

Weekly Current Affairs Magazine 22nd - 30th April



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Dear MBA Aspirants,

BYJU'S Exam Prep experts have curated a Weekly Current Affairs Magazine which is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the 4th week of April (22nd – 30th) of April 2023. This file is important for the upcoming MBA exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Which bank has received a three years to comply with the priority sector lending norms (PSL)_____ **HDFC Bank**.
Note:
 - No relaxation is allowed for abiding by the cash reserve ratio (CRR) and statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) rules.
 - As per the RBI norms, commercial banks need to extend 40% of the adjusted net bank credit (ANBC) of the previous year towards the priority sector.
2. Which organization has joined hands with M1xchange to offer a digital invoice discounting solution to farmers, farmer-producer organizations (FPOs), and agri-MSMEs through Farm Pass_____ **Mastercard**.
Note:
 - This platform will enable easy access to credit and working capital.
 - This solution will also allow farmers and FPOs to directly connect with buyers, negotiate the best price for their produce, and get paid faster.
 - Farm Pass is part of Mastercard's broader Community Pass platform.
3. According to the Morgan Stanley report, what would be India's GDP in FY24_____ **6.2 percent**.
Note:
 - Inflation in India is likely to be below 5% in the second quarter of the calendar year 2024.
 - The headline consumer price index (CPI) for March was in line with expectations.
 - Morgan noted that the key to sustained domestic demand is a pickup in capex, which will help create more jobs, thus leading to a virtuous cycle of more jobs-to-higher income-higher savings-higher investment.
4. Which bank is planning to launch its own digital bank 'Indie'_____ **IndusInd Bank**.
Note:
 - The necessary approvals for all these expansion plans and other logistics by the bank are likely to be completed in 2 years.
 - The bank is also planning to enter the mutual funds, insurance, and broking sector.
 - It is likely to apply for the license in a few days.
 - The Hinduja-promoted bank is likely to approach SEBI, IRDAI, and other regulators to obtain the necessary licences.
 - IndusInd Bank HQ: Mumbai
5. Which organization has imposed penalties totaling Rs 44 lakh on four cooperative banks_____ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
Note:
 - Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank: Penalty of Rs 13 lakh as it failed to transfer the eligible amount to Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF).
 - Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank: Penalty of 16 lakhs as it failed to transfer eligible amounts to DEAF.
 - Baran Nagrik Sahkari Bank: A penalty of 2 lakhs has been imposed for contravention of certain norms.
6. Which bank and HDFC Bank would acquire up to a 9.94 percent stake in Go Digit-Life Insurance_____ **Axis Bank**.
Note:
 - HDFC Bank informed that it has executed definitive agreements to invest ₹69.90 crore in Go Digit-Life Insurance Ltd in two tranches.
 - The bank has made the first tranche of payment of ₹10.93 crore for towards the acquisition.
 - Axis Bank has also executed definitive agreements to invest ₹69.90 crore in Go Digit-Life Insurance Ltd in two tranches.

7. Which central bank will launch a gold-pegged digital currency and legalize them in the country_____ **Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe.**

Note:

- It is believed that the government took this step for stabilizing the local currency after its continuous devaluation in comparison to the U.S. dollar.
- This initiative taken by Zimbabwe will allow the exchange of Zimbabwean dollars with digital gold tokens and secure Zimbabweans against currency volatility.
- Zimbabwe Capital: Harare; President: Emmerson Mnangagwa

8. Which Neobanking platform has received a non-banking financial company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India to enter into the lending business_____ **Jupiter.**

Note:

- The startup, Jupiter will be offering the loan under Amica Financial Technologies.
- Jitendra Gupta (founder of Jupiter) has informed that there will be an equity infusion of Rs 100 crore from Jupiter to develop the NBFC product.
- The startup will be looking to raise a loan from banks for an additional Rs 100 crore.

9. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the banking license of which co-operative bank with effect from the close of business on April 24, 2023 _____ **Kerala-based Adoor Co-operative Urban Bank.**

Note:

- RBI has allowed Adoor Co-operative Urban Bank to function as a non-banking institution.
- RBI has also stopped to conduct the banking business, including acceptance of deposits from non-members with immediate effect.
- The bank shall ensure to repay unpaid and unclaimed deposits of non-members held by it.

10. Which bank has opened an exclusive branch for startups at the Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai _____ **State Bank of India (SBI).**

Note:

- This is the fourth startup-focused branch, after Bengaluru, Chennai, and Gurugram.
- In Mumbai, the bank has entered into multiple MoU with the Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship at IIT-Bombay, Centre for Incubation and Business Acceleration, and S.P Jain Institute of Management & Research
- Aim of MoU: To boost the startup ecosystem in the region

11. Which general Insurance company has become India's first general insurance company to accept the RBI's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) e-Rupee for premium payments _____ **Reliance General Insurance.**

Note:

- Aim: To provide customers with an easy, safe, instant, and green payment solution
- The company has partnered with Yes Bank to enable premium collection.
- Customers with an active e-wallet with any bank can scan Reliance General Insurance's e-Rupee QR code to make immediate payments.

12. Which bank has launched the "Shubh Arambh Deposit" retail term deposit scheme for senior citizens _____ **Bank of India.**

Note:

- With this scheme, seniors, including super senior citizens can take benefit of an additional interest rate of 0.50% for senior citizens and 0.65% for super senior citizens.
- It provides super senior citizens seniors with 501-day fixed deposits at a high-interest rate of 7.80%.
- Other senior citizens between the ages of 60 and 80 can invest at a rate of 7.65%.

13. Which FMCG giant has overtaken the market capitalization of Infosys to become India's sixth most valuable company on the stock exchanges _____ **ITC.**

Note:

- ITC's market cap currently stands at ₹5.11 trillion (at the time of writing this report).
- This achievement comes after the share price of ITC rose 59% over the past year and 24% so far in 2023.
- Meanwhile, Infosys shares have fallen by 20% in 2023.
- Top 5: Reliance, TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, HUL

14. Which bank has introduced a Digital Distribution Platform, 'Smart Saathi' for its agents and business correspondents to sell services, especially in rural areas _____ **HDFC Bank.**

Note:

- HDFC Bank Smart Saathi provides a secure and user-friendly experience to its users.
- The newly launched feature will use advanced technology solutions to connect Business Correspondents/Business Facilitators to the bank.
- Aim: To boost financial inclusion by taking banking products and services to the last mile

Obituaries

1. Sidharth Rao, who passed away, was a co-founder and former CEO of which organization_____ **Webchutney**.

Note:

- In 1999, he founded India's first and top digital agency WebChutney.
- In July 2021, Rao was chosen to serve as the global CEO of Dentsu McGarrybowen.
- In 2022, he stepped down as group CEO of dentsuMB India and joined hands and launched a new venture in the marketing technology (MarTech) space, called Punt Partners along with serial entrepreneur Madhu Sudan.

2. Trilochan Kanungo, who passed away in Bhubaneswar, was a_____ **Politician**.

Note:

- Kanungo was elected to the assembly in 1971, 1974, and 1985.
- In 1999, he was elected from the Jagatsinghpur Lok Sabha seat on a BJD ticket.
- He was a former chairman of Cuttack Municipality and ex-chairperson of the state finance commission.
- He was born on November 24, 1940, in Badamulei village in Cuttack district, Odisha.

3. Tarek Fatah, who passed away, was associated with which field_____ **Journalist**.

Note:

- He was emigrating to Canada from Pakistan in 1987.
- He worked as a political activist, journalist, and television host.
- He also authored several books including, 'Chasing a Mirage: The Tragic Illusion of an Islamic State' and 'The Jew is Not My Enemy: Unveiling the Myths that Fuel Muslim Anti-Semitism.'
- He won various awards such as the Donner Prize, and Stan Vine Canadian Book Award.

4. Parkash Singh Badal, who passed away, was CM of which of state_____ **Punjab**.

Note:

- He became the CM of Punjab for the first time in 1970.
- Later, he became the chief minister four times, from 1977 to 1980, 1997 to 2002, 2007 to 2012, and from 2012 to 2017.
- He briefly joined Morarji Desai's government as the Agriculture minister at the Centre in 1977.
- He was awarded the second-highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan in 2015.

5. Mamukkoya, who passed away, was a veteran actor-comedian of which regional cinema_____ **Malayalam**.

Note:

- He started his acting career by doing theatre in 1979, then he went on to become an actor by doing comic roles and was popular for playing characters that spoke Malabar accent.
- He acted in around 500 films, including comedies like Sandesam, Nadodikkattu, Innathe Chintha Vishayam, and Varavelpu.
- He won several awards and honours for his various roles during his extensive career.

6. Dr. N Gopalakrishnan, who passed away, was a veteran_____ **Scientists**.

Note:

- He was a scientist at Advanced Seismic Testing and Research Laboratory (ASTaR) of CSIR-SERC.
- He had served as a design engineer at TATA Consulting Engineers, Bengaluru and later joined as scientist in the Structural Dynamics and Machine Foundation division of CSIR-SERC.
- He was the co-author of 61 national and international journal articles and filed for five Indian patents.

Important Days

1. Earth Day is being celebrated every year on which date to honor the environmental movement and raise awareness to protect natural resources_____ **22nd April**.

Note:

- Theme for Earth Day 2023: "Invest in Our Planet".

- American senator Gaylord Nelson founded the Earth Day for environmental education in 1970.
 - Generally, Earth Day is either celebrated on 22nd April or on the day when the spring equinox occurs around the world.
2. World Malaria Day is observed every year on which date to commemorate the recognition of global efforts to control malaria_____ **April 25.**
- Note:**
- WHO Member States instituted this day during the World Health Assembly of 2007.
 - Theme 2023: Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement
 - Malaria is a disease caused by parasites transmitted to people through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.
 - India has registered over 85% decline in malaria cases from 2015 to 2022
3. The world commemorates World Intellectual Property Day on which date for promoting awareness of intellectual property and its safeguarding_____ **April 26.**
- Note:**
- The theme for the 2023 celebration of World Intellectual Property Day is "Women and IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity".
 - This day was initially proposed during the 33rd Assembly Session of the WIPO Member States in September 1988, and it was officially established on August 9th, 1999.
4. International Girls in ICT Day is celebrated annually on which day of April to encourage and empower girls and young women to explore and pursue careers in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) _____ **Fourth Thursday.**
- Note:**
- In 2023, it is being observed on April 27.
 - 2023 theme: Digital Skills for Life
 - It raised awareness about the gender gap in the tech industry and inspires women to consider careers in ICT.
 - This day was declared by ITU on April 8, 2011.
5. World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed every year on which date to promote safe and decent work environments across the globe_____ **April 28.**
- Note:**
- 2023 theme: A safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle and right at work
 - It coincides with the anniversary of the 1971 adoption of the Occupational Safety and Health Convention by the International Labour Organization (ILO)
 - It was first observed in 2003 after the ILO declared it an annual international campaign.
6. World Veterinary Day is celebrated on which day of April to mark the importance of veterinary doctors who serve to protect animal's _____ **Last Saturday of April.**
- Note:**
- In 2023, this day was observed on April 29.
 - 2023 theme: Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness in the Veterinary Profession
 - The World Veterinary Association (WVA) established World Veterinary Day in 2000 to recognize the role of veterinarians in safeguarding the health and well-being of animals, people, and the environment.
7. India observed Ayushman Bharat Diwas every year on which date to promote the Ayushman Bharat Yojana values _____ **April 30.**
- Note:**
- In 2018, PM Modi announced the Ayushman Bharat Yojna to give healthcare coverage to all Indians who cannot afford basic medical services.
 - This initiative was established along the lines of universal health care to satisfy one of the United Nations' SDGs - "leave no one behind."
 - This scheme covers all expenses of patients.
8. India celebrates National Panchayati Raj Day every year on which date to commemorate the constitutional change that established the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)_____ **April 24.**
- Note:**
- PRIs are considered the third tier of the government.
 - It manages the local-level administration in rural areas.

- The first Panchayati Raj system was initiated in the year 1993.
- 2023 theme: Sustainable Panchayat: Building Healthy, Water Sufficient, Clean & Green Villages

New Appointments

1. In the exercise of the power conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India, the President has appointed Justice Sarasa Venkatanarayana Bhatti as Acting Chief Justice of which high court with effect from April 24, 2023_____

Kerala High Court.

Note:

- He would replace the current Chief Justice S Manikumar, who will retire on the aforementioned date.
- He served as a Judge from the Andhra Pradesh High Court and is presently working as the senior-most judge of the Kerala High Court.

2. Who has been named the new deputy prime minister of the United Kingdom_____ **Oliver Dowden.**

Note:

- He has replaced current Dy PM and Justice Secretary, Dominic Raab, who has resigned.
- Before this role, he had been serving as the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Cabinet Office secretary, under the present UK government.
- He will continue in the roles alongside his new responsibilities.
- While Alex Chalk becomes the 10th justice secretary in 10 years.

3. Who has assumed the charge of Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry_____ **Rajesh Kumar Singh.**

Note:

- He is an IAS officer of the 1989 Batch from the Kerala cadre.
- Before this, he served as Secretary in the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.
- He has replaced Anurag Jain, who was appointed secretary in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

4. Who has been appointed as the chairperson of Nasscom for 2023-24_____ **Microsoft India President, Anant Maheshwari.**

Note:

- Earlier, he served as the vice-chairperson of Nasscom'.
- He has succeeded the president of business and technology services at TCS, Krishnan Ramanujam.
- Meanwhile, Nasscom has also appointed chairman and managing director of Cognizant India, Rajesh Nambiar as its vice-chairperson for 2023-24
- Nasscom refers to National Association of Software and Service Companies

5. Who has taken charge as the new chairman of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)_____ **Shreekanth M Bhandiwad.**

Note:

- KVGB is an Indian RRB sponsored by Canara Bank headquartered in Dharwad, Karnataka.
- He has replaced the current chairman P Gopikrishna, who was repatriated to Canara Bank as Circle Head, Bengaluru, in Karnataka.
- He has an experience of 29 years in Canara Bank, having worked across India (Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, and Karnataka) in various capacities.

6. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of whom as Managing Director and CEO of City Union Bank_____ **N Kamakodi.**

Note:

- The tenure of his re-appointment would be for a period of three years with effect from May 1, 2023.
- He joined the bank as deputy general manager in 2003 and was elevated to general manager in 2005.
- In 2006, he was appointed as executive director.
- From May 2011, he was serving the bank as its managing director and chief executive officer.

7. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Association of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)_____ **Hari Hara Mishra.**

Note:

- He has started his career with the State Bank of India in 1982 and worked there until 2004.

- He is an experienced professional in the field of asset reconstruction.
- The ARCs are the voice of all Asset Reconstruction Companies in India.
- Currently, there are 28 ARCs registered with the Reserve Bank of India.

8. The government has confirmed the appointment of whom as a Managing Director (MD) of the Bank of Baroda for three years _____ **Debadatta Chand**.

Note:

- Currently, he is serving as Executive Director of the bank.
- He has succeeded Sanjiv Chadha, whose term was extended for five months till June 30 by the government.
- In January 2023, the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommended Debadatta Chand as MD & CEO of the Bank of Baroda.
- Headquarters: Vadodara

9. Who has been appointed as the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and the secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy _____ **Ajit Kumar Mohanty**.

Note:

- He has replaced K N Vyas.
- He was appointed as the BARC director in March 2019.
- In 1983, he joined the Nuclear Physics Division of the BARC after graduating from the 26th batch of the BARC Training School.

Important News - India

1. The Centre has launched over 254 network towers to provide 4G mobile connectivity in border areas of which state _____ **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Note:

- It will provide 4G coverage in uncovered villages of the state, thereby bringing digital connectivity to 336 villages, including several areas which have remained unconnected since Independence.
- Over 70,000 subscribers are expected to benefit from the service.

2. Which country has improved its ranking in the World Bank's Logistic Performance Index (LPI) 2023 by six places from 44 in 2018 to 38 in 2023, among 139 countries _____ **India**.

Note:

- LPI is an interactive benchmarking tool created to help countries identify the challenges and opportunities on trade logistics and the scope of improvement.
- India's category-wise ranking: International shipments: 22; Logistics competence and equality: 48; Timeline: 17; Tracking and tracing: 38

3. The government has launched which round of the regional air connectivity scheme, UDAN to further enhance the connectivity to remote and regional areas _____ **Fifth**.

Note:

- Under this scheme, viability gap funding (VGF) will be capped at 600 km stage length for both priority and non-priority areas, which was earlier capped at 500 km.
- Besides this, no pre-determined routes would be offered and only network and individual route proposals by airlines will be considered.

4. PM Modi has laid the foundation stone and inaugurated projects worth more than 17,000 crores in which state _____ **Madhya Pradesh**.

Note:

- He has also inaugurated the integrated e-Gram Swaraj and GeM portal for public procurement at the Panchayat level.
- Objective: To enable Panchayats to market their goods and services through GeM
- With the handing over of around 35 lakh Swamitva Property Cards, about 1 crore 25 lakh property cards have been distributed under this scheme in the country.

5. Which ministry has conducted the first-ever census of water bodies across the nation _____ **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.

Note:

- Aim: To provide a comprehensive inventory of India's water resources, including natural and man-made water bodies like lakes

- Over 24.24 lakh water bodies have been enumerated in the country out of which more than 23 lakh water bodies are in rural areas and nearly 69,000 are in urban areas.
 - Top 5 (number of water bodies): WB, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Assam
6. Union Minister of Ports has inaugurated National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts, IIT - Discovery Campus at Chennai. Who is he _____ **Sarbananda Sonowal**.
- Note:**
- Under the Sagarmala Programme, the centre has been established in IIT Chennai at a cost of 77 Crore rupees.
 - The institute acts as a technological arm of the Ministry and develops cutting-edge technologies and application products to provide solutions to various challenges faced by the Ports and Shipping Sector.
7. The Unique Identification Authority of India and which organization are setting up an aggregator platform for eKYC (electronic know-your-customer) _____ **National Payments Corporation of India**.
- Note:**
- The process of Aadhaar-based eKYC is used for paperless verification of a customer's credentials to get a mobile connection or open a bank account.
 - The process can be completed using biometrics or through the use of OTP.
 - It is being used by financial services players, and government agencies.
8. The Ministry of Petroleum has successfully completed the Bihar portion of the Barauni Guwahati pipeline (BGPL) under which scheme _____ **Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project**.
- Note:**
- It will connect six districts in Bihar to the National Gas Grid.
 - Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga Project is also known as Jagdishpur – Haldia & Bokaro – Dhamra Pipeline Project (JHBDPL) project.
 - Launched: 2016
 - Aim: Caters to the energy requirements of five states (UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and WB).
9. Which steel production plant has signed a Memorandum of understanding with Telecommunications Consultants India (TCIL) to explore the potential of the application of 5G/ IT/ telecom and other wireless communication technologies _____ **SAIL-Bokaro Steel Plant**.
- Note:**
- This project would include SAIL's Mines and Collieries, Central Coal Supply Organization, and the SAIL refractory unit in Jharkhand.
 - SAIL Chairperson: Soma Mondal
10. PM Modi has inaugurated India's first water metro in which city _____ **Kochi (Kerala)**.
- Note:**
- The metro project will start with eight electric hybrid boats developed under Cochin Shipyard Limited.
 - It was funded by the Kerala govt and the German company KfW.
 - It consists of 38 terminals and 78 electric boats.
 - The first phase of this project started from the High Court-Vypin and Vyttila-Kakkanad terminals.
11. India has launched a rescue operation named Operation Kaveri to evacuate its stranded citizens from which country _____ **Sudan**.
- Note:**
- Two C-130s aircraft and the navy ship INS Sumedha is on standby to evacuate Indians.
 - The name for rescue operations in Sudan has been kept Operation Kaveri for the same purpose that Prime Minister Modi chose to name rescue ops in Ukraine Operation Ganga.
 - Kaveri is one of the major Indian rivers flowing through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
12. Union Minister for Labour has launched new features in eShram Portal. Who is he _____ **Bhupender Yadav**.
- Note:**
- Aim: To enhance the utility of the portal and facilitate ease of registration for unorganized workers
 - A feature for capturing the family details of migrant workers has been added to the eShram portal.
 - Through the portal, the eShram-registered workers can now connect with employment opportunities, pension schemes, digital skilling, and states' schemes.
13. Who has launched IFFCO's nano liquid Di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) fertilizer for commercial sale at Rs 600 per 500 ml bottle _____ **Cooperation Minister, Amit Shah**.

Note:

- Aim: Farmers to use nano urea and DAP extensively to make the country self-reliant and reduce import dependence
- One bottle (500 ml) of nano-liquid DAP is equivalent to one bag (50kg) of conventional granular DAP, which is currently being sold at Rs 1,350.
- In 2021, IFFCO launched the world's first nano urea fertilizer.

14. What is the name of the policy, which was approved by the union government to reduce India's heavy import dependence on the medical sector_____ **National Medical Devices Policy, 2023.**

Note:

- It will help the Medical Devices Sector, grow from the present 11 billion USD to 50 billion USD in the next five years.
- It also aims to facilitate orderly growth of the medical device sector to meet the public health objectives of access, affordability, and innovation.
- The Cabinet has also approved establishing 157 nursing colleges

15. Which organization has released a report titled Promoting Millets in Diets: Best Practices across States and Union Territories of India_____ **NITI Aayog.**

Note:

- The report was released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman K. Bery.
- Report's theme:
- State Missions and initiatives to promote millets;
- Inclusion of millets in ICDS;
- Research and development and use of technology for innovative practices
- It will serve as a guiding repository to revive and mainstream millets in our diets.

16. India's first cable-stayed bridge_____ will be completed by May 2023_____ **Anji Khad bridge.**

Note:

- It connects Katra and Reasi via tunnels T2 and T3 on the Katra-Banihal section.
- Aim: To connect J&K to the rest of the country with all-weather rail connectivity
- The cables weigh 848.7 MT and the total length of cable strands involved is 653km.
- The asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge crosses the deep gorges of Anji river, a tributary of river Chenab.
- Total length of the bridge: 725m

17. Which tribal insurgent group signed the tripartite agreement with the Centre and the state government of Assam to avoid the violence and join the mainstream_____ **Dimasa National Liberation Army (DNLA).**

Note:

- According to the MoU, the DNLA will lay down its arms and abide by the Constitution.
- It was decided to set up a Dimasa Welfare Council and grant a special financial package of Rs. 1,000 crores (Rs. 500 crores each by the Centre and Assam government).

18. Which ministry has launched 'City Beauty Competition' portal_____ **MoHUA.**

Note:

- Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the country can participate in this competition through an online process.
- Objective: To encourage and recognize the transformational efforts made by cities and wards across the country to create beautiful, innovative and inclusive public spaces
- Five broad pillars: (i) accessibility (ii) amenities (iii) activities (iv) aesthetics and (v) ecology

19. Which ministry has given its approval to upgrade Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) to Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) from Category-I Miniratna_____ **Union Finance Ministry.**

Note:

- RVNL, a PSU under the Ministry of Railways, will be the 13th Navratna amongst CPSEs.
- The company will have more autonomy in terms of investment, setting up JV and other financial decisions.
- As per the Navratna Company criteria, the company must have Miniratna status, with 4 independent board directors.

20. Union MoS (IC) S&T, Dr Jitendra Singh visited which college in the United Kingdom and interacted with the Indian students of the college_____ **Imperial College London.**

Note:

- During his visit, the Imperial College London announced scholarships of £ 400,000 for Indian students studying in the college.
- Out of which 50% of the scholarship would be given to female students from India.
- Imperial College London is a public research university in London, England.

21. The combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) has increased by what percent (provisional) in March 2023 as compared to the Index of March 2022_____ **3.6%**.

Note:

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

22. According to the Kpler report, which country has become Europe's largest supplier of refined fuels, surpassing Saudi Arabia_____ **India**.

Note:

- Europe's reliance on Indian crude oil products has grown since the ban on Russian oil.
- It also showed that Europe's refined fuel imports from India are set to surge above 360,000 barrels a day.
- Russia was the largest exporter of crude oil to India by value in February in spite of the Western price cap of USD 60 per barrel.

23. Which command and some civil agencies conducted a day-long firefighting exercise called 'Agni Daman - 23' _____

Army Southern Command.

Note:

- The exercise was conducted with 56 teams at the 29 Field Ammunition Depot (FAD), Dehu Road.
- Aim: To enhance synergy among firefighters to work together in the event of major fire incidents
- The exercise was a landmark endeavor in synergizing all the firefighting resources available with the military and civil establishment in Pune.

24. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has signed an MoU with Art of Living as part of which campaign _____ **Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan.**

Note:

- The signing ceremony was held at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.
- This campaign will get a boost towards achieving a drug-sensitized India.
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) has been implementing the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) to curb the menace of drug demand.

25. India and which country have agreed to create India-UK NET zero innovation virtual centre_____ **United Kingdom.**

Note:

- Aim: To provide a platform for stakeholders of both countries to work together in areas like the decarbonization of manufacturing processes, transport systems, and green hydrogen as a renewable source
- Both countries will also join to launch the first-ever UK-India scientific 'deep sea voyage' and 'space parks' partnership.

26. Which ministry will be organizing Asia Pacific Leaders' Conclave on Malaria Elimination in New Delhi on 24th April 2023, in partnership with Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA)_____ **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**

Note:

- It will be held under the guidance of Union Minister.
- Aim: to reaffirm political commitment to galvanize action for malaria elimination by 2030.
- It will revitalize national and regional momentum towards the goal of an Asia Pacific Free from Malaria by 2030.

27. Which laboratory of DRDO has organized a four-day International Conference on 'Optimising Human Capital of Armed Forces: Psychological Perspective' in Delhi on April 25, 2023_____ **Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR).**

Note:

- Aim: To deliberate recent advances, emerging trends, and challenges of psychology with respect to the human capital of the Armed Forces upon world over
- The conference has participation from the three Services, DRDO labs, and academia.

28. The Chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), India will host the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting on 28 April 2023 in which city_____ **New Delhi.**

Note:

- Aim: To discuss amongst other issues matters concerning regional peace and security, counter-terrorism efforts within SCO, and effective multilateralism.
- SCO 2023 theme under India's Chairmanship: SECURE-SCO
- SCO was established in 2001.
- Members: Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, India, and Uzbekistan

29. The Y 20 Pre Summit Meeting under G20 hosted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs is being organized from 26th to 28th April 2023 in which Indian city_____ **Leh.**

Note:

- Five Y20 themes:
- Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance
- Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation & 21st Century Skills
- Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life
- Peace Building and Reconciliation: Ushering in an era of No War
- Health Wellbeing & Sports: Agenda for Youth

30. Which country will host the third in-person Quad Summit in Sydney on May 24, 2023_____ **Australia.**

Note:

- It will be the first time when Australia will host the meeting.
- The meeting will be attended by PM Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Japanese PM Kishida Fumio, and Australian PM Anthony Albanese.
- The leaders will discuss issues on critical and emerging technologies and high-quality infrastructure, etc.
- The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue comprises India, the US, Japan, and Australia.

31. Union Minister of Agriculture, Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the Summit on Farm Machinery Technology in which city_____ **New Delhi.**

Note:

- Organized by: Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Tractor and Mechanisation Association in New Delhi
- During the event, the minister informed that, about 85% of small farmers in the country, who should get the benefit of technology and machinery.
- It was attended by stakeholders including Original Equipment Manufacturers and design firms.

32. The Indian Merchants Chamber has organized the 'India Calling Conference 2023' in which city_____ **Mumbai.**

Note:

- The theme of the 2023 Conference is "Rising India- Inviting Partnership for Growth".
- The conference was attended by Union Minister for Commerce Piyush Goyal, Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, and MoS for Railways & Textiles Darshana Jardosh.
- Minister Piyush Goyal delivered the inaugural address at the 'India Calling Conference 2023'.

33. PM Modi will attend the 20th anniversary of the State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology (SWAGAT) initiative in which state_____ **Gujarat.**

Note:

- This scheme was started by PM Modi in April 2003 during his tenure as the Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- Aim: To act as a bridge between the citizens and the government using technology by solving their day-to-day grievances in a quick, efficient, and time-bound manner

34. Union Minister for MSME, Narayan Rane has launched the revamped CGTMSE Scheme. What is the full form of CGTMSE_____ **Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises.**

Note:

- Modifications:
- Reduction in guarantee fees for loans upto ₹1 crore by 50% bringing the minimum guarantee fee to the level of 0.37% pa only.

- Raising of ceiling for guarantee from ₹2 crore to ₹ 5 crore
- Enhanced the threshold limit for claim settlement without initiation of legal action to ₹10 lakh.

Important News – State

1. In a meeting with the Wildlife Advisory Board, Madhya Pradesh CM, Shivraj Singh Chouhan instructed the development of which sanctuary as a habitat for cheetahs in the next six months_____ **Gandhisagar Sanctuary.**

Note:

- It will be developed as a second home for cheetahs to retain the tag of cheetah state.
 - Reason: The experts suggested that Kuno National Park in Sheopur does not have enough space for all cheetahs, hence it is necessary to relocate a few
2. The government of which state has decided to constitute a new Commission to decide the backwardness of the Maratha Community_____ **Maharashtra.**

Note:

- Its government will file a curative petition in the Supreme Court for Maratha (Social and Economic Backward Class) Reservation.
- It will ensure all the lapses in the Maratha Reservation law will be overcome and assured that Candidates from Maratha Community will be given all the benefits like other communities.

3. Which tribe of Nayagarh district in Odisha celebrates Bihan Mela, which refers to a seed festival_____ **Kondh Tribe.**

Note:

- The event is participated by farmers from as many as 40 villages in Dasapalla block, surrounded by hills and forests.
- The preparations begin as soon as farmers have harvested Kharif crops, which include both hybrid and indigenous varieties of paddy, millets, maize, and sorghum.
- Kondh tribes are a tribal group found in the hills and jungles of Orissa in eastern India

Important News – World

1. Mongolia Ambassador to India Dambajav Ganbold has informed that the first oil refinery of Mongolia, which is built and funded with Indian assistance, will be completed by which year_____ **2025.**

Note:

- The first stage of the Mongol Oil Refinery will be built with a \$1.2 billion Indian soft loan.
- The development comes with strategic implications as Mongolia is entirely dependent on Russia for its energy imports.
- It would help Mongolia meet 70% of its demand domestically.

2. US President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk-Yeol have secured a landmark deal. What is the name of this landmark deal_____ **Washington Declaration.**

Note:

- It includes plans to periodically deploy US nuclear-armed submarines in South Korea.
- This deal will be known as the Washington Declaration and strengthen the allies' cooperation in deterring a North Korean attack.
- The declaration comes amid rising concerns about nuclear threats from North Korea as the country carries out a record number of ballistic missile tests.

3. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has unveiled a statue of Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in which country_____ **Mauritius.**

Note:

- The sculpture was created in India by a Delhi-based artist and sent to Mauritius in a container ship.
- During his visit, an MoU was signed between the Economic Development Board of Mauritius and the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation to establish a platform for investment between the Western State and the island nation.

4. Which Russian company launched its own AI chatbot GigaChat to compete with OpenAI's ChatGPT_____ **Sberbank.**

Note:

- It was initially designed to support multimodal interaction and communicate in Russian more intelligently.

- The GigaChat architecture is based on the neural network ensemble model called NeONKA (Neural Omnimodal Network with Knowledge-Awareness).
 - It includes several neural network models along with supervised fine-tuning and reinforcement learning with human feedback.
5. A report on Trends in World Military Expenditure 2022, published by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, stated that total global military expenditure increased by what percent in real terms in 2022 to reach a new high of \$2240 billion_____3.7%.

Note:

- The three largest spenders in 2022 are the USA, China, and Russia, accounting for 56% of the total world
- The US remains by far the world's biggest military spender
- India's spending of \$81.4 billion was the fourth highest in the world.

Honor & Awards

1. Which programme of the Union Health Ministry received the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2022 under the innovation category_____ **National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.**

Note:

- The award was received by Rajesh Bhushan (Secretary, Ministry of Health) from PM Narendra Modi.
- PM Gati Shakti national master plan initiative received an award for excellence in public administration 2022 in the 'Innovation (Central)' category.

2. Who was conferred the Vayu Sena medal by Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Marshal VR Chaudhari_____ **Wing Commander Deepika Misra.**

Note:

- She becomes the first woman Air Force officer to receive a gallantry award.
- She is a trained helicopter pilot, a qualified flying instructor, and an instrument-rated instructor and examiner.
- She was among 58 personnel who received the gallantry award during the investiture ceremony held in New Delhi.

3. The West Stand at which stadium has been renamed after Indian former cricketer, Sachin Tendulkar in a special ceremony in the UAE, honouring the Indian cricket legend on his 50th birthday_____ **Sharjah cricket stadium.**

Note:

- Sharjah Cricket Stadium holds the Guinness record for most One-Day internationals played (244).
- The gate at the Sydney Cricket Ground was also named after Sachin Tendulkar on his 50th birthday.
- CEO of Sharjah Stadium: Khalaf Bukhatir

4. Which state has been awarded the country's prestigious HUDCO Award for 2022-2023_____ **Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) Uttar Pradesh.**

Note:

- It was awarded in the Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment 2022-23 category for cleanliness.
- The award was presented by the secretary of MoHUA, Manoj Josh to Neha Sharma (State mission director, UP).
- Cash Prize: 1 Lakh Rupees
- This campaign was organized by the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) Uttar Pradesh from January 14 to 24, 2023.

5. Which Maharatna CPSU of the Ministry of Power, has been awarded the Global Gold Award 2023 by The Green Organization_____ **Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL).**

Note:

- Reason: For improving Agriculture Productivity and Rural Livelihood through watershed management, community participation, and better crop management practices in 10 villages of Jaipatna Block of Kalahandi, Odisha
- The Director (Personnel) of POWERGRID, Dr. V. K. Singh received the award.

6. Which IIT's SHUNYA team has secured second place in Solar Decathlon Build Challenge in the United States_____ **IIT Bombay.**

Note:

- Reason: For their innovative zero-energy house designed to address air quality challenges in Mumbai's hot and humid climate.

- SHUNYA refers to Sustainable Housing for Urbanizing Nation by its Young Aspirants.
 - It is a student-driven technical team of IIT Bombay working to build a sustainable future.
7. Who has received the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award by members of the award foundation personally after 64 years _____ **Tibetan spiritual leader, Dalai Lama.**

Note:

- It was the first international award given for his Community Leadership in recognition of his leadership of the Tibetan community's gallant struggle in defense of the sacred religion that is the inspiration of their life and culture.
 - The Ramon Magsaysay Award is often called the Nobel Prize of Asia.
8. Which organization has bagged Steel Ministry's "Ispat Rajbhasha Samman" for the year 2021-22 _____ **Rashtriya Ispat Nigam (RINL).**

Note:

- The award was presented by the MoS for Steel and Rural Development Faggan Singh Kulaste to CMD, RINL Atul Bhatt, in the meeting of Hindi Salahkar Samiti held at Srinagar.
 - The minister also released RINL's March issue of Hindi In-house Magazine "Rashtriya Ispat Sugandh".
 - The members of Hindi Salahkar Samiti appreciated various activities being undertaken by RINL.
9. Who has been awarded the prestigious Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding in 2023 _____ **Maria Stepanova.**

Note:

- She was honored in Leipzig for her volume of poetry "Mädchen ohne Kleider" (Girls Without Clothes).
 - It is described as a sensitive and highly poetic study of often hidden violence against the female body and the power imbalance that drives this oppression.
 - About Leipzig Book Award:
 - Literary prizes in Germany
 - Prize money: 20,000 euros
10. Who has been awarded the Best Male Actor award for his role in Badhaai Do at the 68th Hyundai Filmfare Awards on April 28, 2023 _____ **Rajkumar Rao.**

Note:

- Alia Bhatt was awarded Best Actor (Female) for Gangubai Kathiawadi
- Best Film: Gangubai Kathiawadi
- Best Film (Critics'): Badhaai Do
- Best Actor (Critics'): Sanjay Mishra (Vadh)
- Best Actress (Critics'): Bhumi Pednekar (Badhaai Do) and Tabu (Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2)
- Best Director: Sanjay Leela Bhansali (Gangubai Kathiawadi)

Sports News

1. India has won two gold medals, one each in the mixed team event and women's individual Compound, at the 2023 Archery World Cup Stage 1 in which country _____ **Antalya, Turkey.**

Note:

- Indian mixed team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Ojas Pravin Deotale outclassed Chen Yi Hsuan and Chem Chieh Lun of Chinese Taipei by 159-154 to win the mixed team gold.
- The second gold came in the women's individual Compound event after Jyothi Surekha Vennam defeated Sara Lopez of Columbia by 149-146.

2. Who has won the London Marathon and recorded the second-fastest time in history over the distance _____ **Kelvin Kiptum (Kenya).**

Note:

- He set the course record with a time of 2 hours, 1 minute, and 25 seconds.
- He just missed out on Eliud Kipchoge's world record by 16 seconds.
- In the women's race, Ethiopian-born Dutch athlete, Sifan Hassan won her marathon debut in 2:18:34.
- Switzerland's Marcel Hug won the elite men's wheelchair race with a time of 1:23:44.

3. Who has become the first Indian to complete the prestigious Golden Globe Race 2022 _____ **Commander Abhilash Tomy.**

Note:

- He finished second in the race, a solo around-the-world sailing race.
- This race was started at Les Sables-d'Olonne in France on Sep 4, 2022.
- South African sailor, Kirsten Neuschäfer also become the first woman to win the Golden Globe Race (GGR), a solo, non-stop circumnavigation of the globe without using any modern technological aids.

4. Who has won the ROKiT British F4 Championship held at Donington Park_____ **Jaden Pariat**.

Note:

- He is a young Indian racing talent representing Argenti Motorsport.
- He has become the second Indian racer to achieve an international podium in a Tatuus F4 car, following Kush Maini's feat in 2017.

Books and Authors

1. World Book Day is celebrated annually on which date to promote the love for reading, writing, publishing, and copyright_____ **April 23**.

Note:

- This day is also known as World Book and Copyright Day.
- The theme for World Book Day 2023 is 'Indigenous Languages.'
- This theme focuses on promoting the diversity in native languages of a country.
- It is the date on which several prominent authors, William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes, and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega all died.

2. A new book titled, 'A Resurgent Northeast: Narratives of Change', is authored by_____ **Ashish Kundra**.

Note:

- The book was launched in the presence of Kiren Rijiju (Union Minister of Law and Justice); Hardeep Singh Puri (Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas), Pema Khandu (CM of Arunachal Pradesh), and Amitabh Kant.
- Senior bureaucrat-author Ashish Kundra served in the Northeast for eight years.

3. A new book 'Smoke and Ashes: A Writer's Journey Through Opium's Hidden Histories', is authored by _____ **Amitav Ghosh**.

Note:

- This book explores the opium trade's effect on world history and how it continues to hugely impact our lives today.
- The book will be published by HarperCollins India's Fourth Estate imprint.
- Other Notable works: The Shadow Lines, The Glass Palace, The Hungry Tide, Gun Island, and The Great Derangement

4. Who has launched the book 'Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamprashastih' by Shree Somnath Sanskrit University during the closing ceremony of 'Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam'_____ **PM Narendra Modi**.

Note:

- PM Modi addressed the closing ceremony via video conferencing.
- The Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam takes forward this vision by celebrating the shared culture and heritage between Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.
- The 10-day confluence saw more than 3000 Saurashtrian Tamils come to Somnath on a special train.

5. At the 100th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat', a book called 'Collective Spirit, Concrete Action' was launched, is authored by _____ **Shashi Shekhar Vempati**.

Note:

- Shashi Shekhar Vempati is a former CEO of Prasar Bharat.
- According to the author, 'Mann Ki Baat' is a combination of the power of radio and the vision of a nation's leader.
- Over the course of 15 chapters, the book special also offers insights and perspectives from grassroots change-makers and iconic personalities.

Science and Defence

1. Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and which armed force has successfully conducted a maiden flight trial of a sea-based endo-atmospheric interceptor missile off the coast of Odisha in Bay of Bengal_____ **Indian Navy.**

Note:

- Aim: To engage and neutralize a hostile ballistic missile threat thereby elevating India into the elite club of Nations having Naval BMD capability
- Prior to this, DRDO has demonstrated land-based BMD system with capability to neutralize ballistic missile threats.

2. Which organization has successfully launched the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle C55 (PSLV-C55) mission carrying two Singaporean satellites titled, Singapore's TeLEOS-2 as the primary satellite and LUMELITE-4 from Satish Dhawan Space Center at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh_____ **Indian Space Research Organisations (ISRO).**

Note:

- They are co-passenger satellites precisely into their intended 586 km circular orbit
- PSLV-C55 is a commercial PSLV mission of NSIL, which is the commercial arm of ISRO.

3. Solar Industries Nagpur has recently bagged an order to supply the UAV 'Nagastra' to which armed force, beating competitors from Israel and Poland_____ **Indian Army.**

Note:

- Nagastra is India's first indigenous loitering munition which can strike enemy targets with precision.
- It has been designed and developed by Economics Explosives Ltd (EEL), a 100 per cent subsidiary of Solar Industries Nagpur, in association with Z-Motion, Bangalore.
- It has an indigenous content of more than 75%

4. Which edition of a joint military exercise between India and the UK, 'Ajeya Warrior 2023' has been started in the Salisbury Plains, UK_____ **Seventh.**

Note:

- The biennial training event started on 27 April and continues till May 11.
- The Indian Army has participated with indigenous weapons and equipment.
- Scope of exercise: It involves a Command Post Exercise (CPX) at the battalion level and company level field training exercise (FTX)
- Last edition (October 2021): Chaubatia, Uttarakhand

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