

April - 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Sany India has launched the SKT105E, a fully electric dump truck, which will be manufactured domestically.
- ❖ The World Economic Forum has named Nykaa co-founder and Nykaa Fashion CEO Adwaita Nayar as a '2024 Young Global Leader'.
- ❖ Kerala Health department will soon come out with the detailed standard operating procedures (SOP) for the outbreak investigation and control of at least eight diseases.
- ❖ India's second-ever installation of artificial reefs (after Pondicherry) to boost marine life is being deployed near Worli Koliwada, Mumbai.
- ❖ The World's first 'Miss AI' beauty pageant was announced with 2 AI-generated judges' part of its panel.
- ❖ The 8 people of Indian origins including Ajay Banga, Alia Bhatt and Sakshi Malik, have secured spots on TIME magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2024.
- ❖ The genome of the Arabica species traced its origins to a natural mating between two other coffee species an estimated 610,000 to one million years ago in the forests of Ethiopia.
 - That makes this species older than our own species Homo sapiens, which arose in Africa about 300,000 years ago.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has launched India's first medical devices calibration facility "on wheels".
 - The facility has been developed by IIT Madras under its Anaivarukkum IITM (IITM for all) Initiatives.
- ❖ The 42nd Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) annual meet was held in Bengaluru.
 - This initiative aims to achieve debris-free space missions by all Indian space actors, governmental and non-governmental, by 2030.
- ❖ UN Chinese Language Day is observed annually on April 20 to pay tribute to Cangjie, a mythical figure who is presumed to have invented Chinese characters about 5,000 years ago.

- ❖ World Creativity and Innovation Day is observed on April 21 every year to raise awareness about the importance of creativity and innovation in solving global problems.

NATIONAL

Saksham App



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India

PWD 2.0 App is
Saksham-ECI

The Saksham app is available in a new design, layout, interface & features to ensure easy access for Persons with Disability (PWD).

The app is mindful of visual, hearing, and other disabilities

download

ASSISTANCE AT ONE CLICK

- Register your name
- Search your name
- Facilities at booth
- File your Complaint

Scan to download



- ❖ The Election Commission made arrangements to ensure that the Lok Sabha election is a disability-friendly exercise.
- ❖ The Saksham App, developed by the commission, provided various services from registering voters with disabilities to making wheelchairs available for them on election day.
- ❖ The app also provides voice assistance to voters with visual impairment and text-to-speech features for those with hearing impairment.

‘SPACE’ Platform

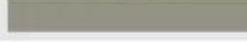
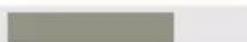
- ❖ A state-of-the-art Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (Space) was inaugurated recently.
- ❖ The SPACE will mainly be utilised for evaluation of complete sonar systems, allowing for quick deployment and easy recovery of scientific packages such as sensors and transducers.

- ❖ The Space will be suitable for survey, sampling, and data collection of air, surface, mid-water, and reservoir floor parameters by using the modern scientific instrumentation.
- ❖ It will consist of two distinct assemblages:
 - A platform which floats on the water surface, and
 - A submersible platform which can be lowered to any depth up to 100 m using winch systems.



ECONOMY

Pulses Imports 2023-24

Sharpest Rise Seen From Tanzania			Source: Commerce dept	
Pulse imports (In \$ million)				% change
	Apr-Jan 2022-23	Apr-Jan 2023-24		
Tanzania	104	281		170.2
Australia	196	490		150.0
Canada	290	587		102.4
Myanmar	533	724		35.8
Mozambique	257	216		-16.0

- ❖ India's pulses imports surged by 93% to \$3.7 billion, stabilizing prices amid retail inflation.

- ❖ Pulses have seen an annual inflation increase of 17% in March, up sharply from last year's 4.3% rise.
- ❖ The cost of dal soared nearly 19% in urban areas.
- ❖ 2023-24, pulses imports shot up 93% to \$3.7 billion.
- ❖ It was just \$2 billion in the previous year.
- ❖ Neighbouring Myanmar remains the top source of imports, accounting for nearly a fifth of shipments into the country.
- ❖ Tanzania's shipments soared 2.7 times to \$281 million during April-Jan.

Household debt Q3FY24



- ❖ India's household debt levels are reported to have reached a record high of 40 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by December 2023 (Q3FY24).
- ❖ Net financial savings plummeted to approximately 5 per cent of GDP.
- ❖ Throughout the first nine months of the previous year, households' gross financial savings saw a slight increase to 10.8 per cent of GDP from 10.5 per cent in the corresponding period of 2022-23.
- ❖ However, financial liabilities also escalated proportionally to 5.8 per cent of GDP from 5.5 per cent of GDP.
- ❖ The households' physical savings reached a ten-year peak in 2022-23, their total savings plummeted to a six-year low of 18.4 per cent of GDP.

Advance Pricing Agreements

- ❖ The Central Board of Direct Taxes has signed record number of 125 advance pricing agreements (APAs) in the financial year 2023-24.
- ❖ This includes 86 Unilateral APAs (UAPAs) and 39 Bilateral APAs (BAPAs).

- ❖ The APA Scheme endeavours to provide certainty to taxpayers in the domain of transfer pricing by specifying the methods of pricing.
- ❖ It is also determining the arm's length price of international transactions in advance for a maximum of five future years.

What are APAs

Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) are agreements made in advance between tax payer and tax authorities about the pricing of the related party transactions of the taxpayer for a specific period of time. These related party transactions, called transfer pricing, are source of much tax related dispute.

WHAT IS THE KEY BENEFIT?
APAs give taxpayers certainty about their transfer prices for their related party transactions, helping cut litigation and trouble.

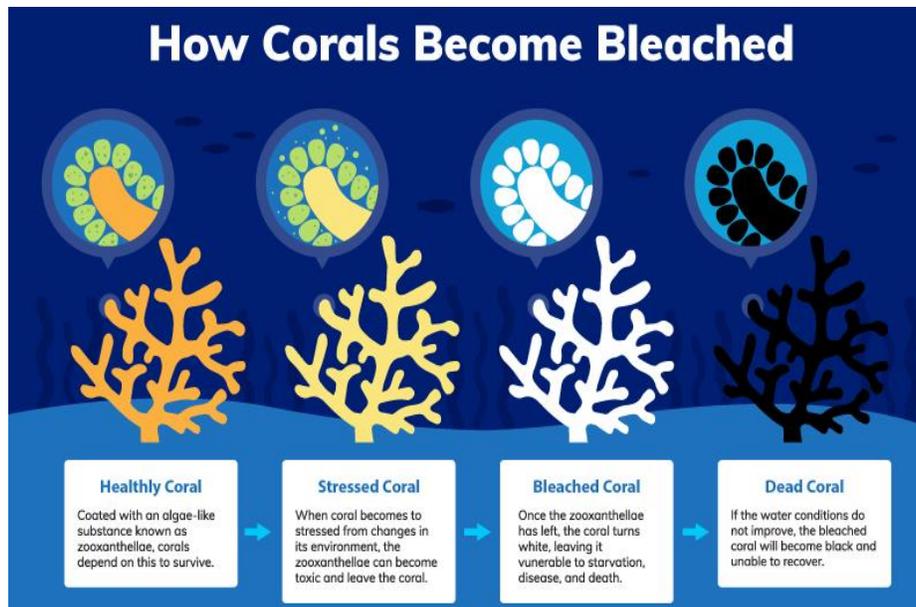
HOW IS THE AGREEMENT REACHED?
The company seeking advance pricing agreements submits its detailed information about costs and margins to the tax authorities. Based on the information submitted and a comparison with what a similar arms length transaction would cost, tax authorities give their opinion.

WHAT ARE THE SAFEGUARDS NEEDED?

The tax authorities maintain the confidentiality of the information provided or companies will not come forward to seek APA.	The assumptions in the APAs should be broad-based to allow for business peculiarities.	There should not be any roll back of any of the provisions as firms will act on the basis of APAs for years it is entered into
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ENVIRONMENT

4th global mass coral bleaching event

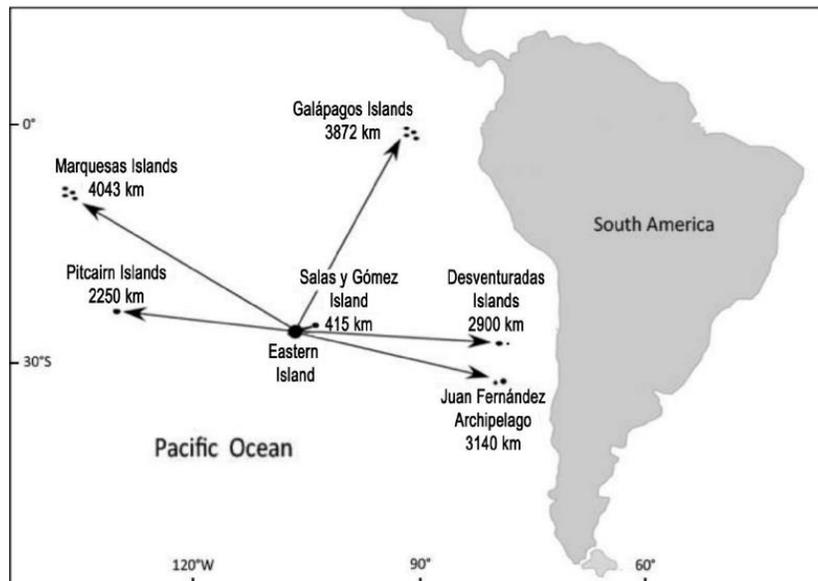


- ❖ The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coral Reef Watch (CRW) of US and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) have confirmed the fourth global mass coral bleaching event in 2023-2024.

- ❖ This is the second such event in the last 10 years and comes at a time when global oceans have also recorded unprecedented heat in 2023 and 2024.
- ❖ The earlier event had lasted from 2014 to 2017.
- ❖ Towards the end of 2023, over 90 per cent of the ocean had experienced heatwave conditions at some point during the year.
- ❖ The most recent climate models suggest that bleaching events may become an annual occurrence for most reefs somewhere around 2040-2050.

Salas y Gomez

- ❖ An international team of scientists discovered 160 species when exploring 10 sea mounts and two islands on the 2,900-kilometre-long ocean ridge Salas y Gómez.
- ❖ They thought that at least 50 of those species are new to science.
- ❖ They also potentially set a record for sighting the deepest-known photosynthesis-dependent animal — *Leptoseria* or the wrinkle coral.
- ❖ The Salas y Gómez Ridge is one of the many global locations under consideration for being designated as high seas marine protected area upon the ratification of the UN High Seas Treaty.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Liver Day 2024 - April 19

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the importance of a healthy liver and the prevalence of liver disease worldwide.

- ❖ In India, liver diseases rank among the top ten causes of death, according to the WHO.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Be Vigilant, Get Regular Liver Check-Ups and Prevent Fatty Liver Diseases".

World Liver Day 19 April

2024 Theme
Be Vigilant, Get Regular Liver Check-Ups & Prevent Fatty Liver Diseases

World Liver Day is a global healthcare event commemorated every year on the **19th of April** with the intent to raise awareness about liver disease in the general public. Globally about 20 lakh people die yearly due to liver diseases. In comparison to 2005, there will be an increase of 35% in new cases annually by 2030.

A global call to empower global communities with vital knowledge about liver health, its vulnerabilities to diseases, and practical measures for safeguarding this crucial organ's well-being.

World Liver Day 19 April

National Civil Service Day 2024 - April 21

As of 2010, the no. of bureaucrats number less than **50,000**

India's present civil service was formed after **1947**

April 21 is observed as **Civil Service Day**

INDIA'S BABUDOM

Civil services examination is the toughest examination in India with success rate of 0.1-0.3% with more than **9 lakh applicants**

It was **Sardar Patel's vision** that the civil service should strengthen cohesion & national unity

NR Pillai was the first cabinet secretary, highest ranking civil servant; he served from 1950 to 1953

- ❖ The day is marked to celebrate the exemplary work done by our civil servants, and as an opportunity for them to recommit themselves to the cause of citizens.



- ❖ On this day in 1947, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, then Home Minister of Independent India addressed the probationary officers.
- ❖ During his speech he referred to civil servants as the 'steel frame of India'.

