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1. India ranks 38th in World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) (April 24, 2023)

India secured **38th rank in the Logistics Performance Index (LPI)** released in 2023 by the **World Bank**.

An Overview of the News

- India's improvement in ranking can be attributed to its **significant investments in both hard and soft infrastructure**, as well as technology.
- India's current ranking shows a **significant improvement from its 44th rank in 2018 and its 54th rank in 2014**.
- The **Logistics Performance Index ranks 139 countries** based on factors such as the efficiency of customs clearance processes, the quality of transportation infrastructure and the ease of arranging shipments.
- **Singapore and Finland** have been identified as the most efficient and **highest ranked countries** in terms of logistics performance as per LPI 2023.

About the World Bank

- It was **established in 1944** and is headquartered in **Washington, DC**.
- Its **primary goal is to reduce poverty in developing countries** by providing financial assistance, technical expertise, and other resources to support development projects.
- The World Bank operates through two main institutions: the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA)**.
- The IBRD provides loans to **middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries**, while the IDA provides grants and loans to the poorest countries.
- The World Bank also works closely with other international organisations such as the **United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, and regional development banks to coordinate development** efforts and promote economic growth.

Founders - **John Maynard Keynes, Harry Dexter White**

President - **David Malpass**

2. Hurun's Global Unicorn Index 2023 (April 21, 2023)

Hurun's Global Unicorn Index 2023 released on 18th April.

India in the report

- According to the report **India continues to be the world's third-largest country** with the highest number of unicorns, following the **US and China**.
- **Ed-tech BYJU'S** worth \$22 billion **topped the list of Indian Unicorns**, followed by on-demand delivery start-up **Swiggy** and fantasy sports platform **travel-stay finder Dream11** (\$8 billion each).
- BYJU'S is the only Indian Unicorn among the list of the top **10 biggest rises in valuation since pre-Covid**.
- As per reports the number of Indian unicorns established outside India is more than the number of unicorns based within India.
- **India has a total of 138 unicorns**, out of which 70 were established by Indian co-founders but have their headquarters located outside India, while 68 are based in India.

Global Status

- The **United States of America topped the index** with 666 unicorns, up 179 compared to 2022, followed by **China in 2nd position** with 316 unicorns (up 15).
- In terms of unicorn investors, **Sequoia Capital, Tiger Global Management, and SoftBank** are the top three, having invested in 238, 179, and 168 unicorn startups, respectively.

Top 5 countries with most Unicorns

1. USA (666)
2. China (316)
3. India (68)
4. UK (49)
5. Germany (36)

Top 5 Cities with Most Unicorns

1. San Francisco (USA) - 181
2. New York (USA) - 126
3. Beijing (China) - 79
4. Shanghai (China) - 66
5. London (UK) - 42

3. Chennai ranks among top 5 in digital payment transactions (April 20, 2023)

Chennai ranks among top 5 in digital payment transactions

Chennai has emerged as one of the top **digital payment transaction cities** in the country in 2022, according to a report by payment services firm **Worldline India**.

An overview of the news

- In terms of volume, according to Worldline India, **Chennai has done 14.3 million transactions with a value of USD 35.5 billion**. It is at **number five**.
- **Bengaluru tops with 29 million transactions** worth USD 65 billion, followed by **New Delhi** 19.6 million transactions worth USD 50 billion, **Mumbai** (18.7 million transactions worth USD 49.5 billion), **Pune** (15 million transactions worth USD 32.8 billion).
- In 2022, frequently visited physical merchant categories like grocery stores, restaurants, clothing and apparel, pharmacy, household appliances together accounted for **over 43 per cent in terms of volume and about 40 per cent in terms of value**, across the country.
- **E-commerce space, gaming, utility and financial services contributed to over 85 per cent** of transactions and **25 per cent in terms of value**.
- Education, travel and hospitality sector accounted for **15 per cent in volume and 75 per cent in terms of value**.

What is a Digital Payment System?

- A digital payment is sometimes called an **electronic payment**.
- It is the transfer of value from one payment account to another using a digital device such as a **mobile phone, POS (Point of Sales) or computer**.

Modes of Digital Payments

- Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
- Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)
- UPI 123PAY
- UPI Lite
- Cards (RuPay Debit Cards)
- Immediate Payment Services (IMPS)
- Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS)

4. India overtakes China to become the world's most populous country (April 19, 2023)

India has overtaken China as the **world's most populous country**, according to **United Nations data released on April 19**.

An overview of the news

- According to UN data **India's population is 142.86 crore** while **China's population is 142.57 crores**.
- According to a new report by the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**, **25 per cent of India's population is between the age group of 0-14 years**.
- The population between the age group of **10-19 years is 18 percent**
- The population in the age group of **10-24 years is 26 percent**.
- The population in the age group of **15-64 years is 68 percent** and the population **above 65 years is 7 percent**.
- According to experts, the **demographics of India differ from state to state**.
- **Kerala and Punjab** have a **large elderly population**, while **Bihar and Uttar Pradesh** have a **large youth population**.
- According to several studies conducted by various agencies, India's population is expected to grow for about three decades before reaching a peak of **165 crores**. After that it will start declining.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- A **subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly** and works as a sexual and reproductive health agency.
- Established - **in 1967**.
- In 1987, it was officially renamed the **United Nations Population Fund**.
- The original abbreviation, '**UNFPA**' for the **United Nations Fund for Population Activities** was retained.
- Report - **State of World Population Report**.

5. India ranked 77th in the world's 'Most Criminal Countries' ranking (April 13, 2023)

World of Statistics released the ranking of the world's "**most criminal countries**" in which **India is ranked 77th**, while the **US is at 55th** and the **UK at 65th**.

An Overview of the News

- As per the ranking, **Venezuela has been ranked first** as the most criminal country, followed by **Papua New Guinea in second place** and **South Africa in third place**.
- **Turkey, Germany and Japan** are among the least criminal countries, **ranked 92nd, 100th and 135th** respectively.
- According to this report, **Afghanistan ranks fourth with a crime rate of more than 76 crimes per 100,000 people**.

- The overall crime rate is calculated by dividing the total number of reported crimes by the total population and multiplying by 100,000.

Countries with the ten highest crime rates

- **Venezuela** (83.76)
- **Papua New Guinea** (80.79)
- **South Africa** (76.86)
- **Afghanistan** (76.31)
- **Honduras** (74.54)
- **Trinidad and Tobago** (71.63)
- **Guyana** (68.74)
- **El Salvador** (67.79)
- **Brazil** (67.49)
- **Jamaica** (67.42)

6. Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport enters the busiest airports club, ranks 9 in world (April 7, 2023)

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport enters the busiest airports club, ranks 9 in world

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) ranks ninth in the list of **top ten busiest airports in the world**, according to data from the **Airports Council International (ACI)**.

An overview of the news

- **For the first time, an Indian airport has made it to the list of top ten airports in terms of traffic.**
- As per ACI report, **Delhi airport** is expected to handle more than **5.94 crore passengers in 2022.**
- As a result of this achievement, **IGIA has jumped from 17th position in pre-Covid 2019 to 9th position**, according to ACI data.
- In terms of traffic, **five of the top ten airports are from the US.**
- Apart from India, **Dubai is the only other airport in Asia in the list.**
- **No Chinese airport made it to the list** considering the travel restrictions due to the Covid situation in the country.
- **Mumbai is India's second busiest airport.**

Top 10 busiest airports in the world in 2022

1. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (93.7 million passengers)
2. Dallas Fort Worth Airport (73.4 million passengers)
3. Denver Airport (69.3 million passengers)

4. Chicago O'Hare Airport (68.3 million passengers)
5. Dubai Airport (66.1 million passengers)
6. Los Angeles Airport
7. Istanbul Airport (64.3 million passengers)
8. Heathrow Airport in London
9. IGI Airport in Delhi
10. Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport

7. World Energy Transitions Outlook report - 2023 (April 7, 2023)

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Recently, the **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)** released the **World Energy Transitions Outlook report-2023**.

Highlights of the report

- The global energy transition is still **not on track and well short of the 1.5°C pathway**.
- To **survive 1.5°C**, deployment levels must increase from **3,000 gigawatts (GW)** at present to more than **10,000 GW in 2030, averaging 1,000 GW annually**.
- Equally, more investment towards **countries requires public sector intervention**.
- Global investment in energy transformation technologies to reach a new record of **\$1.3 trillion in 2022**.
- Annual investments must more than quadruple to more than **\$5 trillion to stay on the 1.5°C path**.
- **By 2030**, cumulative investment should be **US\$44 trillion**, with transition technologies representing **80 percent of total investment, or \$35 trillion**.
- Current pledges and plans fall well short of IRENA's **1.5°C pathway and would result in an emissions gap of 16 gigatonnes (Gt) in 2050**.

About International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

- It is an **intergovernmental organisation**.
- Founded - **in Bonn, Germany on 26 January 2009**.
- Headquarter - **Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**.
- Member Countries - **167 and the European Union**.
- India became a Member - **In 2009 as 77th Founding Member**.

- Purpose - **To support countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future.**
- **future.**

8. Mukesh Ambani becomes richest sports owner in Forbes Billionaire 2023 list (April 6, 2023)

Mukesh Ambani was named the richest sports owner

Mukesh Ambani was named the richest sports owner in the **Forbes Billionaires 2023 list** and according to the list, he has a **net worth of \$83.4 billion**, surpassing **Los Angeles Clippers owner Steve Ballmer** who has a **net worth of \$80.7 billion**.

An Overview of the News

- **Despite a 3% decline in Reliance Industries' share price** over the past year, Ambani's net worth has still grown, reflecting the strength and diversity of his business interests.
- Mukesh Ambani is the **world's richest sports owner** as of 10 March 2023.
- Ambani-owned Reliance Industries has been expanding its presence in the sports industry in recent years.
- The company bought a franchise in the inaugural Women's Premier League and **owns cricket teams in South Africa and the United Arab Emirates**.

5 richest sports team owners

1. **Mukesh Ambani:** With a net worth of \$83.4 billion, Mukesh Ambani is the owner of the world's richest sports team. He is a citizen of India and is the owner of the Mumbai Indians, a cricket team that competes in the Indian Premier League.
2. **Steve Ballmer:** The former CEO of Microsoft, Steve Ballmer is an American citizen who owns the Los Angeles Clippers, a professional basketball team. His net worth has been estimated at \$80.7 billion.
3. **Rob Walton:** Heir to the Walmart fortune, Rob Walton is an American citizen who owns the Denver Broncos, a professional football team. His net worth has been estimated at \$57.6 billion.
4. **François Pinault and Family:** François Pinault is a French billionaire who owns Stade Rennais F.C., a professional football team in France. are the owners of. His net worth has been estimated at \$40.1 billion.
5. **Mark Mateschitz:** is an Austrian businessman who owns several sports teams, including professional football and Formula One racing teams, the New York Red Bulls and Red Bull Racing, respectively. He is also the owner of the German professional football team RB Leipzig. His net worth has been estimated at \$34.7 billion.

9. India Justice Report 2022 : Karnataka tops states, UTs in providing access to justice (April 5, 2023)

India Justice Report 2022

According to the **India Justice Report 2022** released in New Delhi on April 4, **Karnataka tops the list** of states and Union Territories in providing access to justice.

Parameters - This study relies on overall statistics from four pillars of justice delivery:

- Police
- Judiciary
- Prisons
- Legal aid

Highlights of the report

Shortage of Judges

- According to the report, as of **December 2022**, the **high courts were functioning with only 778 judges** as against the **sanctioned strength of 1,108**.
- The **subordinate courts** were functioning with **19,288 judges** as against the **sanctioned strength of 24,631 judges**.

Case Clearance Rate (CCR)

- As per reports, the **High Courts are settling more cases than the subordinate courts**.
- Between 2018-19 and 2022, the national average increased by **six percentage points (88.5% to 94.6%)** in **high courts**, but decreased by **3.6 points (93% to 89.4%)** in **subordinate courts**.
- The **High Courts of Kerala and Odisha have the highest case disposal rates** - 156% and 131%, respectively - while the **High Courts of Rajasthan (65%) and Bombay (72%)** have the lowest, respectively.

Increasing Pendency

- The number of cases per judgment has been **relatively stable** over the past five years in most states.
- At the High Court level, cases are **pending for an average of 11.34 years in Uttar Pradesh**, while West Bengal has a delay of 9.9 years. **Tripura has the lowest average (1 year), Sikkim (1.9 years) and Meghalaya (2.1 years)**.

Performance of States

- **Karnataka ranks first among 18 large and medium-sized states** with a population of over one crore in terms of delivery of justice, which includes police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid.

- **Tamil Nadu is second and Telangana is third. Uttar Pradesh is at the 18th position**, which is at the bottom.
- Among small states, **Sikkim topped the list of seven small states** with less than one crore population, followed by **Arunachal Pradesh. Goa** is at the bottom, at seventh position.

Court Hall

- Nationwide, the number of courts appears to be sufficient to accommodate the actual number of judges.
- But as per reports if all the sanctioned posts are filled, the court hall will become an issue.

About India Justice Report

- **Tata Trusts launched the India Justice Report (IJR) in 2019.**
- This is the **third edition**.
- Center for Social Justice, Common Cause, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Daksh, TISS-Prayas, Vidhi Institute for Law Policy, and How India Lives, data partner of IJR, are among its partners.

10. 26 % of world's population does not have safe drinking water: UNESCO report (March 24, 2023)

26 % of world's population does not have safe drinking water: UNESCO report

According to a report published by **UNESCO at the United Nations 2023** Water Conference in New York, **26 percent of the world's population does not have access to safe drinking water.**

An overview of the news

- As per the report, **46 per cent of the population does not have access to safely managed sanitation.**
- According to the report, **two to three billion people** experience **water scarcity for at least one month per year**, which poses serious risks to livelihoods, especially **food security and access to electricity.**
- The global urban population facing water scarcity will double from **930 million in 2016 to 1.7 to 2.4 billion in 2050.**
- The report states that the increasing incidence of extreme and prolonged drought is affecting **ecosystems, causing severe consequences for plant and animal life.**

- There is an urgent need to establish strong international mechanisms to prevent the
- global water crisis from spiraling out of control.

UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization)

- It is a specialized agency of the **United Nations**.
- It was established on **16 November 1945**.
- Headquarters: **Paris, France**
- UNESCO members - **193 countries**
- UNESCO Head - **Audrey Azoulay**