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4th APRIL 2024

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- ❖ TRAI issued a Consultation Paper on inputs for formulation of National Broad casting Policy-2024.
- ❖ World Bank projected India's economic growth to be 6.6% for FY25.
- ❖ INSA and NCGG are jointly organizing the LEADS Programme-2024 from 1-7 April 2024.
- ❖ E-commerce firms to ensure proper classification for health, energy drinks: FSSAI
- ❖ In the fiscal year 2023-2024, India for the first time achieved the production of one billion tons of coal and lignite.

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A 7.4 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE HIT TAIWAN, AND MANY BUILDINGS COLLAPSED

- On April 3, a powerful earthquake struck Taiwan, causing buildings to collapse and affecting the entire island.
- As per Taiwan's earthquake monitoring agency, the earthquake's magnitude was 7.2, while the US Geological Survey estimated its intensity at 7.5.
- Following the earthquake, authorities in Taiwan, Japan, and the Philippines have issued tsunami warnings and evacuation advisories for citizens in coastal areas.
- The head of Taipei's seismology center told AFP the earthquake was the most powerful in 25 years.
- Earlier in September 1999, a devastating earthquake of magnitude 7.6 had killed 2,400 people.



➤ **Earthquake:**

- Earthquake generally occurs due to the movement of tectonic plates.
- Shallow earthquakes are generally more devastating because they carry more energy when they come out on the surface.
- Deeper earthquakes are less devastating, as they lose much of their energy by the time they come to the surface.
- Western Himalayas is one of the most dangerous seismic zones in the world.

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TRAI ISSUED A CONSULTATION PAPER ON INPUTS FOR FORMULATION OF NATIONAL BROADCASTING

CASTING POLICY-2024.

- The broadcasting industry is a sunrise industry, according to the Ministry of Communications.
- It has enormous potential to support the expansion of the Indian economy.
- With the goal of positioning India as a global hub for content, the paper addresses important concerns that are frequently present in the broadcasting industry.
- It also covers topics including bolstering public service broadcasting, problems with different media and entertainment sectors, preventing piracy, and guaranteeing content security.



- Stakeholder feedback on the Consultation Paper on Inputs for Formulation of National Broadcasting Policy-2024 is being sought by TRAI by April 30th.
- TRAI has also asked for opinions on what steps should be taken to give "TV Dark Homes" access to reasonably priced TV services.
- In the country, there are about 100 million "TV Dark Homes". There are currently 182 million households with televisions.
- Additionally, TRAI has requested recommendations for boosting domestic production of broadcasting equipment and lowering dependency on imported versions.
- Additionally, opinions on the regulatory strategy and policy that should be used for online gaming have also been sought.
- National Broadcasting Policy will be issued by the Information & Broadcasting Ministry.

WORLD BANK PROJECTED INDIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH TO BE 6.6% FOR FY25.

- World Bank increased India's economic growth projection by 20 basis points to 6.6 per cent for FY25.
- The growth projection has been increased due to upward revisions to investment growth.
- As per the World Bank, India's FY24 growth rate will be 7.5%, which is lower than the National Statistical Office estimate of 7.6%.
- The World Bank's earlier estimate for India's FY24 growth was 6.3%.
- Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) real GDP growth rate projection for FY24 is 7.3%.



- The report highlighted that India's growth pickup due to the public sector whereas private investment continues to remain weak.
- As per the latest South Asia Development Update, South Asia is expected to remain the fastest-growing region in the world for the next two years.
- Pakistan's economy is expected to grow by 2.3% in FY25 while Bangladesh will grow by 5.7% in FY25.
- In Sri Lanka, output growth is expected to strengthen to 2.5% in 2025,
- The fiscal deficit and government debt are projected to decline over the medium term.

INSA AND NCGG ARE JOINTLY ORGANIZING THE LEADS PROGRAMME-2024 FROM 1-7 APRIL 2024



- The Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) are jointly organizing the 2nd INSA-NCGG Leadership Development Program in Science and Technology (LEADS) in New Delhi.
- Its main aim is to nurture and empower future leaders in the field of science and technology.
- Professors/ scientists selected from various institutions, laboratories/ Universities of different organizations are taking part in this programme.
- This programme will provide the required leadership skills to the participants for excellence in leadership, administration, team building and infrastructure development.

- The National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) is an institution for governance-related training, research, and consultancy. Its main aim is to enhance the capabilities of individuals and organizations involved in governance and public administration.
- The Indian National Science Academy (INSA) is an institution that promotes and recognizes excellence in scientific research.

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E-COMMERCE FIRMS TO ENSURE PROPER CLASSIFICATION FOR HEALTH, ENERGY DRINKS: FSSAI

- As per the FSSAI directives, e-commerce platforms have to accurately classify products listed as health and energy drinks on their websites.
- FSSAI said that the main aim of this step is to enhance clarity and transparency about the nature and functional benefits of these products.
- It will help consumers make decisions and avoid misinformation.
- The advisory was issued after FSSAI noticed that products like dairy-based beverage mixes, cereal-based beverage mixes, or malt-based beverages were inaccurately categorized as 'health drinks' or 'energy drinks' on e-commerce sites.

**FSSAI License:
Guidelines
for
Health Drinks**

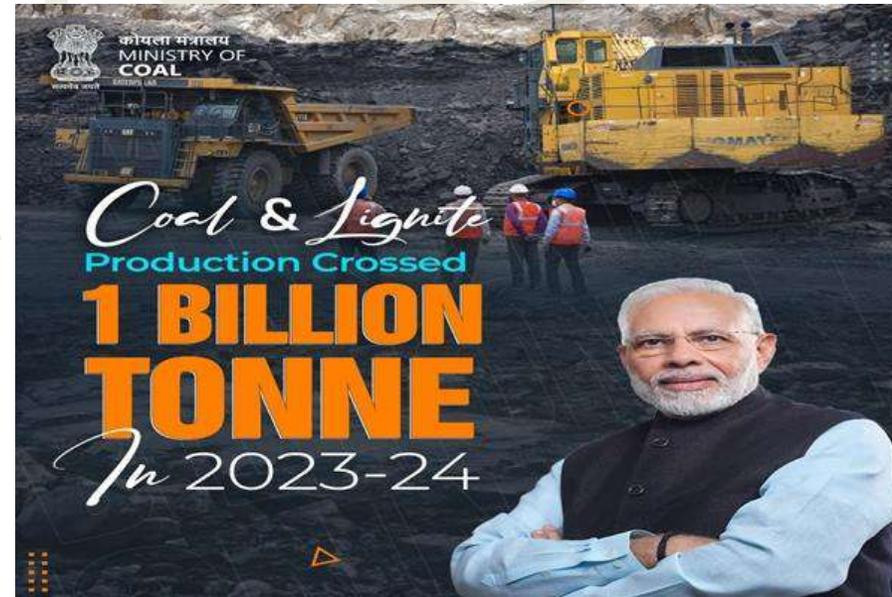


- FSSAI has advised all e-commerce food business operators to rectify this misclassification by removing or de-linking such drinks or beverages from the category of 'health drinks' or 'energy drinks'.
- FSSAI also clarified that the term 'health drink' lacks a definition or standardization under the FSS Act 2006.
- The term 'energy' drinks can only be used for products officially licensed under the Food Category System (FCS) codes 14.1.4.1 and 14.1.4.2.

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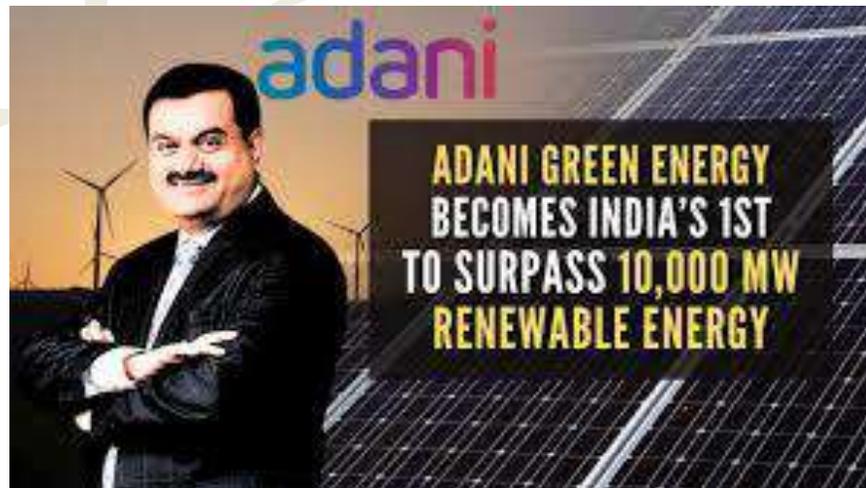
IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2023–2024, INDIA FOR THE FIRST TIME ACHIEVED THE PRODUCTION OF ONE BILLION TONS OF COAL AND LIGNITE.

- In the previous fiscal year 2022–2023, India produced a total of 937 million tonnes (MT) of coal and lignite.
- Over the past ten years, India's production has increased by 70%.
- India has fixed the target to stop importing coal by 2025–2026.
- When comparing this fiscal year to the previous financial year, the percentage of imported coal used for blending has decreased.
- In FY24, over 22.20 million tonnes of coal were imported for blending.
- It was 30.80 million tonnes in 2022–2023 fiscal year.



THE FIRST INDIAN COMPANY WITH A 10K MW RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY IS ADANI GREEN

- At the Khavda solar park in Gujarat, Adani Green Energy Ltd announced that 2,000 MW of solar capacity has been operationalised.
- It is now the first company in India with a capacity for more than 10,000 MW of renewable energy.
- The company now has the largest operating portfolio in India, with 10,934 MW.
- In FY24, 2,848 MW of new renewable energy capacity was added.
- 7,393 MW of solar, 1,401 MW of wind, and 2,140 MW of wind-solar hybrid capacity is included in its operational portfolio.
- It is aiming for 45 GW renewable energy by 2030.
- In Khavda, the Adani Group is constructing the biggest renewable energy facility in the world.
- The Khavda facility, which occupies 538 square kilometers, is five times the size of Paris. It is almost as large as Mumbai



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ASTROPHYSICS (IIA) CELEBRATED 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF KODAIKANAL SOLAR OBSERVATORY (KSO) ON 1 APRIL 2024.

- KSO has a digital repository of 1.2 lakh digitized solar images recorded every day since the start of the 20th century.
- The KSO's 125th anniversary logo for the anniversary celebrations was unveiled by A.S. Kiran Kumar, former Chairman of ISRO and Chairperson of the Governing Council of IIA.
- KSO was established on 1 April 1899 by the British. It has one of the longest continuous daily records of the Sun in the world.
- Presently, KSO functions as a field station under the Indian Institute of Astrophysics.
- The Indian Institute of Astrophysics is an autonomous institution under the Department of Science and Technology.
- Evershed Effect is an effect that is observed in sunspots because of the radial flow of gas. It was discovered at the KSO in 1909.
- Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) also celebrates 1st April as its Foundation Day.
- It was constituted under the Department of Science & Technology in 1971.



SANTOSH KUMAR JHA HAS BECOME NEW CMD OF KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION

- Santosh Kumar Jha has taken charge as its new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) from 1 April.
- He is an Indian Railway Traffic Services (IRTS) officer of 1992 batch.
- He was the Director (Operations and Commercial) with Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL).
- KRCL is a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways. It operates Konkan Railway.
- It is headquartered at CBD Belapur in Navi Mumbai. It serves Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka.



MHA CANCELLED THE FCRA REGISTRATION OF FIVE NGOS FOR VIOLATING LAWS

- For violating provisions of the **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act**, the government has cancelled the registration of five NGOs.
- The registrations of the CNI Synodical Board of Social Service, the Voluntary Health Association of India, the Indo-Global Social Service
- Society, the Church's Auxiliary for Social Action, and the Evangelical Fellowship of India have been cancelled.
- After the cancellation of registration, these NGOs will not remain eligible to accept foreign contributions or utilize the existing available funds.
- The government has cancelled the FCRA registration of the NGOs for allegedly utilising funds for works that were not in their mandate..



- As of July 17, 2023, there were 16301 NGOs with valid FCRA licences.
- In the last five years, the government has cancelled the FCRA licences of more than 6,600 NGOs
- **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act:**
- It is an act to regulate the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contributions by NGOs.
- The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020, has made it mandatory for NGOs to provide Aadhar numbers.
- In 2022, the government gave certain relaxations to NGOs, such as allowing relatives to send more money under the FCRA.

RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN IMPOSED ON PILGRIMS VISITING THE AHOBILAM SHRINE

- The Forest Department and Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Devasthanam (SLNSD) have imposed certain restrictions on visitors visiting the Ahobilam shrine.
- The restrictions have been imposed due to intense heatwaves that can impact the movement of wild animals.
- For the safety of animals, the government has banned all forms of plastic such as sachets, water cups, tea cups and bottles.
- Overnight stays in the region have been prohibited due to the movement of nocturnal animals.
- **Ahobilam Shrine:**
- Ahobilam shrine is composed of nine different temples, situated within the Nallamala forest.
- It is located in Andhra Pradesh and is the centre of worship of Narasimha.
- The shrine of the Ahobilam temple is situated on the top and is referred to as Upper Ahobilam and down below is called Lower Ahobilam



INDIAN GOVERNMENT REJECTED 'SENSELESS ATTEMPTS' BY CHINA TO RENAME PLACES IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

- The Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs released the fourth list of standardised geographical names in Zangnan (the Chinese name for Arunachal Pradesh).
- China has released the names of 30 more places in Arunachal Pradesh.
- In April 2023, India reacted sharply when China released the third list of names of 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The central government asserted that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India.
- China claims the entire Arunachal Pradesh as “South Tibet”. It is called “Zangnan” in the Chinese language.



- China's main interest is in the district of Tawang, which is in the north-western region of Arunachal and borders Bhutan and Tibet
- Tawang is a critical point in the corridor between Tibet and Brahmaputra Valley.
- Tawang Ganden Namgyal Lhatse (Tawang Monastery) is the world's second-largest monastery of Tibetan Buddhism.
- China claimed that this monastery in Tawang district proved that the district was part of Tibet.
- The McMahon Line separates Tibet from India in the eastern sector and China.

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BINDYARANI DEVI WINS BRONZE MEDAL AT THE WEIGHTLIFTING WORLD CUP.

- Indian weightlifter Bindyarani Devi clinched the bronze medal in the women's 55kg event at the IWF World Cup.
- She total lifted 196kg (83kg+113kg) to claim the bronze medal.
- Bindyarani Devi's total weight lift was 38kg less than North Korea's Kang Hyon Gyong, who won the gold medal for her effort of 234kg (103kg+131kg).
- Romania's Cambei Mihaela-Valentina won the silver medal by lifting a total of 201kg (91kg+110kg).
- Bindyarani also bagged the silver medal in the clean and jerk section by lifting 113kg.
- In continental, World Cup, and World Championship competitions, medals are awarded separately for snatch, clean and jerk, and total lift.



UNION HEALTH MINISTRY HAS LAUNCHED myCGHS IOS APP

- The myCGHS app for the iOS ecosystem of devices has been released by Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) app is intended to improve beneficiaries' access to Electronic Health Records, data, and resources.
- The National Informatics Centre (NIC) Himachal Pradesh and the NIC Health Team's technical teams are responsible for developing the app.
- It's a handy smartphone app with features designed to improve accessibility and information for CGHS participants.
- Its security features, which include mPIN functionality and two-factor authentication, guarantee the integrity and confidentiality of user data.

- The myCGHS app facilitates services given in the following table.

Booking and cancellation of online appointments	Downloading CGHS card and index card
Accessing lab reports from CGHS labs	Checking medicine history
Checking medical reimbursement claim status	Accessing referral details
Locating nearby wellness centers	Staying updated with news and highlights
Locating nearby empaneled hospitals, labs and dental units	Accessing contact details of wellness centers and offices

- The myCGHS app can now be downloaded for free on the iOS and Android operating system.

GOVERNMENT WAIVES DUTY ON EXPORT OF 1,000 TONNES OF KALANAMAK RICE

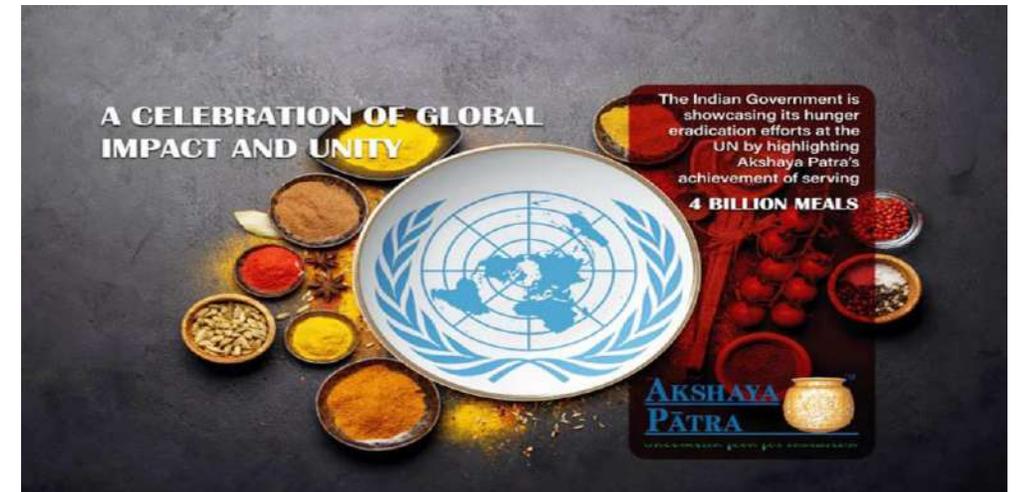
- The government of India has allowed the export of up to 1,000 tonnes of Kalanamak rice from India. Until now the export of the Kalanamak was banned.
- The government of India also designated six customs stations through which the Kalanamak rice can be exported from India.
- In 2021-22, India exported around 21 tonnes of kalanamak rice before its export was banned by the government.
- The Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the Union Ministry of Commerce has notified the following customs stations through which the Kalanamak rice can be exported.
- They are Varanasi Air Cargo, JNCH in Maharashtra, CH in Kandla and land customs stations in Barhni, Sonauli and Nepalgunj Road.
- Sant Kabirnagar, Shravasti and Siddharthnagar are protected through Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The Kalanamak rice got a GI tag in 2013.



- The Director ,Agriculture Marketing and Foreign Trade, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, has been designated as the certifying authority for the quality and quantity of kalanamak rice to be exported.
- Kalanamak is a non-basmati scented rice variety grown primarily in the Terai region of Uttar Pradesh. The Kalanamak rice is also called Lord Buddha's gift. It is said that Lord Buddha, when he visited the Sravasti region after enlightenment, gifted this variety of rice to the people.
- The rice is called kalanamak due to its husk being black. The rice can grow in usar soil, which has a salt content. Hence the word namak which signifies this quality.
- The Kalanamak is mainly grown in the Terai belt of Uttar Pradesh bordering Nepal.
- The Kalanamak rice variety grown in 11 districts of UP – Bahraich, Balrampur, Basti, Deoria, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Maharajganj,

AKSHAYA PATRA EARNS PM MODI'S PRAISE AT UN FOR COMPLETING '4 BILLION MEALS' UNDER CENTRE'S SCHEME

- On April 2, 2024, Akshaya Patra Foundation (APF) achieved the historic feat of serving four billion thalis. This achievement of Akshaya Patra Foundation was also celebrated in the United Nations.
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ruchira Kamboj organized a special event at the UN Headquarters on 2 April 2024.
- The theme of this event organized at the United Nations was '**Achievements in Food Security: India's Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals**'.
- The event showcased India's innovative strategies, policies and achievements towards achieving food security and nutrition.
- The following famous personalities of the country participated in the program organized by APF on 2 April 2024.
- Infosys founding member NR Narayana Murthy was present at the event.
- Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi.
- Madhu Pandit Das, President of Indian social organization APF.



➤ **About Akshaya Patra Foundation (APF):**

- Akshaya Patra Foundation was established in the year 2000. It started with feeding 1,500 children from five schools in Bengaluru.
- Akshaya Patra Foundation is an India-based NGO.
- The headquarters of this foundation is in Bengaluru.
- The Foundation implements the Midday Meal Scheme under the PM Poshan Abhiyaan.
- Seeks to eliminate hunger among children in government and government-aided schools.
- .The Foundation aims to combat malnutrition through its feeding program and support the right to education of socio-economically disadvantaged children.
- Akshaya Patra is currently the world's largest non-profit operation. The Midday Meal Program provides nutritious meals to government
- school children in more than 22,367 schools spread across 14 states and 2 union territories across India.