and impoverished recipients recognized as 'Bangaru Kutumbams' (golden families). The government will act as a facilitator, ensuring real-time tracking of progress through digital dashboards.



Assam's 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan' :-

The Bharatiya Janata Party-led Assam government has established a new entrepreneurial support package for women. The 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan', regarded as the "biggest" effort of its type, has three stages of financial aid for women. Women in 37.2 lakh families with an annual income of less than ₹2 lakh benefit from the Orunodoi initiative, which transfers ₹1,250 apiece to their accounts. The scheme costs the State Government ₹467 crore per month.



Stand-Up India Scheme Marks 7 Years :-

The Stand-Up India Scheme has reached a critical milestone: seven years since its inception on April 5, 2016. The plan, launched by the Ministry of Finance under the title of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, was aimed to empower Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and women entrepreneurs by making bank loans available for starting new businesses. Since its inception, the scheme has seen a steady increase in sanctioned loan amounts—from Rs. 16,085.07 crore as of March 31, 2019, to a remarkable Rs. 61,020.41 crore by March 17, 2025.



Government Set To Implement "One State, One RRB" :-

The finance ministry is going to launch the 'One State-One RRB' strategy, which aims to improve operational efficiency, reduce costs, and consolidate 43 regional rural banks (RRBs) into 28. According to insiders, the majority of the work on the consolidation issue has already been accomplished, and the fourth round will take place soon. Among states that will see consolidation of RRBs include Andhra Pradesh, which has the maximum number of RRBs (4), Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal (3 each), and Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan (2 each).



Big boost for water management: PM 'krishi sinchayee yojana' expanded :-

PM Modi's cabinet committee on economic affairs (CCEA) authorized the "modernisation of command area development and water management (M-CADWM)" as a sub-scheme of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for 2025-2026, with an initial budget of Rs1,600 crore. The irrigation management transfer (IMT) to the water user society (WUS) for irrigation asset management would ensure the project's sustainability. The scheme aims for modernisation of the irrigation water supply network to supply of irrigation water from existing canals or other sources in a designated cluster.



HEALD Initiative :-

On World Liver Day, the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) launched HEALD - Healthy Liver Education and Alcohol-Associated Liver Disease Prevention, a first-of-its-kind statewide campaign targeted at combating liver disease in India. Union Home Minister Amit Shah praised ILBS for setting a national example in healthcare innovation as he unveiled the HEALD program and inaugurated India's first Integrated Liver Habilitation (LiHAB) Centre. The initiative helps to tackle the disease through awareness, prevention, rehabilitation, and policy integration.



Government and Microsoft Launch 'AI Careers for Women' :-

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has partnered with Microsoft to launch 'AI Careers for Women', a groundbreaking skilling program with the goal of empowering women from higher education institutions to build careers in Artificial Intelligence (AI). This forward-looking collaboration is set to provide industry-aligned AI training to 20,000 women

learners across Tier-II and Tier-III towns in six Indian states. Microsoft will offer a 240-hour AI curriculum.



Pink E-Rickshaw Project: Empowering Women with Sustainable Transportation :-

The Pink E-Rickshaw project, introduced in Maharashtra, seeks to empower women by offering them eco-friendly transport alternatives. Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar recently revealed plans to distribute these electric rickshaws as feeder services at metro stations, airports, and popular tourist spots. After a successful trial run in Pune, the initiative is set to be extended to other cities across the state.



Yeshasvini Health Scheme to be overhauled with up to 50% rate hike for complex procedures :-

The Karnataka government's Yeshasvini health scheme is set for major reforms, with an expert committee recommending up to a 50% increase in rates for certain high-end treatments. The proposal, aimed at improving healthcare access and encouraging private hospital participation, was submitted to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Launched in 2003, Yeshasvini has been crucial in providing affordable healthcare to millions of cooperative members in the state. The panel has suggested an across-the-board rate hike of 15% to 25%

for most procedures, with a 50% surge proposed for highly complex treatments including paediatric heart surgeries, oncology, neurosurgery, and interventional radiology.



New Initiatives, Programs under Garib, Youth, Annadata, and Nari Development Pillars:-

The Union Budget 2025 unveils several new schemes and missions aimed at driving development across four major pillars: Garib (Poverty), Youth, Annadata (Farmers), and Nari (Women). These efforts underscore the commitment to inclusive progress and empowerment. Under the Garib pillar, the government seeks to strengthen social welfare programs, providing improved support to economically disadvantaged families.



NMCG Approves Action Plan 2025 to Strengthen Urban River Rejuvenation :-

In an important move regarding river-sensitive urban development, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), a central nodal agency for river rejuvenation, has approved an action plan for 145 cities along various rivers in the nation. The plan will be implemented in 2025 to maintain the sustainability and health of the corresponding river stretches. Formulated under the River Cities Alliance (RCA) which was launched in 2021 aimed at rejuvenating urban rivers across India, the plan covers Agra, Ayodhya, Kanpur, Lucknow, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Jhansi, Dehradun, Haridwar, Patna, Ranchi, Howrah, Pune, Nashik, Chennai, Hyderabad, Udaipur, Bhubaneshwar, Surat, Thiruvananthapuram and Visakhapatnam among others.



Delhi Launches 'Ayushman Vay Vandana' Scheme :-

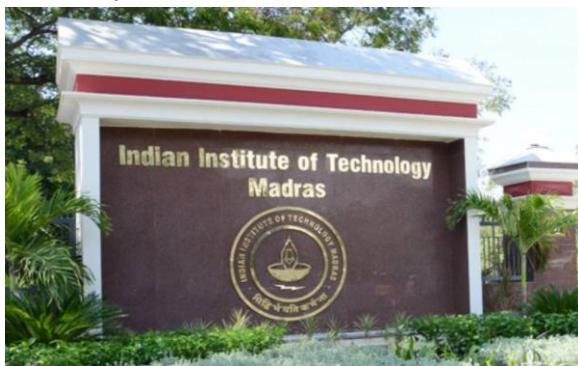
Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri presented Ayushman Bharat cards to eligible older citizens as part of the Pradhan Mantri Vay Vandana Yojana at Thyagaraj Stadium in New Delhi. The occasion marked the formal launch of Ayushman Vay Vandana cards, which provide healthcare benefits to individuals aged 70 and up. Under the scheme, eligible citizens will receive free healthcare support worth Rs 5 lakh annually, with an additional Rs 5 lakh coverage provided by the Delhi government, bringing the total health cover to Rs 10 lakh.

15: Science & Technology



SpaceX Successfully Launches Crew2 Mission :-

On April 1, SpaceX launched its historic Crew2 mission, launching a crew of four people into a polar orbit for the first time and achieving a major milestone in human spaceflight. The Crew Dragon capsule, Resilience, and the Falcon 9 rocket were used to launch the four-person Falcon-9 spacecraft from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The Crew2 mission is notable not only for its unique trajectory but also for its diverse crew, led by cryptocurrency entrepreneur Chun Wang, alongside vehicle commander Jannicke Mikkelsen from Norway, pilot Rabea Rogge from Germany, and medical officer Eric Phillips from Australia.



IIT Madras Pravartak Completes Training of First Batch of Cyber Commandos :-

IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation successfully trained the first class of Cyber Commandos, a training course designed to provide law enforcement officials with sophisticated cybersecurity capabilities. The plan is aimed at strengthening India's cybersecurity and enhancing law enforcement's ability to tackle

cybercrime. An initiative of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, the 'Cyber Commandos' programme envisages creating a specialised force and is a critical step in bolstering India's cyber defence capabilities.



ISRO's POEM-4, from SpaDeX mission, re-enters Earth's atmosphere:-

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that the fourth edition of the PSLV Orbital Experiment Module (POEM-4) safely re-entered the Earth's atmosphere, with an impact recorded in the Indian Ocean. The re-entry is an important milestone in ISRO's ongoing efforts to reduce space debris through its Debris Free Space Mission (DFSM). During its operational life in orbit, POEM-4 hosted 24 payloads — 14 from ISRO and 10 from non-governmental entities (NGEs). All payloads performed successfully and delivered valuable scientific data.



Meta Launches Llama-4 AI Suite :-

In a strategic move to improve its position in the generative AI field, Meta unveiled the first models from

its newest open-source AI suite, Llama 4. The two initial models, Llama 4 Scout and Llama 4 Maverick, are now available for download from the Llama website and Hugging Face. These models also serve as the backbone for Meta AI, the company's virtual assistant, which is now incorporated into WhatsApp, Instagram, Messenger, and the web. Additionally, Meta introduced Llama 4 Behemoth, describing it as one of the smartest large language models (LLMs) yet.



Scientists Resurrect 12,500-Year-Old Dire Wolf Via Genetic Engineering :-

In a breakthrough scientific achievement, scientists have successfully revived the dire wolf, a species that became extinct roughly 12,500 years ago. This astounding feat was done by Colossal Biosciences, a biotechnology company situated in Texas, USA. According to CNN, Colossal Biosciences created these clones by combining DNA from dire wolf remnants ranging back 13,000 to 72,000 years with grey wolf DNA. This scientific breakthrough is seen as a potential game-changer and has opened up possibilities for the revival of other extinct species, such as the woolly mammoth, dodo, and Tasmanian tiger.



Japan Builds World's First 3D-Printed Train Station in Record Time :-

In a world first, the West Japan Railway Company built a 3D-printed train station in Arida City, marking a significant advancement in rail infrastructure innovation. The new Hatsushima Station, which replaced an aging wooden facility from 1948, was built on-site in little under six hours, according to the New York Times. The station, which has been automated since 2018, serves around 530 passengers daily and is located along a modest train line with services running one to three times per hour.



India's First Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) Over Multi-Core Fibre :-

In a pioneering development, the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) and Sterlite Technologies Ltd. (STL) successfully tested India's first Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) transmission over a 4-core Multi-Core Fibre. This result represents a big step forward in India's ambitions to build a secure and cost-effective nationwide quantum communication network. A stable QKD link was established over a distance exceeding 100 km, validating the robustness and stability of quantum communication even amidst high-capacity classical data traffic.



ISRO-NASA NISAR Mission Likely to Launch in June 2025

After several postponements, the government has finally approved the long-awaited launch of the NISAR satellite for June 2025, signaling a watershed point in the country's burgeoning space ambitions. Along with this gratifying accomplishment for the country, another announcement regarding India's upcoming involvement in the Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) was made. In this historic mission, Indian Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla will become the first Indian astronaut to visit the International Space Station (ISS) and the second Indian to be in space after Rakesh Sharma.



Kerala State Electricity Board's (KSEB) Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) Collaboration with IIT-Bombay :-

The Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) and the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) have launched a pilot project to investigate the deployment of Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) technology throughout the state. This partnership seeks to determine the viability of incorporating Electric Vehicles (EVs) into the state's power infrastructure. V2G refers to technology that allows EV batteries to send electricity back into the grid. When an EV is not in use, it can act as a decentralised battery energy storage device. An idle EV, when connected to a bi-directional charger, can provide support to the distribution grid.



James Webb Telescope Finds Possible Life on Exoplanet K2-18b :-

Scientists have discovered new but tentative evidence that a distant planet orbiting another star may be home to life. A Cambridge team examining the atmosphere of a planet called K2-18b discovered compounds that are only created by primitive creatures here on Earth. The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) of NASA has found compounds linked with life in the planet's atmosphere for the second time, which is more encouraging. But the team and independent astronomers stress that more data is needed to confirm these results.



4G and 5G Connections in High-Altitude Army Posts :-

Army troops stationed in high-altitude posts along Ladakh's border with China and Pakistan, as well as people living in remote border villages in the region, now have dependable 4G and 5G mobile coverage for the first time. This mobile connectivity extends to troops stationed in harsh environments like Galwan, Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO), Chumar, Batalik, and Dras. The Leh-based 14 Corps, also called the 'Fire and Fury' formation, has played the key role in enabling this synergy, resulting in the installation of multiple mobile towers on Army infrastructure.



Lunar Nuclear Power Plant :-

China and Russia are collaborating on an ambitious project to establish a nuclear power plant on the Moon. This initiative aims to support the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS), a joint lunar research base. The ILRS is designed to enhance lunar exploration and facilitate long-term human presence on the Moon. The ILRS project was announced in June 2021. It has evolved since then. China plans to have astronauts on the Moon by 2030. The Chang'e-8 mission in 2028 will lay the groundwork for a permanent lunar base. The first phase of the ILRS, located near the lunar south pole, is expected to be completed by 2035. The second phase, which will expand the base into a larger network, is slated for 2050.

**New Spectroscopy Method Increases Device Longevity:-**

High-resolution, full-color display devices, such as foldable smartphones and ultra-thin televisions, depend on organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs). OLEDs offer several advantages over other display technologies, including flexibility, self-illumination, lightweight design, ultra-thin profiles, high contrast ratios, and low-voltage operation. These characteristics have made OLEDs more popular in recent years. An OLED is composed of multiple layers of thin organic films placed between two electrodes. Each layer plays a crucial role in the device's functionality.

**Universe's Largest Structure Could Be 50% Larger :-**

The Hercules-Corona Borealis Great Wall, the largest known structure in the universe, may be even bigger than previously believed. A new study, published on the arXiv preprint server, suggests the Great Wall could span 15 billion light-years, up from the earlier estimate of 10 billion light-years. Located 10 billion light-years away from Earth, this vast cosmic structure has been under study for over a decade. Scientists applied a new methodology to re-assess its size, revealing the structure's potential to be 50% larger than thought.

**Axiom Space Appoints Indian-Origin CEO as India's Space Aspirations Soar:-**

Axiom Space, the American space services company, has appointed Tejpal Bhatia, an Indian-origin executive, as its new CEO. The appointment comes just days before Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla is set to travel to the International Space Station (ISS) as part of the Axiom-4 mission. Axiom Space, based in Houston, has been contracted by both the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and NASA for the mission. Group Captain Shukla will embark on his historic journey to the ISS next month. This milestone marks a significant moment for India's growing space ambitions.



Kuno National Park Achieves Conservation Milestone as Cheetah Nirva Gives Birth to Five Cubs :-

According to Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, Cheetah Nirva gave birth to five cubs at Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP). There will now be 29 cheetahs and cubs at KNP in the Sheopur district thanks to the fresh litter. Two cheetahs from the protected forest were moved to the Gandhi Sagar sanctuary earlier this month. As of right present, there are 31 cheetahs in the nation, including cubs. On April 20, two South African cheetahs, Prabhav and Pavak, who were translocated to Kuno more than two years ago, were released into the Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary, which spans Neemuch and Mandsaur districts.



ISRO successfully conducted a short duration hot test of Semicryogenic Engine :-

According to the space agency, a brief hot test of the semicryogenic engine was successfully carried out at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) test facility in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu. These tests, according to ISRO, are a component of a planned set of assessments intended to confirm the performance and design integrity of crucial subsystems, such as the pre-burner, related control systems, and low- and high-pressure turbo pumps. The results provided crucial data to finalise the operational sequencing of the full Semicryogenic engine.



Indigenously developed HPV test kits for cervical cancer screening launched in Delhi:-

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), as part of the Grand Challenges India (GCI) initiative at BIRAC, has announced the successful scientific assessment and validation of India's first indigenously developed Human Papillomavirus (HPV) test kits for cervical cancer detection. The HPV point-of-care test kits underwent rigorous validation by a research team at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, in collaboration with the National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research (NICPR), Noida, and the National Institute for Research in Reproductive and Child Health (NIRRH), Mumbai.

16: Sports



Sabalenka defeats Pegula to win Miami Open :-

Using her typical strategy and strong forehand, top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka defeated American Jessica Pegula 7-5, 6-2 to win the Miami Open and earn her eighth WTA 1000 championship. She won three Grand Slam titles, eight WTA 1000 titles, and her 19th WTA title with her triumph. Since she didn't lose a set during the event, Sabalenka's outstanding tennis has further cemented her place as the world's top-ranked player. This is the second title for the 26-year-old Sabalenka in 2025 as she won the Brisbane International in January as well.



Rajnigandha Achievers Winner Of Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup 2025 :-

The Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup 2025 Grand Finale ended in spectacular fashion, with the Rajnigandha Achievers defeating the Jindal Panther in a hard-fought match that kept fans interested until the final whistle. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar led the trophy presentation, which included Rajashree Birla, chairperson of The Aditya Birla Centre for Community

Initiative and Rural Development, and Askaran Agarwala, group advisor for Birla Group Trusts and special community projects. The tournament, which featured three teams including Cavalry Royal Enfield, saw participation from both Indian and international players.



Indian Army's Batalik Cricket League 2025 :-

As part of the Kargil Vijay Diwas 2025 celebrations, the Indian Army arranged the Batalik Cricket League at Jubar Stadium in Batalik, Ladakh, to promote sports, youth participation, and local economic development. The competition included 13 teams, divided into four pools. Batalik A defeated Darchiks A by 47 runs, scoring 86 runs in the first innings while Darchiks A managed only 39 runs. Deputy Commander 192 Mountain Brigade, Col. Dinesh Singh Tanwar, and Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kargil, Dr. Kacho Liyaqat Ali Khan, attended as Chief Guests.



Niharika Singhania's Gold in the Azelhof CSI Lier Equestrian Competition :-

In a spectacular demonstration of ability and determination, young Indian equestrian player Niharika

Singhania won first place in the prestigious Azelhof CSI Lier equestrian championship held in Belgium. Niharika won gold by demonstrating extraordinary talent and poise in the face of international competition. Niharika competed in the Two Phases special event, riding Hotesse Charboniere. She finished the event with 40.72 and 40.34 penalty points. The event, held at the Circuit of the Americas (COTA), saw Ducati dominate the podium, with Alex Marquez securing second place and Fabio Di Giannantonio finishing third.



Hitesh Gulia Creates History, Wins India's First Gold At 2025 World Boxing Cup :-

Boxer Hitesh Gulia made history at the World Boxing Cup, becoming the first Indian to win a gold medal at the event held in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil. Gulia, a 70kg boxer, won the title after his opponent, Odel Kamara of England, walked away in the final. As a result, Gulia, who had already made history as the first Indian to reach the event's final, won the gold medal. It is also India's only gold medal at the tournament. The 20-year-old boxer from Jhajjar, Haryana, had earlier defeated Makan Traore of France with a unanimous 5-0 decision in the semifinals.



Max Verstappen Wins 4th Straight Japanese Grand Prix

Red Bull's world champion Max Verstappen won the Japanese Grand Prix from pole position, his first race of the Formula One season and an incredible fourth in a row at Suzuka. Verstappen crossed the line for his 64th Grand Prix triumph to a standing ovation from the 115,000-strong crowd, finishing 1.4 seconds ahead of McLaren championship leader Lando Norris in second place. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc was fourth, the Mercedes of George Russell and Andrea Kimi Antonelli finished fifth and sixth with Lewis Hamilton seventh in the other Ferrari after moving up one place in the race.



Virat Kohli Becomes First Indian to Score 13,000 Runs in T20 Cricket :-

Virat Kohli achieved another milestone in his illustrious career, scoring 13,000 runs in T20 cricket during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL 2025 match against the Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. The RCB veteran created history by scoring 17 runs in the first innings, becoming the first Indian and only the fifth batsman in cricket history to do so. Kohli also became the second-fastest batter to reach the landmark, doing in his 386th T20 innings, after Chris Gayle, who reached in only 381 innings.



James Anderson Awarded Knighthood Honour :-

Former England fast bowler James Anderson has received a knighthood for his contributions to cricket as part of former British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's departure honours list. Anderson is the only sportsperson who has made the list. The 42-year-old English seamer retired from Test cricket last summer after taking 704 wickets, becoming England's all-time highest wicket-taker in the format. Anderson is currently playing for his county Lancashire but has missed the start of the County Championship season due to an injury.

**India wins silver in men's recurve team event at Archery World Cup Stage 1 :-**

India finished with four medals in the Archery World Cup Stage 1 in Auburndale, USA, including a silver in the men's recurve team event and a bronze in the individual recurve category for rising star Dhiraj Bomma devara. India won four medals at the tournament: gold in the compound mixed team, bronze in the compound men's team, silver in the recurve men's team, and bronze in the recurve men's individual (Dhiraj). The 23-year-old Army archer Dhiraj showed exceptional grit and composure to clinch the bronze medal match.

**Oscar Piastri Wins 2025 Bahrain Grand Prix :-**

Oscar Piastri clinched his second Formula One race of the season, the Bahrain Grand Prix, after starting on pole position. Piastri's fourth career victory pushed him into second place in the driver standings, three points behind McLaren teammate Lando Norris. With this triumph, he became the first repeat winner of the 2025 season, and McLaren won for the first time at their Bahraini owners' home circuit. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton finished fourth and fifth, respectively. For Hamilton, the seven-time world champion, it was his best finish with Ferrari, which he joined this season.

**Virat Kohli's 100th T20 Half-Century :-**

Virat Kohli delivered a controlled knock in Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL 2025 encounter against Rajasthan Royals, hitting an unbeaten 62 off 45 balls to lead the side to a commanding 9-wicket victory. Kohli's half-century was a watershed moment for the 36-year-old since it represented his 100th fifty in T20 cricket, making him the first Indian to accomplish this incredible milestone. Chasing 174, Kohli played the anchor role as his opening partner, Phil Salt, launched an aggressive against the Royals in Jaipur, smashing a brilliant 65 off just 33 deliveries.



Carlos Alcaraz Wins 2025 Monte Carlo Masters :-

Carlos Alcaraz claimed his first Monte Carlo Masters championship, defeating Italian Lorenzo Musetti 3-6, 6-1, 6-0. It is the 21-year-old Spaniard's sixth Masters trophy, his fourth Grand Slam victory, and his most significant since winning Wimbledon last year. Alcaraz, who will move up a place in the rankings and displace Alexander Zverev at No 2, had to come from behind to beat the Italian who had already taken down two Top 10 players, Stefanos Tsitsipas and Alex de Minaur, on his way to his first Masters 1000 final.

**India Finishes Second Overall in First ISSF World Cup 2025 :-**

In the first phase of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup 2025 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, India finished second to China. India won a total of eight medals, including four gold, two silver, and two bronze. On the last day of the competition, Saurabh Chaudhary and Suruchi Singh of India earned the Bronze medal after defeating countrymen Manu Bhaker and Ravinder Singh 16-8. Other medal winners for India include Sift Kaur Samra, Rudrankksh Patil, Suruchi Singh, Vijayveer Sidhu, Esha Singh, Chain Singh and the duo of Arya Borse and Rudrankksh Patil.

**Mohun Bagan Wins ISL 2024-25 :-**

Mohun Bagan Super Giants won the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 Cup with a 2-1 victory over Bengaluru FC in extra time at Kolkata's Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan Stadium. Mohun Bagan Super Giants came from behind after trailing by a goal to complete the league double, having also won the ISL Shield this season and being unbeaten at home. MBSG are just the second football team after Mumbai City FC (2020-21) to win the League Shield and the ISL Cup in the same season.

**Virat Kohli Makes History with Most Fifty-Plus Scores in IPL history :-**

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) ace batter Virat Kohli during revenge clash against Punjab Kings overtook Australian legend David Warner, becoming the player with the most fifty-plus scores in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL). Virat accomplished this milestone during his side's match against Punjab Kings (PBKS) at Mullanpur. During his knock, Virat made 73* in 54 balls, with seven fours and a six. This was his fourth fifty in eight innings this season. This was Virat's 67th fifty-plus score in the IPL, which also includes eight centuries.



IPL 2025 RCB vs RR | Hazlewood's brilliance guides Royal Challengers to their first home victory :-

IPL 2025, RCB vs RR: Rajasthan Royals (RR) arrived in Bengaluru on a three-match losing streak, while Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) were struggling with a three-game losing streak at home. In the end, it was Rajasthan Royals who faltered once again in their usual manner. Royal Challengers Bangalore (205/5) triumphed over Rajasthan Royals (194/9) by 11 runs. RCB's solid performance, led by Hazlewood's crucial contributions, helped them break their home losing streak. Rajasthan Royals couldn't recover in the final overs despite a strong fight.



Neeraj Chopra speaks on Arshad Nadeem's invite; Messi's Inter Miami loses :-

Atletico Madrid have defeated Rayo Vallecano 3-0 in La Liga, and Bologna thrashed Empoli 5-1 (aggregate) in the Coppa Italia semis. Inter Miami were defeated 0-2 by Vancouver in the CONCACAF Champions Cup semi-finals, as in the night, Al-Hilal face Gwangju in the AFC Champions League quarters. In the NBA, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander dropped 31 points and Jalen Williams added 26 as the Oklahoma City Thunder pulled off a gritty 114-108 win over the Memphis Grizzlies, grabbing a commanding 3-0 lead in their Western Conference first-round series. Over in the Indian Premier League, Chennai Super Kings hosts Sunrisers Hyderabad.



Barcelona Triumph Over Real Madrid In Copa Del Rey Final; Sri Lanka Women Face India Women In Tri-series Opener:-

The major sports highlight today was FC Barcelona defeating Real Madrid 3-2 in extra-time to claim the Copa del Rey title in Seville. In cricket, the IPL 2025 double-header takes center stage, while Sri Lanka women take on India women in the opening match of the tri-series. NBA action is underway, and Manchester City faces Nottingham Forest in the FA Cup semi-final. Stay tuned for live scores and updates from the world of sports on Sunday, April 27, right here. Don't miss any of the thrilling action!



Krunal's Match-Winning Knock Takes RCB to Top Spot :-

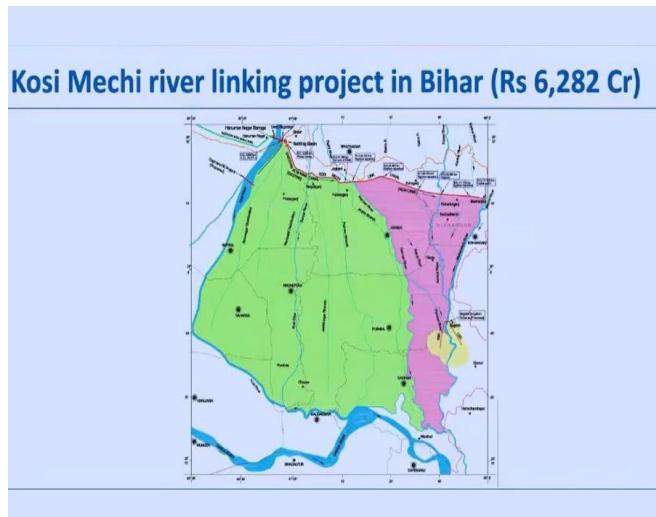
Krunal Pandya, who had only batted in four of Royal Challengers Bengaluru's first nine matches, redeemed his earlier performances with a stunning 73 not out off 47 balls against Delhi Capitals on April 27, 2025. Chasing 163 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, his all-round display led RCB to a crucial six-wicket victory. This win extends RCB's perfect away record in IPL 2025, with six wins from six matches. Krunal's brilliant knock helped propel RCB to the top of the standings.



Vaibhav Suryavanshi Smashed Second-Fastest IPL Century :-

Vaibhav Suryavanshi became the youngest centurion in men's T20 cricket and scored the second-fastest century in Indian Premier League (IPL) history. In only his third IPL 2025 encounter, the 14-year-old raced to a century off 35 balls. His performance included 11 sixes and seven fours, and the Rajasthan Royals completed the chase in 15.5 overs, scoring 209 runs. Vaibhav Suryavanshi's century was also the quickest by an Indian in the IPL, bettering Yusuf Pathan's 37-ball effort for Rajasthan against the Mumbai Indians in 2010. Chris Gayle holds the record for the fastest century in IPL history.

17: State



Cabinet announces ₹6,282 crore Kosi Mechi intra-state river link in Bihar :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) gave its approval for the Kosi Mechi Intra-State Link Project of Bihar to be included in the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchay Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Program (PMKSY-AIBP). With a projected cost of Rs 6,282.32 crore, the CCEA also authorized Rs 3,652.56 crore in central support for Bihar to complete the project by March 2029. According to the CCEA, the Link Project will provide 2,10,516 hectares of additional annual irrigation in Kharif season in Araria, Purnea, Kishanganj and Katihar districts of Bihar.



Uttarakhand Government Renames 15 Places :-

The state of Uttarakhand has stated that 15 locations in the districts of Haridwar, Dehradun, Nainital, and Udham Singh Nagar would now have new names. During the announcement, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami stated that the renaming was done in response to "public sentiments." In the Haridwar district, Aurangzebpur will be renamed Shivaji Nagar, Ghaziwali will be renamed Arya Nagar, Chandpur will be renamed Jyotiba Phule Nagar, Mohammadpur Jat will be renamed Mohanpur Jat, Khanpur Kursali will be renamed Ambedkar Nagar, Idrishpur as Nandpur, Khanpur as Krishanpur and Akbarpur Fazalpur as Vijaynagar.



Tamil Nadu achieves record 9.69% economic growth :-

Tamil Nadu's real economic expansion rate of 9.69% for 2024-25 is the greatest for any state in the country, as well as the highest in the last decade. According to the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's website, Tamil Nadu's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has increased from ₹15,71,368 crore in 2023-24 to ₹17,23,698 crore in 2024-25, assuming constant prices (base year: 2011-12). The previous high was 8.59% during 2017-18. The lowest (0.07%) was recorded during 2020-21, the year of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Madhavpur Mela Inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel :-

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel inaugurated the Madhavpur Mela, an annual fair held in Madhavpur, Porbandar district, on the anniversary of Ram Navami. This historic festival honors the heavenly union of Lord Krishna of Dwarka and Rukmani of Arunachal Pradesh. The fair, which has received national recognition since 2018, represents cultural unity and commitment by bringing together traditions from many parts of India. The ceremony was graced by various dignitaries,

including Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, highlighting the festival's growing significance as a cultural and religious landmark.



Haryana Government Announced 20% Quota for Agniveers in Haryana Police :-

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has stated that Agniveers will be given a 20% reservation in police recruitment in the state. Haryana is the first state in the country to safeguard the future of Agniveers by providing for job opportunities following their service in the armed services, according to Chief Minister Saini, who presided over a review meeting in Panchkula. The state government will build a separate platform where Agniveers can register to apply for jobs. Chief Minister Saini added that Agniveers will be given preference in jobs on the basis of educational qualification.



Khultabad to be renamed 'Ratnapur', says Maharashtra Minister :-

The Maharashtra government has announced that Khultabad, the historic town that houses Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's tomb, shall be renamed 'Ratnapur'. Speaking to reporters, Mr. Shirsat stated that the renaming is consistent with the government's

ongoing attempts to restore pre-Mughal names to locations that were changed during the Mughal period. The Minister also revealed plans to develop a memorial for Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Sambhaji Maharaj in the town. "We want to showcase the true history of Maratha valour," he added.



PM Modi launches over Rs 3,880-crore development projects in Varanasi :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the groundwork and inaugurated numerous development projects totaling more than Rs 3,880 crore in Varanasi. In keeping with his commitment to infrastructure development, particularly enhancing road connections in the city, he initiated a number of road projects. These include the foundation stone for a road bridge between the Varanasi Ring Road and Sarnath, flyovers at Bhikharipur and Manduadih crossings, and a highway underpass tunnel on NH-31 near the Varanasi International Airport—together valued at over Rs 980 crore.



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee Will Inaugurate Jagannath Temple in Digha :-

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will dedicate the Jagannath Dham in the seaside town of Digha on April 30, and the administration is working around the clock to

finalize plans for the great event, which will include lodgings for a number of important guests. The inauguration ceremony is expected to be attended by state chief ministers, political leaders, top administrative officials, well-known industrialists, and other dignitaries. Celebrities from the silver screen are also expected to add glamour to the occasion.



Telangana Becomes First State to Implement SC Sub-Categorisation :-

The Telangana state government has formally implemented the Scheduled Caste (SC) Categorization of Reservations Act 2025. A government order (GO) has been published, signaling a substantial policy shift aimed at meeting long-standing demands from underprivileged communities. According to the government decree, Telangana's 56 Scheduled Caste communities have been grouped into three divisions to guarantee equitable sharing of benefits among SC subgroups. This classification is expected to guide future policies on reservations in education, employment, and political representation.



Banaras Shehnai Get Recognition of GI Tag :-

Varanasi's rich cultural and craft legacy has received national recognition, with some traditional products

recently granted Geographical Indication (GI) status. Among the newly approved items are the Banarasi Shehnai, the renowned Banarasi Tabla, and the spicy Banarasi Bharwan Mirch, which were recently recognized by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The GI certificate for the Banarasi Shehnai — a timeless musical instrument — was personally handed over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Ramesh Kumar, a renowned artisan from Banaras, during a massive public event at Mehndi Ganj.



Andhra Pradesh Cabinet Approved Draft SC Sub-Categorisation Ordinance :-

The Andhra Pradesh cabinet, led by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, approved a draft ordinance to sub-categorize Scheduled Castes (SCs) for reservations in educational institutions and government posts throughout the Telugu state. The development occurred after the Congress government in neighboring Telangana notified the Scheduled Castes (Rationalisation of Reservation) Act, 2025, which established the sub-category of SCs and mandated 15% quotas in government jobs and admissions to educational institutions in the state.



Maharashtra Governor Presents Yashraj Bharti Samman Awards 2025 :-

Maharashtra Governor C P Radhakrishnan presented the 3rd 'Yashraj Bharti Samman' award to three grassroots-level service organisations for their contributions to healthcare, sustainable development, and good governance. As per a release issued by the Raj Bhavan, the governor conferred the awards at a function in Mumbai to Jan Swasthya Sahayog from Chhattisgarh, Pratham Education Foundation, and the Services Plus platform developed by the National Informatics Centre. Former Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker Dilip Walse Patil and India's G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant were among the dignitaries present on the occasion.



ED summons TASMAC MD and senior officials in connection with a ₹1,000-crore liquor scam investigation:-

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) summoned senior officials of Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (Tasmac), including Managing Director and IAS officer S. Visakan, in connection with the alleged ₹1,000 crore liquor scam. The ED is probing alleged financial irregularities within the corporation. Investigations have raised concerns over misuse of funds and illegal activities. The outcome of these proceedings could have significant implications for state-run liquor operations.



Government Sanctions ₹40 Crore for Mangaluru's Kallapu-Sajipa Riverfront Road Project :-

U.T. Khader, Legislative Assembly Speaker and Mangaluru MLA, said that the Karnataka government has approved an additional ₹40 crore for the ongoing Kallapu-Sajipa riverfront road project. Mr. Khader told

reporters that the government had previously approved ₹15 crore for the project. The government has approved ₹40 crore for the project, which represents 25% of the overall cost of ₹160 crore. The project under way along the Netravathi river front (on the banks of the river) is being taken up in phases.

18: Summits & Conferences



Army Commanders' Conference 2025 :-

The Indian Army's highest hierarchy has assembled in New Delhi to examine the force's overall status, security scenarios, and future course of action. The Army Commanders' Conference will take place from April 1 to 4, 2025. The conference also included a discussion by NITI Aayog's CEO on India's journey and the armed forces' role in creating a 'Saksham (competent) & Sashakt (strong) Bharat'. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh chaired a Session and delivered the keynote address. The session also included a presentation on the Indian Army's focus in the 'Year of Reforms'.



6th BIMSTEC Summit :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 6th BIMSTEC Summit, which was hosted by Thailand, the current chair. The subject of the Summit was "BIMSTEC: Prosperous, Resilient, and Open". It reflected the leaders' goals as well as the people's aspirations in the BIMSTEC area. The Prime Minister began his speech by expressing his sorrow for the loss of life in the tragic earthquakes in Myanmar and Thailand. He thanked Prime Minister Shinawatra for successfully steering the Group.



Conference on marine biodiversity from April 9 :-

From April 9 to 11, a conference on Marine Biodiversity, Genomics, and Sustainable Development will be held at Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat)'s School of Marine Sciences in Kochi. According to a release, the Department of Marine Biology, Microbiology, and Biochemistry at Cusat is collaborating with the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Ministry of Earth Sciences, and the Cusat-NCPOR Centre for Polar Sciences to organize the programme. Dr. Thamban Meloth, director, National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, will inaugurate the programme.



India-Pakistan flag meeting on April 10 to address infiltration, border tensions in Poonch :-

On April 10, the Indian and Pakistani army will hold a flag meeting near the Line of Control (LoC) in the Chakan Da Bagh area of Jammu's Poonch sector. The summit, called at Pakistan's repeated request, is intended to address ongoing border difficulties and recent ceasefire violations. According to sources in the Indian Army, the meeting's main agenda item will concern Pakistani troops' recent infiltration attempts. However, these actions were successfully thwarted by India's anti-infiltration grid.



Global Technology Summit (GTS) 2025 :-

The 9th edition of the Global Technology Summit (GTS) 2025 began in New Delhi. The subject for this year's Summit is Sambhavna, which means possibilities, and it will look at how emerging technologies may generate equitable growth, strengthen digital governance, and increase cross-border collaboration. Over 40 public events will take place over the course of three days, including keynote addresses, ministerial chats, expert panels, and strategic discussions. More than 150 speakers from over 40 countries will join discussions on

the most pressing tech challenges and opportunities facing the world today.



Hyderabad City Security Council to host STREE Summit 2025 :-

The Hyderabad City Security Council (HCSC) will conduct the second edition of the STREE Summit, an important event focused on empowering women in safety and security. The summit is set to take place on April 15. The summit, an HCSC project, will address important safety challenges faced by women in society while emphasizing the necessity of cultivating a culture of respect, equality, and empowerment. HCSC chairperson and Hyderabad Police Commissioner C.V. Anand expressed support for the initiative, describing it as a platform for shared learning and action.



Dubai Peace Summit 2025 :-

Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi addressed the Global Justice, Love, and Peace Summit in Dubai, emphasizing the critical need for compassion and action in a world increasingly marked by conflict and inequality. He emphasized how gatherings like the summit may serve as a source of hope in challenging times. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Tolerance

and Coexistence, was the summit's chief guest as part of the Dubai Expo. This summit is the first in a continuous series of annual meets held around the same time in Dubai.



Defence Literature Festival 'Kalam & Kavach 2.0' :-

The Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS), part of the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) and the Ministry of Defence, sponsored the second edition of the Defence Literature Festival 'Kalam & Kavach 2.0' at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi. The event, titled 'Securing India's Rise via Defence Reforms,' highlighted India's transformative journey toward becoming a self-sufficient and technologically advanced military power. Held in collaboration with Pentagon Press, the festival brought together strategic thinkers, Armed Forces leaders, defence policymakers, and industry experts to deliberate on cutting-edge developments shaping India's defence capabilities.



Delhi govt plans global investment summit in November :-

Industries Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa has announced that Delhi will host its first-ever investment summit in November to showcase the city as a top destination for

commercial and industrial development. Sirsa recently met with senior authorities and asked the industry department to create a detailed plan for the proposed event. The "Delhi Investment Summit" is expected to bring together prominent industrialists from across the country and offer a single-window platform to facilitate investments, the people cited above said.



2-day Conclave on Buddhism in Arunachal Pradesh :-

In a first, the government will hold a two-day conference in Arunachal Pradesh beginning April 21 to emphasize the spread and significance of Buddhism in India's Northeast. The event in Namsai, near Myanmar, will be organized jointly by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) and the Ministry of Culture. Chief Minister Pema Khandu and Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein are expected to participate, according to officials. Titled 'Buddha Dhamma and the Culture of Northeast India', the event will highlight how the Northeast region is a significant centre for Buddhist traditions, monastic culture, and heritage.



PM Modi's Visit to Saudi Arabia :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a two-day visit to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, beginning April 22. This will be his

first visit to the Kingdom during his third term. PM Modi's presence in Riyadh comes amid geopolitical upheavals, regional tensions, and an ambitious economic vision—the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)—that has the potential to alter global trade lines. PM Modi's visit to Saudi Arabia comes at a time when the region is stirred with conflict and tensions. He will also visit a factory to interact with Indian workers.



Singapore to host ICC annual conference :-

The International Cricket Council (ICC) will have its annual conference in Singapore, provisionally slated for the third week of July. Several major decisions are likely to be made during the meeting, including the Cricket Committee's recent suggestions for adjustments to the playing conditions. The choice of where to host the annual ICC conference in Singapore was made at recent discussions in Zimbabwe, first in Harare and then in Victoria Falls. Singapore is the constituency of ICC Deputy Chair Imran Khwaja, and this will be the first annual conference to be chaired by Jay Shah in his capacity as ICC Chairman.



Third UN Ocean Conference :-

The Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) will be co-hosted by France and Costa Rica from June 9 to 13, 2025. Around 100 heads of state and government will gather in Nice for this historic event, as will tens of thousands of scholars, scientists, economic actors, activists, and citizens from all over the world. On this occasion, France's goal will be clear: safeguard the ocean by practical action. One in three people relies on the Ocean for their livelihood, yet the Ocean is in danger. It's an area that is still largely unknown, and lacks the global governance and funding necessary for its preservation.



11th BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting 2025 :-

The Indian delegation to the BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting, which was hosted in Brasília under Brazil's Presidency, was led by Union Minister of State for Labour & Employment Sushri Shobha Karandlaje. The meeting, convened under the slogan "Strengthening the Cooperation of the Global South for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance", culminated in the adoption of a forward-looking declaration addressing two pivotal themes: "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Future of Work" and "The Impacts of Climate Change on the World of Work and a Just Transition".

SECTION 2



Practice Questions with Answers



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1) The central government has increased the salaries, allowances, and pensions of MPs and former MPs by _____.

- A) 15%
- B) 20%
- C) 24%
- D) 30%

2) Which of the following country is the top contributor to remittances in India?

- A) Japan
- B) Singapore
- C) United Kingdom
- D) USA

3) To enhance infrastructure and provide better facilities for pilgrims which of the following state has announced the Ganga and Sharda river corridors?

- A) Bihar
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Uttarakhand

4) Indian gymnast Pranati Nayak won which of the following medal in the women's vault event at the FIG Artistic Gymnastics Apparatus World Cup 2025?

- A) Silver
- B) Gold
- C) Bronze
- D) None of the above

5) Who among the following was named for the prestigious Sangita Kalanidhi award by The Music Academy, Madras?

- A) Komal Yadav
- B) Neha Sharma
- C) RK Sriramkumar
- D) None of the above

6) Who received the 'Popular Civilian Excellence Award' for her selfless contributions to social service?

- A) Aruna Roy
- B) Chandrika Tandon
- C) Kiran Bedi
- D) Sanghamitra Tai Gaikwad

7) Who has taken on the additional role of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) at REC Limited?

- A) Ajay Bhalla
- B) Parminder Chopra
- C) R. K. Singh
- D) Sanjay Malhotra

8) The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Private Sector Collaborative Forum (PSCF) 2025 was held in which of the following city?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Chennai
- C) Mumbai
- D) New Delhi

9) Anthurium flowers from _____ were exported to Singapore for the first time, marking a significant milestone for India's floriculture.

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Assam
- C) Meghalaya
- D) Mizoram

10) A 36-hour hackathon, "Hack the Future" was held at which of the following IIT?

- A) IIT Madras
- B) IIT Gandhinagar
- C) IIT Delhi
- D) IIT Bombay

11) Tata Motors has appointed who among the following as the brand ambassador for its Passenger and Electric Vehicle range?

- A) Vicky Kaushal

- B) Ranveer Singh
- C) Kartik Aaryan
- D) Hrithik Roshan

12) The US Senate has confirmed the appointment of _____ as the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

- A) C.N.R. Rao
- B) Jay Bhattacharya
- C) Raghunath Mashelkar
- D) Satyendra Nath Bose

13) India and _____ signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) on Green and Digital Shipping Corridor (GDSC) collaboration.

- A) France
- B) Germany
- C) Japan
- D) Singapore

14) Tamil _____ Manoj Bharathiraja passed away recently.

- A) Journalist
- B) Actor
- C) Writer
- D) Politician

15) Indian Greco-Roman wrestler Sunil Kumar won _____ medal in the 87kg weight division at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2025 in Amman.

- A) Bronze Medal
- B) Gold Medal
- C) Silver Medal
- D) None of the above

16) _____ announced his retirement as an active badminton player to focus entirely on coaching.

- A) B. Sumeeth Reddy
- B) Kidambi Srikanth
- C) Parupalli Kashyap
- D) Saina Nehwal

17) _____ has surpassed Sri Lanka to become the world's second-largest tea exporter.

- A) Bhutan
- B) Kenya
- C) India
- D) China

18) _____ was appointed by the Union government as a full-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).

- A) Arvind Panagariya
- B) Bibek Debroy
- C) Rakesh Sharma
- D) Sanjay Kumar Mishra

19) Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has launched the state-of-the-art artificial intelligence-powered chatbot _____.

- A) Suvidha
- B) Saarthi
- C) Pragati
- D) Mitra

20) India successfully conducted a flight-test of its indigenously-developed Vertically-Launched Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VLSRSAM) from _____.

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Odisha
- C) Gujarat
- D) Andaman & Nicobar

21) The Australian government has appointed former cricketer _____ to the Centre for Australia-India Relations Advisory Board.

- A) Brett Lee
- B) Michael Clarke
- C) Ricky Ponting
- D) Steve Waugh

22) The Indian Armed Forces conducted a multi-domain exercise, Prachand Prahar in which of the following state?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Ladakh
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Sikkim



23) India's social protection coverage has increased to _____ in 2024.

- A) 50.1%
- B) 48.8%
- C) 46.5%
- D) 45.2%

24) The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) hosted India's first Nano Electronics Roadshow at _____.

- A) IISc Bengaluru
- B) IIT Bombay
- C) IIT Delhi
- D) IIT Madras

25) The Madhya Pradesh government is developing Ganga-Narmada Tourism Corridor in partnership with which of the following state government?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Gujarat
- D) Bihar

26) _____ became Asia's billionaire capital, as per data released by Hurun Global List 2025.

- A) Tokyo
- B) Shanghai
- C) Mumbai
- D) Beijing

27) L&T Finance Ltd. (LTF) has announced who among the following as its brand ambassador?

- A) Jasprit Bumrah
- B) KL Rahul
- C) Rohit Sharma
- D) Virat Kohli

28) India's core sector growth slowed to _____ in February 2025, marking its weakest expansion in the last five months.

- A) 4.2%
- B) 3.7%
- C) 2.9%

- D) 1.5%

29) Along with India which of the following country conducted the 14th edition of the bilateral naval exercise INDRA?

- A) France
- B) Japan
- C) Russia
- D) USA

30) The Department of Posts, Government of India, announced the release of a Commemorative Postage stamp in honour of _____.

- A) Mata Karma
- B) Rabindranath Tagore
- C) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- D) Swami Vivekananda

31) Who among the following was elected as the chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA)?

- A) Aditya Puri
- B) CS Setty
- C) Dinesh Kumar Khara
- D) Uday Kotak

32) India launched Operation Brahma to aid which of the following country after the deadly earthquake?

- A) Nepal
- B) Myanmar
- C) Maldives
- D) Bangladesh

33) _____ became second largest 5G market in the world.

- A) China
- B) India
- C) Japan
- D) USA

34) In which of the following city the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of Madhav Netralaya Premium Centre?

- A) Bhopal
- B) Mumbai
- C) Nagpur

D) Pune

35) Maruti Suzuki India announced the appointment of _____ to the top auto giant's board as an Additional Director and Whole-Time Director.

- A) Anuj Mehta
- B) Rajesh Verma
- C) Ramesh Kumar
- D) Sunil Kakkar

36) The 6th BIMSTEC Summit was held in which of the following country?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) India
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Thailand

37) The Indian government is set to introduce _____, a cooperative-run ride service, to challenge Ola and Uber.

- A) Sahakar
- B) India Ride
- C) Desi Cab
- D) Bharat Cab

38) Who among the following secured the JSW Indian Open title in women's squash?

- A) Anahat Singh
- B) Dipika Pallikal
- C) Joshna Chinappa
- D) Saurav Ghosal

39) UIDAI, in partnership with _____ has introduced a global biometric challenge to improve the accuracy of fingerprint authentication.

- A) DRDO
- B) IIIT Hyderabad
- C) IIT Delhi
- D) ISRO

40) Who among the following introduced the 'MY-Bharat' special summer vacation calendar for children?

- A) Rajnath Singh

B) Nitin Gadkari

- C) Narendra Modi
- D) Amit Shah

41) Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the theme for International Yoga Day 2025 will be _____.

- A) Yoga for Humanity
- B) Yoga for One Earth, One Health
- C) Yoga for Peace
- D) Yoga for Wellness

42) Who among the following was appointed as Commonwealth Secretary-General?

- A) Amina Mohammed
- B) Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
- C) Patricia Scotland
- D) Shirley Botchwey

43) Who was honored with the prestigious Ugadi Award for his outstanding contributions to historical research and social service by the Andhra Pradesh government?

- A) Jai Shri Venkatesan
- B) MyNaa Swamy
- C) Mridulika Jha
- D) Vinod Kumar Shukla

44) Which country is preparing to formally recognize crypto assets as financial products under its Financial Instruments and Exchange Act?

- A) China
- B) Japan
- C) Singapore
- D) South Korea

45) The national round of the Develop India Youth Parliament Mahotsav 2025 was held in which of the following city?

- A) Chennai
- B) Kolkata
- C) Mumbai
- D) New Delhi

46) Along with India which country has agreed to hold discussions toward a Comprehensive

Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to expand trade and investment?

- A) Argentina
- B) Brazil
- C) Chile
- D) Peru

47) India's women hockey stalwart _____ has decided to bid adieu to her international career which spanned over 15 years.

- A) Deepika Thakur
- B) Rani Rampal
- C) Savita Punia
- D) Vandana Katariya

48) Who has been appointed as the acting Chandigarh DGP?

- A) Anil Kumar
- B) Rajkumar Singh
- C) Sanjay Arora
- D) Vikramjit Singh

49) Which of the following state government announced the renaming of 15 places across the state?

- A) Uttarakhand
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Himachal Pradesh

50) Governor of _____ inaugurated the 62nd National Maritime Day and the Merchant Navy Week.

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Gujarat
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Tamil Nadu

51) Retail payments body National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has appointed who among the following as its executive director-growth?

- A) Sohini Rajola
- B) Ritesh Shukla
- C) Praveena Rai

- D) Dilip Asbe

52) Which of the following state government has partnered with Microsoft to create three AI Centres of Excellence?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Karnataka
- D) Gujarat

53) The Uttar Pradesh Fire Department was honoured by which of the following state for its exceptional disaster management during the MahaKumbh 2025?

- A) Goa
- B) Gujarat
- C) Karnataka
- D) Maharashtra

54) Along with India which of the following country marked the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations?

- A) China
- B) Japan
- C) Russia
- D) USA

55) Which of the following state has the highest number of railway stations with solar plant?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Gujarat

56) The centre has set a target to set up _____ Eklavya Model Residential Schools benefiting around 3.5 lakh Schedule Tribe students across the country.

- A) 750
- B) 728
- C) 700
- D) 650

57) Tamil Nadu's _____ product were given the Geographical Indications (GI) tag.

- A) Kancheepuram Silk and Arani Saree



- B) Kumbakonam Betel Leaf and Thovalai maanikka maalai
- C) Madurai Malli and Coimbatore Wet Grinder
- D) Salem Mango and Dindigul Lock

58) The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has officially approved appointment of _____ as the Managing Director (MD) of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL).

- A) V Suresh
- B) S Krishnan
- C) R Madhavan
- D) H Shankar

59) India ranks _____ out of 170 nations in the Frontier Technologies Readiness Index.

- A) 58
- B) 36
- C) 44
- D) 22

60) Who among the following took charge as the President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC)?

- A) Sourav Ganguly
- B) Roger Binny
- C) Mohsin Naqvi
- D) Jay Shah

61) When the National Maritime Day (India) was observed?

- A) 6 April
- B) 5 April
- C) 4 April
- D) 3 April

62) Amalsad chikoo grown in _____ was granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

- A) Vadodara
- B) Surat
- C) South Gujarat
- D) Ahmedabad

63) The 7th India-Japan Maritime Affairs Dialogue was held in which of the following city?

- A) Mumbai
- B) New Delhi
- C) Osaka

- D) Tokyo

64) Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been honoured with which of the following country's highest civilian award, the 'Mitra Vibhushan'?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Japan
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Thailand

65) Veteran Tamil and Malayalam _____ Ravikumar Menon has passed away at the age of 71.

- A) Actor
- B) Director
- C) Producer
- D) Singer

66) The government has said that due to the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme, the sex ratio at birth has increased from 918 in 2014-15 to _____ in 2023-24 at the national level.

- A) 930
- B) 925
- C) 921
- D) 920

67) Which country has revoked existing visas issued to all South Sudanese passport holders and barred further entries of the country's nationals due to a failed deportation case?

- A) Australia
- B) Canada
- C) UK
- D) USA

68) Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of IFFCO's upcoming "Seed Research Centre" at which of the following city of Gujarat?

- A) Vadodara
- B) Surat
- C) Gandhinagar
- D) Ahmedabad

69) Who among the following became the first man to switch his bowling arm during an over in the IPL?

- A) Angelo Mathews
- B) Chaminda Vaas
- C) Kamindu Mendis
- D) Lasith Malinga

70) Esha Singh bagged which medal in the women's 25m pistol event at the ISSF World Cup 2025 in Buenos Aires, Argentina?

- A) Bronze medal
- B) Gold medal
- C) Silver medal
- D) None of the above

71) In which of the following state Pamban bridge, India's first vertical lift sea bridge, was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Karnataka
- C) Kerala
- D) Tamil Nadu

72) What is the rank of India in global AI investments?

- A) 05
- B) 07
- C) 03
- D) 10

73) _____ became the 35th State/UT to implement Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

- A) Delhi
- B) Haryana
- C) Punjab
- D) West Bengal

74) Who lead the Indian Parliamentary Delegation (IPD) for the 150th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Summit in Tashkent?

- A) Amit Shah
- B) Jagdeep Dhankhar
- C) Narendra Modi

D) Om Birla

75) Which country has imposed temporary travel restrictions, suspending the issuance of certain visas to people of 14 countries including Bangladesh, Pakistan and India?

- A) Kuwait
- B) Qatar
- C) Saudi Arabia
- D) UAE

76) Which of the following state announced 20% reservation for Agniveers in state police recruitment?

- A) Haryana
- B) Punjab
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Uttar Pradesh

77) Who among the following was appointed as Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, succeeding Justice Tashi Rabstan?

- A) Arun Palli
- B) Rajkumar Singh
- C) Sohini Rajola
- D) Swaminathan S Aiyar

78) Which of the following tech giant has launched Llama 4 models, including Maverick and Scout, with advanced multimodal capabilities?

- A) Amazon
- B) Google
- C) Meta
- D) Microsoft

79) The Supreme Court of India has signed an MoU with the Supreme Court of which country to develop, promote and strengthen the judicial cooperation between the two countries?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Bhutan
- C) Nepal
- D) Sri Lanka

80) _____ etched his name in history by becoming the first Indian to score 13,000 runs in T20 cricket.

- A) Virat Kohli
- B) Suryakumar Yadav
- C) Rohit Sharma
- D) KL Rahul

81) The 13th UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue was held in which of the following city?

- A) Birmingham
- B) London
- C) Mumbai
- D) New Delhi

82) Which state has decided to implement the three-language formula in classes 9th and 10th in all affiliated government and non-government schools?

- A) Haryana
- B) Punjab
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Uttar Pradesh

83) The Vinod Dham Centre of Excellence for Semiconductors and Microelectronics was inaugurated by who among the following at Delhi Technological University?

- A) Rajnath Singh
- B) Narendra Modi
- C) Ashwini Vaishnaw
- D) Amit Shah

84) Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, Deputy Prime Minister of which of the following country recently visited India?

- A) Oman
- B) Qatar
- C) Saudi Arabia
- D) UAE

85) Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad is set to launch its first off-shore campus at _____.

- A) Abu Dhabi

- B) Dubai
- C) London
- D) Singapore

86) The 3rd BIMSTEC Agriculture Meet was held in which of the following country?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Nepal
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Thailand

87) _____ was appointed as acting governor of Nepal Rastra Bank for the time being.

- A) Dr. Neelam Dhungana
- B) Poonam Gupta
- C) Satish Chabba
- D) Sohini Rajola

88) Where did the Union Minister Jitendra Singh launched India's first 'Himalayan High-Altitude Atmospheric & Climate Centre'?

- A) Dehradun
- B) Shimla
- C) Srinagar
- D) Udhampur

89) The Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) will set up a world-class petrochemical project in which state?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Odisha
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Gujarat

90) Who among the following was appointed as Deputy Chief Information Officer (CIO) at Bombay Stock Exchange?

- A) Rajkumar Singh
- B) N Chandrasekaran
- C) Viral Davda
- D) Balaji Nuthalapadi

91) President Droupadi Murmu was honored with an Honorary Doctorate by Constantine The Philosopher University in which country?

- A) USA
- B) UK
- C) Slovakia



D) Portugal

92) The International Youth Conclave was held in which of the following state?

- A) Tripura
- B) Sikkim
- C) Assam
- D) Arunachal Pradesh

93) The 8th Session of the India-Russia Working Group on Priority Investment Projects (IRWG-PIP) was held in which city?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Moscow
- C) Mumbai
- D) New Delhi

94) Which of the following country has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the 2025 Victory Day parade?

- A) France
- B) Japan
- C) Russia
- D) USA

95) Short story collection 'Heart Lamp' of which of the following author was shortlisted for the International Booker Prize 2025?

- A) Jayashree Venkatesan
- B) Mridulika Jha
- C) Banu Mushtaq
- D) Vinod Kumar Shukla

96) The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has revised downwards India's GDP growth forecast for the financial year 2025-26 (FY26) to _____.

- A) 6.8%
- B) 6.7%
- C) 6.6%
- D) 6.5%

97) Stree Summit 2025 on women's safety and empowerment was held in which of the following city?

- A) Chennai
- B) Hyderabad

C) Mumbai

D) New Delhi

98) A Digital Flight Data Recorder and Cockpit Voice Recorder (DFDR & CVR) laboratory was recently inaugurated at which of the following city?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Hyderabad
- C) Mumbai
- D) New Delhi

99) _____ became the first African country to sign a Country Partnership Framework (CPF) with the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

- A) South Africa
- B) Nigeria
- C) Mauritius
- D) Kenya

100) India recently terminated a transshipment facility from which of the following neighbouring country?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Maldives
- C) Nepal
- D) Sri Lanka

101) Foundation stone for India's first gallium nitride (GaN)-based semiconductor manufacturing plant was laid in which of the following state?

- A) Bihar
- B) Chhattisgarh
- C) Jharkhand
- D) Odisha

102) Noted _____ and Padma Vibhushan awardee Kumudini Lakhia passed away in Ahmedabad, Gujarat recently.

- A) Dancer
- B) Painter
- C) Singer
- D) Writer

103) Along with Kerala which state is set to conduct a Nilgiri Tahr census from April 24 to 27, 2025?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Karnataka
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Telangana

104) The 8th Meeting of Joint Committee on ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) was held in which of the following city?

- A) Bangkok
- B) Jakarta
- C) New Delhi
- D) Singapore

105) Khuldabad of which of the following state is set to be rename Ratnapur?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Uttar Pradesh

106) Who among the following was appointed as acting Chairperson of UGC?

- A) Rajiv Guba
- B) Sanjay Kumar Mishra
- C) Swaminathan S Aiyar
- D) Vineet Joshi

107) Made-in-India robotic surgery machine 'Medi JARVIS' was launched in which of the following state?

- A) Assam
- B) Bihar
- C) Kerala
- D) West Bengal

108) Which country became the fourth country in the world to test the laser-directed weapon system?

- A) France
- B) India
- C) Japan
- D) UK



109) Who was awarded the Verchol Dalit Literary Award for the year 2025?

- A) Jayashree Venkatesan
- B) Mridulika Jha
- C) P. Sivakami
- D) Vinod Kumar Shukla

110) Which state government rolled out the revamped land records system, Bhu Bharati, aimed at removing discrepancies in the land records?

- A) Telangana
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Karnataka
- D) Andhra Pradesh

111) Union Health Minister JP Nadda Inaugurated State-of-the-Art Central Research Laboratory in which of the following city?

- A) Patna
- B) Lucknow
- C) Bhubaneswar
- D) Bhopal

112) Which state government promised full scholarships to SC and OBC students of the state pursuing engineering and medical courses in any government college in the country?

- A) Haryana
- B) Punjab
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Uttar Pradesh

113) Which country's total population declined for the 14th straight year in 2024?

- A) South Korea
- B) Japan
- C) Germany
- D) China

114) The longest skywalk in Kolkata, Kalighat Skywalk was inaugurated by _____.

- A) Amit Shah
- B) Jagdeep Dhankhar
- C) JP Nadda
- D) Mamata Banerjee

115) Who was honoured with a global recognition award at the Macau Comedy Festival in China?

- A) Aamir Khan
- B) Akshay Kumar
- C) Salman Khan
- D) Shah Rukh Khan

116) Who among the following secured the honour of the ICC Player of the Month Award for March 2025 in Men and Women category respectively?

- A) Virat Kohli and Sophie Ecclestone
- B) Jomel Warrican and Beth Mooney
- C) Shubman Gill and Alana King
- D) Shreyas Iyer and Georgia Voll

117) Automobili Lamborghini has announced the appointment of _____ as the new head of Lamborghini India.

- A) Nidhi Kaistha
- B) Salila Pandey
- C) Sohini Rajola
- D) Swaminathan S Aiyar



118) The 2025 Khelo India Youth Games is set to be held in which of the following state?

- A) Bihar
- B) Haryana
- C) Punjab
- D) Uttar Pradesh

119) The 15th meeting of BRICS Agriculture Ministers was held in which of the following country?

- A) Brazil
- B) India
- C) Russia
- D) South Africa

120) Who among the following won the Ecuador's presidential election?

- A) Daniel Noboa
- B) Guillermo Lasso
- C) Luisa González
- D) Rafael Correa

121) Who among the following is set to become the 52nd Chief Justice of India?

- A) Arun Palli
- B) BR Gavai
- C) Sanjiv Khanna
- D) Surya Kant

122) According to NITI Aayog report, India is the _____ largest automobile producer in the world.

- A) Sixth
- B) Fifth
- C) Fourth
- D) Third

123) Eminent _____ Ranjit Nair has passed away recently.

- A) Writer
- B) Singer
- C) Physicist
- D) Actor

124) Which among the following IIT has partnered with Micron Technology, Inc. to advance research and innovation in the semiconductor industry?

- A) IIT Madras
- B) IIT Kanpur
- C) IIT Delhi
- D) IIT Bombay

125) Who was elected as the chairperson of Indian Weightlifting Federation's (IWF) athletes commission?

- A) PT Usha
- B) Mirabai Chanu
- C) Lovlina Borgohain
- D) Karnam Malleswari

126) Khongjom Day was recently celebrated at the Khongjom War Memorial Complex in which state of India?

- A) Assam
- B) Manipur
- C) Nagaland
- D) Tripura

127) On which date was World Book and Copyright Day recently observed?

- A) 22 April
- B) 23 April
- C) 24 April
- D) 21 April

128) Where is the Suzuki Aerobics Gymnastics World Cup 2025 being held?

- A) Beijing
- B) Paris
- C) Tokyo
- D) Seoul

129) What percentage of Tax Collected at Source (TCS) is imposed on luxury goods purchases exceeding ₹10 lakh?

- A) 0.5%
- B) 1%
- C) 1.5%
- D) 2%



130) Where was South India's first air-conditioned EMU (Electric Multiple Unit) train service recently launched?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Hyderabad
- C) Chennai
- D) Kochi

131) Which state is hosting the Bharat Summit 2025?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Telangana
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Kerala

132) What recent project is China and Russia collaborating on?

- A) Lunar Nuclear Power Plant
- B) Mars Exploration Mission
- C) International Space Station
- D) Deep Space Mining Initiative

133) Which Indian institute conducted the study on helium abundance in the Sun?

- A) Indian Institute of Astrophysics
- B) Tata Institute of Fundamental Research
- C) Indian Space Research Organisation
- D) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre

134) What did the recent ILO report focus on?

- A) Algorithmic Management and Job Quality
- B) Global Economic Recovery
- C) Climate Change Impact on Labor
- D) Digital Currency Regulation

135) What recent advancement did the Indian Navy's INS Surat achieve?

- A) Conducted a humanitarian mission
- B) Launched a new aircraft carrier
- C) Successfully tested MRSAM
- D) Engaged in joint exercises with the US Navy

136) Which report published in April 2025 highlights the rising global economic insecurity and inequality, noting that over a third of the world's population struggles with barely sustainable income levels?

- A) Global Hunger Index 2025
- B) World Social Report 2025
- C) UN Human Development Report 2025
- D) World Economic Outlook 2025

137) The recent use of M4 carbine rifles by terrorists in Pahalgam in April 2025 has raised concerns about security in which region of India?

- A) Punjab
- B) Kashmir
- C) North East
- D) Ladakh

138) A recent study by the Zoological Survey of India in April 2025 has reclassified which species, emphasizing the need for conservation efforts?

- A) South Asian pangolins
- B) South Asian tree shrews
- C) Indian gharials
- D) Himalayan snow leopards

139) Which country's recent report indicates a rise in economic insecurity affecting over a third of the global population, published in April 2025?

- A) India
- B) United States
- C) Global (International report)
- D) China

140) What is the projected market size of India's AI industry by 2027 as announced in April 2025?

- A) \$10 billion
- B) \$15 billion
- C) \$17 billion
- D) \$20 billion

141) Which ministry implemented the PM MITRA scheme in India?

- A) Ministry of Textiles
- B) Ministry of Agriculture
- C) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- D) Ministry of Urban Development



142) What is the primary objective of the Sachet mobile application launched by NDMA?

- A) Enhance disaster preparedness across India
- B) Track cyber fraud incidents
- C) Promote financial literacy among youth
- D) Monitor pollution levels in cities

143) Under which act has the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) been authorized to share information with the Enforcement Directorate (ED)?

- A) Prevention of Money Laundering Act
- B) Information Technology Act
- C) Indian Penal Code
- D) Cyber Security Act

144) On which date is World Intellectual Property Day observed?

- A) 25 April
- B) 26 April
- C) 27 April
- D) 24 April

145) Which athlete from Odisha recently created a new national record in the men's 200-meter sprint?

- A) Dutee Chand
- B) Animesh Kujur
- C) Srabani Nanda
- D) Amiya Mallick

146) Who recently launched sports certificates through the DigiLocker platform?

- A) Anurag Thakur
- B) J.P. Nadda
- C) Srabani Nanda
- D) Mansukh Mandaviya

147) Who is the oldest active NASA astronaut to return to Earth recently?

- A) Sunita Williams
- B) Don Pettit
- C) Peggy Whitson
- D) John Glenn

148) Which country recently launched the Shenzhou-20 mission to its space station?

- A) Japan
- B) China
- C) Russia
- D) United States

149) Which country recently achieved a breakthrough in gene therapy treatment for hemophilia?

- A) United States
- B) India
- C) China
- D) Japan

150) Who recently stepped down from the position of President of the World Economic Forum?

- A) Ram Mohan Naidu
- B) Klaus Schwab
- C) Ajay Bhushan Pandey
- D) Santosh Kumar

ANSWERS

1) Correct Answer: C

The Centre has increased the salaries, allowances, and pensions of Members of Parliament (MPs), according to a gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The salary of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members has been increased 24% to Rs 1.24 lakh per month, while the daily allowance has risen from Rs 2,000 to Rs 2,500, according to the notification.

2) Correct Answer: D

A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report highlights that advanced economies like the United States and the United Kingdom have overtaken Gulf nations as top contributors to remittances in India. US became the top source in FY21, bringing in 23.4% of inward remittances. This increased to nearly 28% in FY24.

3) Correct Answer: D

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami emphasised the religious and cultural significance of the rivers Ganga and Sharda rivers and announced plans to develop corridors along these sacred rivers to boost religious tourism in the state.

4) Correct Answer: C

Indian gymnast Pranati Nayak secured a bronze medal in the Vault Final at the FIG Artistic Gymnastics Apparatus World Cup in Antalya, Turkey. The 29-year-old, who represented the country at the Tokyo Olympics, came up with a total score of 13.417 in the vault final to finish third.

5) Correct Answer: C

RK Shriramkumar, one of the best-known violinists from a family hailing from Rudrapatnam in Hassan district of Karnataka on the banks of River Cauvery, was named for the prestigious Sangita Kalanidhi award by The Music Academy, Madras.

6) Correct Answer: D

Sanghamitra Tai Gaikwad, who has been selflessly working in the field of social service, was honored with the 'Popular Civilian Excellence Award' by Dr. Anil Kashi

Murarka and Mandakini. This award is dedicated to her immense contribution to society and her selfless service.

7) Correct Answer: B

The government has assigned additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of REC Ltd. to Smt. Parminder Chopra, who currently holds the position of CMD at Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC), according to an official order issued by the ministry of power.

8) Correct Answer: C

India held the Private Sector Collaborative Forum (PSCF) 2025 of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in Mumbai, where issues of global priorities such as payment transparency, financial inclusion and digital transformation of financial systems were discussed.

9) Correct Answer: D

Anthurium flowers from Mizoram have been exported for the first time, to Singapore, enhancing India's floriculture export potential, particularly from the northeastern region. The consignment, comprising 1,024 Anthurium cut flowers (weighing 70 kg) packed in 50 corrugated boxes, was exported by IVC Agrovet Pvt. Ltd. from Aizawl, Mizoram.

10) Correct Answer: B

The 36-hour hackathon, titled "Hack the Future," organized by the National Statistical Office (NSO) of India in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN) was held successfully at the IITGN campus.

11) Correct Answer: A

Tata Motors has roped in Bollywood star Vicky Kaushal as its brand ambassador for both passenger EVs and internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. The appointment marks a significant move for the auto giant as it aims to reinforce its leadership in India's electric vehicle (EV) market.

12) Correct Answer: B

The US Senate confirmed the nomination of Indian-origin academic Jay Bhattacharya, to the position of Director at

the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Bhattacharya secured the position with a vote count of 53-47 during the initial roll call session of the 119th Congress.

13) Correct Answer: D

India and Singapore have signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) for Green and Digital Shipping Corridor (GDSC), with a focus on digitalisation and decarbonisation. The Singapore-India GDSC, when established, will enhance collaboration from both countries and help accelerate the development and uptake of zero or near-zero GHG emission technologies.

14) Correct Answer: B

Actor Manoj Bharathiraja, son of veteran Tamil cinema director Bharathiraja, died of a cardiac arrest. He was 48 years old. Manoj debuted as a lead actor in the Tamil film *Taj Mahal* directed by his father and later starred in *Eera Nilam*, and *Varushamellam* *Vasantham*.

15) Correct Answer: A

Greco Roman wrestler Sunil Kumar (87kg) claimed a bronze medal to open India's account in the Asian wrestling championships in Amman, Jordan. Sunil, an Asian Games bronze medallist, defeated China's Huang Jiaxin 5-1 to bag his fifth Asian medal.

16) Correct Answer: A

India's doubles specialist B Sumeeth Reddy, a member of the 2022 Commonwealth Games mixed team silver medal-winning squad, has announced his retirement as an active badminton player to focus entirely on coaching.

17) Correct Answer: C

India has overtaken Sri Lanka to become the world's second-largest tea exporter, according to newly released data from the Tea Board of India. In 2024, India exported 254 million kilograms of tea, surpassing Sri Lanka by 24 million kilograms.

18) Correct Answer: D

Former ED Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra had been appointed by the Union government as a full-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). Mishra, 65, served as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief till September 15, 2023 after the Supreme Court curtailed his extended

tenure following petitions filed against multiple extensions granted to him by the government.

19) Correct Answer: B

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has launched the state-of-the-art artificial intelligence-powered chatbot 'Sarathi' for the Chief Secretary's office website. This chatbot is aimed at bringing revolutionary changes in citizen engagement by providing easy access to important government directives, notifications, and circulars.

20) Correct Answer: B

In a major boost to India's defence capabilities, the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy successfully flight-tested the indigenously-developed Vertically-Launched Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VLSRSAM) at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.

21) Correct Answer: D

In Australia, former cricketer Steve Waugh has been appointed by the Australian government to the Centre for Australia-India Relations Advisory Board. The Centre for Australia- India Relations is a national platform established by the Australian Government in 2023 to support and facilitate greater collaboration and engagement with India.

22) Correct Answer: A

Three defence forces carried out a tri-service integrated multi-domain exercise codenamed Prachand Prahar in the high-altitude terrain of the Himalayas along the Northern Borders in Arunachal Pradesh. This exercise is in continuation with Exercise Poorvi Prahar held in November 2024, which had focused on the integrated application of aviation assets.

23) Correct Answer: B

India has made significant strides in expanding its social security coverage, which has doubled from 24.4% in 2021 to 48.8% in 2024, according to the latest World Social Protection Report (WSPR) by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

24) Correct Answer: A

The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), in collaboration with IISc Bengaluru and leading IITs,

inaugurated India's first Nano Electronics Roadshow at IISc Bengaluru. S. Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY, highlighted India's rapid strides in semiconductor innovation, emphasizing a projected \$100 billion market and 85,000 skilled workforce by 2030.

25) Correct Answer: A

The Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board is working on initiatives to connect the state's natural, spiritual, and cultural heritage with major religious destinations in Uttar Pradesh, such as Prayagraj, Ayodhya, and Varanasi. A key focus is the development of the Ganga-Narmada Tourism Corridor.

26) Correct Answer: B

Data released by Hurun Global indicates that Shanghai has overtaken Mumbai to become Asia's billionaire capital for the first time, with 92 billionaires. Mumbai now has 90, down by two. Mukesh Ambani and family remain India's richest, with a wealth of INR 8.6 lakh crore.

27) Correct Answer: A

Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), L&T Finance (LTF) has named Indian cricketer Jasprit Bumrah as its brand ambassador. This partnership marks an exciting chapter for LTF in its ongoing efforts to expand and strengthen its brand presence and engage its diverse customer base spread across the country.

28) Correct Answer: C

India's core sector growth slowed down to by 2.9 per cent in February as against 4.6 per cent in January 2025, official data released by the government showed. The production of Cement, Fertilizers, Steel, Electricity, Coal and Refinery Products recorded positive growth in February, 2025.

29) Correct Answer: C

India and Russia conducted the 14th edition of the bilateral naval exercise, INDRA 2025, from March 28 to April 2, 2025, off the coast of Chennai and in the Bay of Bengal. Since its inception in 2003, Exercise INDRA represent the long-term strategic relationship between the two Navies.

30) Correct Answer: A

In a significant tribute to Mata Karma, a revered saint and social reformer, the Department of Posts, Government of India, has unveiled a commemorative postage stamp to mark her 1009th birth anniversary. Mata Karma is celebrated for her unwavering devotion to Lord Krishna and her lifelong commitment to social reform.

31) Correct Answer: B

Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has elected State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman CS Setty as the new Chairman of IBA, according to a statement. The committee also elected Union Bank MD A Maninekhali, Punjab & Sind Bank MD Swarup Kumar Saha, and Madhav Nair from Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait BSC as three deputy Chairmen.

32) Correct Answer: B

In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand, the Government of India has launched Operation Brahma for rendering assistance to Myanmar. Indian Navy ships Satpura and Savitri, from the Eastern Naval Command, reached Yangon, as part of the Indian Navy's immediate response towards Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR).

33) Correct Answer: B

Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted that India today has become the second largest 5G market in the world. Addressing an event in New Delhi, the Minister emphasized that because of the government's focus, various sectors are getting fundamentally transformed.

34) Correct Answer: C

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Madhav Netralaya Premium Centre at Nagpur in Maharashtra. He said, crores of people are benefiting from free medical treatment under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

35) Correct Answer: D

Sunil Kakkar (currently senior management personnel at Maruti Suzuki) has been appointed as whole-time director - designated as director (corporate planning). Subsequent to this appointment, Maruti Suzuki will, also for the first time, have an equal split of Indian and Japanese executives on its board.

36) Correct Answer: D

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 6th BIMSTEC summit in Thailand. Prior to the BIMSTEC Summit, the Thai PM hosted a dinner for leaders of the BIMSTEC grouping, which witnessed PM Modi and Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus seated together.

37) Correct Answer: A

In a significant move to boost the cooperative sector, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah announced the government's plans to launch a new app-based taxi service, 'Sahkar', on the lines of Ola and Uber.

38) Correct Answer: A

India's women's number one squash player Anahat Singh brushed aside Helen Tang of Hong Kong in the final to clinch the JSW Indian Open title. This is the 17-year-old Anahat's sixth title on the bounce, and 11th in total, and she won it quite easily 3-0 (11-9, 11-5, 11-8). The win gave Anahat 300 ranking points.

39) Correct Answer: B

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), in collaboration with IIIT-Hyderabad has launched a large-scale competition to test age invariance in biometric algorithms. The first phase of the Biometric SDK Benchmarking challenge focuses on fingerprint authentication, testing 1:1 matching algorithms for children aged 5-10 years, with updates after 5-10 years.

40) Correct Answer: C

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, unveiled a unique calendar for children for their upcoming summer vacation and called upon them to inculcate new hobbies and hone their skills. Introducing MY-Bharat special calendar, Modi said this has been prepared for this summer vacation.

41) Correct Answer: B

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced "Yoga for One Earth, One Health" as the theme of this year's International Day of Yoga. The United Nations proclaimed June 21 as the International Day of Yoga with an aim to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practising yoga. It was first celebrated in 2015.

42) Correct Answer: D

Shirley Botchwey became 1st African woman to assume office as Commonwealth Secretary-General. Shirley Botchwey assumed office as the 7th Secretary-General of the Commonwealth. She previously served as Ghana's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration from January 2017 to January 2024.

43) Correct Answer: B

MyNaa Swamy was honoured with the prestigious Ugadi Award by the Andhra Pradesh government for his outstanding contributions to historical research and social service. MyNaa Swamy has made significant contributions to epigraphic research, particularly on the Vijayanagara Empire and the Lepakshi Veerabhadra temple complex.

44) Correct Answer: B

Japan's Financial Services Agency (FSA) plans to revise the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act to give crypto assets a legal status as financial products. The FSA will submit a bill to parliament as early as 2026 to amend the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act.

45) Correct Answer: D

Inaugurated by the Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, the National Round of the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament Festival 2025 was held in New Delhi. The two-day event was aimed to empower young minds and foster leadership through parliamentary discussions.

46) Correct Answer: C

India and Chile have agreed to hold discussions toward a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to expand trade and investment. The two sides agreed to continue regular exchanges at various levels to give further momentum to the bilateral relationship.

47) Correct Answer: D

Indian women's hockey great Vandana Katariya announced her retirement, bringing an end to a career that spanned over 15 years. With 320 international caps and 158 goals to her name, Vandana leaves as the most capped player in the history of Indian women's hockey.

48) Correct Answer: B

The Union ministry of home affairs has appointed Surendra Singh Yadav as deputy inspector general in the

Border Security Force on deputation basis, relieving him from the post of Chandigarh director general of police with immediate effect. Following Yadav's transfer, Raj Kumar Singh, a 2004-batch AGMUT-cadre IPS officer, has been given charge as the acting DGP of Chandigarh until further orders.

49) Correct Answer: A

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced that 15 places in Haridwar, Dehradun, Nainital, and Udham Singh Nagar districts would be renamed in accordance with "public sentiment and Indian culture and heritage".

50) Correct Answer: C

Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan inaugurated the 62nd National Maritime Day and the Merchant Navy Week at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai. Addressing the officers, the Governor stressed the importance of the maritime sector to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat.

51) Correct Answer: A

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has appointed Sohini Rajola as the executive director – growth as part of the apex payments body's leadership. Rajola will be responsible for driving the adoption of NPCI's payment solutions.

52) Correct Answer: B

The Maharashtra government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Microsoft Corporation for a strategic partnership to establish three cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence (AI) centres of excellence in Mumbai, Pune, and Nagpur to accelerate the adoption of AI technologies within the state.

53) Correct Answer: A

UP Fire Department's exceptional disaster management during the Mahakumbh earned recognition from the Goa CM, ensuring fire safety for millions without a single casualty. The Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, which concluded recently, highlighted the critical role of the Uttar Pradesh Fire Department in ensuring fire safety throughout the event.

54) Correct Answer: A

Five months after the end of the military stand-off along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, India and China celebrated the 75th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations, with the leaders of the two neighbouring nations exchanging greetings and diplomats cutting cakes together.

55) Correct Answer: B

Indian Railways has achieved a significant milestone in its commitment to renewable energy by installing 2,249 solar power plants at railway stations and service buildings across the country by February 2025. Rajasthan has emerged as the leading state in this initiative, with 275 installations, the highest among all states and Union Territories.

56) Correct Answer: B

The centre has set a target to set up 728 Eklavya Model Residential Schools benefiting around 3.5 lakh Schedule Tribe students across the country. As of date, a total number of 721 schools have been sanctioned across the country, out of which 477 schools are reported to be functional.

57) Correct Answer: B

The famous Kumbakonam vetrilai (Kumbakonam betel leaf) and Thovalai maanikka maalai have been given the Geographical Indications (GI) tag. The application for the betel leaf was filed by the Vettrilai Urpathiyalargal Nalasangam and was facilitated by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

58) Correct Answer: D

H. Shankar assumed charge as Managing Director of the Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL). A mechanical engineer with an MBA, Mr. Shankar has been instrumental in strengthening the CPCL's position in the energy sector.

59) Correct Answer: B

India ranks 36th out of 170 nations on a global index measuring a country's readiness for frontier technologies, improving its ranking from last year, according to a UN report. The report further noted that Brazil, China, India, and the Philippines are developing countries outperforming in technology readiness.

60) Correct Answer: C

Mohsin Naqvi, the Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), has been appointed as the new President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC). Naqvi, who has been PCB Chairman since February 2024, will serve as the ACC President for two years and succeeds Shammi Silva, the Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) President.

61) Correct Answer: B

National Maritime Day is observed annually on April 5 to commemorate the historic voyage of the SS Loyalty in 1919. Operated by the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, this was the first Indian-owned ship to sail from Mumbai to London, marking a significant step toward India's maritime independence during British colonial rule.

62) Correct Answer: C

Amalsad chikoo became the first ever agriculture commodity in South Gujarat to get a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. After Kesar mango, Kutchi kharek (dried date), and Bhaliya wheat, it became the fourth food item from the state to get the prestigious tag.

63) Correct Answer: D

The 7th India-Japan Maritime Affairs Dialogue was held in Tokyo, Japan. The Indian delegation was led by Ms Muanpuii Saiawi, Joint Secretary (Disarmament & International Security Affairs), Ministry of External Affairs and the Japan delegation by Mr. KASHIWABARA Yutaka, Deputy Director-General/ Deputy Assistant Minister, Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau.

64) Correct Answer: C

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with Sri Lanka's highest civilian award - the Mithra Vibhushana - during his three-day visit to the island nation. Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake gave the prestigious award to PM Modi in honour of his efforts to strengthen bilateral ties and promote the shared cultural and spiritual heritage of the two nations.

65) Correct Answer: A

Veteran Tamil and Malayalam actor Ravikumar Menon died at a private hospital in Chennai. He has acted in numerous Tamil and Malayalam films apart from television shows, playing both lead and supporting roles. While he previously acted in Malayalam in the 1968 film

Lakshaprabhu, his debut as a lead was with the 1975 film Ullasa Yaathra.

66) Correct Answer: A

The government has said that due to the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme, the sex ratio at birth has increased from 918 in 2014-15 to 930 in 2023-24 at the national level. In a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha, Women and Child Development Minister Annpurna Devi said the scheme was launched in 2015 to address the declining Child Sex Ratio and related issues of the empowerment of girls and women.

67) Correct Answer: D

Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau announced that the US is canceling all existing visas issued to South Sudanese nationals. No new visas will be processed. All appointments related to visa services have been cancelled.

68) Correct Answer: C

Union home and cooperation minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone for the Beej Anusandhan Kendra, a seed research centre to boost agricultural productivity and innovation, at the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) Kalol unit in Gujarat's Gandhinagar.

69) Correct Answer: C

Sri Lankan spin allrounder Kamindu Mendis has become the first man to switch his bowling arm during an over in the IPL. He did it in his debut game for Sunrisers Hyderabad against Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens. Brought on for the 13th over of the innings, Mendis bowled three balls of left-arm spin and three of offspin.

70) Correct Answer: C

Indian shooter Esha Singh won a silver medal in the women's 25m pistol event at the ISSF World Cup 2025 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. On the other hand, Asian Games medallist shooter Chain Singh secured bronze in the men's event, opening India's medal account at the competition.

71) Correct Answer: D

Pamban bridge, India's first vertical lift sea bridge, was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in Tamil Nadu. The

new Pamban bridge has a 72.5-metre navigational span that elevates to 17 metres, to help accommodate the ship traffic beneath.

72) Correct Answer: D

United Nations, India and China are the only developing countries in the world with significant private investments in AI in 2023, according to a UN report. India ranks tenth. The US leads the world in terms of private investment in AI, at USD 67 billion in 2023, or 70 per cent of global AI private investment.

73) Correct Answer: A

Delhi has officially joined the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, becoming the 35th State/UT to implement the national health insurance scheme. As part of the implementation, all senior citizens aged 70 and above, regardless of their socio-economic status, will be eligible for Rs 5 lakh in free health coverage under the Ayushman Vay Vandana Yojana.

74) Correct Answer: D

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla lead the Indian Parliamentary Delegation (IPD) for the 150th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Summit in Tashkent. Birla also held bilateral talks with his counterparts from Vietnam, Israel, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, as per the statement.

75) Correct Answer: C

Saudi Arabia has temporarily suspended the issuance of Umrah, business, and family visit visas for citizens of 14 countries, including India, effective until mid-June 2025, coinciding with the end of the Hajj pilgrimage season. This decision, as per the reports, aims to address overcrowding and safety concerns during Hajj.

76) Correct Answer: A

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said 'Agniveers' will be provided 20 per cent reservation in the police recruitment in the state. Saini said Agniveers will be able to get jobs in Haryana after their service period in the Army and for this, a separate portal will be created for them on which they can register themselves.

77) Correct Answer: A

The Central Government notified the appointment of Justice Arun Palli as Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. He has been serving as the

Executive Chairman of the Haryana State Legal Services Authority since May 31, 2023.

78) Correct Answer: C

In a strategic push to strengthen its foothold in the generative AI space, Meta released the first models from its latest open-source AI suite, Llama 4. The two initial models- Llama 4 Scout and Llama 4 Maverick-are now available for download via the Llama website and Hugging Face.

79) Correct Answer: C

The Supreme Court of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Supreme Court of Nepal to enhance judicial cooperation between the two countries. The MoU aims to encourage mutual exchange of information on developments in the field of law and justice, and to promote interaction among judges and judicial officers through exchange visits, training programmes, and academic initiatives.

80) Correct Answer: A

Virat Kohli reached another milestone in his glittering career, as he amassed 13,000 runs in T20 cricket during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL 2025 fixture vs Mumbai Indians. Kohli also became the second-fastest batter to reach the landmark, doing in his 386th T20 innings, after Chris Gayle, who reached in only 381 innings.

81) Correct Answer: B

The 13th Ministerial meeting of the India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue (13th EFD) was held at London. The Indian delegation, led by Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman, held high-level discussions with the UK delegation led by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves.

82) Correct Answer: A

Haryana School Education Board, Bhiwani, has decided to implement the three-language formula in classes 9th and 10th in all affiliated government and non-government schools. This decision will be applicable in class 9th from the academic session 2025-26 and in class 10th from 2026-27.

83) Correct Answer: C

Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the Vinod Dham Centre of Excellence for Semiconductors and Microelectronics at Delhi Technological University. Talking to the media, Mr. Vaisnaw said that in this semiconductor lab, students can actually learn the manufacturing, the fabrication and the design process combined.

84) Correct Answer: D

At the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of UAE visited India recently. This was the first official visit of His Highness to India as the Crown Prince of Dubai.

85) Correct Answer: B

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Ahmedabad is going global, as it is all set to establish its campus in Dubai. This will be the first IIM to set up its global campus abroad. The announcement came after IIM-Ahmedabad and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Mumbai.

86) Correct Answer: B

The 3rd BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture was held in Kathmandu, Nepal. Chaired by Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Development of Nepal, Mr. Ram Nath Adhikari, the Meeting brought together Agriculture Ministers from the BIMSTEC member States, both in person and virtual.

87) Correct Answer: A

Deputy Governor Dr. Neelam Dhungana Timsina has been appointed as acting governor of Nepal Rastra Bank for the time being. The Rastra Bank has been without a governor since the end of outgoing Governor Mahaprasad Adhikari's term on April 6.

88) Correct Answer: D

Union Minister Jitendra Singh in Jammu & Kashmir launched the first-ever 'Himalayan High-Altitude Atmospheric & Climate Centre' in Nathatop, Chenani, Udhampur district. This landmark initiative aims to provide accurate climate and weather forecasts, along

with research and study of the region's unique high-altitude conditions.

89) Correct Answer: B

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has taken a significant step towards making the state an industrial hub by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) for setting up India's largest dual-feed naphtha cracker project.

90) Correct Answer: C

Viral Davda, a professional with more than 20 years of experience, has been appointed as Deputy Chief Information Officer (CIO) at Bombay Stock Exchange Limited (BSE). Davda brings a wealth of experience from his tenure at the National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX), where he held various senior leadership roles over 15 years.

91) Correct Answer: C

President Droupadi Murmu was conferred an Honorary Doctorate by Constantine The Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia for her "distinguished career in public service". President Murmu is being recognised for her distinguished career in public service and governance, advocacy for social justice and inclusion, the university said in a statement.

92) Correct Answer: B

In Sikkim, the International Youth Conclave was held at Yanggang Helipad in the Namchi district. The three-day event was inaugurated by Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang. The event was organized by the Department of Tourism, Government of Sikkim.

93) Correct Answer: D

India and Russia have agreed on six new strategic projects to boost bilateral investment cooperation. The decision was taken during the eighth session of the India-Russia Working Group on Priority Investment Projects held in New Delhi.

94) Correct Answer: C

Russia has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the May 9 celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of victory over Germany in World War II, Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko has said.

Russia has invited leaders of several friendly nations to attend this year's Victory Day parade.

95) Correct Answer: C

Karnataka-based writer, activist and lawyer Banu Mushtaq's short story collection 'Heart Lamp' has been shortlisted for the International Booker Prize 2025. The work has been translated from Kannada to English by Deepa Bhasthi.

96) Correct Answer: B

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has revised downwards India's GDP growth forecast for the financial year 2025-26 (FY26) to 6.7 per cent from the earlier 7 per cent in its April 2025 latest outlook report. The growth for the financial year 2026-27 has been projected at 6.8 per cent in the report.

97) Correct Answer: B

The Hyderabad City Security Council (HCSC) hosted the second edition of the STREE Summit, a flagship event dedicated to empowering women in safety and security. The summit, an initiative of HCSC, was aimed on addressing key safety challenges faced by women in society and highlight the importance of fostering a culture of respect, equality, and empowerment.

98) Correct Answer: D

Union Minister for Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu inaugurated the cutting-edge Digital Flight Data Recorder and Cockpit Voice Recorder (DFDR & CVR) laboratory at the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) at Udaan Bhawan in New Delhi. Widely referred to as the "Black Box Lab," this state-of-the-art facility has been established with an investment of ₹9 crore.

99) Correct Answer: C

Mauritius has become the first African country to sign a Country Partnership Framework (CPF) with the International Solar Alliance (ISA). It is also the fourth country globally, after Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Cuba, to sign the CPF.

100) Correct Answer: A

The government has terminated the transhipment facility that allowed export cargo from Bangladesh to third countries using Indian land customs stations en route to ports and airports, according to a government

circular. Indian exporters, mainly from the apparel sector, had earlier urged the government to withdraw this facility to the neighbouring country.

101) Correct Answer: B

The foundation stone for India's first Gallium Nitride (GaN)-based semiconductor manufacturing plant of chip-making firm Polymatech Electronics in Nava Raipur was laid by Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai. Polymatech Electronics MD and CEO Eshwara Rao Nandam also announced an additional investment of Rs 10,000 crore in Chhattisgarh.

102) Correct Answer: A

Eminent Kathak exponent and choreographer Kumudini Lakhia passed away at her residence in Ahmedabad. Lakhia was conferred with the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian award, on the Republic Day this year in recognition of her lifelong dedication to Kathak.

103) Correct Answer: C

Kerala and Tamil Nadu will jointly carry out a Nilgiri Tahr census from April 24 to 27. The survey will span 89 census blocks in Kerala and 176 blocks in Tamil Nadu over the four-day period. The synchronised survey of the mountain animal is being conducted to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Eravikulam National Park.

104) Correct Answer: C

India hosted the 8th meeting of the AITIGA Joint Committee to review the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by Shri Rajesh Agrawal, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India and Deputy Co-Chair Dr. Sugumari S. Shanmugam Senior Director Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Malaysia.

105) Correct Answer: C

The Maharashtra government will rename Khultabad to 'Ratnapur', Social Justice Minister Sanjay Shirsat announced. Mr. Shirsat said the renaming aligns with the government's ongoing efforts to restore pre-Mughal names of places that were altered during the Mughal era.

106) Correct Answer: D

Following the retirement of Professor M. Jagadesh Kumar on April 7, the Ministry of Education has appointed Vineet Joshi as the acting Chairperson of the University Grants Commission (UGC). Joshi will remain in this additional role as Secretary in the Department of Higher Education until a permanent appointment is made or until further notice.

107) Correct Answer: A

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma shared a social media post about a Made-in-India robotic surgery machine, Medi JARVIS, which was launched at the State Cancer Institute, Guwahati. It is designed to aid doctors in carrying out intricate medical procedures with greater precision and efficiency.

108) Correct Answer: B

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed a directed-energy weapon (DEW), which is now ready for production and deployment across various military platforms. With this achievement, India joins an elite group of countries, including the United States, China, and Russia, becoming fourth country that possess advanced laser weapon capabilities.

109) Correct Answer: C

Retired IAS officer, writer and politician, P. Sivakami was awarded the Verchol Dalit Literary Award for the year 2025 by Neelam Cultural Centre at the valedictory of the two-day Verchol Literary gathering that the centre organises every year as part of the Vaanam Art Festival.

110) Correct Answer: A

Telangana government has enacted the Telangana Bhu Bharati (Record of Rights) Act and formally launched the Bhu Bharati portal as a solution to land related issues which cropped up after the introduction of Dharani portal by the previous Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) government.

111) Correct Answer: C

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda inaugurated the state-of-the-art Central Research Laboratory at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar aimed at advancing cutting-edge medical research and fostering innovation. The facility is poised to empower doctors, researchers, and scholars in developing impactful healthcare solutions and propel

AIIMS-Bhubaneswar into the league of premier medical research hubs in the country.

112) Correct Answer: A

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said all SC and OBC students from the state enrolled in medical and engineering courses in any government college across the country will be given full scholarship and a portal will be created for this.

113) Correct Answer: B

The population of Japanese nationals stood at 120.3 million as of October 2024, down a record 8,98,000 from a year earlier, marking the 14th consecutive year of decline, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications said.

114) Correct Answer: D

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated the longest skywalk in Kolkata, a significant infrastructure project that connects SP Mukherjee Road to the revered Kalighat Temple. It addresses the need for improved pedestrian access in an area known for its heavy foot traffic, especially during festival seasons.

115) Correct Answer: A

Bollywood actor and filmmaker Aamir Khan was recently honoured at the prestigious Macau Comedy Festival in China. Known for his thoughtful storytelling and universally resonant themes, Aamir's presence at the event marked a significant moment for Indian cinema on the international stage.

116) Correct Answer: D

India's Shreyas Iyer won the ICC Men's Player of the Month Award for March, following a successful outing with the bat at the Champions Trophy 2025 last month. Australia's Georgia Voll won her maiden ICC Women's Player of the Month crown, securing the accolade after explosive batting exploits in Australia's victorious T20I sweep of New Zealand.

117) Correct Answer: A

Italian super luxury automaker Lamborghini said it has appointed Nidhi Kaistha as Head of Lamborghini India. In her new role, Kaistha will oversee sales, marketing and after-sales operations in India, the sixth-largest market in

the Asia Pacific region, the automaker said in a statement.

118) Correct Answer: A

The Khelo India Youth Games 2025 will be held from May 4 to 15, with Bihar playing host across five cities - Patna, Rajgir, Gaya, Bhagalpur and Begusarai. New Delhi will stage shooting, gymnastics and track cycling events.

119) Correct Answer: A

India reaffirmed its commitment to inclusive, equitable and sustainable agriculture at the 15th meeting of BRICS Agriculture Ministers. Speaking at the meeting in Brazil, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said global food security goals would remain unfulfilled unless small farmers are protected and empowered.

120) Correct Answer: A

Ecuador's right-wing President Daniel Noboa has been re-elected in a second-round election run-off. With more than 90 percent of ballots counted, the 37-year-old Noboa was reported to have taken 55.8 percent of the vote. That gave him a twelve-point lead over left-wing opponent Luisa Gonzalez.

121) Correct Answer: B

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna has recommended Justice B.R. Gavai to the government for appointment as the 52nd Chief Justice of India. Chief Justice Khanna is scheduled to retire on May 13. Justice Gavai's father, Ramakrishna Suryabhan Gavai, also known as 'Dadasaheb', was a former Governor of Bihar and a prominent Dalit leader.

122) Correct Answer: C

NITI Aayog has released an insightful report titled "Automotive Industry: Powering India's Participation in Global Value Chains". India has emerged as the fourth-largest global producer after China, USA and Japan, with an annual production of nearly 6 million vehicles, said report.

123) Correct Answer: C

Physicist-philosopher Ranjit Nair, who founded the Centre for Philosophy and the Foundations of Science, passed away in New Delhi. He was 70. Trained in physics and philosophy at the University of Cambridge, Nair's

works include "Mind, Matter and Mystery" and "The Republic of Science."

124) Correct Answer: C

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) and Micron Technology, Inc. have partnered to advance research in electronic materials and AI driven modelling. This collaboration aims to harness cutting-edge technology and scientific innovation to address critical challenges in the semiconductor sector.

125) Correct Answer: B

Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu and Commonwealth Games gold medallist S. Sathish Kumar have been elected chairperson and vice-chairperson, respectively, of the Athletes' Commission of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF). Their term will last four years.

126) Correct Answer: B

Khongjom Day is observed in Manipur to commemorate the valor of Manipuri soldiers who fought in the Anglo-Manipur War of 1891. The celebration takes place at the Khongjom War Memorial Complex in Thoubal district.

127) Correct Answer: B

World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated every year on 23 April to promote reading, publishing, and the protection of intellectual property through copyright. The date also honors literary legends like William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes, who died on this day.

128) Correct Answer: C

The Suzuki Aerobics Gymnastics World Cup 2025 is taking place in Tokyo, Japan, from April 25 to 27, 2025. The event is hosted at the Ota City General Gymnasium and features elite aerobic gymnasts from 19 countries and regions. Organized by the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG) and the Japan Aerobic Federation, this competition is a significant fixture in the international gymnastics calendar.

129) Correct Answer: B

Effective from April 22, 2025, the Indian government has mandated a 1% TCS on the sale of specified luxury goods priced over ₹10 lakh. This measure, introduced under the amended Section 206C(1F) of the Income Tax Act, 1961,

aims to enhance transparency in high-value transactions and curb tax evasion. The list of luxury items includes wristwatches, handbags, art pieces, yachts, and more.

130) Correct Answer: C

South India's first air-conditioned EMU train service was launched by Southern Railway on April 19, 2025, in Chennai. The 12-car train operates along the Chennai Beach–Chengalpattu corridor, offering improved comfort features such as automatic doors, CCTV surveillance, and passenger information systems. This initiative aims to enhance the commuting experience, especially during peak hours and the region's hot and humid conditions. The service runs four times daily (except Sundays) and is expected to benefit office-goers and regular suburban passengers.

131) Correct Answer: B

Telangana is hosting the Bharat Summit 2025 at Hyderabad, focusing on global issues like peace, climate change, and gender equity.



132) Correct Answer: A

China and Russia are working together to develop a **nuclear power plant** on the Moon, a groundbreaking initiative supporting the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS). The ILRS aims to enhance lunar exploration and research capabilities. The other options do not represent collaborative projects currently in the works between China and Russia. This partnership highlights the growing interest in lunar resources and international cooperation in space exploration.

133) Correct Answer: A

The **Indian Institute of Astrophysics** conducted the study that estimated helium abundance in the Sun's photosphere, marking a significant advancement in astrophysics. This research provides insights into solar opacity, which is crucial for understanding solar behavior. The other institutes listed focus on different scientific domains and are not involved in this specific research. Understanding helium levels helps in comprehending stellar processes and the Sun's evolution.

134) Correct Answer: A

The ILO report titled 'Revolutionizing health and safety: The role of AI and digitalization at work' highlighted the effects of **algorithmic management** on job quality and workplace safety. Released ahead of World Day for Safety and Health at Work, it underscores the importance of adapting labor standards to emerging technologies. The other options address broader economic themes unrelated to this specific report. This report is significant as it guides policymakers in ensuring safe and equitable work environments in the digital age.

135) Correct Answer: C

The INS Surat successfully tested the Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (**MRSAM**) on April 24, 2025, marking a significant enhancement in India's defense capabilities.

136) Correct Answer: B

The World Social Report 2025 emphasizes increasing economic insecurity and inequality worldwide. It notes that more than a third of the global population faces income levels that barely sustain them. This highlights the urgent need for targeted policy interventions. The report is essential for understanding socio-economic disparities globally.

137) Correct Answer: B

The deployment of M4 carbines by terrorists in **Kashmir** highlights security threats in the region. Kashmir has been a focal point of insurgency and militancy for decades. The attack in Pahalgam underscores evolving tactics and weaponry used by militants. Ensuring regional security remains a top priority for India.

138) Correct Answer: B

The Zoological Survey of India's research has revised the understanding of **South Asian tree shrews**, challenging previous classifications. This discovery highlights the importance of targeted conservation strategies for this species. It reflects the ongoing need for research in biodiversity conservation. Protecting diverse species is essential for ecological balance.

139) Correct Answer: C

The report, titled the World Social Report 2025, is an **international** publication highlighting global economic insecurity. It underscores that over a third of the world's

population struggles with income sufficiency. Such reports inform policymakers about socio-economic disparities worldwide. Addressing these issues is vital for sustainable development.

140) Correct Answer: C

India's AI market is projected to reach **\$17 billion** by 2027, signaling rapid growth in the technology sector. This growth presents opportunities for innovation, employment, and economic development. Initiatives like AI Kiran aim to ensure inclusive participation, especially of women. Such projections highlight AI's strategic importance for India's future economy.

141) Correct Answer: A

The **Ministry of Textiles** is responsible for implementing the PM MITRA scheme, which aims to boost textile industry infrastructure. Madhya Pradesh received formal approval under this scheme in 2025, highlighting its focus on textile hubs. Other options like Agriculture, Commerce, and Urban Development are unrelated to this specific scheme. This scheme is significant for promoting textile exports and employment.

142) Correct Answer: A

The Sachet app was launched by the NDMA to improve **disaster preparedness** and response in India, as emphasized by Prime Minister Modi. It aims to facilitate timely information sharing during emergencies. Options B, C, and D are unrelated to disaster management functions. The app's significance lies in strengthening India's disaster resilience.

143) Correct Answer: B

The I4C was authorized to share information under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)** to combat cyber frauds more effectively. This move enhances cooperation between cyber crime units and financial investigations. The other acts do not specifically govern this sharing of information related to money laundering.

This step is crucial in addressing cyber-enabled financial crimes.

144) Correct Answer: B

World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated on **26 April** every year to raise awareness about the importance of intellectual property rights in encouraging innovation and creativity.

145) Correct Answer: B

Animesh Kujur from Odisha set a new national record in the men's 200-meter race with an outstanding performance, showcasing his rising talent in Indian athletics.

146) Correct Answer: A

Union Minister **Anurag Thakur** launched sports certificates via DigiLocker to ensure athletes can easily access and verify their achievements digitally, promoting transparency and convenience.

147) Correct Answer: C

Peggy Whitson, a veteran astronaut, became NASA's oldest active astronaut to return to Earth, demonstrating her incredible endurance and commitment to space exploration even at an advanced age.

148) Correct Answer: B

China launched the Shenzhou-20 mission as part of its efforts to expand and maintain the Tiangong Space Station, showcasing its growing capabilities in space exploration.

149) Correct Answer: A

The **United States** successfully developed an advanced gene therapy for hemophilia, offering hope for a long-term cure by correcting the genetic disorder that affects blood clotting.

150) Correct Answer: B

Klaus Schwab, the founder of the World Economic Forum (WEF), recently resigned from his position, ending a long tenure that shaped global discussions on economic policies and cooperation.

SECTION 3



Detailed Analysis of Important Events

of



Economics

India's Coal Dependence rose to 79%



Why in the News?

According to MoSPI's Energy Statistics in India 2025, coal contributed 79% to India's total energy generation, amounting to 16,906 petajoules (PJ), marking a 2% increase from the previous year.

Share of Coal in India's Energy Basket:

- Dominance: In 2023–2024, coal accounted for 79% of India's total energy production, or 16,906 petajoules (PJ), a 2% increase over the previous year.
- Output Growth: India's coal output increased by 12% in 2023–2024, continuing a robust growth trajectory that saw it reach one of the fastest growth rates in the previous ten years, after growing by 15% in 2022–2023.
- Dependency on Imports: Although it has dropped from 31% in 2019–20, India is still 26% dependent on coal imports despite a boom in domestic output.

India's Total Energy Basket:

- Nuclear Energy: With an installed capacity of roughly 8,180 MW as of late 2024, nuclear power accounts for 1.7% of the overall capacity for generating electricity.
- Crude Oil: Crude oil's percentage of India's energy mix has seen a long-term reduction, falling from 11% in 2014–15 to 6% in 2023–24.

- Natural Gas: In a similar vein, natural gas's proportion in the energy mix has declined, falling from 9% in 2014–15 to 7% in 2023–24.
- Renewable Energy: Although the government has made large expenditures and efforts, renewable energy sources—such as solar, wind, hydro, and nuclear—only make up 7% of the energy mix in 2023–2024. This is despite their gradual but consistent growth over the previous ten years.

Shift Towards Renewable Energy:

- Contribution Overall: In 2023–24, renewable energy sources accounted for 7% of India's total energy production, a little increase from 6% in 2014–15. Although this percentage is still small, during the last ten years, the total production from renewables has increased at a CAGR of 6.76%.
- Growth in Solar and Wind Energy: Over the past ten years, the amount of energy generated by solar, wind, and other renewable sources (apart from large hydro) has increased by 210%, rising from 6,555 KToE in FY15 to 20,279 KToE in FY24.
- Key Renewable Energy Potential:
 - With an estimated potential of 11,63,856 MW, wind energy accounts for 55.17% of India's renewable potential.
 - With a potential of 7,48,990 MW, solar energy ranks as the second-largest contribution at 35.50%.
 - With 1,33,410 MW, large hydro accounts for 6.32% of the potential for renewable energy.
- Future Targets:
 - With Tamil Nadu (980 MW), Karnataka (1,135 MW), and Gujarat (1,250 MW) leading the way, India built 3.4 GW of new wind capacity in 2024.

- By 2030, India hopes to have 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity, which would drastically increase the proportion of renewable energy sources in the energy mix and lessen dependency on coal and crude oil in the years to come.

RBI celebrates 90 years



Why in the News?

The first monetary policy of RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra in 2025 marks 90 years since the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced its inaugural monetary policy in 1935.

RBI's First Monetary Policy in 1935

- On July 3, 1935, RBI set the bank rate at 3.5%, reflecting the Imperial Bank's rate.
- The CRR was set at 5% of demand liabilities and 2% of time liabilities on July 5, 1935.

Evolution of RBI's Monetary Policy

• Bank Rate in Early RBI History:

- One important instrument that the RBI introduced in 1935 to regulate credit and liquidity was the bank rate. Like its predecessor, the Imperial Bank of India, the RBI set the bank rate at 3.5% on July 3, 1935.
- Its usage for purchasing or rediscounting commercial paper was required under the RBI Act (1934), and it was essential to the structure of interest rates in India.

• Role of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):

- The RBI implemented the CRR, which mandated that banks hold a portion of their deposits as reserves.
- The CRR, which was influenced by the US Federal Reserve Act, assisted in keeping the financial sector stable, particularly amid failures.
- With modifications throughout time, the CRR was initially established in 1935 at 5% for demand obligations and 2% for time liabilities.

• Exchange Rate Management

- The RBI controlled the value of the Indian rupee at one shilling and six pence in 1935.
- This led to conflict between the British, who wanted a higher exchange rate to enable cheaper imports, and nationalists, who wanted a lower rate to increase exports.

• Disputes Between Government and RBI

- The government rejected the RBI's 1935 decision to lower the bank rate because it was concerned about the devaluation of the currency.
- Osborne Smith, the first RBI Governor, resigned as a result of the disagreement that ensued.
- The episode brought to light conflicts between government priorities and the RBI's monetary autonomy.

About Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- Established on April 1, 1935, under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the RBI is India's central bank and monetary authority.
- The Hilton Young Commission's suggestions served as the inspiration for its concept.
- The first Governor was an Australian named Sir Osborne Arkell Smith.
- Sir C D Deshmukh, the first Indian to occupy the role, replaced him.

- It is a centralized organization that helps India efficiently control its credit and monetary policies.
- The RBI first had its headquarters in Kolkata before relocating to Mumbai permanently in 1937.
- Prior to its complete nationalization in 1949, the RBI was a privately held company.

Functions and Initiatives:

- Monetary Authority: To stable exchange rates, preserve a sound balance of payments, and rein in inflation, the RBI manages the amount of money in the economy.
- Issuer of Currency: The exclusive right to print money and stop the spread of fake notes.
- Government Banker: Provides short-term lending and financial advising services to the federal government as well as state governments.
- Lender of Last Resort: Offers banks emergency liquidity support in times of crisis.
- Custodian of Foreign Exchange Reserves: oversees the administration of the Foreign Exchange Management Act of 1999 (FEMA) and manages foreign exchange reserves.
- Regulator and Supervisor of Payment and Settlement Systems: Ensures the effectiveness and security of the nation's payment and settlement systems.
- Credit Control and Developmental Role: Encourages the growth of financial infrastructure and makes credit available to productive industries.

Dr. Ambedkar's Role in the Establishment of RBI:

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's contributions were particularly notable during the Hilton Young Commission discussions in 1926, where he presented his recommendations based on his book "The Problem of the Rupee – Its Origin and Its Solution."
- These discussions laid the foundation for establishing the RBI on April 1, 1935.

PM inaugurates New Pamban Bridge



Why in the News?

The newly constructed Pamban Bridge was inaugurated by PM Modi to replace a 110-year-old structure that connected Rameswaram to the Indian mainland.

About the Pamban Bridge

- It was first finished in 1914 and linked the Indian mainland with Rameswaram on Pamban Island.
- Known as a Scherzer rolling lift bridge, it was India's first sea bridge and an engineering marvel of its era with a double-leaf bascule span.
- It raised the bridge to let ships sail through.
- The bridge had 145 piers and was 12.5 meters above sea level.
- During its construction, the bridge encountered numerous difficulties, such as strong storms and the effects of cholera on the labor force.
- Notwithstanding these difficulties, it remained strong in the face of catastrophic occurrences like the 1964 cyclone, which required extensive repairs, and vertical tectonic shifts.
- The bridge was closed in December 2022 after severe vibrations were found in 2022, indicating that it was unsafe for train operations.
- **The New Pamban Bridge:**
 - The shortcomings of the previous bascule design are addressed by the new bridge, which has a vertical lift span that can be raised in about five minutes to let ships pass.

- Larger ships may sail beneath it because of its far greater clearance of 22 meters above sea level (as opposed to the original bridge's 1.5 meters).
- Trains can now travel up to 75 km/h on the bridge, which is a significant increase from the former 10 km/h limit.

Why is it being modernized?

- Excessive vibrations found in 2022 indicated that the old bridge had deteriorated to a point where it was unsafe for passage due to serious corrosion and structural flaws.

- The old bridge's restricted weight and speed capacities made it unsuitable for the needs of contemporary safety regulations and transit.
- Modernizing the bridge is essential to boosting Rameswaram's and the surrounding districts' economic growth and tourism appeal because of their religious and cultural significance.
- The new bridge's design includes elements that guarantee longevity and operational dependability in severe weather conditions, given the region's susceptibility to cyclones and strong winds.

Environment & Diversity

What is the Green Credit Programme?



Why in the News?

The Green Credit Programme (GCP), launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in 2023, was questioned by the Ministry of Law and Justice regarding the legality of its business model.

About the Green Credit Programme (GCP)

- A government program called the GCP was introduced by the MoEFCC in 2023 with the goal of promoting voluntary involvement in environmental initiatives.
- Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally introduced it during the UN climate conference in Dubai in December 2023.
- For activities like planting trees, conserving water, managing garbage, and other activities, participants—including people, businesses, and industries—can receive green credits.

- These credits can be exchanged on a local market, assisting participants in fulfilling legal requirements or sustainability goals.
- The MoEFCC's independent Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) is in charge of overseeing it.
- The initiative promotes a market-based strategy for environmental action and supports the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Sustainable Environment).

Criticisms of the Program:

- **Concerns about Forest Diversion:** The GCP has come under fire for encouraging the diversion of forests for industrial use. Trading compensatory afforestation credits, according to critics, may erode efforts to protect forests and result in the depletion of old-growth forests.
- **Impact on Ecologically Valuable Lands:** Plantations on scrublands and degraded lands, which offer crucial ecological functions, have drawn criticism. Critics contend that plantations with questionable long-term benefits shouldn't be established in these places.
- **Issues with Plantation Survival:** Some people wonder if these plantations can actually duplicate the environmental benefits of old forests, while others are worried about the survival rate of trees planted under the GCP.

- Conflicts over Compensatory Afforestation: The Van Adhiniyam, 1980, which requires afforestation on non-forest land rather than degraded forest area, is viewed as being challenged by the GCP's exchange of planting credits for compensatory afforestation.

CPCB revises Classification of Industries



Why in the News?

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has recently updated its classification of industries, introducing a new category known as the 'Blue Category.'

Classification of Industries by CPCB:

- The CPCB groups industries according to how they affect the environment, with a particular emphasis on the production of hazardous waste, water pollution, and air pollution.
- The Pollution Index (PI), which takes into account waste, water, and air pollution and assigns equal weight to each component, is used to categorize industries.
- PI Categories:**
 - White:** $PI < 20$ (least polluting industries)
 - Green:** $21 \leq PI < 40$
 - Orange:** $41 \leq PI < 60$
 - Red:** $PI > 60$ (most polluting industries)
- This approach aids in identifying industry locations, inspection standards, and the health effects of pollution.

- To raise environmental standards, the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) regulates it.
- There are currently 419 industrial sectors that fall into the following categories: Red, Orange, Green, White, and Blue.

About the 'Blue' Category (Newly Introduced):

- For businesses offering Essential Environmental Services (EES) like trash management and pollution control, the Blue Category was created.
- It honors sectors like waste-to-energy, sewage treatment, and landfill management that play a vital role in environmental management.
- As a reward for their contribution to pollution management, businesses in the Blue category are granted a two-year extension on their consent to operate.
- Scope:** Includes industries that manage waste from both domestic and industrial sources, such as:
 - Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Plants: Now in the Blue category despite their high PI, due to their role in waste energy recovery.
 - Compressed Biogas (CBG) Plants: Classified as Blue for their low environmental impact when processing municipal waste and agro residue.
 - Sewage Treatment Plants & Landfills: These facilities manage environmental hazards through controlled waste disposal.
- All environmental regulations must be followed by blue category industries, and the conventional formula is still used to determine their Pollution Index.
- Extended operating permits and other incentives may be granted to industries with effective management.

Study finds a Shift in Peak Time of Maximum Rainfall



Why in the News?

A recent study published in *Geophysical Research Letters* revealed changes in both the amount and timing of rainfall using GSMAp Data between the decades 2001-2010 and 2011-2020.

About Global Satellite Mapping of Precipitation (GSMAp)

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) collaborated to produce the specialist precipitation product GSMAp.
- With an hourly temporal resolution and a $0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$ grid, it offers high-resolution precipitation data with an emphasis on the Indian subcontinent since March 2000.
- Water resource management, climate modeling, and rainfall trend analysis are all supported by the data.



Key Findings of the Study:

- **Rainfall Trends:**
 - West-Central India: Rainfall increased by 2 mm per day between 2011 and 2020 as opposed to 2001 and 2010.
 - Eastern India: During the same time period, rainfall decreased by about 1 mm each day.
 - Regional Shifts: While rainfall increased in southern India and the Indo-Gangetic Plain, it dropped in northeastern and eastern India.
- **Vegetation & Soil Moisture:**
 - West-Central India saw an increase in vegetation (NDVI from 0.2 to 0.4) and soil moisture linked to increased rainfall.
 - Eastern India had decreased soil moisture during the same period.
- **Shifts in Peak Rainfall Timing:**
 - Indo-Gangetic Plain: Peak rainfall advanced by 2-4 hours.
 - West-Central India: Peak rainfall delayed by 1-2 hours.
- **Factors responsible for this Shift:**
 - Rainfall is supported by higher soil moisture and decreased by lower moisture, especially in eastern India.
 - Rainfall peaks early in polluted regions, such as the Indo-Gangetic Plain, due to higher aerosol concentrations.
 - The distribution and timing of rainfall are also impacted by changes in topography, coastal impacts, and atmospheric circulation.

History

15th Century Copper Plates from the Vijayanagara Empire discovered



Why in the News?

A set of copper plates from the early 15th Century, dating back to the reign of Devaraya I of the Sangama Dynasty, were recently unveiled by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

About the Sangama Dynasty

- Founded in the 14th century by brothers Harihara I and Bukka Raya I, the Sangama Dynasty was the first to rule the Vijayanagara Empire.
- They were the sons of a Yadava-descended pastoralist ruler named Bhavana Sangama.
- Harihara I and Bukka Raya I created the city of Vijayanagara on the south bank of the Tungabhadra River in 1336 CE, marking the beginning of the Sangama Dynasty.
- The early emperors concentrated on laying the administrative and cultural groundwork for the empire.

Notable Rulers

- Harihara I: Known for founding the empire and laying its initial foundations.
- Bukka Raya I: Expanded the empire's territories significantly, ruling from 1343 to 1379 CE.

- Harihara II: Conquered coastal Andhra and important Indian ports like Goa, continuing his predecessor's expansion.
- Deva Raya I: Ruled from 1404 to 1422 CE, further expanding the empire.
- Deva Raya II (Krishnadeva Raya): Regarded as one of the greatest rulers of the dynasty, he expanded the empire and promoted art, literature, and diplomacy from 1422 to 1466 CE.

Downfall

- The dynasty was undermined by foreign pressures from the Bahmani Sultanate and nearby kingdoms, as well as internal struggles, especially those involving succession.
- The Sangama Dynasty's rule came to an end in 1485 CE when Narasimha of the Saluva Dynasty took the throne.

Key Features of the Copper Plates

- These plates, which date back to the coronation of Vijayanagara Empire King Devaraya I, are one-of-a-kind.
- During his coronation, the monarch bestowed the hamlets of Rajendramada and Udayapalli, as well as the village of Gudipalli.
- After being called Devarayapura-agrahara, the hamlet was divided into 61 shares, each of which was given to a different Brahmin having knowledge of the Vedas and Shastras.
- Sanskrit, Kannada, and Nagari scripts are used to write them.
- Instead of the traditional Varaha (boar), the Vijayanagara Empire's royal emblem, the seal depicts Vamana.

Historical Significance:

- The plates, which date to Saka 1328 (November 5, 1406 CE), shed light on the Sangama Dynasty.

- It aids in tracing the ancestry of King Harihara's five sons: Harihara, Kampa, Bukka, Mārapa, and Muddapa, from Chandra, Yadu, and Sangama.

Navkar Mahamantra Divas



Navkar Mahamantra Day 2025

Why in the News?

Prime Minister has inaugurated and participated in Navkar Mahamantra Divas at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

What is Vishwa Navkar Mahamantra Divas?

- The event is observed annually on **April 9** to promote peace, non-violence, and spiritual harmony globally by chanting the Navkar Mantra collectively.
- The mantra venerates the **5 supreme** beings:
 - Arihants: Represent those who have attained "Keval Gyan" (perfect knowledge) and guide "Bhavya Jeevas" (souls destined for liberation). They possess twelve divine qualities.
 - Siddhas: Those who have eradicated all karmas and attained Moksha. They are endowed with eight pure qualities.
 - Acharyas: The leaders who follow Mahavrat and guide others on the spiritual path. They embody 36 virtues.
 - Upadhyayas: Scholars who impart knowledge related to the path to Moksha, with 25 virtues.
 - Sadhus: Renunciants who refine themselves through penance, with 27 significant qualities.

Key Jain Principles Associated:

- Ahimsa** (Non-Violence): The Navkar Mantra embodies the principle of Ahimsa, advocating for peace and harmony by acknowledging the interconnectedness of all life forms, thus promoting Maitri (friendliness) towards all beings.
- Anekantavada** (Non-Absolutism) and **Syadvada**: This principle promotes appreciating diverse perspectives and truths, which was emphasized as a solution to global challenges like terrorism and environmental degradation, reflecting the Jain concept of Syadvada (conditional truth).
- Tapas** (Self-Discipline) and **Vairagya** (Detachment): The mantra is seen as a spiritual tool for self-realization, mental stability, and fostering inner peace, encouraging Tapas and Vairagya as means to achieve spiritual growth.
- Samyak Darshana** (Right Faith) and **Samyak Jnana** (Right Knowledge): The teachings of the Navkar Mantra were connected to building a developed India rooted in heritage while embracing progress without losing cultural values, emphasizing the importance of Samyak Darshana and Samyak Jnana.
- Svadhyaya** (Self-Study) and **Sadhana** (Spiritual Practice): The mantra encourages self-discipline and truth as guiding principles for personal growth and societal harmony, promoting Svadhyaya and Sadhana as essential practices.

Who was Mahatma Jyotiba Phule (1827-1890)?



Why in the News?

On April 11, 2025, the Prime Minister paid tribute to Mahatma Jyotiba Phule on his 199th birth anniversary.

About Mahatma Phule

- Born on April 11, 1827, in the vicinity of Pune, Jyotirao Govindrao Phule belonged to the caste of Mali.
- His mother passed away while he was a small boy, and his father sold vegetables.
- Despite discrimination based on caste, he continued his education at Pune's Scottish Mission High School.
- His commitment to social justice was fueled by Western intellectuals such as John Stuart Mill and Thomas Paine.
- He married Savitribai Phule when he was thirteen, and the two of them joined him in advocating for social reforms, especially the advancement of education for women and underprivileged groups.

His Contributions as a Social Reformer:**Educational Reforms:**

- In 1848, Phule and his wife established India's first girls' school in Pune.
- He focused on educating Dalits and lower-caste groups, traditionally excluded from education.
- He founded night schools for working-class individuals, especially women.

Fighting Caste Discrimination:

- Phule criticized the caste system, calling it a means of oppression.
- In 1873, Phule's book *Gulamgiri* condemned caste discrimination, comparing Dalits' plight to slavery.
- Phule coined the term 'Dalit' to describe those outside the caste system.

Women's Welfare and Empowerment:

- Phule advocated for widow remarriage and provided a dignified life for widows.
- In 1863, he opened homes to help pregnant widows.

- He co-founded an infanticide prevention center, tackling the killing of female infants.

Social Justice and Equality:

- Phule founded Satyashodhak Samaj in 1873 to promote social equality, rational thinking, and religious reform.
- The Samaj rejected idolatry and supported a more rational spiritual approach.
- He broke the social stigma of untouchability by opening his house and water-well to the oppressed.

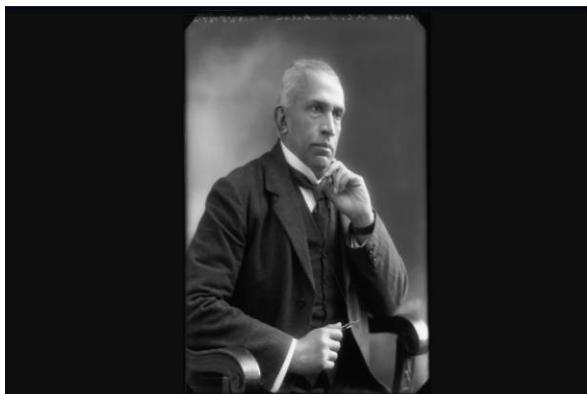
Religious and Philosophical Contributions:

- Phule was an advocate for critical thinking of religion, rejecting superstition and blind faith.
- He believed in equality and justice across religions and cultures.
- He was influenced by Bhakti saints like Sant Kabir and Sant Tukaram in his fight against social oppression.

His Literary Contributions:

- *Gulamgiri* (Slavery) (1873): Critiqued the caste system and called for Dalit liberation.
- *Shetkaryacha Asud* (Farmer's Whip) (1881): Addressed the exploitation of farmers and advocated for land reforms.
- *Sarvajanik Satya Dharma Poostak*: Promoted rationalist thought and social justice.
- *Tritiya Ratna* (1855): A significant work in advocating for social equality.
- *Brahmananche Kasab* (1869): Criticized the exploitation by the Brahmin class.
- *Powada: Chatrapati Shivajiraje Bhosle Yancha* (1869): A work celebrating the legacy of Shivaji Maharaj.
- *Satsar Ank* (1885): Another rationalist work addressing societal issues.
- *Akhandadi Kavyarachana*: A literary contribution reflecting Phule's thoughts on social justice.

Who was Sir Sankaran Nair (1857-1934)?



Why in the News?

The prime minister recently paid tribute to Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair, a jurist and patriot who notably battled British officials implicated in the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre in court.

The upcoming movie Kesari Chapter 2 will focus on Nair's courtroom stand.

About Sir Sankaran Nair:

- Nair was born into an aristocratic family in Mankara village, Kerala, in 1857.
- He studied law and received his education at Madras' Presidency College.
- Sir Horatio Shepherd, the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, was Nair's first lawyer.
- Nair was named a permanent judge of the Madras High Court in 1908 and was the youngest



president of the Indian National Congress (Amravati (Mh) Session) in 1897.

Role in the Jallianwala Bagh Case:

- Nair accused Michael O'Dwyer, the Lieutenant Governor of Punjab, of implementing measures that contributed to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1919.
- In England, O'Dwyer filed a slander lawsuit against Nair. Even when O'Dwyer promised to waive the £500 fine, Nair refused to apologize in spite of the prejudiced British courts.
- The trial increased Indian discontent with British rule and exposed the prejudice in the British legal system.

Other Contributions:

- Nair made progressive decisions, such as approving of marriages between castes and religions and opposing the treatment of Hindu converts as outcasts.
- He was a major contributor to the expansion of the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms (1919) and advocated for India's self-government.
- In his 1922 book "Gandhi and Anarchy," Nair criticized Gandhi's strategies.
- He pointed out problems with British control and helped prepare the 1919 constitutional revisions, many of which were adopted.

International Relations

PM Modi at Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi



Why in the News?

PM Narendra Modi recently visited the Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi temple in the historic city of Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka.

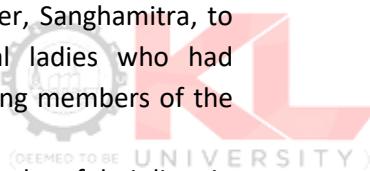
About the Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi Tree

- The world's oldest cultivated plant is thought to be the Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi tree.
- A branch of the original Bodhi Vruksha in Bodhgaya, where Gautam Buddha obtained enlightenment, is thought to have given rise to it.
- The eldest daughter of Emperor Ashoka and his first marriage, Queen Devi, Sanghamitra, brought this branch to Sri Lanka.
- According to some traditions, Tishyarakshita, Ashoka's wife, may have damaged the original tree beneath which Buddha meditated.

- The Uduvapa Poya, a celebration held every year on a full moon night in December, honors Sanghamitra's arrival in Sri Lanka with the tree.

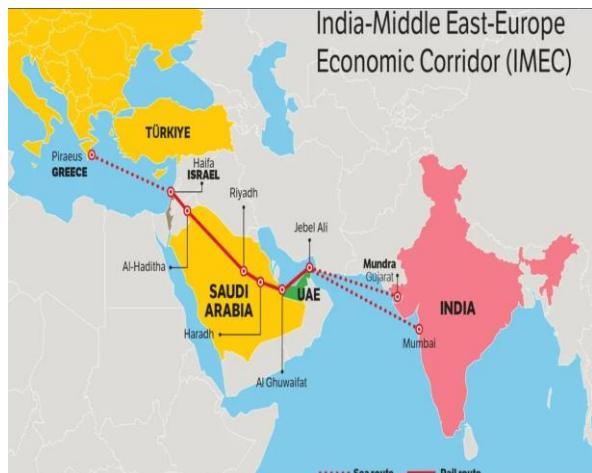
Legend of Sanghamitra's Journey to Sri Lanka

- From 282 BC to 203 BC, Sanghamitra—originally called Ayapali—lived.
- After the Third Buddhist Council, which took place in Pataliputra in 250 BC during Ashoka's rule, it was resolved to send missionaries to promote Buddhism throughout the world, including Sri Lanka.
- Ashoka's son Mahinda (Mahendra) led the expedition to Sri Lanka and converted King Devanampiya Tissa of Anuradhapura to Buddhism.
- Mahinda dispatched his sister, Sanghamitra, to initiate a number of royal ladies who had indicated interest in becoming members of the Buddhist monastic order.
- Both siblings spent the remainder of their lives in Anuradhapura.
- She was instrumental in the founding of the Order of Nuns (also known as the Bhikkhuni Sangha or Meheini Sasna) in Sri Lanka, which subsequently expanded to other Theravada Buddhist nations, including China, Thailand, and Burma.



DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY

India-Middle-East-Europe-Economic Corridor (IMEEC)



Why in the News?

India and Italy have decided to enhance cooperation in trade, defence, clean energy, and high technology while working jointly on the India-Middle-East-Europe-Economic Corridor (IMEEC).

About IMECC Project:

- A major project of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), IMECC aims to enhance infrastructure in poor nations.
- On September 10, 2023, it was formally approved at the G20 New Delhi summit.
- India, the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, France, Germany, Italy, and the European Union are among the signatories.
- The goal is to increase commerce, economic cooperation, and regional connectivity by integrating Asia, Europe, and the Middle East.
- IMECC consists of two main corridors:
 - East Corridor: Connecting India to the Arabian Gulf.
 - Northern Corridor: Connecting the Gulf region to Europe.

Key Ports to be Connected:

- India: Mundra, Kandla, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (Mumbai).
- Middle East: Fujairah (UAE), Jebel Ali (Dubai), Dammam (Saudi Arabia).
- Israel: Haifa Port.
- Europe: Piraeus (Greece), Messina (Italy), Marseille (France).

Significance of the Project:

- IMEEC will create a cost-efficient ship-to-rail transit network, enhancing existing transport links.
- The project will transform regional trade dynamics and foster sustainable economic growth.

Polity

Telangana becomes first State to notify Sub- categorization of SCs



Why in the News?

After a Supreme Court ruling in August 2024 upheld the constitutionality of sub-classifying Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in order to provide separate quotas for the most marginalized groups, the Telangana government formally implemented the sub-categorization of SCs into three groups.

About Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Their Subcategorization:

- SCs are a historically marginalized group identified in India's Constitution to receive preferential treatment in education, employment, and political representation.
- Constitutional Provisions:**
 - Article 341:** Empowers the President to specify castes as SCs within states or UTs.
 - Article 342:** Allows Parliament to include/exclude castes from the SC list.
- While grouped for reservations, disparities exist within SCs, with some groups being more disadvantaged than others.
- Subcategorization involves dividing SCs into smaller groups based on social, economic, and

educational backwardness, ensuring the most marginalized receive targeted benefits.

- Sub-classification of SCs and STs for reservations is subject to judicial review to prevent misuse.

Supreme Court Verdict on Sub-categorization: State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh (2020) Case

- In its August 2024 verdict, the Supreme Court allowed states to sub-classify SCs and STs, enabling separate quotas for the most marginalized groups.
- Key Points:**
 - Empirical Data:** Subclassification must be based on data of systemic discrimination, not political motives.
 - Creamy Layer:** Excludes the more advanced members of SCs/STs, applying the creamy layer principle.
 - Quota Limits:** No sub-categorization can exceed the overall constitutional quota ceiling.
 - First-Generation Benefit:** Reservations are restricted to the first generation of a family that has not benefitted from previous reservations.

History and Evolution of the Office of Governor



Why in the News?

The evolution of the governor's office and its shifting position in India's federal structure are highlighted by the recent Supreme Court ruling on the President and Governors' authority to assent to bills under Articles 201 and 200.

Evolution of the Office of Governor:

- **Formal Establishment (1858):** The Government of India Act of 1858, which transferred governance from the East India Company to the British Crown, created the position of the Governor. Governors had considerable authority over province administration and served as representatives of the Crown.
- **The Gol Act of 1919,** which was part of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, sought to boost Indian participation while maintaining the governor's prominent role in government, including the ability to reject bills enacted by legislative councils.
- **The Gol Act of 1935** marked a shift toward greater autonomy while retaining a great deal of governor power. It granted provincial autonomy while retaining the governor's discretionary powers, such as vetoing bills and refusing assent.
- **1947 Post-Independence Transition:** The 1935 Act was amended by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order of 1947 as India gained independence. By eliminating the words "in his discretion," it diminished the Governor's latitude and marked a change to a more symbolic and constitutional function.
- **Debates in the Constituent Assembly:** It discussed whether governors ought to be nominated or elected. In order to preserve unity

and fortify links with the Center, particularly during the split, the President would appoint governors due to concerns of separatist.

- **Post-Independence Framework:** The Westminster model of government served as the inspiration for a number of documents and political initiatives prior to independence, such as the Commonwealth India Bill (1925) and the Nehru Report (1928), which favored keeping the governor's position.

Constitutional Role of the Governor:

- **Article 163:** Unless there are specific discretionary circumstances, the Governor follows the Council of Ministers' advice, which is led by the Chief Minister.
- **Ambedkar's Opinions:** In order to ensure that the governor's actions are in line with the ministers' recommendations, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar promoted the limited use of discretionary powers.
- **Article 200:** Bills must get the governor's assent, but the governor may refuse to do so, hold the bill for the president, or send it back for review. In order to guarantee that the governor acts in accordance with the elected government, Ambedkar changed this in 1949.
- **Symbolic and Impartial Role:** The Governor is supposed to act as the Union's spokesperson, encourage democratic processes, and refrain from meddling in internal state problems.
- **Discretionary Powers:** To ensure that the governor's position stays constitutional rather than political, the governor's discretion is restricted to constitutional norms and should be utilized sparingly.

Science, Technology, Art & Culture

Sarhul Festival Celebrations in Jharkhand



Why in the News?

On April 1, 2025, tribals in Jharkhand and the larger Chhotanagpur region celebrated Sarhul, marking both the New Year and the arrival of spring.

About Sarhul Festival

- A major Adivasi celebration, Sarhul is observed in Jharkhand and the Chhotanagpur area, which includes portions of Bihar, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh.
- Usually three days after the new moon appears, it is celebrated during the Hindu month of Chaitra.
- It commemorates the start of spring and ushers in the new year.
- Numerous tribes, each with their own distinctive traditions, commemorate it, including the Oraon, Munda, Santal, Khadia, and Ho.
- Sarna Maa, the goddess who guards the hamlet against natural disasters and sorrows, is said to reside in the sal tree (*Shorea robusta*).
- The celebration represents the Sun and Earth coming together.
- The Earth is symbolized by his wife, the pahen, and the Sun is represented by the pahan, a male priest. This marriage highlights the relationship between sunlight and soil and is necessary for maintaining life.
- Additionally, it signifies the rebirth of life.

- Following the ceremonies, Adivasis start cultivating crops, harvesting forest products, or plowing their farms.

Cultural Significance of Sarhul

- As the Adivasi people's way of life changed, Sarhul changed from being a hunting festival to one that honors agriculture.
- Sarhul is a cultural movement that helps to strengthen tribal identity by preserving Adivasi tradition in the face of industrialization and urbanization.
- Sarhul has evolved into a stage for Adivasi political activism throughout time, with some organizations utilizing the celebration to call for the acceptance of the Sarna religion and its inclusion in India's caste system.
- Under Baba Karthik Oraon's guidance, Sarhul has also evolved into a platform for promoting social justice and tribal rights.

ESA's Biomass Mission



Why in the News?

The European Space Agency (ESA) is preparing to launch Biomass Mission to map the world's forests and enhance our understanding of their crucial role in the global carbon cycle.

About the Biomass Mission by ESA

- The Biomass mission will be launched by the ESA from French Guiana on April 29, 2025, using the Vega C rocket.

- By mapping the world's forests, the program hopes to collect information on their function in the carbon cycle and their historical evolution.
- At about 666 kilometers, it will be positioned in a sun-synchronous orbit (SSO), which maximizes sunlight for observations.
- Data pertaining to the Earth's atmosphere, hydrosphere, and land surface are the main emphasis of this seventh mission in ESA's Earth Explorer Program.

Features of the Biomass Mission:

- Biomass measures carbon storage in trees and the forest floor using a P-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) sensor (frequency of 70 cm), which can penetrate forest canopy.
- It will provide previously unheard-of forest biomass data as the first satellite to employ this state-of-the-art P-band SAR technology.
- The satellite will launch with a 12-meter antenna to do wide-ranging Earth observations.
- From canopy to roots, it will produce three-dimensional (3D) photographs of forests, offering comprehensive information on carbon storage and forest health.

Significance of the Biomass Mission:

- By addressing significant gaps in data on forest height and biomass, the mission will advance knowledge of forests' contributions to climate change and the carbon cycle.
- Biomass will track changes brought on by human activity and deforestation, as well as estimate the amount of carbon stored in forests.
- By monitoring carbon flows between forests and the atmosphere, the mission's data will support mitigation strategies for climate change.
- It will help with global climate change policies, support environmental monitoring, and support politicians.

Extinct Dire Wolf species returns after 12,500 years



Why in the News?

Colossal Biosciences, a biotech firm based in US, has successfully bred the extinct Dire Wolf pups using gene-editing technologies.

About Dire Wolf (*Aenocyon dirus*)

- The dire wolf lived during the Pleistocene Epoch, approximately 6 million to 11,700 years ago, and went extinct around 13,000 years ago.

Physical Characteristics and Behaviour:

- With a shoulder height of almost 5 feet and a maximum weight of 150 pounds, it was considerably larger than the typical gray wolf of today.
- It was built for hunting and eating large animals, with a stockier body, a strong head, and strong jaws. In contrast to the gray, black, or white coats of contemporary wolves, its fur was probably light or white.
- Large mammals like horses and bison were the dire wolf's main prey as an apex predator.
- Although its size made it less efficient in packs, it could hunt cooperatively when necessary.

Extinction:

- The species' extinction was most likely caused by a confluence of human activity, climate change, and prey depletion.
- The Mississippi River Valley and California's La Brea Tar Pits are only two examples of the diverse geographic

locations where fossils have been discovered.

- **Genomic Comparison:**

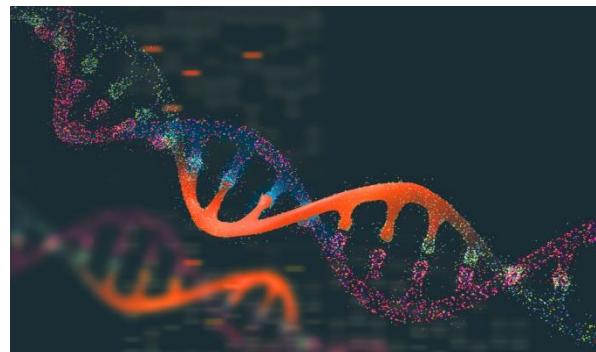
- The gene-edited pups share **5% DNA of gray wolves** but differ in the remaining **0.5%**, which accounts for the dire wolf traits.
- These pups are not exact clones of the dire wolf but are considered "**dire wolves**" based on their **physical resemblance**.

Technologies Used for Resurrection:

- The dire wolf characteristics of the gene-edited pups are due to differences in the remaining 0.5% of their DNA, while the remaining 5% of their DNA is shared with gray wolves.
- Despite not being identical replicas of the dire wolf, these pups are referred to as "dire wolves" because of their physical similarity.



Preliminary Findings of the Genome India Project



Why in the News?

The preliminary findings of Genome India Project, based on the whole genome sequencing of 10,074 healthy and unrelated Indians from 85 populations across the country, were published recently.

About Genome India Project

- In order to catalog the genetic variety of India's population, the Genome India Project was started in January 2020.
- The Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, is funding and supporting this

cooperative effort, which involves several institutions nationwide.

- **Objectives:**

- Utilize large-scale genome sequencing to decipher India's population's genetic diversity.
- Make a comprehensive list of all genetic differences, including structural changes, low-frequency, rare, and common single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs).
- Create a reference haplotype structure for Indians so that future research can impute missing genetic variation.
- Create genome-wide arrays at a reasonable cost for study and diagnosis.
- Create a biobank to store plasma and DNA samples for use in upcoming studies.
- The Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) in Faridabad, Haryana, is home to the Genome India Database, which contains the genetic data and is currently accessible to researchers worldwide.

Preliminary findings of the Study

- 10,074 individuals from 85 populations—32 tribal and 53 non-tribal groups—were genotyped for the experiment throughout India.
- About 20,000 people had their blood drawn, and 10,074 people had their DNA samples used for whole genome sequencing.
- Of the 180 million genetic variations found, 50 million are found in sex chromosomes X and Y, and 130 million are found in non-sex chromosomes (22 autosomes).
- **Variant Significance:**
 - Variants associated with diseases.
 - Rare variants.
 - Variants unique to India or specific communities.

China halts export of Rare Earth Magnets



Why in the News?

China has suspended exports of a wide range of critical minerals and magnets after US's tariff embargo.

What Are Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and RE Magnets?

- REEs are a group of 17 elements in the periodic table, including Lanthanum (La), Neodymium (Nd), Europium (Eu), and Ytterbium (Yb).
- Though not rare, they are found in low concentrations, making extraction challenging and costly.
- **Classification:**
 - Light REEs (LREEs): Elements 57-63, such as La, Ce, Nd, and Sm.
 - Heavy REEs (HREEs): Elements 64-71, like Gd, Tb, Dy, and Er.
 - Scandium and Yttrium: Classified with HREEs due to similar chemical properties.
- Rare Earth Magnets are powerful permanent magnets made from elements like Neodymium (Nd), Samarium (Sm), and Dysprosium (Dy).
- They are far stronger and more efficient than traditional magnets, crucial for high-tech electronic applications.

Global Supply Chain of REEs:

- Despite their abundance, REEs are challenging to commercially extract.
- With 70% of the world's supply and 80% of the refining capacity, China alone is in charge. The Bayan Obo mine in China is the main source of REEs.

- Russia, Brazil, Australia, and the United States all contribute, but in smaller amounts.
- Although other countries are attempting to develop their own refining capabilities to lessen dependency, China still controls a substantial portion of the refining industry.

How can V2G Technology help India's Power Sector?



Why in the News?

Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) has partnered with IIT Bombay to launch a pilot project on Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) technology, integrating electric vehicles into the power grid.

About V2G Technology:

- V2G enables Electric Vehicles (EVs) to send power back to the grid when not in use, turning EV batteries into decentralized energy storage devices.
- It involves two key functions:
 1. Grid-to-Vehicle (G2V): Power is transferred from the grid to charge the EV.
 2. Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G): Power is sent from the EV back to the grid, making the vehicle a distributed energy source.
- Smart charging strategies optimize charging based on grid demand and renewable energy availability, enhancing grid stability and enabling renewable energy integration.

About the KSEB-IIT Bombay V2G Pilot Project:

- The purpose of this experiment is to evaluate how well EVs can assist the electrical grid,

particularly during times of high demand when solar energy is not available.

- Concerns regarding rising electricity use, especially in the evenings, have been highlighted by Kerala's rise in EV adoption and rooftop solar installations.
- The research will investigate whether deploying EVs to optimize the utilization of renewable energy sources and lessen grid strain is feasible.

Applications of V2G:

- Grid Support: By returning power to the grid during times of heavy demand, EVs can increase grid stability.
- Integration of Solar Energy: V2G promotes charging during the day, when solar energy is plentiful, and storing extra energy to feed the grid at night.
- Emergency Power Source: EVs can supply communities with electricity in times of emergency or natural disaster by serving as a backup power source.

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra to resume soon



Why in the News?

The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, a significant religious pilgrimage for Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Bon followers, is set to resume after a halt since 2020.

About Kailash Mountain and Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

- Kailash Mountain is situated in the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) of China,

near India and Nepal, standing at 6,638 meters (21,778 feet).

• Religious Significance:

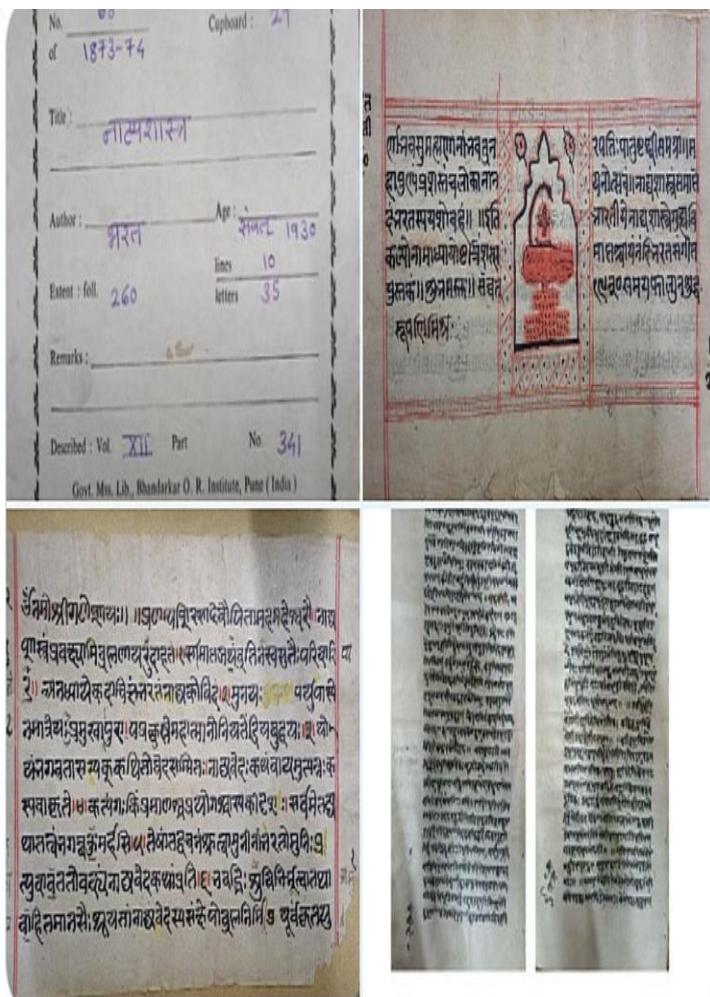
- Hinduism: Abode of Lord Shiva and Parvati, believed to bring moksha (liberation).
- Buddhism: Home of Buddha Demchok, symbolizing bliss.
- Jainism: Lord *Rishabhanatha* attained Nirvana here.
- Bon Religion: Center of the universe in Bon faith.
- The Mansarovar Yatra is a pilgrimage to the 14,950-foot (4,556-meter) Mansarovar Lake and Mount Kailash.
- Bathing in this lake is thought to atone for sins, and it is thought that Lord Brahma created it.
- India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) oversees the Yatra for pilgrims from India.



Routes to Kailash Mansarovar

- At 5,115 meters, Lipulekh Pass is a 200-kilometer trekking path that has been closed since 2020 because of geopolitical unrest.
- At 4,310 meters, Nathu La Pass is a 1,500-kilometer motorable road that requires 35–40 kilometers of hiking. It began operations in 2015.
- The Nepal Route: This route, which has been open since 2023 and is run by private operators, presents difficulties because of visa and permit requirements.

Bhagavad Gita and Natyashastra included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register



Why in the News?

Bhagavad Gita and Bharata's Natyashastra manuscripts have been included in UNESCO's prestigious Memory of the World Register.

About UNESCO's Memory of the World Register:

- UNESCO's Memory of the World Program was established in 1992 with the goal of conserving and promoting documentary heritage of international importance.
- It ensures that resources are available to future generations, protecting humanity's documentary legacy.

About the Bhagavad Gita and Natyashastra:

Bhagavad Gita:

- The 700-verse Bhagavad Gita is a work of Mahabharata literature that is often credited to the sage Vyasa.
- It shows a conversation about responsibility, morality, and spirituality between Arjuna and his charioteer, Lord Krishna.
- The Vedic, Buddhist, Jain, and Charvaka schools of Indian philosophy are all combined in the Gita.
- Oral compositions were recorded later, and the text is dated to the first or second century BCE.

Natyashastra:

- The Natyashastra, credited to the sage Bharata, lays out the guidelines for performing arts like dance, music, and theater.
- A crucial idea in Indian theater, Rasa (aesthetic experience), is introduced.
- The 36,000-verse treatise, which was codified in the second century BCE, still has an impact on performing arts today.

India's Earlier Entries to the Memory of the World

Register

- In India's storytelling heritage, Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahridayaloka-Locana (2024) are significant literary and cultural works.
- Works of Abhinavagupta (2023): Important additions to Shaiva mysticism and philosophy.
- NAM Archives (2023): Records from the Non-Aligned Movement summit in 1961 that highlight India's diplomatic contributions.
- One of the oldest books and a key component of Indian spirituality is the Rig Veda (2005).
- Archives of the Dutch East India Company (2003): Examining colonial history.

Security Issues

INS Varsha Naval Base

Why in the News?

By 2026, India plans to operationalize INS Varsha, a highly vital naval base on the eastern coast of Andhra Pradesh close to Rambilli that is built especially to host nuclear-powered submarines.

About INS Varsha

- In order to accommodate India's expanding fleet of nuclear-powered submarines, comprising both Nuclear-Powered Ballistic Missile Submarines (SSBNs) and Nuclear-Powered Attack Submarines (SSNs), INS Varsha is being built as a specialist station.
- About 50 kilometers south of Visakhapatnam, the location of the Eastern Naval Command, it will be close to the seaside village of Rambilli.
- The naval base is located where the Sarada and Varaha rivers converge.
- To ensure that nuclear submarines can operate covertly, the facility will contain tunnels and underground enclosures.
- Submarines will be able to enter and exit the base covertly thanks to this architecture, which is crucial for SSBNs that carry nuclear missiles on extended patrols.
- The station, which will be 20 square kilometers in size, can house at least ten nuclear submarines.
- INS Varsha will be located in waters that let submarines to function without being discovered by satellite surveillance, much like China's nuclear submarine station at Hainan Island (in the South China Sea).

Project Varsha

- A top-secret project called Project Varsha, which includes INS Varsha, aims to strengthen India's maritime deterrence capabilities by constructing a base specifically for its nuclear-powered submarines.

- This initiative is essential to thwarting China's strategic expansion and increasing naval presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- India's sea-based nuclear deterrent depends on its fleet of Arihant-class submarines, which it will support.



DRDO successfully tested Directed Energy Weapon (DEW)



Why in the News?

A significant advancement in India's defense capabilities has been made with the successful testing of the Mk-II(A) Laser-Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) system by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

About Mk-II(A) Laser-Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) System

- Sahastra Shakti, another name for the Mk-II(A) Laser-DEW system, is a locally produced laser weapon with a 5-kilometer operational range.
- Its 30-kilowatt laser is intended to destroy threats such as drones, missiles, and remotely controlled aircraft.
- In partnership with other DRDO labs, academic institutions, and Indian industry, the Centre for High Energy Systems and Sciences (CHESS) of DRDO is developing it.
- It provides a state-of-the-art defense against contemporary military strategies by concentrating mostly on eliminating airborne threats like drones and missiles.

How does it work?

- For target detection, it makes use of radar and Electro-Optic (EO) devices.
- At the speed of light, the laser strikes the object, resulting in substantial damage or structural failure.

- In a matter of seconds, it delivers deadly blows with speed and accuracy.
- Quick target neutralization with little collateral damage is guaranteed by the 30-kilowatt laser.

Significance of the Mk-II(A) Laser-DEW System

- Cost-effective: Offers sustainable defensive alternatives at a significantly lower cost than conventional missile systems.
- Decreased Ammunition Dependency: Provides a long-term, sustainable defense strategy by reducing dependency on pricey ammunition.
- Speed and Precision: Engages targets nearly instantly, reducing collateral damage and guaranteeing that high-value targets are terminated promptly.
- Strategic Advantage: Strengthens India's defenses by offering a cutting-edge approach to infrastructure protection and countering changing aerial threats.





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