




27 March 2024

National and International News

<p><b>India Employment Report 2024</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>International Labour Organisation (ILO)</b> recently released the <b>India Employment Report 2024</b>, shedding light on the country's employment landscape.</li> <li>• The report highlights <b>grim employment trends, sectoral imbalances, and pervasive informal sector dominance.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Findings:</b></p> <p><b>Deteriorating Employment Indicators (2000-2018)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India witnessed a decline in crucial labor metrics, reflecting a challenging employment scenario.</li> <li>• Youth unemployment remains a <b>significant concern, with nearly 83% of the unemployed population comprising young individuals.</b></li> <li>• The proportion of <b>unemployed educated youth almost doubled from 35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022, signaling a skill-job mismatch.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Slight Improvements Amid Economic Distress (Post-2019)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key labor market indicators like <b>LFPR, WPR, and UR showed a slight improvement after 2019</b>, but their sustainability remains questionable.</li> <li>• <b>Sectoral Imbalances and Informal Sector Dominance</b></li> <li>• Despite higher growth in non-farm employment, the sector struggles to absorb workers adequately, leading to underemployment.</li> <li>• <b>Informal employment persists, engaging nearly 90% of the workforce.</b></li> <li>• <b>Contractualization</b> is on the rise, with a <b>small percentage of regular workers benefitting from long-term contracts</b>, contributing to job insecurity.</li> </ul> <p>The report underscores the need for addressing systemic challenges, aligning skills with job market demands, and promoting formal sector growth to foster a more robust employment environment in India.</p>
<p><b>Bima Sugam</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p>



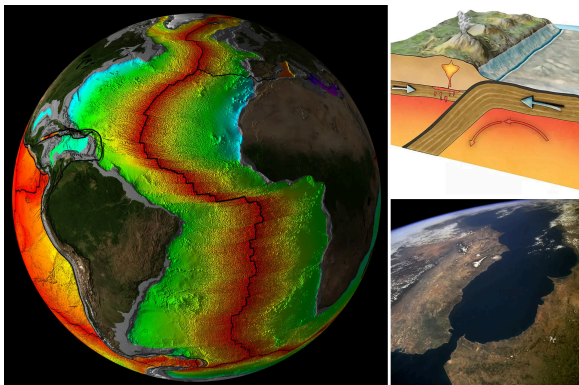
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- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has approved the establishment of **Bima Sugam—an online insurance marketplace**—for purchasing, selling, and servicing insurance policies, as well as settling claims.

**About:**

- **Bima Sugam is an e-commerce platform** for insurance companies to sell their products.
- It will onboard all **companies offering life and non-life insurance products under one roof.**
- Bima Sugam aims to provide an **'end-to-end'** digital journey for policyholders, including buying insurance policies, renewals, claim settlements, portability, and grievance redressal.
- The marketplace serves as a one-stop solution for all insurance stakeholders, promoting transparency, efficiency, and collaboration across the entire insurance value chain.

## Atlantic “Ring of Fire”



**Context:**

A recent study conducted by scientists in **Portugal** has **uncovered a subduction zone beneath the Gibraltar Strait** between **Spain and Morocco**, which could potentially **lead to the Atlantic Ocean's gradual disappearance in the distant future.**

**Key Findings:**

- The study has revealed that the **African plate is slowly pushing beneath the Eurasian plate**, initiating a process that may take an estimated **20 million years to reach its final stage.**
- The African plate is currently in the early stages of subduction beneath the Eurasian plate, **causing a gradual narrowing of the Gibraltar Strait.**
- As the process continues, a new subduction system called the **"Ring of Fire"** will form in the Atlantic.
- The **Ring of Fire will initially extend approximately 125 miles** and could eventually grow to over 500 miles in length, ultimately resulting in the **closure of the Atlantic Ocean.**

**Ring of Fire:**

- The **"Ring of Fire"** is a **chain of tectonic plates** that collide with one another at their junctions.
- **Subduction zones mark the areas on Earth where two crustal plates meet**, with one sliding beneath the other, causing significant geological



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	<p>changes over millions of years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While this geological process is <b>extremely slow, taking place over millions of years</b>, the study offers fascinating insights into the potential future geography of our planet and the powerful forces that shape it.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Delisting of Monuments</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has decided to <b>delist 18 centrally protected monuments previously categorized as "untraceable."</b></li> <li>• These monuments will no <b>longer receive conservation, protection, or maintenance from the ASI</b>, and activities near them will be exempt from certain restrictions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reason for Delisting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ASI has opted to delist these 18 monuments due to their assessed lack of national importance. Some notable monuments affected by the delisting include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Kos Minar No.13 at Mujessar village in Haryana</b></li> <li>○ <b>Barakhamba Cemetery in Delhi</b></li> <li>○ <b>Gunner Burkill's tomb in Jhansi district</b></li> <li>○ <b>A cemetery at Gaughat in Lucknow</b></li> <li>○ <b>The Telia Nala Buddhist ruins in Varanasi</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>ASI is responsible for protecting and preserving monuments</b> and archaeological sites of national importance.</li> <li>• This duty is mandated by acts such as <b>The Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904</b>, and <b>The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (AMASR Act)</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <p>The Union environment ministry recently announced the <b>Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024</b>.</p> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <p><b>Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elephants, both <b>wild and captive</b>, are categorized as <b>Schedule 1 species under the WPA</b>, prohibiting their capture or trade.</li> <li>• <b>Section 12 of the WPA permits the translocation of Schedule I animals</b> for specific</li> </ul>



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	<p>purposes like education, scientific research, and population management without harming wild animals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Captive elephants, due to their <b>historical roles</b>, fall under a <b>special category</b> but are subject to <b>strict transfer rules</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Section 40(2) of the WPA mandates written permission from the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW)</b> for the acquisition, possession, and transfer of captive elephants.</li> <li>• An amendment in <b>2021 allowed elephant transfers for religious or other purposes</b>.</li> <li>• <b>The Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024</b>, detail procedures for intra and inter-state transfers.</li> <li>• <b>State and UT CWWs</b> have authority to approve or reject such transfers, considering factors like the owner's ability to maintain the elephant and its welfare.</li> <li>• Transfers require the <b>elephant's genetic profile in the MoEFCC's electronic monitoring application</b>.</li> <li>• Transfer applications must be submitted to the <b>deputy conservator of forests (DCF)</b>, who conducts inquiries and verifications before forwarding to the CWW for approval or rejection.</li> </ul>
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