

April – 03

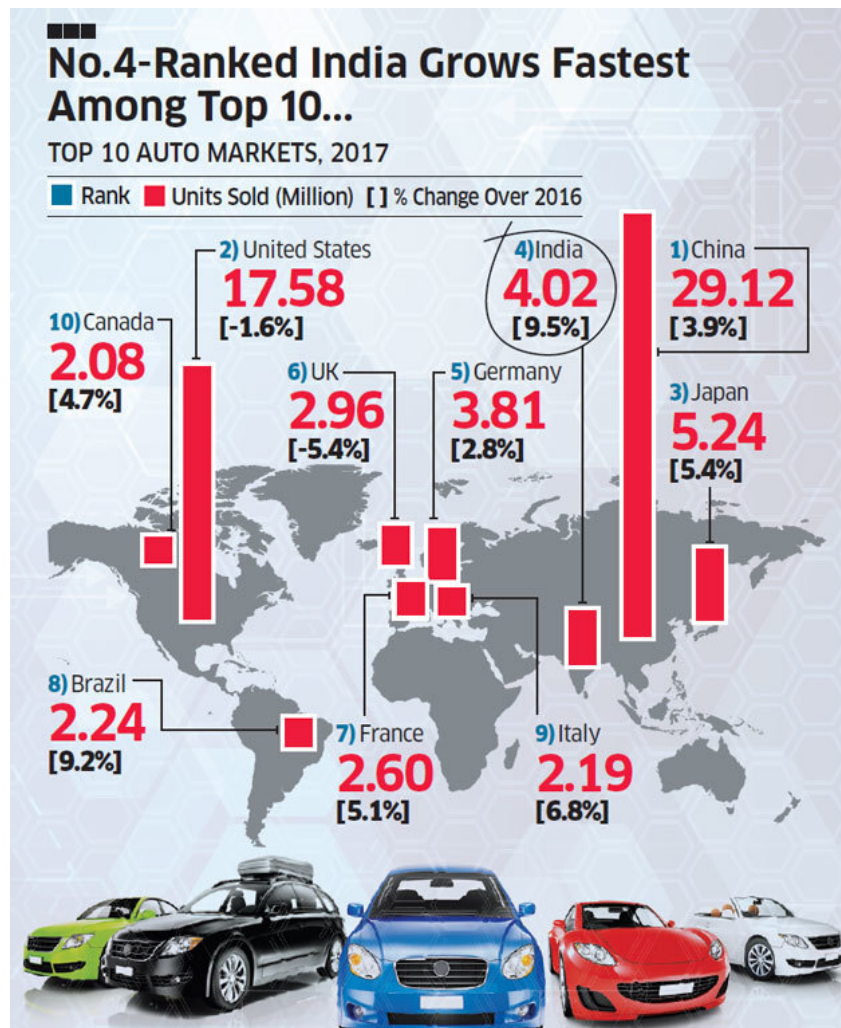
TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Indian Government signed USD 80 million loan agreement to help modernize Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions and improve the skills ecosystem in Himachal Pradesh.

NATIONAL

India – 4th largest auto market

- ❖ India has emerged as the fourth largest automobile market with a growth rate of 9.5% as against the German car market which grew at 2.8% with 3.8 million vehicles sold in the country last year.
- ❖ New-auto sales climbed 14% on the year to 322,074 vehicles in December, according to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers.
- ❖ Full-year sales rose 10% to roughly 4.01 million vehicles, an all-time high.
- ❖ India is now behind US, China, and Japan in terms of car production.
- ❖ Maruti Suzuki India consolidated its lead in passenger vehicles, which make up 80% of the market.
- ❖ Emerging markets have accounted for more than half the worldwide total for the first time back in 2010, according to IHS Markit, while China has been the world's largest market since 2009.
- ❖ India has been a standout performer in recent years. Its auto market doubled in size in just a decade.
- ❖ World Bank data shows that Gross domestic product per capita shot up about 70% between 2007 and 2016 to just over \$1,700.



USA - India naval training

- ❖ Indian Navy's Talwar class frigate INS Tarkash carried out a "greeting and training" exercise with the U.S. Navy's Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group (TRCSG)
- ❖ TRCSG was until now involved in operations against the Islamic State in the Arabian Gulf.
- ❖ INS Tarkash sailed in formation with the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, the guided-missile destroyer USS Preble (DDG 88) and other ships as part of the exercise.

MoU between India and Zambia

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Zambia in the field of Judicial Cooperation.
- ❖ During recent years, social, cultural and commercial relations between India and Zambia have developed in the positive direction.
- ❖ The signing of an agreement on cooperation in the field of justice will further enhance good relations between the two countries and add new dimensions in the field of judicial reforms.

MoU between India and Canada on IPRs

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Canada to establish bilateral cooperation activities in the field of Intellectual Property (IP).
- ❖ The MoU was signed in February 2018 and is intended to promote innovation, creativity and economic growth in both countries.
- ❖ It will facilitate the exchange of best practices, experiences, and knowledge on raising IP awareness among public, businesses and educational institutions of both countries.

INTERNATIONAL

First female UN political affairs chief

- ❖ Long-serving American Diplomat Rosemary di Carlo was appointed to become the first woman to head UN political affairs, one of the most high-profile positions at the world body.
- ❖ DiCarlo will replace Jeffrey Feltman, another American who held the post of under-secretary-general for political affairs since 2012, overseeing UN efforts to end conflicts worldwide.
- ❖ The appointment marks the first time in the world body's history that a woman will hold the senior position.



ECONOMY

350th birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh - Coins Release

- ❖ RBI will soon come out with Rs. 350 commemorative coin to mark the 350th birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh, the 10th, and last Sikh Guru.
- ❖ The coin with a standard weight of 35 gram will have 50 percent silver, 40 percent copper and 5 percent each of nickel and zinc.
- ❖ The coin will bear the Lion Capitol of Ashoka Pillar in the center with "Satyamev Jayate" inscribed below.
- ❖ While the word Bharat in Devanagari script will be on its left, "India" in English will be on its right.
- ❖ The years '1666' and '2016' in international numerals will be on the left and right periphery of the coin.
- ❖ Guru Gobind Singh, born on 22 December 1666, is the 10th and last Sikh Guru.

Fine on ICICI Bank – RBI

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has slapped a penalty of Rs.58.9 crore on ICICI Bank Limited for non-compliance of directions issued by it.
- ❖ The penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- ❖ RBI has imposed a penalty on the Bank for the continued sale of government securities classified as HTM.
- ❖ This is the highest penalty imposed by RBI on a bank for a single incident.

RBI guidelines

- ❖ RBI guidelines require banks to classify investments into three categories - Held for Trading (HFT), Available for Sale (AFS) and Held to Maturity (HTM).
- ❖ The securities acquired by the banks with the intention to hold them till maturity can be classified under HTM.
- ❖ If the value of sales of securities from HTM category exceeds 5% of the HTM investments, banks are required to disclose in the audited annual financial statements.

Increase in India's contribution

- ❖ In response to a United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Flash Appeal, the Government of India has increased its annual contribution for UNRWA from US\$ 1.25 million to US\$ 5 million from 2018-19 for 3 years.
- ❖ India made this announcement of this substantive increase of annual contribution to UNRWA at the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference held in Rome.
- ❖ This enhancement was made in the backdrop of the unprecedented financial crisis being faced by UNRWA, which has been delivering valuable public services to Palestine Refugees around the world.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2018 List

- ❖ Forbes announced its third annual “30 Under 30 Asia” list, featuring 300 young disruptors, innovators, and entrepreneurs across Asia, all under the age of 30, who are challenging conventional wisdom and rewriting the rules for the next generation.
- ❖ Themed “Disruption and Innovation”, this year’s list features a distinctive list of 300 youthful visionaries and disruptors.
- ❖ Bollywood actress-producer Anushka Sharma and Badminton Ace P V Sindhu got featured in the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2018 list for the first time in their career.
- ❖ The list’s ‘Entertainment & Sports’ category features a total of four Indians, including cricketer Smriti Mandhana and national polo team captain Padmanabh Singh.
- ❖ Across the region, India had the highest number of honorees with 65 on this year’s list, followed by China with 59 honourees and Australia with 35 honorees.
- ❖ Notably, it is also the first time that honourees from North Korea, Fiji, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan appeared on the list.

