



TestCoach

Powered By **S CHAND**

Weekly Current Affairs

(23rd APRIL - 30th APRIL)



WWW.TESTCOACH.IN

BharatNet Project:

- **Launched by:** Government of India
- **Objective:** Provide high-speed broadband to all 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats
- **Implementing Agency:** Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) under Ministry of Communications
- **Funding:** From Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)

Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR):

- LCR is a Basel III standard.
- It ensures that a bank holds enough High-Quality Liquid Assets (HQLA) to survive a 30-day stress scenario.
- The ratio helps protect everyday depositors by ensuring banks can handle sudden market disruptions or customer panic without freezing up.

Reserve Bank of India:

- Established: 1935, under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The first Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was **Sir Osborne Smith**.
- Present Governor- **Sanjay Malhotra**
- Controls inflation and stabilizes the currency through policy measures.
- RBI exclusively issues currency notes, except for ₹1 notes and coins issued by the Government of India.

Anaemia Mukh Bharat:

- In 2018, the Government of India introduced the Anemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) strategy with the goal of reducing anemia among vulnerable groups, particularly women, children, and adolescents.
- The initiative follows a life cycle approach, offering both preventive and curative measures through the 6x6x6 strategy, which comprises six target beneficiary groups, six key interventions, and six institutional mechanisms, engaging all stakeholders in its implementation.
- Anemia is a condition where the number of red blood cells (RBCs) or the hemoglobin concentration is below normal, reducing the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood

Personalities in News

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

- **Justice Dinesh Maheshwari:** Appointed as Chairperson of 23rd Law Commission
- **Mangi Lal Jat:** Appointed as DARE and Director General of ICAR.
- **James David Vance:** He is the USA Vice President who was on the unofficial tour of India with his family

India's Largest Cruise Terminal

- India's largest cruise terminal is the Mumbai International Cruise Terminal (MICT), located at the BPX-Indira Dock in Mumbai. This state-of-the-art facility is designed to bolster India's maritime tourism and establish Mumbai as a prominent cruise hub in Asia
- **Capacity:** Handles up to **200 cruise ships** and **1 million passengers annually**.
- Construction Area: Spans over 4.15 lakh square feet.
- Equipped with **22 elevators** and **10 escalators** for smooth passenger flow.
- **Multi-level parking** facility for up to **300 vehicles**.
- Can **accommodate two cruise ships** at the same time

Article 142

- **Article 142** empowers the **Supreme Court of India** to ensure **complete justice** in any case before it.

Key Features:

- Grants **extraordinary powers** to the Supreme Court.
- Allows the Court to go **beyond the statutory provisions** if required to do "**complete justice**."
- Decrees or orders passed under Article 142 are **binding** throughout the territory of India.

Arun-3 Hydroelectric Project

- **Location:** Sankhuwasabha District, Koshi Province, Eastern Nepal
- **Capacity:** 900 MW (megawatts)
- **Type:** Run-of-the-river hydroelectric project
- **Project Developer:** SJVN Arun-3 Power Development Company (SAPDC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Ltd., India .

Indus Water Treaty (IWT)

- In response to the Pahalgam terror attack, India has adopted a series of firm diplomatic measures, including the decision to suspend certain provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960.
- The Indus Waters Treaty, signed on September 19, 1960 between India and Pakistan and brokered by the World Bank, governs the sharing of the Indus River system—one of the largest river basins in the world.

Key Provisions:

- India gets **exclusive rights** over **eastern rivers**.
- Pakistan gets rights over **western rivers**, though **India can use western rivers** for:
- **Non-consumptive uses:** irrigation (with limits), hydropower (without storage), navigation.
- Establishment of **Permanent Indus Commission** for dispute resolution and cooperation.
- Treaty remains in force **regardless of conflicts or war**.

Saudi Arabia

- The Indian Prime Minister visited Saudi Arabia and co-chaired the second meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC), reinforcing bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation between the two nations.

Key Facts:

- **Capital:** Riyadh
- **King:** Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud
- **Official Language:** Arabic.
- **Currency:** Saudi Riyal (SAR).
- **Borders:** Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain (via causeway), Qatar, UAE, Oman, Yemen
- **Coastlines:** Red Sea (west), Arabian Gulf (east)
- **Climate:** Desert—hot and dry
- It is home to Islam's two holiest shrines in Mecca and Medina.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

- **Founded in 1985** to promote regional cooperation and development among South Asian nations.
- **8 Member Countries:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.
- **Headquartered in Kathmandu, Nepal** and aims to improve economic and social progress in the region.
- **Major Initiative:** SAFTA (South Asian Free Trade Area) to boost intra-regional trade.
- **Challenges:** Political tensions, especially between India and Pakistan, often block effective cooperation.

NASA

- **Full Form:** NASA stands for **National Aeronautics and Space Administration**, established on **July 29, 1958** (USA).
- **Headquarters:** Located in **Washington, D.C.**, USA.
- **Main Purpose:** Responsible for **civilian space exploration, scientific discovery, and aeronautics research**.

Major Missions:

- **Apollo 11** (1969) – First manned Moon landing
- **Mars Rovers** – Curiosity, Perseverance
- **James Webb Space Telescope** – Advanced space observation
- **Current Focus Areas:** **Artemis Program** (returning humans to the Moon), **Mars exploration**, climate monitoring, and international space cooperation (e.g., with ISRO, ESA).

16 New Global Geoparks

- **UNESCO has recently added 16 new sites to its Global Geoparks network, bringing the total to 229 geoparks spread across 50 countries.**
- **UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp)** are defined as unified geographical areas recognized for their internationally significant geological heritage. These sites are managed through an integrated approach that emphasizes conservation, education, and sustainable development.

Country	Geopark Name	Notable Features
China	Kanbula Geopark	Ancient volcanic formations along the Yellow River
China	Yunyang Geopark	Transition from inland sea to terrestrial environment
North Korea	Mount Paektu Geopark	Volcanic eruptions and glacial erosion
Indonesia	Kebumen Geopark	Ancient rock formations, Karangsambung site
Indonesia	Meratus Geopark	Jurassic geology, diamond deposits
South Korea	Danyang Geopark	1.9-billion-year-old granite gneiss
South Korea	Gyeongbuk Donghaean Geopark	Deokgu Valley, ancient granitic rocks
Vietnam	Lang Son Geopark	Limestone peaks, volcanic activity
Italy	MurGEopark	Stable Adriatic Plate, ancient geology
Norway	The Fjord Coast Geopark	Fjords, waterfalls, glaciers
Spain	Costa Quebrada Geopark	Tectonic movements over 120 million years
United Kingdom	Arran Geopark	600-million-year geological history, tectonic collisions
Saudi Arabia	North Riyadh Geopark	Tabletop mountains, cultural landmarks
Saudi Arabia	Salma Geopark	Volcanic and magmatic rocks over 740 million years old
Ecuador	Napo Sumaco Geopark	Sumaco Volcano, Jurassic activity
Ecuador	Tungurahua Volcano Geopark	Volcanic and glacial history spanning 417 million years

Shimla Agreement (1972)

- Pakistan suspends 1972 Simla Agreement, a peace treaty born out of the 1971 Indo-Pakistani War.
- **After the 1971 War:** The Shimla Agreement emerged following the 1971 Indo-Pak war, which resulted in the formation of Bangladesh. India's military intervention significantly altered the geopolitical landscape of South Asia.
- **Leadership and Diplomacy:** The agreement was negotiated between Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto with the aim of restoring peace and normalizing bilateral relations.
- **Bilateralism Principle:** India and Pakistan agreed to resolve all disputes, including the Kashmir issue, **bilaterally and peacefully**, excluding third-party intervention (e.g., UN or other countries).

- **Respect for Line of Control (LoC):** Both countries committed to respecting the **LoC in Jammu & Kashmir** established after the 1971 war, without attempting to alter it unilaterally.
- **Restoration of Diplomatic Relations:** The agreement aimed at **normalizing relations**—including diplomatic ties, communication, and people-to-people contact.
- **Withdrawal of Troops:** Both sides agreed to **withdraw their forces to pre-conflict positions** (except in Kashmir where the new LoC applies).
- **Framework for Future Engagement:** Shimla Agreement laid the foundation for **future India-Pakistan dialogues**, emphasizing peaceful coexistence, mutual respect for sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

AI Kiran initiative

- The Government of India has recently introduced the **AI Kiran** initiative to promote and empower **women's participation in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.
- **Objective:** To foster an inclusive and vibrant AI ecosystem that enables women to thrive as innovators, leaders, and agents of change.
- **Leadership:** The initiative is spearheaded by the **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA)** to the Government of India.
- **Key Focus Areas:** AI Kiran highlights the impactful work of **over 250 women** driving AI innovation in critical sectors like **education and healthcare**.
- **The KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement for Nurturing)** Scheme is a program from the Department of Science and Technology (DST) aimed at enhancing women's participation in science and technology (S&T) to achieve gender parity.

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)

- **Constitutional Status:** PRIs were granted **constitutional status by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**, which added **Part IX** and the **Eleventh Schedule** to the Constitution.
- **Three-Tier System:** The PRIs follow a **three-tier structure**—**Gram Panchayat** (village level), **Panchayat Samiti** (block level), and **Zila Parishad** (district level)—ensuring decentralized governance.
- **Reservation:** The amendment mandates **reservations for SCs, STs, and women (not less than 33%)** in all levels of Panchayats, aiming to promote inclusivity and grassroots representation.
- **Devolution of Powers:** The Eleventh Schedule lists **29 subjects** to be devolved to PRIs, including health, education, agriculture, and rural development, though actual devolution varies by state.
- **State Subject:** As **local governance is a State subject**, the powers, functions, and financial autonomy of PRIs differ across states, making **State Finance Commissions (SFCs)** crucial for their effective functioning.

70th Year of the Bandung Conference

- The Bandung Conference completed its 70th year, marking a pivotal moment in international diplomacy
- **Held in 1955 at Bandung, Indonesia:** The Bandung Conference took place from **April 18–24, 1955**, bringing together **29 Asian and African countries** newly freed from colonial rule.
- **Objective:** The primary aim was to **promote Afro-Asian solidarity**, oppose colonialism, and foster **economic and cultural cooperation** among developing nations.
- **Foundations of Non-Alignment:** The conference laid the **ideological groundwork for the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**, promoting neutrality in the Cold War and avoiding alignment with either the US or USSR.
- **India's Role:** India, under **Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru**, played a leading role, along with leaders like **Sukarno (Indonesia)**, **Gamal Abdel Nasser (Egypt)**, **Josip Tito (Yugoslavia)**, and **Zhou Enlai (China)**.
- **Bandung Principles:** The conference adopted **10 principles** emphasizing **sovereignty, non-intervention, peaceful coexistence**, and **respect for human rights**, influencing future global diplomacy.

I4C Now Under Anti-Money Laundering Law

- To strengthen the fight against **transnational cyber fraud** and enhance the tracking of **illicit financial flows**, the **Revenue Department (Ministry of Finance)** has brought the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** under the scope of the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002**, specifically invoking **Section 66**.
- Launched in **January 2020** by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, I4C aims to **tackle cybercrime in a coordinated and comprehensive manner** across India.
- **Key Objectives:** To prevent and detect cybercrimes, develop cyber forensic tools, maintain a national database of cyber offenders, and promote cybercrime awareness and capacity building.
- **In July 2024, I4C was made an attached office under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- I4C, headquartered in New Delhi, operates through seven key components including the NCTAU, cybercrime reporting portal (cybercrime.gov.in), research and innovation centre, and training centres for law enforcement.

Similipal Tiger Reserve

- The Odisha government has declared Similipal Tiger Reserve as the state's second national park, following Bhitarkanika, making it the 107th national park in India.

- **Location and Size:** Similipal Forest is located in the **Mayurbhanj district** of **Odisha**, covering an area of approximately **2,750 square kilometers**.
- **Wildlife and Biodiversity:** The forest is home to rich biodiversity, including **royal Bengal tigers, elephants, and the endangered Similipal White Tiger**, along with various species of flora and fauna.
- **Similipal Tiger Reserve:** Established in **1973**, it is a significant **tiger reserve** and one of the **core areas** of the **Project Tiger** initiative, aimed at tiger conservation in India.
- **Conservation Status:** Similipal has been designated as a **national park** in **2024**, making it Odisha's second national park after Bhitarkanika. It was previously a **sanctuary** (since 1973) before this upgrade.
- **Ecological Importance:** The region is part of the **Eastern Ghats** and serves as an important watershed, providing water to several rivers, including the **Salandi** and **Kharkai**. It plays a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance in the region.



TestCoach

Powered By **S CHAND**