

# **Addar Khobor** **Khoborer Adda** **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**Important Exam Cover**  
**Important for all exams WBCS, Police, Miscellaneous,**  
**WBPS Food SI, Clerkship, Rail, Bank, SSC**



## **Highlighted Points**

- **Appointment Of Rakesh Ranjan As Chairman, Staff Selection Commission (SSC)**
- **Mangalyaan-2 Unveiled: India Set to Become the Third Nation to Land on Mars**
- **NIMHANS Honoured with Prestigious Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion**
- **Kutch Ajrakh, A Traditional Textile Craft Earns GI Tag**
- **Sunil Chhetri Announces Retirement from International Football**

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## Monthly Current Affairs Magazine – May 2024

## National News

**The Hindu Triumphs at 6th International Newspaper Design**

In a remarkable feat, The Hindu secured three prestigious awards at the 6th International Newspaper Design Competition organized by newspaperdesign.in. The accolades were garnered for their exceptional explainer page titled "The science behind Neeraj's skills," shedding light on Neeraj Chopra's remarkable journey and success in athletics.

**India's Toy Exports Slip to \$152.34 Million in 2023-24: GTRI Report**

India's toy exports experienced a slight decline to USD 152.34 million in the fiscal year 2023-24, with limited benefits from quality control measures. Despite efforts to bolster the domestic industry and ensure product safety, exports did not see significant improvement.

**Bharat Pavilion Unveiled at the 77th Cannes Film Festival**

Inauguration of the Bharat Pavilion, formerly known as the India Pavilion, marked a significant moment at the 77th Cannes Film Festival. The renaming reflects India's commitment to traditional storytelling while seeking global collaborations.

**Special Commemorative Coin Released on MDL Shipyard 250th Anniversary**

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane unveiled a commemorative Rs 250 coin during the celebration of the 250th anniversary of Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in New Delhi on May 14, 2024. The event, hosted by MDL, commemorated its evolution from a dry dock in 1774 to a premier naval shipyard under the Ministry of Defence.

**IndiaSkills 2024: Unveiling India's Premier Skill Competition**

The grand commencement of IndiaSkills 2024 took place at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi on 15 May 2024. Over the span of four days, this esteemed competition will assess the proficiency of students across 61 diverse categories, providing a platform for showcasing talent at both national and international levels.

**IMD Issues 'Severe Heatwave' Alert for Northern India from May 18-20**

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a forecast warning of a severe heatwave covering parts of northern India, including Punjab and Delhi, from May 18-20. With temperatures expected to soar, the region braces for scorching heat conditions that could reach up to 45 degrees Celsius in the national capital.

**Southwest Monsoon to Reach Kerala Around May 31**

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted that the annual southwest monsoon is likely to reach Kerala around May 31, marking the onset of the rainy season in the region. This announcement comes amidst anticipation and preparation for the arrival of the monsoon across the country. The department expects the country to receive 106% of the long period average rainfall, which is the mean rainfall during the four-month monsoon season over the last 50 years.

**Gopi Thotakura Makes History as First Indian Space Tourist**

In a groundbreaking moment for space tourism, Indian expatriate Gopi Thotakura joined the ranks of space explorers as the first Indian to embark on a journey beyond Earth's atmosphere. The NS-25 mission, part of Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin program, saw Thotakura and five other crew members lift off aboard the New Shepard spacecraft from a private ranch in West Texas.

**Student Enrollment Under SC Category Grows By 44%**

The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has reported significant increases in student enrollment under various categories from 2014-15 to 2021-22. According to data released on Saturday, enrollment of Scheduled Caste (SC) students rose by 44%, from 4.61 million to 6.62 million. SC female student enrollment increased by 51%. Additionally, Scheduled Tribe (ST) student enrollment grew by 65.2%, from 1.641 million to 2.71 million, with female ST enrollment surging by 80%. Minority female student enrollment also saw a notable rise of 42.3%, growing from 1.07 million to 1.52 million.

**WBCS MAHAPACK PRO**  
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এইবার Civil Service হবে আপনার  
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**Artara'24 Celebrates Indian Cultural Diversity in Dubai**

The Artara'24 Fine Arts Exhibition and Competition has made its mark in Dubai as a prestigious platform for discovering and nurturing emerging artistic talents from India. The event aimed to uncover hidden artistic gems, with a particular focus on the Indian talent residing in Dubai.

**DAHD & UNDP MoU on Digitalisation of Animal Vaccine Cold Chain Management**

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) under the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India to digitalize vaccine cold chain management, enhance communication planning, and build capacity.

**Cabinet Approves Over Rs 10,300 Crore for IndiaAI Mission**

The Cabinet has greenlit an ambitious financial allocation of over Rs 10,300 crore for the IndiaAI Mission, aimed at fortifying India's AI innovation ecosystem. Spearheaded by a public-private partnership model, this significant investment over the next five years is poised to catalyze various strategic initiatives, including compute infrastructure expansion, startup empowerment, and ethical AI deployment.

**To Lam elected as the New President of Vietnam**

To Lam, Vietnam's former minister of public security, has been confirmed as the nation's new president by the National Assembly. His rise comes amid an ongoing anti-corruption campaign that has shaken the country's political establishment and business elites, resulting in multiple high-level government changes.

**Doordarshan's DD Kisan Embraces AI Revolution with 'Krish and Bhoomi'**

As the Doordarshan channel DD Kisan marks its 9th anniversary on 26 May 2024, it is set to embark on a remarkable journey by introducing Krish and Bhoomi, the first AI anchors in India's government broadcasting history. This groundbreaking move underscores the channel's commitment to leveraging cutting-edge technology to better serve the nation's agricultural community.

**Mission ISHAN: Streamlining India's Airspace for Enhanced Efficiency**

India is embarking on Mission ISHAN, aimed at consolidating its fragmented airspace management into a single, unified system headquartered in Nagpur. This move promises to revolutionize air traffic management, benefitting both airlines and passengers.

**Jyoti Ratre Becomes India's Oldest Woman to Conquer Mount Everest**

Jyoti Ratre, an entrepreneur and fitness enthusiast from Madhya Pradesh, has etched her name in history by becoming the oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest. Ratre's triumphant ascent to the summit of the world's highest peak comes precisely six years after Sangeeta Bahl, at the age of 53, earned the title of 'India's oldest woman to climb Mount Everest' on May 19, 2018.

**India Successfully Tests Anti-Radiation Missile 'Rudram-II'**

India has achieved a significant milestone with the successful flight test of the indigenously developed anti-radiation missile Rudram-II. Fired from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft off the coast of Odisha, this missile is poised to become a vital asset for the Indian Armed Forces, serving as a force multiplier in suppression of enemy air defenses (SEAD) missions.

**Government Raises Retirement & Death Gratuity Limits To Rs 25 Lakh**

The Indian government has raised the maximum limit of retirement gratuity and death gratuity from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 25 lakh, effective from January 1, 2024. This revision, issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, aims to enhance benefits for Central government employees.

**International News****Ukraine Unveils AI-Powered Digital Spokesperson for Foreign Ministry**

In a groundbreaking move that combines cutting-edge technology with diplomacy, Ukraine has unveiled an AI-generated spokesperson, named Victoria Shi, to deliver official statements from its foreign ministry. This significant technological leap in diplomatic communication has captured global attention.

**José Raúl Mulino Wins Panama's Presidential Election**

In a significant political development, José Raúl Mulino has emerged victorious in Panama's presidential election, securing nearly 35% of the counted votes with over 92% of the ballots tallied. The 64-year-old former security minister has gained an unassailable 9% lead over his nearest rival, prompting three of his closest opponents to concede defeat.

**Nepal's Population Trends and Demographic Indicators**

Nepal's population growth rate has hit a historic low, standing at 0.92% per annum over the past decade, the slowest in the last eighty years, as reported by the National Statistics Office (NSO). The current population stands at approximately 29.2 million, with a growth of 2.7 million from mid-April 2011 to mid-April 2021.

**Scientists Unveil World's Deepest Blue Hole in Mexico**

In a groundbreaking discovery detailed in *Frontiers in Marine Science*, researchers have revealed the Taam Ja' Blue Hole in Mexico's Chetumal Bay as the deepest known blue hole on Earth, descending to a staggering depth of 1,380 feet. Surpassing the previous record-holder, the Sansha Yongle Blue Hole, by 480 feet, this abyss presents a tantalizing opportunity for scientific exploration and the potential discovery of new marine life.

**John Swinney, Scotland's New First Minister and Veteran SNP Leader**

John Swinney, a veteran of the Scottish National Party (SNP), has been elected as the party's new leader, paving the way for him to succeed Humza Yousaf as Scotland's First Minister. Swinney emerged as the sole contender in the contest to pick a new premier, solidifying his position as a prominent figure in Scottish politics.

**National Archives of India Acquires Invaluable Collection of Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai**

The National Archives of India (NAI) has acquired a priceless collection of private papers and original correspondences belonging to the late Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, a prominent figure in India's freedom struggle and nation-building efforts. This acquisition ensures the preservation of a significant part of our nation's history and the legacy of a remarkable leader.

**Understanding West Nile Fever: A Mosquito-Borne Viral Infection**

West Nile fever is a viral infection caused by the West Nile virus (WNV), which is primarily transmitted through the bite of infected Culex mosquitoes. First detected in Uganda in 1937, this vector-borne disease has now spread globally, including in India, where it was first reported in Kerala in 2011.

**Japan and Nagaland Inaugurate Kohima Peace Memorial and Eco Park**

The Kohima Peace Memorial and Eco Park in Nagaland hold profound significance, celebrating the collaborative effort between the Government of Japan, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, and the Government of Nagaland. The inauguration of these projects represents not only historical importance but also serves as a symbol of peace, reconciliation, and educational value.

**Putin Reappoints Mikhail Mishustin as Russian Prime Minister**

In a widely anticipated move, Russian President Vladimir Putin has reappointed Mikhail Mishustin as the Prime Minister of Russia, subject to approval by the lower house of parliament, the State Duma. This decision comes as part of the legal procedure following Putin's inauguration for his fifth presidential term.

**Russia's Controversial Oil and Gas Discovery in British Antarctic Territory**

In a development that has raised eyebrows globally, Russia has claimed to have discovered massive oil and gas reserves in the British Antarctic Territory, a region currently protected under the 1959 Antarctic Treaty. According to evidence submitted to the Commons Environment Audit Committee, the reserves uncovered by Russian research ships contain around 511 billion barrels worth of oil, a staggering amount equivalent to approximately 10 times the North Sea's output over the last 50 years.

**China Overtakes US as India's Largest Trading Partner in FY24**

According to data from the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), an economic think tank, China has emerged as India's largest trading partner in the fiscal year 2023-24, surpassing the United States. The two-way commerce between India and China stood at a staggering \$118.4 billion, slightly edging out the \$118.3 billion traded with the US.

**China's Industrial Output Rises 6.7% in April as Manufacturing Gathers Pace**

China's industrial output grew by 6.7% year-on-year in April, a significant increase from the 4.5% growth recorded in March. This robust growth, as reported by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Friday, exceeded analysts' expectations of a 5.5% rise, indicating a strengthening recovery in the manufacturing sector.

**India's Growing Economic Prospects vs. China: UN Expert's Insights**

In a recent briefing on the mid-year update of the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2024, a UN expert highlighted India's burgeoning economic performance compared to China. India's GDP growth projections for 2024 have been revised upwards, with a forecasted expansion of close to seven percent. The expert attributed India's economic success to various factors, including increased investments from Western companies and favorable import arrangements with Russia.

**Indonesia Evacuates Hundreds Near Erupting Volcano**

Hundreds of residents near Mount Ibu, an active volcano on Halmahera island in eastern Indonesia, have been evacuated following a significant increase in volcanic activity. Authorities raised the alert status to the highest level after two consecutive days of massive eruptions, prompting precautionary measures to ensure the safety of local communities.

**India and Britain Reaffirm Commitment to FTA at Annual Strategic Dialogue**

India and the UK have reaffirmed their commitment to concluding a mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement (FTA) during the annual UK-India Strategic Dialogue in London. This marks a significant step as the two nations have already conducted 13 rounds of talks, with the 14th round commencing in January 2024. The discussions also reviewed progress on the 2030 Roadmap, established in 2021 to enhance cooperation in various sectors.

**India Risks US Sanctions Over Chabahar Port Deal with Iran**

India has signed a 10-year agreement to develop and operate Iran's strategic Chabahar Port to strengthen trade ties with Central Asia and Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan. However, this deal faces potential US sanctions, complicating New Delhi's strategic objectives.

**China Sanctions US Defence Firms Over Taiwan Arms Sales**

In the latest move against perceived infringements on its territorial claims, China has sanctioned Boeing and two other US defense companies for their involvement in arms sales to Taiwan. The announcement came on the day of Taiwan's presidential inauguration, highlighting tensions in the region.

**Mohammad Mokhber, Iran's Acting President and His Journey**

Mohammad Mokhber, born on June 26, 1955, in Dezful, Iran, is a prominent figure in Iranian politics. He holds two doctoral degrees, one in international law and another in management, along with a master's degree in management.

**Iran President's Death: A Spark in Tinderbox – Geopolitical Impact Explained**

Iran mourns its President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, and other officials who were killed in a helicopter crash in northwest Iran. This incident occurs amidst heightened tensions in West Asia, notably the ongoing conflict between Israel and Gaza and the broader geopolitical confrontations involving Iran, Israel, and the US.

**Lai Ching-te Sworn in as New Taiwan President, Urges China to Halt Military Intimidation**

Lai Ching-te was sworn in as Taiwan's new President in a ceremony on Monday after winning the election earlier this year. He succeeds Tsai Ing-wen, who led Taiwan through eight years marked by economic and social progress despite the COVID-19 pandemic and China's increasing military threats. Lai, a relative moderate, aims to maintain Taiwan's policy of de facto independence while bolstering its defense capabilities against China.

**World's Highest Observatory Inaugurated in Chile by University of Tokyo**

The University of Tokyo has inaugurated the Atacama Observatory (TAO), which has been awarded a Guinness World Record for being the highest observatory in the world. Situated at a staggering 5,640 meters above sea level on the summit of Cerro Chajnantor in the Antofagasta Region of Chile, TAO stands as a testament to human ingenuity and determination.

**World Economic Forum Founder Klaus Schwab To Step Back From Executive Role**

Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF), will transition from his current role to become chairman of the board of trustees by January next year, according to an emailed statement from the Geneva-based institution. This move is part of a planned "governance evolution" from a founder-managed organization to one where the president and the managing board assume full executive responsibility.

**European Countries Recognize Palestine, Israel Recalls Envoys**

Amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, Ireland, Norway, and Spain have formally recognized Palestine as a state. In response, Israel has recalled its ambassadors to Ireland and Norway, with warnings directed at Spain. This move adds to the diplomatic tensions amidst the escalating violence in Gaza.

**World Bank Report: 'Water For Shared Prosperity'**

The World Bank's report, 'Water For Shared Prosperity,' unveiled at the 10th World Water Forum, delineates the critical role of water in fostering equitable societies amidst global water access disparities exacerbated by population growth, urbanization, and climate change. It highlights the urgency of comprehensive strategies to ensure inclusive water security worldwide.

**India's Trade Deficit With Top Partners In 2023-24**

India faced a trade deficit with nine out of its top ten trading partners in the fiscal year 2023-24, according to official data. Notably, China emerged as India's largest trading partner, surpassing the United States, with bilateral commerce totaling \$118.4 billion.

**Government Receives Rs 3,662 Crore Dividend From LIC**

Chad, a north-central African nation, has witnessed a significant transition in leadership as Mahamat Idriss Deby was sworn in as the country's new president. Deby's ascension to power marks the end of three years of military rule in the oil-rich but impoverished nation.

**Allamaye Halina Named New PM of Chad**

Chad, a north-central African nation, has witnessed a significant transition in leadership as Mahamat Idriss Deby was sworn in as the country's new president. Deby's ascension to power marks the end of three years of military rule in the oil-rich but impoverished nation.

**Nepalese Climber Purnima Shrestha Conquers Mount Everest Thrice in a Single Season**

Nepalese climber Purnima Shrestha has achieved the extraordinary accomplishment of climbing Mount Everest three times during the current season. Shrestha, who works as a photojournalist, successfully summited the world's highest peak on May 12, May 19, and May 25.

**Saudi Arabia Names Faisal Bin Saud Al-Mejfel As Ambassador To Syria**

Saudi Arabia's appointment of Faisal bin Saud Al-Mejfel as its ambassador to Syria signifies a significant shift in bilateral relations, marking the first such appointment in over a decade. This move comes amidst a period of thawing relations between the two nations following years of estrangement sparked by the Syrian civil war.

**South African Regulator Fines SBI's South Africa Branch**

The Prudential Authority of the South African Reserve Bank has imposed a financial penalty of 10 million rand (₹4.5 crore) on the State Bank of India's South Africa branch for non-compliance with certain provisions of the country's Financial Intelligence Centre Act 38 of 2001 (FIC Act). The penalty comprises an immediately payable portion of 5.50 million rand, already paid, and a suspended amount of 4.50 million rand, contingent on compliance within 36 months.

**Ghana Partners With Reliance Jio Arm And Others For Telecom Infrastructure**

Ghana's Next-Gen Infrastructure Company (NGIC) collaborates with Reliance Jio's subsidiary, Tech Mahindra, and Nokia to bolster its 4G and 5G capabilities. With a focus on emulating India's telecom success, Ghana aims to enhance connectivity and digital services across various sectors.

**Massive Landslide in Papua New Guinea Buries Entire Village**

A devastating landslide in the remote village of Yambali in the Enga Province of Papua New Guinea has buried an entire village, resulting in a catastrophic loss of life. According to the United Nations agency International Organization for Migration (IOM), more than 670 people have died, and over 2000 are feared trapped under the soil. The death toll is likely to rise as rescue efforts are hampered by the region's inaccessibility and remoteness.

**European Banks Seek RBI Approval for Third-Party Transaction Model**

European Union banks, including Credit Agricole, Societe Generale, Deutsche Bank, and BNP Paribas, are facing hurdles in trading Indian government bonds and derivatives due to a deadlock between their home authorities and Indian policymakers regarding audit oversight rights. The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) de-recognized the Clearing Corp of India (CCIL) in October 2022, prompting the need for alternative clearing mechanisms.

**India Assumes Chair of Colombo Process for 2024-26**

India has taken on the chairmanship of the Colombo Process for the first time since the forum's establishment in 2003. The Colombo Process is a regional consultative forum consisting of 12 member states from South and Southeast Asia focused on the management of overseas employment and the protection of migrant workers. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal announced on 'X' that India will chair the Colombo Process for the 2024-26 term.

**Russia To Remove Taliban From Terrorist List**

Russia is set to remove the Taliban from its list of banned terrorist organizations, three years after the group regained power in Afghanistan. This move, reported by state-run RIA Novosti news agency, comes after years of Russia fostering relations with the Taliban, including holding multiple rounds of talks and boosting trade despite international sanctions.

**Sweden Boosts Ukraine's Defenses With Advanced Radar Planes**

In a significant move to fortify Ukraine's defense capabilities against Russia, Sweden has announced the donation of two Saab Airborne Surveillance and Control (ASC) 890 aircraft. These radar surveillance planes will play a crucial role in enhancing Ukraine's long-range target identification capabilities and supporting the integration of F-16 fighter jets provided by other Western nations.

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## State News

**Gurugram Administration Ropes in Yuzvendra Chahal to Boost Voter Turnout**

As the Lok Sabha elections in Gurugram, scheduled for May 25, draw near, the district administration has taken a unique approach to encourage voter participation. In a bid to attract the attention of the electorate, particularly the youth, the authorities have roped in India cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal, as well as popular singers MD Desi Rockstar and Naveen Punia, as brand ambassadors.

**Uttarakhand Launches 'Pirul Lao-Paise Pao' Campaign to Combat Forest Fires**

The Uttarakhand government has launched the 'Pirul Lao-Paise Pao' campaign to contain the raging forest fires in the state. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the campaign in the Rudraprayag district on May 8, 2024. He urged the people to actively participate in the campaign and stated that cooperatives, Yuva Mangal Dal, and Van Panchayat would also take part.

**Meghalaya Gets first woman police chief**

Meghalaya has made history by appointing Idashisha Nongrang as the state's first woman Director General of Police (DGP). Nongrang, a 1992 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, will succeed Lajja Ram Bishnoi, who is set to retire on May 19, 2024.

**Tamil Nadu's Shyaamnikhil Becomes India's 85th Chess Grandmaster**

In a remarkable achievement, P Shyaamnikhil from Tamil Nadu has etched his name in the annals of Indian chess history by becoming the country's 85th Grandmaster (GM). The 31-year-old chess prodigy, who embarked on his journey at the tender age of eight, finally secured the coveted third and final GM norm at the prestigious 2024 Dubai Police Masters Chess Tournament.

**Indian Literary Masterpieces Inscribed on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register**

In a proud moment for India, three of its literary treasures – the Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahrdayaloka-Locana – have been inscribed on UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register. This prestigious recognition celebrates India's rich literary heritage and cultural legacy, affirming the timeless wisdom and artistic expressions that have shaped the nation's identity.

**Assam's DRIMS: Revolutionizing Disaster Management**

Assam has taken a significant step towards enhancing its disaster management capabilities with the launch of the Disaster Reporting and Information Management System (DRIMS). This state-of-the-art digital platform, an initiative of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), aims to streamline the reporting and assessment of damages caused by various disasters, enabling prompt disbursement of aid to those affected.

**Karnataka Mandates 33% Reservation for Women in Govt Contract Jobs**

The Karnataka government has mandated a 33% reservation for women in outsourced government jobs. This aligns with existing quotas for permanent positions and applies to jobs lasting more than 45 days and involving over 20 employees.

**Uttar Pradesh Leads Transmission Line Additions in 2023-24**

According to the Central Electricity Authority's latest data, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the top state in terms of adding transmission lines by state transmission companies in 2023-24. This achievement follows its leading position in the previous fiscal year, 2022-23.

**Jaisalmer's Desert Park Sanctuary for the Majestic Great Indian Bustard**

In a heartening development, the annual waterhole census conducted in the National Desert Park, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, has revealed a significant presence of the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard. The survey, which employs the waterhole technique during the scorching summer months, counted a staggering 64 Great Indian Bustards within the park's boundaries. This marks a notable increase from the previous year's census in 2022, which recorded 42 birds using the same waterhole technique.

**Goa Statehood Day 2024, Celebrating the Birth of a State**

Goa Statehood Day is celebrated annually on May 30 to commemorate the day when Goa attained statehood in 1987. This occasion marks the recognition of Goa as a separate state within the Indian union, distinct from the Union Territory it was previously part of.

**Kerala Introduces Artificial Intelligence Learning in School Textbooks**

In a pioneering move, the state of Kerala has introduced Artificial Intelligence (AI) learning in the Information & Communication Technology (ICT) textbook for Class 7 students. This initiative aims to familiarize over 4 lakh students with AI in the upcoming academic year, marking a significant step towards enhancing technological education in the state.

**Economy News**

**India Ratings Raises Sovereign GDP Growth Estimate for FY25 to 7.1%**

India Ratings and Research have revised upward their GDP growth estimate for FY25 to 7.1%, citing strong government expenditure, improved corporate and banking sector balance sheets, and a budding private corporate capex cycle. However, they caution that growth could be constrained by factors such as uneven consumption demand and export challenges due to global economic sluggishness.

**Wholesale Inflation Hits 13-Month High: Food and Fuel Surge**

In April, wholesale inflation in India soared to a 13-month high of 1.26%, up from 0.53% in March. This surge was primarily fueled by rising prices of food articles, particularly vegetables, and a year-on-year increase of 1.4% in fuel and power costs after months of deflation.

**Moody's Forecasts Indian Economy to Expand at 6.6% in FY25**

Moody's Ratings predicts a 6.6% expansion for the Indian economy in the fiscal year ending March 2025 (FY25). This growth trajectory is anticipated to fuel strong credit demand, particularly benefiting the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), despite challenges posed by rising funding costs.

**India's Urban Unemployment Rate Declines to 6.7% in March Quarter**

The 22nd Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) revealed that the unemployment rate among individuals aged 15 years and above in urban areas of India decreased to 6.7% in the January-March 2024 period. The survey offers insights into various labor force indicators, including unemployment rate, worker population ratio (WPR), and labor force participation rate (LFPR) based on the Current Weekly Status (CWS) approach.

**LIC Granted 3-Year Extension by Sebi to Achieve 10% Public Shareholding**

In a move aimed at granting additional time to Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India to meet regulatory requirements, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has extended LIC's deadline to achieve a minimum 10% public shareholding. LIC, a state-owned insurance giant, now has until May 16, 2027, to fulfill this obligation.

**UN Revises India's 2024 Economic Growth Projection Upwards to Nearly 7%**

The United Nations has revised India's economic growth forecast for 2024, projecting a robust expansion driven by strong public investment and resilient private consumption. India's economy is now expected to grow by 6.9% in 2024, up from the 6.2% forecast in January, with a 6.6% growth rate projected for 2025. This optimistic outlook highlights India's role in bolstering South Asia's overall economic performance.

**India's Internet Economy Likely to Reach \$1 Trillion by 2030: Experts**

India's internet economy is poised for significant growth, with industry experts predicting it will reach \$1 trillion by 2030. This surge is primarily driven by the e-commerce sector, which is expected to grow at an annual rate of 25%, from \$60 billion in FY2023 to \$325 billion, making it the third largest globally.

**GST Portal Implements Machine Registration for Pan Masala and Tobacco Manufacturers to Curb Evasion**

In an effort to combat tax evasion in the pan masala and tobacco sectors, the GST portal has introduced new forms and procedures for manufacturers to register their machinery and report monthly inputs and outputs. This initiative follows recommendations from the GST Council and aims to enhance compliance and reduce illicit trade.

**Outlook for India's Export Growth in FY25: FIEO Projections**

The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) forecasts India's merchandise exports to reach \$500-510 billion in FY25, rebounding from a 3% contraction in the previous fiscal year. Services exports are estimated to contribute \$390-400 billion, culminating in total exports of approximately \$890-910 billion. Noteworthy sectors driving this growth include engineering, advertising services, and the expansion of global capability centers.

**Expanding Economic Frontiers: DP World's Inauguration of Chennai's Free Trade Warehouse Zone**

DP World, a global logistics powerhouse, has launched its largest free trade warehouse zone in Chennai, India, solidifying Tamil Nadu's status as one of the nation's premier hubs for economic development. Ranjit Ray, DP World's Vice President of Economic Zones for India Subcontinent and MENA, highlighted Tamil Nadu's industrial prowess and strategic geographic advantages, emphasizing its pivotal role in fostering economic growth. The inauguration of the Chennai facility marks a significant milestone, showcasing DP World's commitment to India's burgeoning economic landscape.

**Indian Port Cargo Projection for FY25 and Beyond**

In a recent report by CateEdge Ratings, it is forecasted that container volume at Indian ports will surge by 8% to reach 342 million tonnes in the fiscal year 2025, despite potential disruptions such as the ongoing Red Sea crisis. This growth trajectory is attributed to various factors, including the scheduled connection of the dedicated freight corridor to Jawaharlal Nehru Port in FY26 and capacity expansions across ports.

**India, UAE Conclude Meeting on India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor**

India and the UAE recently concluded a significant meeting focused on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC). The meeting, held under the Intergovernmental Framework Agreement, aimed at enhancing cooperation for the development and operationalization of the corridor. This initiative is set to provide alternative supply routes, generating efficiencies and reducing costs.

**Government-Backed ONDC Attracts 10 Unicorns and 125 Startups**

The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), backed by the government, has garnered significant interest from key players in India's digital ecosystem. Among the 125 startups committed to the platform are renowned unicorns like Zerodha, EaseMyTrip, and Cars24, signaling a strong push towards democratizing digital commerce.

**India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Jump \$2.56 Billion to \$644.15 Billion**

India's foreign exchange reserves saw an increase of \$2.56 billion, reaching a total of \$644.15 billion for the week ended May 10, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This follows a previous increase of \$3.668 billion after three consecutive weeks of decline.

**GDP Growth Rate Likely to be 6.7% in Q4, Around 7% in FY24: Ind-RA**

The Indian economy showed robust growth in the first three quarters of the 2023-24 fiscal year, with GDP expanding by 8.2% in the June quarter, 8.1% in the September quarter, and 8.4% in the December quarter. India Ratings and Research (Ind-RA) expects the GDP growth rate to be 6.7% for the March quarter and around 6.9-7% for the entire fiscal year, according to their principal economist, Sunil Kumar Sinha. The official GDP numbers for Q4 and provisional estimates for FY24 will be released on May 31.

**RXIL's TReDS Platform Surpasses INR 1 Trillion in MSME Invoice Financing**

India's MSME sector, contributing over 30% to the GDP and employing approximately 12 crore people, faces a significant credit gap of around Rs. 28.2 lakh crores. RXIL's Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform has achieved a milestone by facilitating financing of over 50 lakh invoices worth ₹1,00,000 crore since its inception. This milestone underscores the platform's role in providing accessible working capital financing solutions to MSMEs, crucial for economic growth and India's journey towards achieving a Rs. 5 trillion economy.

**Fusion Micro Finance Secures \$25 Million Loan from US International DFC**

Fusion Micro Finance has obtained a \$25 million loan from the United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) to fuel its expansion plans, primarily focusing on empowering rural women entrepreneurs. The initial disbursement of \$20 million, part of an eight-year loan, aims to enhance business operations and advance financial inclusion efforts.

**SEBI's Amendments to LODR Regulations: Enhancing Market Capitalization Computation**

SEBI has introduced significant amendments to its Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR) regulations, focusing on the computation of market capitalization for listed companies. The amendments aim to redefine the criteria for applicability and establish a defined period for calculating average market capitalization.

**Indian Economy Grew 7.4% in Q4 FY24; 8% in FY24: SBI Research Report**

The Indian economy showcased robust growth, with a GDP increase of 7.4% in Q4 FY24 and an overall 8% growth for the fiscal year FY24, according to an SBI Research report. This announcement comes ahead of the official GDP figures release by the Centre on May 31 for Q4 FY24 and the provisional estimates for FY24. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) estimated Q4 FY24 real GDP growth at 7.3%, with expectations for Q1 FY25 at 7.5%, and full-year FY25 growth projected at 7.0%. Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran also indicated a high possibility of India's economic growth touching 8% in FY24.

**India's FY24 Fiscal Deficit Improves To 5.63% Of GDP**

India's fiscal deficit for FY24 improved to 5.6% of GDP, better than the previous estimate of 5.8%, due to higher revenue realization and lower expenditure. In actual terms, the fiscal deficit was ₹16.53 lakh crore, or 5.63% of the GDP, which grew by 8.2% in 2023-24.

**India's Core Sector Growth Rises 6.2% In April**

In April, India's core sector, comprising coal, steel, cement, fertilizers, electricity, natural gas, refinery products, and crude oil, witnessed a notable 6.2% growth, reflecting positive momentum in key industries. This growth, driven by robust performances in sectors such as steel, electricity, and natural gas, contrasts with the 4.6% growth recorded in April 2023. However, it's essential to note that March's growth figures were revised upward to 6%, indicating a stronger trajectory than previously estimated.

**Rankings & Reports News****Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani Secure Positions Among the World's Top 15 Super Rich**

Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani have made it to the top 15 world's super-rich list of the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. This marks a significant achievement, especially for Gautam Adani, who reclaimed his position after losing it in 2023 due to short selling in his company's stock. Notably, for the first time, all individuals in the top 15 have a net worth of \$100 billion or more.

**Ronaldo Tops Forbes' List of Highest-Paid Athletes Again**

Cristiano Ronaldo, despite nearing the twilight of his career, has secured the top spot on Forbes' list of the world's highest-paid athletes. His significant earnings in Saudi Arabia have propelled him to this position for the fourth time.

**India Rises to 39th Position in WEF Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024**

India has ascended to the 39th spot in the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024, marking a significant improvement from its 54th position in 2021. Despite challenges posed by the pandemic, India showcases resilience and competitiveness in various aspects of its travel and tourism industry.

**Over 4000 Gangetic Dolphins in India: Indian Wildlife Institute**

According to a recent report by the Wildlife Institute of India, there are more than 4000 Gangetic dolphins in the Gangetic River basin. Over 2000 of these dolphins are found in Uttar Pradesh, primarily in the Chambal River. This increase suggests that the river's pollution levels are declining, and the government's conservation efforts are proving effective.

**India Records Positive Growth Among Top 5 World Steel Producers in April**

India is the only country among the world's top five crude steel producers to record positive growth in April 2024, according to the World Steel Association. India, the second-largest crude steel producer globally, achieved a growth rate of 3.9% compared to April 2023.

**Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index: Delhi Leads Indian Rankings**

In the latest Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index, Delhi emerges as the highest-ranked Indian city, securing the 350th position among the world's 1000 largest cities. However, no Indian city managed to break into the top 300. The index, encompassing cities from 163 countries, evaluates cities across five key categories: Economics, Human Capital, Quality of Life, Environment, and Governance. New York clinches the top spot, with London, San Jose, Tokyo, and Paris following suit.

**Business News****Infibeam's CCAvenue Expands Merchant Access Through Shivalik SFB Partnership**

Infibeam Avenues' CCAvenue, a leading payments platform, has entered into a strategic partnership with Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SFB) to enhance merchant access. Through this collaboration, merchants registered with CCAvenue will gain access to Shivalik SFB's extensive customer base. The integration will enable account holders of the bank to make payments seamlessly on websites powered by CCAvenue, leveraging Shivalik SFB's internet banking service.

**Bajaj Auto Set to Revolutionize Transportation with World's First CNG Motorcycle**

Bajaj Auto, led by Managing Director Rajiv Bajaj, is all set to introduce a groundbreaking innovation in the world of motorcycles. Amidst soaring petrol prices, the company is gearing up to launch the world's first CNG-powered motorcycle on June 18, 2024. This move aims to provide consumers with a cost-effective alternative for daily commuting, promising lower running costs compared to traditional petrol-powered bikes.

**P-note Investments in Indian Markets Soar to Nearly 6-Year High**

Investments through participatory notes (P-notes) in the Indian capital markets reached a staggering Rs 1.5 lakh crore at the end of February 2024, marking the highest level in nearly six years. This surge in P-note investments, encompassing Indian equity, debt, and hybrid securities, has been driven by the strong performance of the domestic economy.

**Setu Unveils Sesame, India's First BFSI-Focused Large Language Model**

Setu, a leading Indian fintech company and part of the Pine Labs Group, has unveiled Sesame, India's first Large Language Model (LLM) specifically designed for the banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) sector. Developed in collaboration with indigenous AI research firm Sarvam AI, this groundbreaking initiative marks a significant milestone in the adoption of advanced AI technologies in the financial services industry.

**India Leads Global Remittances, Surpassing \$100 Billion Mark**

India emerged as the global leader in remittances in 2022, receiving over \$111 billion, surpassing the \$100 billion mark for the first time. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) highlighted India, alongside Mexico, China, the Philippines, and France, as the top five remittance recipient countries.

**NCLT Approval: Sapphire Media's Acquisition of Big 92.7 FM**

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Mumbai has sanctioned Sapphire Media's acquisition plan for Reliance Broadcast Network's Big 92.7 FM. This approval follows a resolution process initiated in February 2023 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

**Hero MotoCorp Joins ONDC Network to Revolutionize Two-Wheeler Industry**

In a groundbreaking move, Hero MotoCorp, India's leading two-wheeler manufacturer, has become the first in its sector to integrate with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). By leveraging ONDC's platform, Hero MotoCorp aims to enhance accessibility and convenience for its customers, offering a seamless digital experience for purchasing two-wheeler parts, accessories, and merchandise.

**DPIIT Reports Over 7 Million Transactions on ONDC Platform in April**

The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), a digital infrastructure initiative launched in 2021, has witnessed remarkable growth, with transactions crossing 70 lakh in April this year. Led by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), ONDC aims to democratize digital commerce and create a level playing field for businesses of all sizes. Let's explore the key highlights and significance of ONDC through subheadings.

**Coal India, NMDC, ONGC Videsh Seek Overseas Critical Mineral Assets**

The Indian government has announced plans for public sector companies like Coal India, NMDC, and ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) to actively seek critical mineral assets overseas. This strategic move aims to secure vital mineral resources essential for various industries, including clean energy technologies and electric vehicles.

**IRDAI Lowers Solvency Requirement and Removes Exposure Limit for Surety Bonds**

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has made significant adjustments to the regulations governing surety bonds in response to feedback

from insurance stakeholders. These changes aim to enhance the accessibility of surety insurance products and encourage more insurers to participate in servicing the growing demand across various sectors of the economy, particularly the infrastructure sector.

**Tata Motors Partners with Bajaj Finance to Enhance Dealer Financing Options**

Tata Motors' subsidiaries, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV) and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TPEM), have teamed up with Bajaj Finance to offer an innovative financing programme for their authorised passenger and electric vehicle dealers. This partnership aims to streamline financing options and support the business operations of these dealers.

**Swiggy Fortifies Fraud Prevention with SHIELD Partnership**

Online food delivery platform Swiggy has partnered with SHIELD, a device-first risk AI platform, to bolster its fraud prevention and detection capabilities. This strategic move aims to address promo abuse and deter fraudulent practices within Swiggy's Delivery Partner ecosystem.

**Mahindra Finance Expands Services with IRDAI Approval**

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services, a prominent player in India's non-banking finance sector, has secured a corporate agency license from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). This license empowers Mahindra Finance to act as a 'corporate agent (composite)' under the Insurance Act, 1938, facilitating the distribution of insurance products.

**L&T Technology Services Launches Simulation Centre of Excellence for Airbus in Bengaluru**

L&T Technology Services Ltd (LTTS) announced the inauguration of a Simulation Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Airbus at its Bengaluru campus. This state-of-the-art facility is set to bolster engineering support for Airbus's aircraft structural simulation activities across its European business units in France, Germany, the UK, and Spain.

**Maldives Plans Launch of RuPay to Enhance Bilateral Ties with India**

In a move that reflects the strengthening ties between India and the Maldives, the island nation has announced its intention to launch India's RuPay service. This decision underscores the growing economic and financial cooperation between the two countries. While the specific launch date for the RuPay service has not yet been disclosed, the upcoming integration holds promise for enhanced financial inclusivity and cost-saving measures.

**RBI Imposes Rs 3.1 Lakh Penalty on Hero FinCorp for Fair Practices Code Violation**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 3.1 lakh on Hero FinCorp Limited due to non-compliance with certain provisions of the fair practices code. This penalty is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and does not affect the validity of any transactions or agreements the company has with its customers.

**Smartphones Become India's Fourth Largest Export Item with 42% Growth**

Smartphones have become a major export success story for India, now ranking as the fourth-largest export item with a 42% growth, reaching \$15.6 billion in FY24. This marks an improvement by one notch in the ranking from the preceding year. Data collection for smartphones as a separate category began in April 2022, highlighting the sector's rapid growth.

**Microsoft Unveils AI-Enhanced 'Copilot+' PCs with Unique 'Recall' Functionality**

Microsoft has introduced a new category of personal computers, 'Copilot+ PCs,' featuring advanced AI capabilities to compete with Alphabet and Apple. These devices, developed in collaboration with Acer and ASUSTeK Computer, aim to perform AI tasks locally without relying on cloud data centers. The launch event took place at Microsoft's Redmond, Washington campus on May 20, with sales starting on June 18 at a base price of \$1,000.

**GAIL (India) Ltd. Commissions India's First Green Hydrogen Plant**

GAIL (India) Ltd., the nation's leading natural gas transmission and distribution company, has achieved a significant milestone with the commissioning of its first green hydrogen plant. Located in Vijaipur, Madhya Pradesh, this plant marks GAIL's foray into the realm of new and alternative energy sources.

**Reliance Industries to Begin Construction on India's First Multimodal Logistics Park Near Chennai**

Reliance Industries is set to begin construction on India's first Multimodal Logistics Park at Mappedu near Chennai in June, a project conceptualized 12 years ago. Despite initial setbacks, the project, valued at Rs 1,424 crore and spanning 184.27 acres in Tiruvallur district, is now ready to proceed, with potential to revolutionize the southern region's logistics landscape.

**Reliance Industries Strikes Deal with Rosneft for Rouble Payments**

Reliance Industries, India's major refining company, has inked a significant agreement with Russia's Rosneft. Under this deal, Reliance will purchase at least 3 million barrels of

oil per month from Rosneft, paying in Russian roubles. This move aligns with Russian President Vladimir Putin's call for alternative trading mechanisms amid Western sanctions. Additionally, the agreement enables Reliance to secure oil at discounted rates amidst expectations of extended OPEC+ supply cuts.

**Reliance Industries Partners with Norway's Nel to Boost New Energy Investments**

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has forged a significant technology partnership with Norway's Nel ASA to expedite its foray into new energy investments. This alliance is poised to play a pivotal role in facilitating RIL's transition towards green energy, particularly through the production of green hydrogen.

**Reliance and Tata Groups Recognized among TIME's World's Most Influential Companies**

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Tata Group, two of India's prominent business conglomerates, have been named among the World's 100 'Most Influential Companies' by the renowned TIME magazine. This recognition highlights their significant impact and influence on a global scale.

**Adani Ports Expands Global Reach: Secures 30-Year Deal For Tanzania Port Terminal**

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) has clinched a significant 30-year concession agreement with the Tanzania Ports Authority to operate Container Terminal 2 (CT2) at Dar es Salaam Port. This marks APSEZ's third venture into international ports, signaling its strategic expansion beyond Indian shores.

**Agreement News**

**India and Ghana Strengthen Financial Integration for Enhanced Trade**

India and Ghana are poised to integrate their payment systems, UPI and GHIPSS, to facilitate instant and cost-effective fund transfers between the two nations. Within six months, NPCI's UPI is set to be operational on Ghana's GHIPSS platform, marking a significant step in financial collaboration.

**Indian Coast Guard Inks MoU with Hindalco for Indigenous Marine-Grade Aluminium**

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Hindalco Industries, a leading industry group, have joined forces to promote the manufacturing and supply of indigenous marine-grade aluminium for the construction of ships. The collaboration, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), aims to enhance India's self-reliance in the shipbuilding sector.

**PhonePe Launches UPI in Sri Lanka in Partnership with LankaPay**

In a significant move, PhonePe has joined forces with LankaPay to introduce UPI payments in Sri Lanka. This collaboration allows PhonePe users to seamlessly utilize UPI for transactions across LankaPay QR merchants, providing them with familiarity and security while traveling. The partnership aims to enhance the payment experience for Indian tourists and business travelers in Sri Lanka, while also offering a cost-effective solution for merchants. The initiative received commendation from key figures including PhonePe's CEO, Ritesh Pai, LankaPay CEO Channa de Silva, and Sri Lankan Central Bank Governor Nandalal Weerasinghe.

**TCS & IIT-Bombay Partner To Develop India's 1st Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager**

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has entered a strategic partnership with the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-Bombay), to develop India's first Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager. This advanced sensing tool aims to revolutionize the examination of semiconductor chips, reducing failures and enhancing the energy efficiency of electronic devices.

**Appointment News****UNICEF India Welcomes Kareena as National Ambassador**

Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan has been appointed as the National Ambassador for UNICEF India. This prestigious role comes as a recognition of her long-standing association with the organization since 2014, where she has served as a Celebrity Advocate.

**Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Names Sanjeev Nautiyal as MD & CEO**

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has announced the appointment of Sanjeev Nautiyal as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) for a tenure of three years, effective from July 1, 2024. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved this appointment. Nautiyal will assume the role of President in the interim period before officially taking charge as MD & CEO. With over thirty years of experience in various banking domains, including retail, SME, financial inclusion, and international banking, Nautiyal brings a wealth of strategic expertise to his new role.

**Visa Appoints Sujai Raina as India Country Manager**

Visa, the global digital payments platform, has appointed Sujai Raina as the new Country Manager for India. In this role, Raina will be responsible for leading and executing Visa's strategic initiatives in the Indian market, partnering with clients and the broader payments ecosystem.

**IRDAI Approves Appointment of Keki Mistry as Chairman of HDFC Life**

Following Deepak Parekh's resignation from the post of Chairman, HDFC Life Insurance appointed Keki Mistry to fill the position. Subsequently, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) granted approval for Mistry's appointment.

**L&T Elevates R Shankar Raman as President**

R Shankar Raman, the current Whole-time Director and CFO of L&T, has been elevated to the position of President. Following this promotion, Raman will continue to hold his existing roles as the Whole-time Director and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the company.

**SBI General Insurance Appoints Jaya Tripathi as Head of Key Relations Group**

SBI General Insurance has announced the appointment of Jaya Tripathi as the Head – Key Relations Group. In her new role, Tripathi will lead the expansion of new business opportunities and partnerships, drive sales team growth, and deepen partner relationships to enhance profitability.

**Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla Takes Helm as Chief of Personnel of Indian Navy**

Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, AVSM, NM, a seasoned naval officer with over 35 years of distinguished service, has assumed the pivotal role of Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy on 10 May 2024. His extensive career has been marked by a series of challenging and fulfilling appointments, both at sea and ashore.

**N Chandrasekaran to Chair Tata Electronics**

Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran is set to assume the role of chairman at Tata Electronics, a significant move that underscores the Tata group's commitment to its \$14 billion investment in the semiconductor business. Chandrasekaran will succeed Banmali Agrawala, who has held the position for several years and has recently taken on an advisory role within the group.



**Dileep Sanghani Elected As Chairman Of IFFCO**

The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) has successfully conducted its 15th RGB elections for its Board of Directors, marking a remarkable milestone in cooperative governance. This massive exercise, spanning over two months, encompassed participation from more than 36,000 cooperative societies across the nation.

**Wipro Appoints Vinay Firake as CEO of APMEA Strategic Market Unit**

Wipro, a leading IT major, has announced the appointment of Vinay Firake as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of its Asia Pacific, India, Middle East, and Africa (APMEA) strategic market unit (SMU), effective immediately. Firake will report directly to Srinu Pallia, Wipro's CEO and Managing Director, and will also join the company's executive board.

**Kapil Sibal Elected as the President of Supreme Court Bar Association**

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal has been elected as the president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) in a recent election held on Thursday in New Delhi. This marks his fourth term serving as the president of the prestigious lawyers' body, succeeding senior advocate Adish C. Aggarwala.

**Senior IPS Officers A.Y.V. Krishna & N. Venu Gopal Appointed as Additional Directors in CBI**

In a significant development, senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officers A Y V Krishna and N Venu Gopal have been appointed as additional directors in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Their appointments underscore the government's commitment to bolstering the investigative capabilities of the premier investigative agency.

**RBI Approves Appointment of Pradeep Natarajan as IDFC FIRST Bank's Whole Time Director**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given its nod for the appointment of Pradeep Natarajan as Whole Time Director on the Board of IDFC FIRST Bank, marking a significant development for the private sector lender. The approval, granted for a tenure of three years, underscores the bank's commitment to strengthening its leadership team.

**Sanjiv Puri Elected CII President for 2024-25: A Leadership Transition**

In a significant leadership transition, Sanjiv Puri, the Chairman and Managing Director of ITC Ltd., has been elected as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the term 2024-25. Puri succeeds R Dinesh, Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, in this prestigious role. Alongside Puri, Rajiv Memani assumes the position of President-Designate, while R Mukundan takes on the role of Vice President for the same term.

**BARC India Appoints Dr. Bikramjit Chaudhuri as New Chief of Measurement Science & Analytics**

The Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India, the world's largest television audience measurement organization, has appointed Dr. Bikramjit Chaudhuri as its new Chief of Measurement Science & Analytics. He will succeed Dr. Derrick Gray, a veteran in the field of audience measurement and advanced analytics, who has been an esteemed member of the BARC India team for six years.

**John Slaven Appointed Vice-Chairman of the International Aluminium Institute**

Vedanta Aluminium has announced the appointment of its Chief Executive Officer (CEO), John Slaven, as the Vice-Chairman of the International Aluminium Institute (IAI). In this prominent role, Slaven will spearhead global initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable transformation within the aluminium industry and highlighting aluminium's crucial role in advancing the energy transition towards a Zero Carbon future.

**Ramesh Babu V. Sworn in as Member of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission**

Shri Ramesh Babu V. has taken the oath of office and secrecy as a Member of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) on May 21, 2024. The oath was administered by the Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R. K. Singh.

**Rushabh Gandhi Appointed as MD and CEO of IndiaFirst Life Insurance**

The board of IndiaFirst Life Insurance has approved the promotion of Rushabh Gandhi, the current Deputy Chief Executive Officer, to the position of Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD and CEO). Gandhi's appointment marks a significant milestone for the company, aligning with its succession strategy.

**Jetha Ahir Elected as NAFED Chairman**

Shehra BJP MLA Jetha Ahir, who has previously served as the deputy speaker of the Gujarat Assembly, has been elected uncontested as the chairman of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED). Senior leaders revealed that Ahir secured the support of the sitting Rajkot MP Mohan Kundariya to become the NAFED chairman in the election held in Delhi on Tuesday.

**Sony Appoints Disney Veteran Gaurav Banerjee as New India CEO**

In a strategic move to bolster its presence in the burgeoning Indian media landscape, Japan's electronics and entertainment conglomerate Sony has appointed Gaurav Banerjee, a seasoned executive from Walt Disney, as its new Chief Executive Officer for India operations.

### Shah Rukh Khan Appointed as New Brand Ambassador of Muthoot Pappachan Group

The Muthoot Pappachan Group (MPG), popularly known as Muthoot Blue, has announced the appointment of Shah Rukh Khan as its new brand ambassador. This strategic collaboration marks a significant milestone for MPG, aimed at reinforcing its brand presence and establishing a new connection with a diverse audience across the country.

### IRDAI Approves Sandeep Batra as ICICI Prudential Board Chairman

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has joined a 16-day multi-nation mega military exercise in Alaska, United States, designed to provide realistic training to participating forces in a simulated combat environment. The exercise, known as 'Red Flag 24', commenced on May 30 and will continue until June 14.

### Appointment Of Rakesh Ranjan As Chairman, Staff Selection Commission (SSC)

Rakesh Ranjan, a 1992 batch IAS officer from Manipur Cadre, has been appointed as the Chairman of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC). This appointment comes following a notification issued by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet.

### Badminton Star PV Sindhu Appointed Brand Ambassador for Tobacco Control

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, organized an event to observe World No Tobacco Day 2024. This year's theme, "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference," highlights the urgent need to shield youth from the detrimental influences of tobacco consumption. During the event, the Union Health Secretary, Shri Apurva Chandra, addressed the gathering through a video message, focusing on the devastating impact of tobacco use.



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## Banking News

### GetVantage Secures NBFC License from RBI: Pioneering RBF Start-up

In a groundbreaking move, GetVantage, a start-up specializing in revenue-based finance (RBF), has achieved a significant milestone by obtaining a non-banking financial company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This accomplishment marks a pivotal moment as GetVantage becomes the first RBF and alternative funding platform in India to receive such authorization.

### RBI Revises Guidelines for Banks' Capital Market Exposure in T+1 Settlement

In response to the introduction of the T+1 settlement regime for stocks, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has updated the guidelines for custodian banks regarding the issuance of Irrevocable Payment Commitments (IPCs). Under these revised guidelines, custodian banks issuing IPCs will be subject to a maximum intraday risk, considered as capital market exposure (CME), capped at 30 percent of the settlement amount.

### RBI Lowers Margin Funding Limits to 30% from 50%

Following the reduction in trade settlement time from T+2 to T+1 and T+0 for select equities by stock exchanges, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decreased the maximum risk for custodian banks issuing irrevocable payment commitments (IPCs) from 50% to 30%. This decision is based on the assumption of potential downward price movements of equities purchased by foreign institutional investors/mutual funds over two successive days from the trade date.

### ICICI Bank Introduces UPI for NRIs Using International Mobile Numbers

ICICI Bank has unveiled a groundbreaking feature allowing non-resident Indian (NRI) customers to utilize Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in India through their international mobile numbers. This innovation aims to simplify daily payments for NRIs by eliminating the need to register an Indian mobile number with their NRE/NRO accounts, thereby enhancing convenience.

### Public Sector Banks' Profit Surpasses ₹1.4 Lakh Crore in FY24

In the financial year ending March 2024, the cumulative profit of public sector banks (PSBs) surged, reaching over ₹1.4 lakh crore, marking a significant 35% increase from the previous year's earnings of ₹1.04 lakh crore. State Bank of India (SBI) emerged as a major contributor, accounting for over 40% of the total earnings.

**RBI Gold Holdings and Foreign Exchange Reserves Update**

In the fiscal year 2023-24, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) saw a significant increase in its gold reserves, adding 27.46 metric tonnes and reaching a total of 822.10 metric tonnes by the end of March 2024. This brought the share of gold in the total foreign exchange reserves to about 8.15%, up from 7.81% in the previous year.

**RBI Approves Quant MF to Raise Stake in RBL Bank**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval to Quant Mutual Fund (MF) to increase its stake in RBL Bank to 9.98% by May 12, 2025. This approval, subject to conditions and provisions under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, was disclosed in a regulatory filing.

**HDFC Bank Introduces Pixel Play: India's Premier Virtual Credit Card with Visa**

In a groundbreaking move, HDFC Bank has rolled out Pixel Play, the nation's inaugural virtual credit card partnered with Visa. Offering two distinct variants, Pixel Play and Pixel Go, this innovative card empowers users to craft personalized cards tailored to their lifestyle preferences and chosen merchants, all through the bank's PayZapp mobile app. With streamlined digital management and a suite of features including card controls, rewards, and EMI dashboards, HDFC Bank sets a new standard for seamless banking experiences.

**RBI Bond Repurchase: Banks Refuse Losses, Repurchased Amount Significantly Below Notified**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) repurchased government bonds worth only Rs 2,069 crore out of the notified Rs 60,000 crore. Banks resisted selling at lower prices, resulting in limited acceptance. The bonds, purchased during the pandemic at higher rates, posed a challenge for the RBI, prompting smaller buyback amounts.

**SBI Raises Short-Term Retail Fixed Deposit Rates Amidst Economic Shifts**

In response to rising credit demand and falling liquidity, State Bank of India (SBI) has increased short-term retail fixed deposit rates by 25-75 basis points (bps), marking its first interest rate hike since December. This move, likely to be emulated by other banks, reflects a strategic adjustment to offer better returns for depositors.

**SBI General Unveils 'Surety Bond Bima' for Infrastructure Projects**

SBI General Insurance, the non-life insurance arm of State Bank of India (SBI), has launched 'Surety Bond Bima' to support infrastructure development by providing a security arrangement for infrastructure projects.

**YES Bank Launches YES Grandeur: Elevating Banking for Elite Customers**

In a strategic move to cater to the evolving needs of affluent and elite customers, YES Bank has introduced 'YES Grandeur,' a premium banking service designed to provide tailored financial and lifestyle solutions.

**Bank of Maharashtra Leads PSU Banks in FY24 Business Growth**

In FY24, Bank of Maharashtra emerged as a frontrunner among public sector banks, showcasing remarkable growth in total business and deposit mobilization. Despite facing industry-wide challenges, the Pune-based lender recorded a notable 15.94% rise in total business, surpassing even the State Bank of India (SBI). With a focus on low-cost CASA deposits, Bank of Maharashtra achieved a remarkable 52.73% growth, underscoring its strategic advantage in maintaining a healthy cost of funds.

**SBI Bolsters Presence in GIFT City with Acquisition of Stake in CCIL IFSC**

In a strategic move to expand its foothold within the Gujarat International Finance Tec City (GIFT City), the State Bank of India (SBI) has finalized the acquisition of a 6.125% stake in CCIL IFSC Limited. The transaction, valued at ₹6.125 crore, marks SBI's commitment to enhancing its role in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at GIFT City.

**HDFC Bank Exits Protean eGov Tech, Sells Entire Stake**

HDFC Bank divested its entire 3.20% stake in Protean eGov Technologies, amounting to 12,94,326 shares, for Rs 150 crore. The shares were sold at an average price of Rs 1,160.15 apiece through an open market transaction. Simultaneously, Nippon India Mutual Fund acquired a 3.16% stake in Protean eGov Technologies for Rs 148 crore.

**HSBC and SBI Acquire Stakes in CCIL IFSC**

HSBC and State Bank of India (SBI) have made strategic investments in CCIL IFSC Limited, acquiring 6.125% stakes each, valued at ₹6.125 crore each. This move is aimed at bolstering their presence within Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City, India's premier international financial services center.

**RBI Data Shows Significant Decline in Net FDI to \$10.5 Billion in FY24**

Net foreign direct investment (FDI) into India experienced a notable decrease of 62.17% in the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24), plummeting to \$10.58 billion from the previous year's \$27.98 billion. This decline is attributed primarily to increased repatriation of capital and Indian companies' investments abroad.

**RBI Conducts Massive Liquidity Infusion Through Variable Rate Repo Auctions**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken proactive measures to address the prevailing liquidity deficit in the banking system. In its latest move, the central bank conducted a variable rate repo (VRR) auction of Rs 1.25 trillion, bringing the total liquidity infused through 9 VRR auctions in May 2024 to a staggering Rs 7.75 trillion.

**TCS Secures Core Banking Transformation Deal With Kuwait's Burgan Bank**

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has signed a deal to modernize the core banking technology of Burgan Bank, a leading commercial bank in Kuwait. Burgan Bank will deploy TCS BaNCS to consolidate multiple legacy applications into a contemporary universal banking solution, enhancing innovation and customer relationships.

**RBI Launches PRAVAAH, Retail Direct Mobile App, and FinTech Repository**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has unveiled three major initiatives: the Pravaah portal, the Retail Direct Mobile App, and a FinTech Repository. These initiatives, previously announced in the RBI's bi-monthly Statement on Development and Regulatory Policies in April 2023, April 2024, and December 2023, aim to enhance regulatory processes, provide easier access to government securities for retail investors, and improve the understanding of the FinTech sector.

**Poonawalla Fincorp And IndusInd Bank Launch Co-Branded RuPay Credit Card**

Poonawalla Fincorp Limited, in partnership with IndusInd Bank, has introduced the co-branded 'IndusInd Bank Poonawalla Fincorp eLITE RuPay Platinum Credit Card'. This new card, designed to enhance customer experience with rewards and benefits, is available without any joining or annual fees. Users can earn rewards for every ₹100 spent, including UPI transactions, and benefit from 2.5 times reward points on e-commerce transactions. Additional perks include a ₹0.40 cash credit per reward point, buy-one-get-one movie ticket offers through BookMyShow, a 1% fuel surcharge waiver, and milestone achievement rewards.

**Asian Development Bank's \$2.6 Billion Sovereign Lending to India in 2023**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) committed \$2.6 billion in sovereign lending to India in 2023, aiming to bolster various sectors including urban development, power, industry, horticulture, connectivity, and climate resilience.

**RBI Imposes Penalty on HSBC for FEMA Violations**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has levied a penalty of Rs 36.38 lakh on HSBC Limited for breaching regulations outlined in the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). Specifically, HSBC failed to adhere to reporting requirements under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme of FEMA, 1999. The central bank's action follows a thorough review of the case, including HSBC's response to a show cause notice issued earlier.

**RBI Imposes Penalty on ICICI Bank and YES Bank**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has penalized ICICI Bank and YES Bank for violations of regulatory norms pertaining to their financial positions as of March 31, 2022. Following supervisory inspections, the RBI issued notices to both banks, which subsequently failed to provide satisfactory explanations for the identified lapses, leading to the imposition of penalties.

**Banks' Credit Growth Outlook For FY25: CRISIL Analysis**

In its latest report, CRISIL Ratings predicts a slowdown in bank credit growth for fiscal year 2025 to 14%, marking a decline of 200 basis points from the estimated 16% growth in FY24. This moderation is attributed to various factors including a high base effect, revision in risk weights, and a slightly slower pace of GDP growth.

**Canara Bank To Dilute 14.50% Stake In Canara HSBC Life Insurance Via IPO**

Bengaluru-headquartered Canara Bank has approved initiating the process of diluting a 14.50% stake in its subsidiary, Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company, through an initial public offering (IPO). This move is pending approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Department of Financial Services (DFS). Currently, Canara Bank holds a 51% majority stake in the life insurance company, while HSBC Insurance (Asia Pacific) owns 26%, and Punjab National Bank holds the remaining 23%.

**RBI Penalizes SBM Bank (India) With Rs 88.70 Lakh Fine**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 88.70 lakh on SBM Bank (India) for non-compliance with specific regulatory norms. This includes licensing conditions and directives related to the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS).

**Axis Bank And Mastercard Introduce NFC Soundbox**

In a groundbreaking collaboration, Axis Bank and Mastercard have launched the NFC Soundbox, set to redefine payment experiences in India. This innovative device is poised to be an all-in-one solution, enabling users to accept various payment methods such as Bharat QR, UPI, Tap & Pay, and Tap + Pin.

## Science &amp; Technology News

**Sunita Williams: Indian-Origin Astronaut Set for Third Space Mission**

Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams, alongside colleague Butch Wilmore, is embarking on her third space mission to the International Space Station (ISS). This mission marks the inaugural crewed flight of the Starliner spacecraft, designed to test its systems from launch to landing.

**NASA and JAXA Forge Ahead with XRISM Despite Instrument Glitch**

NASA and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) have decided to operate an instrument on the X-ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission (XRISM) satellite as-is for at least the next year and a half, despite encountering an issue affecting one of its instruments. This decision showcases the agencies' determination to push forward with this groundbreaking X-ray astronomy mission.

**Microsoft's AI and Cloud Boost: €4 Billion Investment in France**

In a move that underscores its commitment to artificial intelligence (AI) and cloud computing, tech giant Microsoft Corp. has announced plans to invest a staggering €4 billion (approximately \$4.3 billion) in building cloud and AI infrastructure in France. This latest investment highlights the company's continued focus on advancing its AI capabilities and expanding its cloud services globally.

**TCS Unveils Global AI Centre of Excellence in France**

In a significant move, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced the creation of a Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in the French capital, Paris. The announcement was made during the prestigious "Choose France Summit" hosted by President Emmanuel Macron, underscoring TCS's commitment to the French market and the global AI landscape.

**NASA Appoints New Chief for Artificial Intelligence**

NASA has given a new role to David Salvagnini as the agency's Chief Artificial Intelligence (AI) Officer. This is an addition to his current job as Chief Data Officer. The appointment shows NASA's commitment to using AI technology responsibly.

**Mangalyaan-2 Unveiled: India Set to Become the Third Nation to Land on Mars**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is gearing up for a landmark mission that aims to land a rover and helicopter on Mars. This historic endeavor, named Mangalyaan-2, seeks to place India alongside the US and China as a significant player in interplanetary exploration. The project was unveiled during a presentation at the Space Application Centre on National Technology Day.

**Elon Musk Launches Starlink in Indonesia: Bridging Connectivity Gaps**

Tech mogul Elon Musk introduced SpaceX's Starlink satellite internet service in Indonesia, aiming to enhance connectivity in remote regions of the archipelago nation. The inauguration took place in Bali, where Musk, alongside Indonesian officials, emphasized the transformative potential of improved internet access.

**ISRO And Wipro 3D Collaborate On 3D-Printed Rocket Engine**

In a landmark achievement for sustainable space exploration, Wipro 3D and ISRO have jointly developed and successfully tested a 3D-printed rocket engine for India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). The engine, designed for the fourth stage (PS4), marks a significant advancement in additive manufacturing technology within India's space program.

**AstraZeneca's \$1.5 Billion Investment in Singapore: Advancing Cancer Treatment**

AstraZeneca, a leading pharmaceutical company, announced plans to construct a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Singapore with a focus on producing antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs), a promising class of cancer-fighting medications.

**Noise Acquires Women's Wellness Platform SocialBoat to Bolster Smart Ring Innovation**

Leading smartwatch and connected lifestyle brand, Noise, has announced the acquisition of the AI-powered women's wellness platform SocialBoat. This strategic move is part of Noise's broader strategy to advance innovation in smart rings, particularly its flagship wearable, the Luna Ring.

## Schemes and Committees News

### Crackdown on Fraudulent SMS Under Sanchar Saathi Initiative

In a concerted effort to combat the rising threat of fraudulent SMS, the Department of Telecommunication (DoT), in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, has launched the Sanchar Saathi Initiative. This initiative aims to tackle the proliferation of deceptive messages targeting unsuspecting mobile users. Notably, the government has identified and blocked eight SMS headers frequently exploited by cybercriminals.

## Summits & Conference News

### 26th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting in New Delhi

The 26th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting took place in New Delhi, co-chaired by Secretary (East) Jaideep Mazumdar and Permanent Secretary Albert Chua of Singapore. Discussions encompassed the three pillars of engagement—political-security, economic, and socio-cultural—reviewing ASEAN-India relations as outlined in the ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2021-2025). Key topics included the implementation of the Prime Ministers' 12-Point Proposal and preparations for the upcoming ASEAN-India Summit in Vientiane.

### 10th World Water Forum Opens in Bali, Indonesia

The 10th World Water Forum, themed "Water for Shared Prosperity," officially commenced on May 21 in Bali, Indonesia. Attendees included numerous country leaders and United Nations representatives. The forum focused on four critical topics: water conservation, clean water and sanitation, food and energy security, and mitigation of natural disasters.

## Awards & Honors News

### 2024 Pulitzer Prize Winners Announced

The prestigious Pulitzer Prizes for 2024 were announced on May 7, 2024, by Columbia University in the United States of America. The awards, considered the most prestigious in the fields of journalism and arts, were conferred by Columbia University on the recommendation of the Pulitzer Prize Board. The winners will be formally recognized at a ceremony later, presided over by the president of Columbia University.

### Oxford Bookstores Honours Excellence in Book Design and Visual Arts

Oxford Bookstores announced Bhavi Mehta as the winner of the 9th edition of the Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize. Mehta's winning entry was the book jacket for "The Book Beautiful" published by Hachette India and authored by Pradeep Sebastian.

### Pawan Sindhi Honored with Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024

Pawan Sindhi was bestowed with the prestigious Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024 at an event attended by esteemed saints, Mahatmas, and sadhus. The occasion celebrated Mr. Sindhi's remarkable contributions to society and his dedication to serving humanity.

### Dr. Soumya Swaminathan Honoured with Honorary Doctorate by McGill University

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, a globally renowned leader in public health and infectious diseases, has been named among the 10 exceptional individuals to receive an honorary degree from Canada's prestigious McGill University during the Spring 2024 Convocation ceremonies.

### Hindustan Shipyard Limited's CMD Cmde Hemant Khatri Honored with 'PSU Samarpan Award'

In a prestigious ceremony held in New Delhi, Cmde Hemant Khatri, the Chairman and Managing Director (C&MD) of Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), was bestowed with the esteemed 'PSU Samarpan Award' by Gov Connect. The award recognizes Khatri's outstanding leadership and his pivotal role in driving the transformation of the shipyard, inspiring countless individuals within the industry.

### Chandrakant Satija Honoured with Global Excellence Award 2024

In a prestigious ceremony held at the Sahara Star Hotel in Mumbai on May 12th, Chandrakant Satija, the renowned educationist and Founder/CEO of Chandra Admission Consultants, was honoured with the Global Excellence Award 2024. The award, presented by the famous Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra, recognized Satija as the Most Trusted Admissions Consultant in the Vidarbha Region.

### Ruskin Bond Awarded Prestigious Sahitya Akademi Fellowship

In a momentous occasion, the eminent author Ruskin Bond has been bestowed with the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, the highest honour conferred by India's premier literary organization, the Sahitya Akademi. Due to Bond's ill health, the prestigious award was presented to him at his Mussoorie home by Sahitya Akademi President Madhav Kaushik and Secretary K. Sreenivasarao, in the presence of his son.

### Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Receives First Stamp Commemorating 200 Years of Indian Origin Tamils in Sri Lanka

Indian spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar received the first stamp released to commemorate the completion of 200 years of Indian Origin Tamils (IOT) in Sri Lanka. The stamp was presented by the Governor of the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka, Senthil Thondaman. The event aimed to recognize and honor the IOT community, which has faced decades of neglect. Thondaman expressed gratitude to both the Indian and Sri Lankan governments for their support to the IOT community.

**NTPC Shines at ATD BEST Awards 2024**

The public sector company NTPC has secured the third rank in the world for the Talent Development category at the prestigious ATD BEST Awards 2024. The award ceremony was held in New Orleans, United States of America, on 21 May 2024. Ms. Rachana Singh Bhal, NTPC's chief general manager strategic HR & talent management, accepted the award on behalf of the company.

**Scientist Srinivas R. Kulkarni Honoured with Prestigious Shaw Prize in Astronomy**

Srinivas R. Kulkarni, an Indian-origin U.S. scientist and brother of renowned author Sudha Murty, has been awarded the prestigious Shaw Prize in Astronomy for 2024. This prestigious recognition celebrates Kulkarni's groundbreaking discoveries in the field of astronomy, including his pioneering work on millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and other transient astronomical phenomena.

**Jenny Erpenbeck's 'Kairos' Wins International Booker Prize**

German author Jenny Erpenbeck and translator Michael Hofmann have won the prestigious International Booker Prize for their novel "Kairos." The book, which tells the story of a tangled love affair during the final years of East Germany's existence, beat out five other finalists from a pool of 149 submitted novels.

**NHPC Honoured with 'The Economic Times HR World Future Ready Organization Award 2024-25'**

NHPC, India's premier hydropower company, has been bestowed with the prestigious 'The Economic Times HR World Future Ready Organization Award 2024-25'. This coveted recognition highlights NHPC's unwavering commitment to fostering a future-ready workforce and its strategic approach to human resource management.

**Cannes: Payal Kapadia Wins Grand Prix Award for 'All We Imagine as Light'**

The 77th Cannes Film Festival witnessed a remarkable achievement for Indian cinema as Payal Kapadia's film 'All We Imagine as Light' won the prestigious Grand Prix award, the second-highest honour at the festival. This triumph marks a historic moment, as Kapadia becomes the first Indian filmmaker to receive this prestigious accolade.

**Indian Peacekeeper Receives UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award**

Major Radhika Sen, an Indian military peacekeeper serving with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), has been

awarded the prestigious 2023 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award. This award recognizes her dedication and efforts in promoting the principles of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security.

**Indian-American Bruhat Soma Triumphs at Scripps National Spelling Bee**

In a remarkable display of spelling prowess, Bruhat Soma, a 12-year-old Indian-American seventh-grader from Florida, has emerged victorious at the prestigious Scripps National Spelling Bee. Maintaining the dominance of the small ethnic community in this prestigious competition, Bruhat correctly spelled 29 words in the tiebreaker round, earning him more than \$50,000 in cash and other prizes.

**NIMHANS Honoured with Prestigious Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion**

The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, India's premier mental health institution, has been conferred the prestigious Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024 by the World Health Organization (WHO). This award recognizes individuals, institutions, and organizations that have demonstrated remarkable contributions to health promotion.

**Important Dates News****World Asthma Day 2024 Observed on May 7, 2024**

Every year on the first Tuesday of May, we celebrate World Asthma Day. This year World Asthma Day is observed on May 7, 2024 is organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma, (GINA) with World Health Organization collaborative organization founded in 1993. This day is all about raising awareness about asthma, a long-term lung disease that affects millions of people around the world. This year, the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) has chosen the theme "Asthma Education Empowers" to highlight the importance of teaching people with asthma and healthcare workers about the condition.

**World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2024 Observed on May 8<sup>th</sup>**

May 8<sup>th</sup> is observed as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, a global day to celebrate the uniqueness and unity of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This day is a time to recognize the spirit of humanitarianism and the individuals who make a difference in their communities. The theme of this year's World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, Keeping Humanity Alive, is a call to celebrate those who give their time, and sometimes their lives, to ease the suffering of others and protect their inherent human dignity.

**World Thalassaemia Day 2024 Celebrates on 8th May**

Observed annually on May 8th, World Thalassaemia Day aims to raise global awareness about this genetic disorder, support those affected and their caregivers, promote research for a cure, and dispel myths surrounding the disease. This year's theme is: "Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassaemia Treatment for All".

**International Day of Argania 2024 Observed on 10th May**

On May 10 every year, people around the world celebrate the International Day of Argania. This special day honours the Argan tree (*Argania spinosa*), an ancient species that has grown in Morocco for about 80 million years. These trees are not just old; they play a crucial role in the local economy and environment. The celebration aims to increase awareness about these unique trees, their benefits, and the challenges they face.

**World Migratory Bird Day 2024: Celebrating the Importance of Insects**

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is an annual global campaign that aims to raise awareness about the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. This year, WMBD will be celebrated on two dates: Saturday, 11 May 2024, and Saturday, 12 October 2024, to align with the cyclic patterns of bird migration in different hemispheres. The theme for World Migratory Bird Day 2024 is "Insects". This year's campaign will focus on highlighting the vital role that insects play in the lives of migratory birds.

**National Technology Day 2024, Celebrating India's Technological Prowess**

National Technology Day is celebrated annually in India on 11 May. This day is dedicated to recognizing the contributions of innovators, scientists, and engineers, and to promoting scientific and technological innovation in the country. The day was first established in 1998 to commemorate the successful nuclear test at Pokhran. This test was a significant milestone in India's technological advancement, and it paved the way for the country to acquire a leading position in the field of nuclear weapons technology.

**International Nurses Day 2024 Observed on 12th May**

Every year on 12 May, the world observes International Nurses Day to honor the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the pioneer of modern nursing. This day serves as a tribute to the selfless dedication and vital contributions of nurses worldwide. Florence Nightingale, born on 12 May 1820 in Florence, Italy, was a British nurse and social reformer. Her unwavering compassion and tireless efforts during the Crimean War (1853-56) earned her the legendary title of "Lady with the Lamp."

**International Day of Plant Health 2024 Observed on 12th May**

The International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) is observed annually on 12 May to raise awareness about the critical importance of protecting plant health. This global initiative aims to prevent hunger, reduce poverty, safeguard biodiversity, and promote economic development worldwide. This year, the International Day of Plant Health falls on Sunday, 12 May 2024, coinciding with Mother's Day, an event that recognizes the love, care, and sacrifices of mothers.

**International Day of Families 2024 Observed on May 15<sup>th</sup>**

Every year on May 15<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the International Day of Families. It's a special day to recognize how essential families are in our society. The United Nations established this day in 1994 to help people understand why families matter, what challenges they might face, and to encourage people to come together in support.

**International Day of Living Together in Peace 2024**

The International Day of Living Together in Peace is an annual observance held on 16 May every year. Established by the United Nations General Assembly, this day aims to support global efforts in promoting peace, unity, and solidarity among nations and individuals.

**World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2024 Observed on May 17<sup>th</sup>**

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, observed annually on May 17, celebrates the transformative impact of telecommunication and information technology on global connectivity and development. As we commemorate this special day in 2024, it's essential to reflect on its significance, theme, historical roots, and the pressing issues it addresses.

**International Museum Day 2024, Observed On May 18<sup>th</sup>**

International Museum Day, celebrated annually on May 18<sup>th</sup> in the world to raise public awareness of the invaluable role museums play in preserving artistic, cultural, and historical artifacts. This day highlights the educational and cultural contributions of museums, showcasing their importance as repositories of knowledge and history. Let's delve into the details of International Museum Day 2024, exploring its date, history, theme, significance, and celebrations.

**World's AIDS Vaccine Day 2024**

World AIDS Vaccine Day, also known as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, is observed annually on May 18<sup>th</sup>. This day is dedicated to raising awareness about the urgent need for AIDS vaccines and acknowledging the efforts of individuals, including doctors, scientists, and community members, who are committed to developing vaccines to combat HIV/AIDS.

**World Bee Day 2024: Date, Theme, History, Significance and Celebrations**

World Bee Day, observed on May 20, marks the birth anniversary of Anton Janša, a pioneer in beekeeping. Established by the United Nations in 2017, this day highlights the critical role of bees in ensuring food security, biodiversity, and sustainable agriculture. The 2024 theme, "Bee engaged with Youth," emphasizes the importance of involving young people in bee conservation efforts to protect these vital pollinators.

**International Tea Day 2024, Date, History and Objective**

On Tuesday, May 21, 2024, tea enthusiasts and advocates worldwide will come together to commemorate International Tea Day. This annual celebration honors the rich cultural heritage, economic significance, and environmental impact of the humble tea leaf. As we raise our cups in reverence, let us delve into the history, themes, and objectives that underpin this cherished occasion.

**International Day for Biological Diversity 2024: Be Part of the Plan**

The International Day for Biological Diversity is celebrated every year on May 22. This year, it falls on a Wednesday. The theme for 2024 is "Be Part of the Plan." This theme encourages governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, non-governmental organizations, lawmakers, businesses, and individuals to showcase their efforts in supporting the implementation of the Biodiversity Plan.

**India observed Anti-Terrorism Day 2024 on 21 May**

India observes Anti-Terrorism Day on 21 May to commemorate the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by a suicide bomber from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a terrorist organization based in Sri Lanka. The day serves as a reminder of the devastating consequences of terrorism and emphasizes the need for vigilance against such threats.

**Vesak 2024: Celebrating the Birth, Enlightenment, and Passing of the Buddha**

Vesak, also known as Buddha Purnima or Buddha Day, is the most sacred day for millions of Buddhists around the world. It is a day that commemorates three significant events in the life of Gautama Buddha: his birth, his enlightenment, and his passing away (Parinirvana).

**UNGA Proclaimed May 24 as the International Day of the Markhor**

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed May 24 as the International Day of the Markhor. This resolution, sponsored by Pakistan and eight other countries, aims to raise awareness and promote the conservation of this iconic and ecologically significant species found across the mountainous regions of Central and South Asia.

**World Football Day 2024, Date, History and Significance**

In 2024, the world marks the 100th anniversary of the first international football tournament involving teams from all regions, held on May 25, 1924, during the Summer Olympic Games in Paris. To honour this milestone, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution A/RES/78/281 on May 7, 2024, proclaiming May 25 as World Football Day.

**International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories 25-31 May**

The U.N. commemorates International Week of Solidarity with Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories annually from May 25 to May 31. The U.N. describes a Non-Self-Governing Territory as a territory "whose people have not yet gained a complete degree of self-government." This day aims to request the administering Powers to protect and respect the rights of the peoples in these territories to their natural resources and their property rights. Currently, there are 17 non-self-governing territories left in the world.

**Celebrating International Day of Action for Women's Health 2024**

The International Day of Action for Women's Health in 2024 holds immense significance as it serves as a powerful platform to advocate for gender equality, women's rights, and ensuring a healthy and fulfilling life for all women worldwide.

**World Hunger Day 2024, A Call to End Global Hunger**

May 28th, the world unites for World Hunger Day, a day dedicated to raising awareness about the urgent issue of global hunger. It's time to acknowledge the millions suffering from malnutrition and the need for sustainable solutions to end hunger for good. The theme for 2024 is "Mobilising in Critical Times of Threats and Opportunities," which emphasizes empowering women to make decisions independently, free from coercion and discrimination.



**International Everest Day 2024 Observed on May 29**

On May 29, the world will observe International Everest Day in memory of Nepalese Tenzing Norgay and New Zealand's Edmund Hillary, the first individuals to conquer the formidable Mt. Everest in 1953. This remarkable achievement etched their names in the annals of history, inspiring generations of adventurers and mountaineers.

**World No-Tobacco Day 2024, Know Date, Theme History and Significance**

Every year, World No Tobacco Day is observed on 31st May to create awareness about the potential health risks associated with tobacco consumption and advocate for effective policies to reduce its use. This day serves as a reminder of several life-threatening diseases like heart disease, stroke, cancer, and respiratory illnesses caused by smoking. Tobacco use is a major public health concern, causing millions of preventable deaths worldwide and imposing a massive burden on healthcare systems.

**Sports News****Japan Triumphs at the AFC U-23 Asian Cup, Secures Olympic Berth**

The Japanese men's under-23 football team etched their name in history by clinching the AFC U-23 Asian Cup for the second time, defeating Uzbekistan in a nail-biting final at the Jassim bin Hamad Stadium in Doha, Qatar. The solitary goal scored by substitute Yamada in injury time secured Japan's victory and qualification for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

**ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024: Bangladesh Gears Up for Cricketing Extravaganza**

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has unveiled the fixtures for the highly anticipated ninth ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024, set to take place from 3 to 20 October in Bangladesh. Cricket enthusiasts worldwide are eagerly awaiting this prestigious tournament, which promises to be an action-packed spectacle of skill and sportsmanship.

**Real Madrid Clinches 36th La Liga Title**

The Spanish football giants, Real Madrid, have etched another remarkable achievement in their illustrious history by securing the La Liga 2023-24 season title. Los Blancos, as they are affectionately called by their supporters, sealed the championship after defeating Cadiz 3-0, while their closest rivals Barcelona suffered a 4-2 loss against Girona.

**2024 Madrid Open, Iga Swiatek and Andrey Rublev Triumph**

The 2024 Madrid Open, held in the Spanish capital from April 22 to May 5, witnessed two remarkable champions in the singles events. Iga Swiatek of Poland claimed her first Madrid Open title, while Andrey Rublev of Russia secured his second triumph in this prestigious tournament.

**ISL 2023-24: Mumbai City FC Clinches Second Title**

In a thrilling final match at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan Stadium in Kolkata, Mumbai City FC emerged victorious over Mohun Bagan Super Giant with a scoreline of 3-1, securing their second Indian Super League (ISL) title. This victory marked a historic moment for Mumbai City FC, who had previously clinched their inaugural title in the 2020-21 season, also against Mohun Bagan.

**Yuzvendra Chahal Creates History to Become First Indian Bowler to 350 T20 Wickets**

Yuzvendra Chahal, the wily leg-spinner from Rajasthan Royals, continues to etch his name in the annals of T20 cricket history. In the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL), Chahal achieved a remarkable feat by becoming the first Indian bowler to take 350 wickets in the shortest format of the game.

**Amul Becomes 'Official Sponsor' of Sri Lanka Men's Cricket Team for T20 World Cup 2024**

Sri Lanka Cricket has announced that the Indian milk producer Amul has been appointed as the 'Official Sponsor' of the Sri Lanka Men's Team for the duration of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

**Bajrang Punia Provisionally Suspended by Wrestling Authorities**

The United World Wrestling (UWW) has provisionally suspended Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia until December 31, 2024, following his suspension by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for his 'refusal' to provide a urine sample.

**New Zealand's Colin Munro Announces Retirement from International Cricket**

In a surprising move, Colin Munro, the hard-hitting New Zealand top-order batsman, has announced his retirement from international cricket after being overlooked for the upcoming T20 World Cup. The decision marks the end of an era for the explosive left-hander, who etched his name as one of the most destructive T20 batters in the world.

**Neeraj Chopra Kicks Off 2024 Season with Silver at Doha Diamond League**

Neeraj Chopra, the reigning Olympic and world champion in javelin throw, started his 2024 season on a strong note, securing a second-place finish at the Doha Diamond League 2024. Chopra's impressive throw of 88.36m on his final attempt fell just 2cm short of Czechia's Jakub Vadlejch, the reigning Diamond League champion and Tokyo 2020 silver medalist.

**Jorge Martin wins 2024 French MotoGP**

In a showcase of electrifying motorcycle racing, Jorge Martin of Pramac Ducati emerged victorious in the nail-biting 2024 French MotoGP. The Spaniard fended off fierce challenges from Marc Marquez and Francesco Bagnaia to claim the top spot on the podium, extending his lead in the championship standings.

**Japan Wins Maiden Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Trophy**

Japanese men's hockey team etched its name in the history books by clinching its maiden Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy title. The match against Pakistan ended in a 2-2 deadlock after regulation time, leading to a penalty shootout. Japan emerged victorious, defeating Pakistan 4-1 in the nerve-racking shootout at the Azlan Shah Stadium in Ipoh, Malaysia, on 11 May 2024.

**Magnus Carlsen's Incredible Comeback Wins 2024 Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland**

In a display of sheer dominance, World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen pulled off an incredible comeback to claim victory at the 2024 Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland. Despite starting the day trailing by 2.5 points behind GM Wei Yi, Carlsen embarked on a remarkable 10-game winning streak, ultimately overtaking his rival and securing the championship title.

**United Nations Declares May 25 as World Football Day**

In a historic move, the United Nations General Assembly has unanimously proclaimed May 25 as the World Football Day, marking a significant milestone in the global celebration of the world's most popular sport. The resolution, adopted during the 80th plenary meeting of the General Assembly in New York, coincides with the 100th anniversary of the first international football tournament with representation from all regions – the 1924 Summer Olympic Games held in Paris.

**Sunil Chhetri Announces Retirement from International Football**

Sunil Chhetri, India's most decorated footballer, has announced his retirement from international football. The FIFA World Cup Qualifier game against Kuwait in Kolkata on June 6 will be his last appearance for the national team.

**Indian Para Athlete Deepthi Jeevanji Wins Gold and Sets New World Record**

Indian para-athlete Deepthi Jeevanji etched her name in history by winning the gold medal in the women's T20 400m event at the World Para Athletics Championships 2024. Her stunning performance on Monday not only secured India's first gold medal at the prestigious event but also set a new world record time of 55.07 seconds.

**Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty Triumph at Thailand Open 2024**

The world's third-ranked Indian badminton pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty etched their names in glory by winning the coveted Thailand Open 2024 men's doubles title. In a thrilling final clash on May 19, 2024, the dynamic duo defeated the Chinese pair of Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi with a scoreline of 21-15, 21-15, in a match that lasted 46 minutes.

**Alexander Zverev and Iga Swiatek Reign Supreme at Italian Open 2024**

German tennis star Alexander Zverev etched his name in history by winning the Italian Open singles title for the second time. The 25-year-old defeated the first-time Masters finalist, Nicolas Jarry of Chile, in straight sets, 6-4, 7-5, to claim his eighth overall Masters title.

**Neeraj Chopra Shines at Federation Cup 2024 Athletics Meet**

Indian athletic sensation Neeraj Chopra continued his dominance in the men's javelin throw event, clinching the gold medal with a modest effort of 82.27m at the prestigious Federation Cup 2024 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The 26-year-old Olympic champion showcased his prowess in his first competitive outing in India since his historic triumph three years ago.

**Indian Boxers Shine at the 3rd Elorda Cup 2024**

The Indian boxing contingent made a remarkable impact at the 3rd Elorda Cup 2024, held in the Kazakh capital city of Astana. The team returned with an impressive haul of 12 medals, including 2 gold, 2 silver, and 8 bronze.

**Brazil Awarded 2027 Women's World Cup Hosting Rights**

In a historic moment for South American football, Brazil was declared the host of the 2027 Women's World Cup at the FIFA Congress. The Brazilian bid triumphed over the joint bid from Belgium, Netherlands, and Germany, becoming the first South American country to secure the hosting rights for the prestigious tournament.

**Max Verstappen Triumphs at Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2024**

Max Verstappen, the defending Formula 1 World Champion, showcased his prowess on the track by clinching a hard-fought victory at the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2024. The Dutchman held off a spirited challenge from McLaren's rising star, Lando Norris, to secure his third win of the season.

**Australia to Host AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026**

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has confirmed Australia as the hosts for the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026. The continental football governing body made this announcement after the AFC Executive Committee ratified the recommendations of the AFC Women's Football Committee at its meeting in Bangkok, Thailand.

**'Let's Move India' Campaign Celebrates Olympians Bound for Paris**

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has launched the "Let's Move India" campaign in collaboration with the Reliance Foundation and the Abhinav Bindra Foundation. The initiative aims to celebrate the Olympians heading to the upcoming Paris Olympics and encourage everyone to participate in physical activity.

**IPL 2024 Award Winners, Check the Complete list**

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) won the IPL 2024 title, defeating Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the final. KKR's Sunil Narine was named the Most Valuable Player and Ultimate Fantasy Player of the Season. SRH's Nitish Kumar Reddy was the Emerging Player of the Season. Virat Kohli (RCB) won the Orange Cap for most runs, while Harshal Patel (PBKS) took the Purple Cap for most wickets. Other award winners included Abhishek Sharma (SRH) for Most Sixes, Travis Head (SRH) for Most Fours, and Jake Fraser-McGurk (DC) for Best Strike Rate. SRH received the Fair Play Award, while the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad won the Pitch and Ground Award.

**Shahid Afridi Appointed as ICC Men's T20 World Cup Brand Ambassador**

The International Cricket Council (ICC), the global governing body of cricket, has appointed the legendary Pakistani cricketer Shahid Afridi as the brand ambassador for the upcoming 9th ICC Men's T20 World Cup. This highly anticipated tournament will be co-hosted by the West Indies and the United States of America from 1st to 29th June 2024.



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**Dipa Karmakar Etches History by Clinching Gold at Asian Gymnastics Championships**

The Indian gymnast, Dipa Karmakar, has scripted history by becoming the first-ever Indian to secure a gold medal in any Asian Championships. Hailing from Tripura, Dipa achieved this remarkable feat in the women's vault individual final at the Asian Women's Artistic Gymnastics Championships 2024, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on May 26, 2024.

**ICC Players of the Month for April 2024 Announced**

Hayley Matthews, the West Indies captain, has been named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for her exceptional all-round performances that spearheaded the West Indies' success in Pakistan across both ODI and T20I series. Muhammad Waseem, the UAE captain and opener, has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for his notable run-scoring feats as the UAE triumphed in the ACC Premier Cup.

**England Cricketer Brydon Carse Slapped with Three-Month Ban**

England's fast-bowling allrounder Brydon Carse has been handed a three-month suspension from all forms of cricket after being found guilty of breaching betting regulations. The 28-year-old placed a staggering 303 bets on various cricket matches between 2017 and 2019, leading to charges being brought against him.

**India Joins Newly Formed World Boxing Body**

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has taken a significant step by agreeing to join the World Boxing (WB), a newly established governing body formed after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) refused to recognize the International Boxing Association (IBA). This move comes amidst the ongoing World Olympic qualifiers in Bangkok, where the BFI's affiliation will be ratified by the WB executive board.

**Obituaries News****Titanic, Lord of the Rings actor Bernard Hill Passes Away at 79**

The entertainment industry mourns the loss of Bernard Hill, the esteemed British actor whose remarkable talent graced the silver screen in some of the most iconic films of our time. At the age of 79, the Manchester-born thespian has taken his final bow, leaving behind a legacy that will continue to inspire generations of actors.

**Renowned Urdu Writer Salam Bin Razzaq Passes Away at 83**

Shaikh Abdussalam Abdurrazzaq, the renowned Urdu litterateur and academician, popularly known by his pseudonym Salam Bin Razzaq, passed away on Tuesday at his residence in Navi Mumbai after a prolonged illness, as informed by a family friend.

**Filmmaker Sangeeth Sivan Passes Away At 61**

Renowned filmmaker from Kerala Sangeeth Sivan passed away at the age of 61. He had films like 'Vyooham,' 'Daddy,' 'Gandharvam,' and the 'Yodha'. Apart from this, he also made 10 Hindi movies like 'Kya Kool Hai Hum' and 'Apna Sapna Money Money'.

**Punjabi Poet and Writer Surjit Patar Passes Away at 79**

The literary world mourns the loss of Surjit Patar, a renowned Punjabi poet, writer, and Padma Shri recipient, who passed away in Ludhiana, Punjab, at the age of 79.

**Nobel Prize-winning author Alice Munro dies at 92**

The literary world mourns the loss of Alice Munro, the Nobel Prize-winning author renowned for her masterful crafting of short stories. Munro, who passed away on May 13 at the age of 92, left an indelible mark with her taut and acutely observed narratives, which captured the essence of human nature with remarkable clarity.

**Veteran Congress Leader and Former Governor Kamla Beniwal Passes Away at 97**

The Indian political landscape mourns the loss of a pioneering figure, Kamla Beniwal, who breathed her last on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at the age of 97. Beniwal, a veteran Congress leader and former governor of Gujarat, Tripura, and Mizoram, left an indelible mark on the nation's political arena with her unwavering commitment and decades-long service.

**Former Indian Army Officer Killed in Gaza Attack**

The ongoing conflict in Gaza has claimed the life of Colonel (Retd.) Waibhav Anil Kale, a former Indian Army officer who was serving as a staff member of the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (DSS) in the region. The tragic incident occurred on May 13, 2024, when Kale's vehicle came under attack in Rafah, Gaza, marking the first international casualty since the latest escalation of hostilities between Israel and Hamas.

**Banking Icon N Vaghul Passes Away at 88**

The Indian banking industry mourns the loss of a legendary figure, N Vaghul, who passed away on Saturday in Chennai at the age of 88. Vaghul, a former chairman of ICICI Bank, left an indelible mark on the financial sector with his visionary leadership and commitment to excellence.

**Legendary Disney Songwriter Richard M. Sherman Passes Away at 95**

Richard M. Sherman, one half of the renowned Sherman Brothers duo, who crafted some of Disney's most iconic and memorable songs, has passed away at the age of 95. Sherman, along with his late brother Robert, left an indelible mark on millions of childhoods through their award-winning compositions for films like "Mary Poppins," "The Jungle Book," and "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang".

**Defence News**

**Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor Assumes Command as AOC-in-C, Training Command**

Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor has taken charge as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of the Training

Command (TC) in the Indian Air Force. With over 34 hundred hours of flying experience, he was commissioned into the Fighter stream in December 1986.

**Border Road Organisation Celebrates 65th Raising Day**

The Border Road Organisation (BRO), a crucial defence infrastructure organization, celebrated its 65th Raising Day on May 7, 2024. A ceremony was organized in New Delhi to mark the occasion, presided over by the Union Defence Secretary, Giridhar Aramane. The defence secretary praised the BRO for its remarkable contribution to building infrastructure in inhospitable areas and challenging weather conditions.

**Agnikul Cosmos' Agnibaan - World's First 3D Printed Space Rocket Engine**

Chennai-based startup Agnikul Cosmos has achieved a remarkable feat by successfully launching the world's first space rocket with a single-piece three-dimensional (3D) printed engine. After four failed attempts, Agnikul triumphed on its fifth try, launching its own rocket, named Agnibaan, into space. This launch marks India's first semi-cryogenic engine-powered rocket, which was completely designed and manufactured indigenously.

**IAF Contingent Joins 'Red Flag 24' Exercise in Alaska**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has joined a 16-day multi-nation mega military exercise in Alaska, United States, designed to provide realistic training to participating forces in a simulated combat environment. The exercise, known as 'Red Flag 24', commenced on May 30 and will continue until June 14.

**Indian Army and IAF Conduct Joint Exercise in Punjab**

The Indian Army's Kharga Corps, under the aegis of the Army's Western Command, successfully conducted a three-day joint exercise with the Indian Air Force (IAF) at multiple locations in Punjab. The exercise aimed to refine processes and validate the employment of attack helicopters in support of mechanized operations in developed terrain. The exercise, titled "Gagan Strike-II," incorporated various force multipliers, including Apache and ALH-WSI helicopters, Unarmed Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), and special forces of the Indian Army.

**IAF Conducts Bambi Bucket Operations to Combat Forest Fires in Uttarakhand**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has been actively assisting the state in combating the forest fires. In response to the raging fires in the Pauri Garhwal sector, the IAF provided much-needed relief by undertaking Bambi Bucket operations using its Mi17 V5 helicopters.

**Indian Air Force Tests BHISHM Portable Hospital for Airdrop in Agra**

The Indian Air Force recently conducted a test in Agra for the BHISHM portable hospital, a crucial component of "Project BHISHM" aimed at providing rapid and comprehensive medical assistance during emergencies. These portable cubes, part of a broader initiative, can cater to up to 200 casualties, emphasizing swift response and extensive care.

**Indian Army Set to Receive Russian Iгла-S Air Defence Systems**

The Indian Army is poised to elevate its air defense capabilities with the impending delivery of the Russian Iгла-S Very Short Range Air Defense (VSHORAD) systems. This acquisition, featuring a technology transfer agreement between Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Limited (ADSTL) and Russia’s Rosoboronexport, represents a significant advancement in India’s defense preparedness.

**Miscellaneous News**

**Kutch Ajrakh, A Traditional Textile Craft Earns GI Tag**

In a significant recognition of Gujarat’s rich cultural heritage, the traditional artisans of ‘Kutch Ajrakh’ have been bestowed with the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) certificate by the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks (CGPDTM). This remarkable achievement celebrates the intricate textile craft that has been deeply rooted in the vibrant region of Kutch for centuries.

**National Archives of India Acquires Invaluable Collection of Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai**

The National Archives of India (NAI) has acquired a priceless collection of private papers and original correspondences belonging to the late Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, a prominent figure in India’s freedom struggle and nation-building efforts. This acquisition ensures the preservation of a significant part of our nation’s history and the legacy of a remarkable leader.

**Understanding West Nile Fever: A Mosquito-Borne Viral Infection**

West Nile fever is a viral infection caused by the West Nile virus (WNV), which is primarily transmitted through the bite of infected Culex mosquitoes. First detected in Uganda in 1937, this vector-borne disease has now spread globally, including in India, where it was first reported in Kerala in 2011.

**Thiruvananthapuram International Airport Leads Nation with Zero Waste to Landfill Accolade**

Thiruvananthapuram International Airport has made history as the first airport in India to achieve the prestigious recognition of zero waste to landfill (ZWL). This commendation comes from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-ITC) Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, confirming the airport’s commitment to environmentally responsible practices.

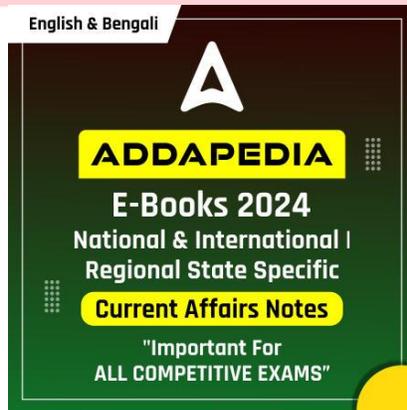
**Cyclone Remal: IMD Predictions and Impact**

A low-pressure system over the Bay of Bengal is set to intensify into Cyclone Remal, reaching Bangladesh and adjoining West Bengal coasts as a severe cyclonic storm. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasts the cyclone’s progression, predicting it to become a severe cyclonic storm by May 25 morning and make landfall between Sagar island in West Bengal and Khepupara in Bangladesh by May 26 evening.

**Indian Mountaineer Satyadeep Gupta Achieves Historic Double Dual Ascent**

In a remarkable feat, Indian mountaineer Satyadeep Gupta has etched his name in history by becoming the first person to scale Mt. Everest and Mt. Lhotse twice in a single season. Additionally, he is the first Indian to traverse the two peaks in an astonishing 11 hours and 15 minutes.

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