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# MONTHLY — Current Affairs



## NATIONAL NEWS

### Goa CM Launches 'Goem Vinamulya Vij Yevjan' To Boost Solar Energy Adoption

Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister (CM) of Goa, launched the 'Goem Vinamulya Vij Yevjan' scheme to boost solar rooftop installation and empower residential households to generate their own electricity in Goa.

Foot Note:

- Scheme: Goem Vinamulya Vij Yevjan, funded by both Central and State governments.
- Alignment: Linked with Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PM-SGMBY).
- Outlay: 75,021 crore, running until FY 2026-27.
- Objective: Increase solar energy use in India and reduce reliance on traditional power sources.
- Funding: Government will fund rooftop solar units up to 5 kW.
- Eligibility: Available for users with monthly power consumption of 400 units or less.

About Goa:

Chief Minister – Pramod Sawant

Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

Airport– Manohar International Airport

### Launch of Ideas4LiFE Portal by Shri Bhupender Yadav

Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, launched the Ideas4LiFE portal at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. This initiative seeks to gather innovative ideas related to products and services that promote environment-friendly lifestyles. The launch event was also attended by Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, and other dignitaries.

Foot Note:

- Shri Yadav highlighted the initiative's importance.
- He encouraged students, researchers, faculty, and innovators to contribute creative ideas.
- The aim is to support the global Mission LiFE.
- Mission LiFE focuses on mindful and deliberate resource use.

### Government Launched Vaccination Portal 'U-WIN' For Pregnant Women & Children

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) launched 'U-WIN', an online portal for managing vaccinations. It tracks the vaccination records of all pregnant women and children up to 6 years under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP).

Foot Note:

- The platform tracks all vaccinations, creating color-coded, digitally verifiable e-vaccination certificates.
- Parents get SMS reminders for upcoming vaccinations and can download digital certificates.

- It automatically generates a due list for children, helping health workers digitally record vaccinations and maintain accurate records.
- The platform connects digital records through Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) IDs for comprehensive health record maintenance.

### **Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024: Promoting Scientific Research in Hindi**

The conference was inaugurated by Dr. Mohan Yadav, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, who emphasized the significance of advancing knowledge and science in one's own language. He expressed hope for the conference to evolve into an international event, underscoring the potential of achieving global recognition through knowledge and science communicated in Hindi.

Foot Note:

- The Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 took place on July 30-31.
- The conference focuses on promoting scientific research in Hindi.
- It was organized by CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal, in collaboration with Vijnana Bharati Madhya Bharat Province, Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology, Madhya Pradesh Bhoj (Open) University, CSIR-NIScPR, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee Hindi University.
- The event provided a platform for presenting and discussing scientific work in Hindi.

### **India Ratings raises India's GDP growth outlook for FY25 to 7.5%**

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has recently revised its GDP growth estimate for the fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25) to 7.5%, up from the previous estimate of 7.1%. This forecast surpasses the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) prediction of 7.2%.

Foot Note:

- Government Capital Expenditure: Supports ongoing growth.
- Deleveraged Balance Sheets: Corporations and banks are less leveraged.
- Nascent Corporate Capex Cycle: Early-stage private corporate investment.

### **Mercer's report shows Hong Kong, Singapore, and Zurich as the priciest global cities, with Mumbai topping the list in India**

In Mercer's latest "Cost of Living City Ranking 2024" report:

- Mumbai emerged as India's most expensive city, ranking 136th globally, up 11 spots from 2023.
- Hong Kong, Singapore, and Zurich maintained their positions as the top three costliest cities worldwide for the second consecutive year.
- Covered 200+ expense items including housing, transportation, food, clothing, and entertainment.
- Total 7 Indian cities featured in the Mercer's Cost of Living City Ranking 2024.
- After Mumbai, Delhi emerged as the 2nd costliest city in India. It has secured overall 165th rank and improved its ranking by 4 places.

### **Sixteenth Finance Commission Constitutes Five-Member Advisory Council**

The Sixteenth Finance Commission has constituted an advisory council with five members to advise the Commission on any of the Terms of Reference (ToR) or related subjects. The Finance Commission, as per the ToR, will also suggest measures to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of panchayats and municipalities.

Foot Note:

- Preparing papers or research studies
- Monitoring or assessing studies commissioned by the Finance Commission
- Enhancing the Commission's understanding of issues in its ToR
- Broadening the Commission's ambit and understanding by seeking the best national and international practices on fiscal devolution

### **World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit From 20th -24th November In Goa**

India will host the first World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit in November alongside the International Film Festival of India in Goa. I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw promising to strengthen the ecosystem for the protection of intellectual property rights in the media and entertainment sector.

Foot Note:

- Mr. Vaishnaw and Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced the first World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in Goa from November 20-24.
- The summit is described as a visionary initiative by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The aim is to strengthen India's presence in the media and entertainment sector.
- Mr. Vaishnaw emphasized the importance of IP rights and announced plans to enhance the protection of IP rights in the sector.

About Goa:

Capital: Panaji

Chief Minister: Pramod Sawant

Governor: P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

### **India Launches First National Toll-Free Anti-Narcotics Helpline**

India is set to launch its first national toll-free anti-narcotics helpline, '1933', alongside an email service under the name MANAS (Madak Padarth Nisedh Asuchna Kendra). Scheduled for launch by Union Home Minister Amit Shah during the seventh Narco-Coordination Centre meeting on July 18, the helpline aims to provide a user-friendly platform for citizens to report drug-related crimes and seek assistance 24x7.

- Addresses drug trafficking, sale, storage, manufacturing, and cultivation.
- Guarantees confidentiality and quick action under NDPS Act.
- Report via phone (1933), email (info.ncbmanas@gov.in), or website (ncbmanas.gov.in).
- Enhances reporting access and efficiency.

### **NITI Aayog launch 'GearShift Challenge' for Zero-Emission Truck Adoption**



NITI Aayog, together with IIM Bangalore, Smart Freight Centre India, CALSTART/Drive to Zero, and WRI India, launched the NITI GearShift Challenge under the e-FAST India initiative. This innovative hackathon aims to create business models for the adoption of zero-emission trucks (ZETs) in India, tackling key economic and environmental issues.

Foot Note:

- Vital for the economy, delivering goods to over 1.4 billion people.
- Road freight accounts for 55% of India's annual diesel consumption and nearly 40% of CO2 emissions from road transport.
- Transitioning to electric trucks is a key priority.
- Electric trucks offer opportunities to reduce emissions, improve air quality, and enhance energy security.

About NITI Aayog:

Chairperson: Narendra Modi

Founded: 2015

Founder: National Democratic Alliance

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### 16 lakh Indian Children Missed Vital Vaccines in 2023: WHO-UNICEF report

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) released the 'WHO and UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage (WUENIC)'. This report provides estimates of national immunization coverage for vaccines against 14 diseases. It revealed that in 2023, India's national immunization program missed vaccinating 1.6 million (16 lakh) children for DPT (Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus) and measles.

Foot Note:

- Over 350,000 children missed measles and DPT vaccines in 2023, despite Central Government catch-up campaigns.
- The number of zero-dose children in 2023 was 1.6 million, a 45% increase from 1.1 million in 2022, but lower than during the pandemic years (2019, 2020).
- India is among the ten countries with the highest number of zero-dose children, along with Nigeria, Congo, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Pakistan.
- India accounts for 55% of children globally without measles vaccines, with a vaccination coverage rate between 90-94% in 2023.

### Atmanirbhar Bharat: India's Expanding Coal Mining Capacity

Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, India has marked a significant achievement in the global coal mining sector. The Gevra and Kusunda coal mines, operated by South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), a subsidiary of Coal India, have secured prominent positions among the world's largest coal mines. These mines, located in Chhattisgarh's Korba district, have been recognized as the 2nd and 4th largest coal mines globally by WorldAtlas.com, producing over 100 million tons of coal annually and contributing about 10% to India's total coal production.

Foot Note:

- Gevra mine, Chhattisgarh, operational since 1981.
- Annual capacity: 70 million tons; FY 23-24 production: 59 million tons.
- Expected to meet India's energy needs for the next decade.
- Kusunda mine produced over 50 million tons in FY 23-24, second only to Gevra in production levels.

### **India Targets \$500 Billion in Electronics Manufacturing by 2030: NITI Aayog**

India should set an ambitious target of achieving \$500 billion in electronics manufacturing by 2030, as stated in a recent NITI Aayog report. This goal includes \$350 billion from finished goods manufacturing and \$150 billion from component manufacturing. Currently, India's electronics production totals \$101 billion, with \$86 billion from finished goods and \$15 billion from components.

Foot Note:

- India's electronics sector grew to \$101 billion as of FY23, up from \$48 billion in FY17.
- Mobile phone production accounts for 43% of total electronics production in India.
- The sector focuses mainly on final assembly of electronic goods.
- There is considerable potential for growth in components manufacturing and design capabilities.

About NITI Aayog:

Chairperson: Narendra Modi

Founded: 2015

Founder: National Democratic Alliance

### **PM Modi Inaugurates World Heritage Committee's 46th Session in New Delhi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, emphasizing India's commitment to global heritage preservation.

Foot Note:

- He highlighted India's conservation efforts in Cambodia, Vietnam, and Myanmar.
- Modi called for global cooperation in heritage conservation.
- He emphasized India's initiatives like the global embrace of Yoga and Ayurveda.
- A new certificate program in World Heritage Management will be introduced in India for young professionals.

**6.22 lakh crore has been allocated to the Ministry of Defence for the 2024-25 budget**

In the Regular Union Budget for FY 2024-25, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has received an allocation of Rs 6,21,940.85 crore (approximately US \$75 billion), marking the highest allocation among all ministries. This represents a 4.79% increase over the previous fiscal year (FY 2023-24) and an 18.43% increase compared to FY 2022-23. The budget focuses on promoting self-reliance in defence technology and manufacturing, equipping the Armed Forces with modern weapons and platforms, and enhancing operational readiness and veterans' healthcare.

Foot Note:

- 92,088 crore allocated for operational readiness, up 48% from FY 2022-23.
- 1.72 lakh crore allocated to Defence Forces under the capital head, a 20.33% increase from FY 2022-23 and 9.40% more than FY 2023-24.
- 6,968 crore allocated to the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), a 28% increase from the previous year.
- 7,651.80 crore allocated, a 6.31% increase over FY 2023-24.

### **All govt buildings to be solarised by 2025 under PM Surya Ghar Yojana**

Indian government offices must achieve 100% solarisation by 2025 under the PM Surya Ghar scheme. All government buildings must install rooftop solar systems. Central ministries have been officially instructed to prioritize this project. They can choose between the CAPEX or RESCO model for installation.

**The solarisation is expected to bring several benefits:**

- Annual savings of 15,000-18,000 crore for households from free solar electricity and selling surplus to distribution companies.
- Support for electric vehicle charging.
- New entrepreneurship opportunities for vendors in supply and installation.
- Job opportunities for skilled youth in manufacturing, installation, and maintenance.

### **Mizoram's Aizawl to Become the Fourth Capital in Northeast India to gain Railway Connectivity**

By July 2025, Aizawl in Mizoram will become the fourth capital in Northeast India with train service. Guwahati, Agartala, and Naharlagun are already connected by rail, improving travel in the region.

Foot Note:

- The Bairabi-Sairang railway project spans 52 km from Bairabi in Assam to Sairang in Mizoram's Aizawl District.
- Started in 2008-2009, it cost approximately ₹8,213.72 crore.
- The project aims to enhance transportation in the region.

About Mizoram:

Capital: Aizawl

Governor: Hari Babu Kambhampati

Chief Minister: Lalduhawma

## **Hemant Soren government to launch financial assistance scheme for women**

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren announced that the government will soon hold village-level camps to enroll women in a financial assistance scheme, providing 1,000 per month. Hemant Soren announced the village-level camps while inaugurating and laying the foundation for development schemes worth 88 crore at Rajmahal in Sahibganj district.

Foot Note:

- He also distributed cheques to beneficiaries.
- The Cabinet approved the financial assistance scheme in June.
- Named Mukhyamantri Behan-Beti Swavalamban Protsahan Yojana, it will cost the State government about 400 crore per month.
- The initiative is timed ahead of the upcoming Assembly election in the State.

## **Rashtrapati Bhavan's Durbar Hall Renamed As Ganatantra Mandap, Ashok Hall as Ashok Mandap**

President Droupadi Murmu has renamed two important halls in Rashtrapati Bhavan, formerly known as 'Durbar Hall' and 'Ashok Hall', to 'Ganatantra Mandap' and 'Ashok Mandap' respectively. This change is part of ongoing efforts to reflect Indian cultural values and ethos within the President's official residence.

Foot Note:

- Cultural Significance: 'Ashok' symbolizes freedom from suffering and sorrow, referring to Emperor Ashok, a symbol of unity and peace.
- National Emblem: The lion capital of Ashok from Sarnath is India's national emblem.
- Cultural References: The Ashok tree holds deep significance in Indian religious traditions, arts, and culture.

## **Government launches revamped scheme to offer skill loans up to 7.5 lakh**

The government launched a revamped 'Model Skill Loan Scheme' for skill development courses, raising the maximum loan limit from 1.5 lakh to 7.5 lakh.

Foot Note:

- Announcement: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's budget address
- Revision: Model Skill Loan Scheme revised to facilitate loans up to 7.5 lakh.
- Guarantee: Loans to be guaranteed by a government-promoted fund.
- Impact: Expected to help 25,000 students annually.

## **Discovery of Lithium Resources in Mandya and Yadgiri Districts, Karnataka by AMD**

The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a unit of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), has identified lithium resources in the Mandya and Yadgiri districts of Karnataka. Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh announced the discovery of 1,600 tonnes (G3 stage) of lithium in the Marlagalla area of Mandya district. Preliminary surveys and limited subsurface exploration were also carried out in Yadgiri district.

Foot Note:

- Mandya District: 1,600 tonnes of lithium resources found in Marlagalla.



- Yadgiri District: Surveys and explorations underway for lithium resources.
- Masanbal, Hamirpur District: Surface uranium occurrences identified.
- Atomic Energy Plant: No study conducted in Himachal Pradesh.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Turkey Removed From FATF Money Laundering Grey List

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the international body in charge of coordinating and assessing policies to fight money laundering and terrorism financing it removed Turkey from its 'grey list' of jurisdictions under special scrutiny. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental organization that monitors global money laundering and terrorist financing trends. The FATF grey list, officially known as Jurisdictions Under Increased Monitoring, includes countries with deficiencies in their AML/CTF regimes. The grey list was created in 2000 and is updated periodically.

#### About Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

Established: July 1989

President : T. Raja Kumar

### INS Shivalik Joins 29<sup>th</sup> RIMPAC Exercise In Hawaii

Indian Navy's indigenous stealth frigate **INS Shivalik**, mission deployed to the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean, is participating in the **29<sup>th</sup> edition** of the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, being held in **Hawaii**.

Foot Note:

- The US Navy plans to conduct operations in and around the Hawaiian Islands involving about **40 surface ships**.
- Additionally, **three submarines and 14 national** land forces will participate in the exercise.
- The training will include over 150 aircraft and a deployment of more than 25,000 personnel.
- These activities are part of a comprehensive exercise coordinated by the US Navy in the region.

About Hawaii:

Capital: Honolulu

### World's first Brain Implant for Epilepsy Control in UK

Oran Knowlson, a teenager from the United Kingdom, has made medical history by becoming the first person worldwide to receive a brain implant aimed at managing epileptic seizures. This innovative deep brain stimulation (DBS) implant has significantly improved his quality of life by reducing the frequency of his seizures.

Foot Note:

- Epilepsy involves seizures, which are sudden bursts of electrical activity in the brain.
- Seizures can cause muscle jerks, temporary confusion, blank staring, or loss of consciousness.
- The cause of epilepsy is uncertain in about half of all cases.
- Factors such as head injuries, brain tumors, and certain genetic conditions can increase the likelihood of epilepsy.
- Anti-seizure medications are commonly prescribed for treatment.
- Approximately 30% of individuals with epilepsy do not respond adequately to these medications.

About UK:

Capital: London

Prime Minister: Rishi Sunak

### **Pankaj Advani Beaten By Dhruv Sitwala To claim 2024 Asian Billiards Championship Title**

Ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani fell short in his quest to secure a hat-trick of titles, losing 2-5 to compatriot Dhruv Sitwala in the final of the 2024 Asian Billiards Championship. Dhruv Sitwala set an impressive tone with a strong start, scoring 103 points, while Pankaj Advani struggled, finishing with zero points.

Foot Note:

- Advani scored 36 points, improving his performance.
- Dhruv maintained his lead with another 100 points.
- Advani surged ahead with 101 points, outplaying Dhruv who scored only two.
- Advani maintained his momentum with a perfect score of 100 points, while Dhruv scored 11 points.

### **PM Modi To Receive Russia's Highest Civilian Honour For "Outstanding Service"**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi ceremoniously presented with the Order of St Andrew the Apostle the First-Called, which was bestowed on him in the year 2019 at St Catherine's Hall of the Moscow Kremlin. The order was presented to the Prime Minister of India for his distinguished contribution to the development of a privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India and friendly ties between the two countries.

Foot Note:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded Russia's highest civilian honor, the Order of St Andrew the Apostle the First-Called, in 2019.
- The formal presentation ceremony will be held at St Catherine's Hall in the Moscow Kremlin.
- Established in 1698 by Tsar Peter the Great, this prestigious award is reserved for extraordinary civilian or military service to Russia.

### **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to Lead Indian Delegation to BRICS Parliamentary Forum**

Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, will head a prominent Indian parliamentary delegation to the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia. The forum aims to explore the role of parliaments in advancing global development and security through multilateral cooperation.

Foot Note:

- The Indian delegation features Harivansh, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha.
- It includes Shambhu Sharan Patel, a member of Rajya Sabha.
- Utpal Kumar Singh, Secretary General of Lok Sabha, is also part of the delegation.
- P C Mody, Secretary General of Rajya Sabha, completes the lineup.

### UNESCO Expands World Network of Biosphere Reserves

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has recently made a significant announcement, approving the designation of 11 new Biosphere Reserves across 11 countries. This expansion brings the total number of sites in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves to an impressive 759, spanning 136 countries worldwide. This development marks a crucial step forward in global efforts to protect biodiversity and promote sustainable development.

Foot Note:

- **UNESCO Designation:** Biosphere Reserves are designated by UNESCO as areas of significant natural and cultural importance.
- **Ecosystem Diversity:** They can include large terrestrial, coastal, or marine ecosystems, or a combination of these.
- **Primary Goals:** Achieve a balance between economic and social development, preserve cultural values, and conserve nature.
- **Zoning:** Typically divided into three zones: a core area for strict conservation, a buffer zone for activities compatible with conservation, and a transition area for sustainable development.

### Russia Approves Schedule for Creation Of Russian Orbital Station By 2033

Yury Borisov, Director General of Roscosmos, Russia's space agency, has endorsed a timeline to build the Russian Orbital Station (ROS) by 2033. The schedule was also signed by 19 CEOs of Roscosmos-affiliated enterprises involved in the project.

Foot Note:

- Russia plans to launch the first research and energy module for the ROS in 2027.
- By 2030, three other core modules—universal nodal, gateway, and base modules—will also be launched.
- In the second stage, from 2031 to 2033, two special-purpose modules (TsM1 and TsM2) are scheduled for launch.
- The entire project is estimated to cost 608.9 billion rubles (USD 6.98 billion), covering the development of new spacecraft, carrier rockets, and ground infrastructure.

About Russia:

Capital: Moscow

Prime minister: Mikhail Mishustin

### **WHO unveils MeDevIS, a global medical device information platform**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has introduced MeDevIS, an online platform that provides global, open-access information on medical devices. The MeDevIS platform started operating in March 2024 to assist WHO Member States and became publicly available on July 8, 2024.

Foot Note:

- MeDevIS provides info on 2,301 medical devices for conditions like cancer, diabetes, and COVID-19.
- Information is currently scattered across various international and regulatory sources, making it hard to find.
- References EMDN and GMDN naming systems.
- Aids policymakers in updating national health technology lists for universal coverage.

About WHO:

DG- Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

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### **Ireland Surpasses Mauritius in Preferred FPI Destinations**

Ireland has overtaken Mauritius to secure the fourth spot among preferred destinations for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) routing funds into India. Ireland boasts assets under custody (AUC) totaling Rs 4.41 trillion, slightly edging out Mauritius which recorded Rs 4.39 trillion. The shift highlights Ireland's appeal, with a 26% increase in AUC in the first half of the year compared to Mauritius' 11% uptick.

Foot Note:

- Mauritius' decline is due to lengthy approval processes and delays in fund registrations.
- Increased scrutiny on Mauritius-based funds investing in India has exacerbated these delays.
- As a result, FPIs are seeking alternatives.
- European countries like Luxembourg, Ireland, and France provide attractive tax benefits, such as zero tax on cash equities for funds in Ireland or Luxembourg.

## **India might be the world's second-largest economy by 2031, says the RBI Deputy Governor**

- Michael Debabrata Patra, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, asserts that India can become the second-largest economy by 2031 and the largest by 2060. India is the 5th largest economy with a GDP of \$3.6 trillion.
- The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) predicts India will overtake the US by 2048 in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms to become the second-largest economy.

About RBI:

Founded:1935

Governor:Shaktikanta Das

Founder: British Raj

## **Spain Clinches Euro 2024 Title with Dramatic Victory over England**

In a thrilling finale to Euro 2024, Spain secured their fourth European Championship trophy with a nail-biting 2-1 victory over England at the Olympiastadion in Berlin. This win cements Spain's status as the most successful nation in the tournament's history and marks their third title in the last five editions.

Foot Note:

- The first 45 minutes featured cautious play from both teams.
- Spain dominated possession but struggled to create clear chances.
- England had the first shot on target just before halftime.
- Phil Foden's close-range shot was saved by Spanish goalkeeper Unai Simón.

About England:

Capital: London

Prime Minister:Keir Starmer

## **Global Conference on Space Research in Busan, South Korea**

A milestone event in space exploration, the 45th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) commenced in Busan, South Korea. Hosted for the first time by South Korea, the conference gathered 3,000 scientists and industry leaders from 60 nations.

Foot Note:

- 45th COSPAR Scientific Assembly held in Busan, South Korea.
- First time hosted by South Korea.
- 3,000 scientists and industry leaders from 60 countries in attendance.

About South Korea:

Capital: Seoul

Prime minister: Han Duck-soo

## **Bangladesh Becomes 5th Member of Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)**



Bangladesh is now the 5th full member of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC), which includes India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and the Maldives. This was announced at the 8th Deputy National Security Adviser meeting, held online by Mauritius on July 10, 2024. Seychelles attended the meeting as an Observer.

Foot Note:

- India will host the 7th NSA-level CSC meeting in 2025.
- The 6th NSA-level CSC meeting was held in Mauritius in December 2023.
- The member nations reviewed decisions from the 7th DNSA meeting (virtual, Maldives, July 12, 2023) and the 6th NSA meeting.
- They also assessed progress on the 2023-24 Roadmap of Activities for the CSC.

### **‘World’s First’ 3D-Printed Electric Abra Begins Trial Voyage In Dubai**

Dubai’s Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has launched the trial operation of the world’s first electric abra manufactured using 3D printing technology, in collaboration with the private sector. The abra, which can carry 20 passengers, was designed, and built to retain the traditional abra identity.

Foot Note:

- Dubai launches trial of the world’s first 3D-printed abra.
- Manufactured by Al Seer Marine in Abu Dhabi with global partners.
- Mitsubishi provided materials, Siemens managed printer programming, Torqeedo supplied electric motors.
- TASNEEF ensured safety standards compliance during manufacturing.

### **Elon Musk Says X, SpaceX Headquarters Will Relocate To Texas From California**

Elon Musk said on July 16, said that he would move the headquarters of two of his businesses, the social media platform X and the rocket manufacturer SpaceX, to Texas, escalating an increasingly contentious fight with California.

Foot Note:

- Mr. Musk blamed a California law signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom on July 13.
- The law prevents school districts from requiring teachers to inform parents if their children change their gender identification.
- Mr. Musk called the law "the final straw."
- He warned Mr. Newsom that the legislation would drive families and companies out of California to protect their children.

### **Belarus Introduces 90-Day Visa-Free Regime for 35 European Countries**

Belarus has announced a new visa-free regime allowing citizens from 35 European countries to stay in the country for up to 90 days per year. This policy, effective from July 19, 2024, is seen as an attempt by Minsk to ease tensions with the West, following recent geopolitical shifts and ongoing sanctions.

Foot Note:

- New policy allows citizens from Germany, Britain, France, and other listed nations visa-free entry to Belarus.
- Stay duration extended to up to 90 days annually.
- Previous stay limit was 30 days, with entry only via Minsk airport.
- Visa-free entry can be used multiple times within a year.
- Policy excludes holders of special passports (diplomatic or official).

About Belarus:

Capital: Minsk

President: Aleksandr Lukashenko

### **China Unveils World's First Carbon Fiber High-Speed Train**

China has built the world's first passenger train made from carbon fibre, a material that makes it much lighter and more energy-efficient than conventional trains. The metro train – known as Cetrovo 1.0 or the Carbon Star Rapid Transit – was unveiled in Qingdao, in the eastern province of Shandong, on July 17.

Foot Note:

- Completed in-factory testing
- Ready for operation in coastal city later this year
- Developed by Qingdao Sifang Rolling Stock Co
- Subsidiary of China Railway Construction Corporation

About China:

Capital: Beijing

Prime Minister: Li Qiang

President: Xi Jinping

### **PM Modi Announces \$1 Million Grant to UNESCO**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced India's contribution of one million dollars to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to support heritage conservation globally, particularly in the Global South. This announcement was made during the inauguration of the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

Foot Note:

- India is dedicated to preserving global heritage
- Provides support both domestically and in the Global South
- New certificate program in world heritage management in India
- Trains young professionals in heritage conservation
- Enhances skills and knowledge in cultural heritage preservation

About UNESCO:

Founded: 1945

Headquarters: Paris

### **Assam's Charaideo Maidam Nominated for UNESCO World Heritage Site**

Charaideo Maidam has been nominated to become North East India's first UNESCO World Heritage Site in the cultural category. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced this nomination at the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee held from July 21-31 in New Delhi. If accepted, Charaideo Maidam will be India's 43rd World Heritage Site, joining Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park, which are listed under the natural category.

Foot Note:

- Burial mounds for Ahom kings and nobles (13th-18th century)
- Resemble grassy hillocks, considered sacred by the Ahom community
- Each Maidam marks the resting place of an Ahom ruler or dignitary
- Believed to contain remains and valuable artifacts

About Assam:

Capital: Dispur

Governor:Gulab Chand Kataria

Chief Minister:Himanta Biswa Sarma



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### **Two SECL Blocks Listed in World's Top 10 Largest Coal Mines: Gevra Secured 2<sup>nd</sup> and Kusbunda 4<sup>th</sup>**

Gevra Coal Mine and Kusbunda Coal Mine, part of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) in Chhattisgarh, ranked 2nd and 4th respectively in production volume on the WorldAtlas.com list of the world's top 10 largest coal mines.

Foot Note:

- Gevra is an open-cast coal mine in the Korba district of Chhattisgarh, owned by SECL, a subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL).
- It mainly produces Bituminous-grade coal and generated 59 million tons of coal in FY 23-24.
- It became India's largest coal mine in 2023, with an annual production of 52.5 million tons for FY 22-23.
- Operations began in 1981, and it has reserves to meet India's energy needs for the next ten years.
- The mine has an annual production capacity of 70 million tons and is expected to operate until 2036.

**Mankind Pharma to acquire Bharat Serums from Advent International for Rs 13630 crore**

Mankind Pharma has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire a 100 per cent stake in Bharat Serums and Vaccines (BSV) from Advent International. It is one of the world's largest and most experienced private equity investors, for an enterprise value of Rs 13,630 crore, subject to closing related adjustments.

Foot Note:

- **Mankind Pharma:** Leading Indian pharmaceutical company.
- **Focus:** Primarily on the domestic market.
- **Presence:** Pan India.
- **Operations:** Intersection of pharmaceutical formulations and consumer healthcare.
- **Aim:** Provide quality products at affordable prices.

### Japan's Sado Gold Mine Gains UNESCO Status

The UNESCO World Heritage committee on July 27 decided to register Japan's controversial Sado gold mine as a cultural heritage site. The country agreed to include it in an exhibit of its dark history of abusing Korean laborers during World War II. The decision signals an improvement in ties between Tokyo and Seoul.

Foot Note:

- The mine on an island near Niigata, northern Japan, operated for almost 400 years.
- It was once the world's largest gold producer.
- The mine closed in 1989.
- It was also associated with Japan's wartime exploitation of Korean laborers.

### 3 Indian Destinations Listed in TIME's 'World's Greatest Places of 2024'

TIME's list of The World's Greatest Places of 2024 includes three Indian destinations: the Museum of Solutions (MuSo) in Mumbai, Maharashtra; Manam Chocolate, a chocolate factory in Hyderabad, Telangana; and Naar, a restaurant in Himachal Pradesh.

Foot Note:

- In 2024, TIME's list grew from 50 to 100 extraordinary destinations, showcasing standout global establishments.
- The list was compiled through nominations from TIME's international network and an application process, emphasizing new and exciting experiences.
- Selected companies and organizations join an exclusive TIME community for networking.

About TIME Magazine:

CEO- Jessica Sibley

Headquarters-USA

### India Retains Eighth Position in Global Agriculture Exports in 2023

India held onto its position as the world's eighth-largest exporter of agricultural products in 2023, despite a decline in exports from \$55 billion in 2022 to \$51 billion. This stability comes amid a general decrease in agricultural exports among seven of the top ten exporting nations.

Foot Note:

- In 2023, only Brazil, the European Union (EU), and Thailand among the top ten countries increased their agricultural exports.
- Brazil's exports grew by 6% to \$157 billion, staying in third place.
- The EU's exports rose by 5% to \$836 billion, retaining its top position.
- Thailand's exports increased by 0.2% but remains outside the top three.

### Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites Inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage

In a momentous decision that celebrates the life and legacy of one of the world's most revered leaders, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has inscribed several iconic South African sites associated with Nelson Mandela as World Heritage Sites. This recognition, announced during the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in New Delhi, marks a significant milestone in preserving the memory of South Africa's journey from apartheid to democracy.

Foot Note:

- The newly recognized World Heritage property is titled "The Human Rights, Liberation and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites."
- It includes 14 locations connected to Nelson Mandela's life and South Africa's liberation struggle.
- These sites symbolize the country's challenging history and its eventual victory over oppression.

About UNESCO :

Founded: 1945

Headquarters: France

Founders: India, United States, France, Brazil, China, Türkiye, MORE

## STATE NEWS

### Uttar Pradesh to Establish Rs 2000 Crore Bioplastic Park

Uttar Pradesh's government, led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has made it official that a bioplastic park will be built in the Lakhimpur Kheri area. The idea comes about because more and more people are worried about how **plastics made from petroleum hurt the environment**.

Foot Note:

- The bioplastic park is strategically located to leverage the area's **agricultural strengths**.
- **Balrampur Chini Mill** will oversee the project, highlighting a strong public-private partnership.
- The Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) is responsible for ensuring seamless execution of the project from planning to completion.

About Uttar Pradesh:

Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath

Governor: Anandiben Patel



Capital: Lucknow

## **NTR Bharosa Pension Scheme Launch Day, A New Era of Social Security in Andhra Pradesh**

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu launched the NTR Bharosa pension scheme, fulfilling a key election promise and bringing hope to millions of beneficiaries across the state. The NTR Bharosa Scheme is a social security program designed to provide financial support to various vulnerable groups in Andhra Pradesh.

Foot Note:

- Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan participated in the pension distribution program at Gollaprolu village within his Pithapuram constituency.
- Every cabinet member and MLA also took part in the program within their respective constituencies.
- Enhancement of the pension amount was included in Naidu's pre-election commitments and received approval from the state cabinet on June 24th.
- According to an official statement, pensions for categories including old-aged people, widows, weavers, toddy tappers, fishermen, single women, traditional cobblers, transgenders, and artists have been raised from ₹3,000 to ₹4,000 monthly.

About Andhra Pradesh:

Capital: Amaravati

Chief Minister: N. Chandrababu Naidu

Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer

## **Age Limit For Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana Extended to 65 years**

The Maharashtra government has extended the application deadline for the Mukhya Mantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana. This scheme offers eligible women a monthly allowance of ₹1,500. Originally set for July 15, the new deadline is now August 31 due to expected high application numbers. Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar announced this decision in the State Legislative Assembly on July 2.

Foot Note:

- The eligibility criteria for the scheme have been updated to include more women throughout Maharashtra.
- The age range for eligibility has been expanded from 21 to 60 years to 21 to 65 years.
- Women who were born outside Maharashtra but are married to state domiciled men can use their husband's birth certificate or school leaving certificate as their own domicile proof.
- These changes allow more women to qualify for and benefit from the scheme.

## **Hemant Soren Takes Oath as 13th CM of Jharkhand**

Hemant Soren, the Executive President of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) party was sworn in as the 13th Chief Minister (CM) of Jharkhand for the 3rd time. The Governor, CP

Radhakrishnan, administered the oath of office and secrecy to Soren at a ceremony organised at Raj Bhavan in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Foot Note:

- Hemant Soren, son of Shibu Soren, former CM of Jharkhand, and President of JMM.
- Member of Jharkhand Assembly since 2005.
- Elected MLA from Barhait constituency in 2005, became MLA in 2009.
- Rajya Sabha member (2009-2010), Deputy CM of Jharkhand (2010-2013).
- Jharkhand's youngest CM in 2013, Leader of Opposition in 2014, and CM again in 2019. Resigned in January 2024 before arrest by Enforcement Directorate.

About Jharkhand:

Chief Minister: Hemant Soren

Capital: Ranchi

Governor : C. P. Radhakrishnan



The advertisement banner for PSSSB CLERK 2024 Test Series features a blue background. On the left, there is a circular logo with the Ashoka Lion Capital. To its right, the text 'PSSSB CLERK 2024' is displayed in large white letters, with 'Test Series' in a yellow box below it. A list of features includes '65+ Full Length Mock Tests', 'Latest Exam Pattern', and 'English & Punjabi Medium'. A red speech bubble with '50% OFF' is positioned above the price tag, which shows '₹ 639' crossed out and '₹ 319' in bold. A 'BUY NOW' button with a red arrow is on the left. On the right, a circular inset image shows a woman in a pink shirt writing in a notebook. A small 'MY' logo is in the top right corner.

### **Tata Power Launches 'Ghar Ghar Solar' Initiative in Uttar Pradesh**

Tata Power Solar Systems Limited has launched the 'Ghar Ghar Solar' initiative in Uttar Pradesh, starting from Varanasi, aimed at providing every home with clean energy through rooftop solar solutions. This initiative promises substantial financial savings and environmental benefits for residents.

Foot Note:

- Residents have access to a subsidy of up to Rs. 1,08,000 for rooftop solar installation, combining Central and State Government subsidies.
- Tata Power Solar provides advanced technology, including bifacial modules known for superior efficiency and durability.
- Flexible financing options and swift processing times ensure seamless adoption of solar energy.

About Tata Power:

CEO: Praveer Sinha

Founded: 1911

Founder: Dorabji Tata

Headquarters: Mumbai

## **Uttar Pradesh Launches ‘Mitra Van’ Initiative Along Borders**

The Uttar Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has unveiled a major environmental initiative called ‘Mitra Van’ (Friendship Forest) as part of the Vriksharopan Jan Abhiyan-2024. This ambitious project aims to enhance greenery along the borders of Uttar Pradesh, including its international border with Nepal.

Foot Note:

- Increase green cover along state and international borders
- Promote environmental cooperation with neighboring states and Nepal
- Involve dignitaries from other states in the plantation drive

About Uttar Pradesh:

Capital: Lucknow

Chief Minister : Yogi Adityanath

Governor: Anandiben Patel

## **BSF Organises “Grow with the Trees” Plantation Drive in Srinagar**

The Border Security Force (BSF), in collaboration with the State Bank of India (SBI), organized the “Grow with the Trees” plantation drive at the BSF Headquarters in Srinagar. The initiative aimed to create a greener environment and promote the importance of tree plantation, involving BSF officials, jawans, SBI officials, and school children.

Foot Note:

- The initiative aimed to promote community spirit and collaboration while focusing on environmental sustainability.
- Participants included BSF officials, jawans, SBI officials, and school children.
- Their collective efforts aimed to enhance the greenery at the BSF Headquarters and school premises.

## **Rajasthan to Become 1st State to Adopt a Road Safety Action Plan for 10 Years**

Rajasthan is poised to be the first Indian state with a 10-year road safety action plan. The plan aims to cut road accidents in the state by 50% by 2030. The World Bank will assist Rajasthan's government in developing this plan, integrating best practices from various countries.

Foot Note:

- The action plan will be executed in three phases. Phase 1, from 2025 to 2027, will include safety audits of 500 kilometers of state highways and major district roads.
- Phase 1 will also strengthen institutions, build capacity, and achieve short-term targets on schedule.
- Phase 2, spanning from 2027 to 2030, aims to cut road accident fatalities by 50%, aligning with the UN's Second Decade of Action for Road Safety.
- Phase 3, from 2030 to 2033, aims to reduce road accident fatalities by 75%.

About Rajasthan:

Chief Minister: Bhajan Lal Sharma

Capital: Jaipur

Governor: Kalraj Mishra

### **The second regional event of ‘Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman’ will take place in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh**

The second regional event of the ‘Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman’ campaign, under the aegis of Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA), is scheduled to take place in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh on the 16th of July 2024. This event commemorates the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Indian Constitution and India becoming a Republic.

Foot Note:

- The campaign promotes understanding of the Constitution and legal rights.
- The ‘Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman’ portal will be launched, serving as a knowledge repository for Constitution and legal rights information.

#### **Sub-campaigns include:**

- ‘Sabko Nyaya Har Ghar Nyaya’
- ‘Nav Bharat Nav Sankalp’
- ‘Vidhi Jagriti Abhiyaan’

About Uttar Pradesh:

Capital: Lucknow

Governor: Anandiben Patel

Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath

### **MP Govt Plants 11 Lakh Trees In Single Day, Sets World Record**

Indore on July 14, set a new Guinness World Record in the category of “the most trees planted by a team in 24 hours” by planting more than 11 lakh saplings. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav stated that Indore, already the cleanest city in India and the economic capital of Madhya Pradesh, has now achieved the world record of planting more than 11 lakh saplings in a single day. The programme was organised by the state government.

Foot Note:

- Indore is now ranked number 1 in the world for plantation.
- Yadav congratulated the people of Indore for their historic achievement in plantation after their success in cleanliness.
- He shared the Guinness World Records certificate and photos of receiving it in a post on his official X account.

About MP:

Capital: Bhopal

Chief Minister: Mohan Yadav

Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel

### **Maharashtra Government Launches Scheme To Boost Youth Employability**

In a bid to tackle unemployment among the youth, the Government of Maharashtra has unveiled the Mukhyamantri Yuva Karya Prashikshan Yojana (Chief Minister Youth Work Training Scheme). It aims to provide valuable internship opportunities, equipping young individuals with essential skills and enhancing their employability in a competitive job market.

Foot Note:

- Government allocated ₹5,500 crore for the scheme.
- Eligible candidates: 18-35 years old, residing in Maharashtra.
- Minimum education: 12th pass to post-graduation.
- Aim: Provide practical training opportunities for a broad spectrum of youth.
- Participating entities: Industries and establishments in Maharashtra registered with the Department of Skills, Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation.

About Maharashtra:

Capital: Mumbai

Chief minister: Eknath Shinde

Governor: Ramesh Bais

### **Chandipura Virus Infection Confirmed in Gujarat**

The first confirmed death due to Chandipura virus infection in Gujarat was reported as a four-year-old child from Mota Kanthariya in Aravalli. The confirmation came from Pune's National Institute of Virology. The virus, initially reported in north Gujarat, has spread to new areas, raising concerns about a potential outbreak with 14 deaths in two weeks and 26 suspected cases under investigation.

Foot Note:

- Chandipura virus (CHPV) belongs to the Rhabdoviridae family.
- It is primarily transmitted by sandflies (*Phlebotomus papatasi*) and mosquitoes (*Aedes aegypti*).
- The virus resides in the salivary glands of these insects.
- Transmission occurs through insect bites to humans or other vertebrates.
- Infections can lead to central nervous system issues and encephalitis.

About Gujarat:

Capital: Gandhinagar

Governor: Acharya Devvrat

Chief Minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel

### **State Govt Launches Shramik Basera Scheme For Labourers**

The Gujarat state government launched the Shramik Basera Scheme 2024. The Gujarat state government introduced the Shramik Basera Scheme 2024 to provide temporary housing facilities to the financially unstable, especially the laborers. As per the chief minister of Gujarat state, the government will set up 17 housing structures in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Vadodara, and Rajot cities to provide housing facilities to the construction workers and laborers.



Foot Note:

- The Gujarat state government launched the Gujarat Shramik Basera Scheme to improve the standard of living for construction workers and laborers.
- The scheme aims to construct various dwelling structures where laborers can stay.
- Workers will only need to pay INR 5 per day to stay in these centers.
- The facilities will accommodate around 15,000 construction workers once completed.
- The Gujarat state government will allocate a total of 1500 crores for the implementation of this scheme.

### **Assam Cabinet to Repeal 1935 Muslim Marriage Act**

The Assam Cabinet has approved the repeal of the Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorce Registration Act of 1935 through the Assam Repealing Bill, 2024. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that the Bill will be presented during the upcoming monsoon session of the Assembly. This decision aims to address child marriage issues and bring parity in the registration of marriages and divorces.

Foot Note:

- The 1935 Act allowed underage marriages under specific conditions.
- It provided for the voluntary registration of Muslim marriages and divorces.
- The Act authorized 94 individuals to perform these registrations.
- The Cabinet decided to repeal the outdated Act in February.
- The repeal aims to align with contemporary societal norms and legal standards.
- The government's goal is to implement stricter safeguards against child marriage.

About Assam:

Capital: Dispur

Governor: Gulab Chand Kataria

Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma

### **NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd. To Set Up Green Charcoal Plant In Haryana**

Municipal Corporations of Gurugram and Faridabad are all set to establish two waste-to-charcoal plants, also known as green coal plants, in the two districts at a cost of ₹500 crore each. They added that these plants would convert 1,500 tonne of waste daily into charcoal using indigenous technology.

Foot Note:

- NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVVNL) signed an MoU with the Municipal Corporations of Gurugram and Faridabad.
- The signing ceremony occurred in Chandigarh on July 20.
- The event was attended by Union minister Manohar Lal, Haryana chief minister Nayab Singh Saini, and minister of state for urban local bodies Subhash Sudha.

## RANKING & INDEX NEWS

### **TATA Group retains top spot as India's most valuable brand at \$28.6 billion.**

- Tata Group has retained its position as India's most valuable brand, with a value of US\$ 28.6 billion, reflecting a 9% increase from last year. Following Tata, Infosys holds the second position.
- At the same time, HDFC Group has made a significant leap to third place in Brand Value's "India 100 2024" ranking. Brand Finance's report highlighted that Tata Group is the first Indian brand nearing the US\$ 30 billion mark.
- HDFC's rise to the third position is driven by its merger with HDFC Ltd., strengthening its brand value in the financial sector.
- Taj remains India's strongest brand, with a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 92.9 out of 100 and a prestigious AAA+ rating. The telecom sector saw a 61% growth in brand value, with Jio, Airtel, and Vi leading this surge.
- The banking sector reported a 26% increase, with SBI as India's second most valuable bank.

About TATA Group

MD : Natarajan Chandrasekaran

Established:1868

Founder:Jamsetji Tata

### **Global Liveability Index 2024 Austria's Vienna Topped as World's Most Liveable City.**

- The Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Global Liveability Index 2024 once again named Vienna, Austria, as the world's most liveable city for the third consecutive year.
- This ranking evaluates 173 cities worldwide based on several factors, including stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education, and infrastructure.
- Vienna excelled in most of these categories, showcasing its high quality of life. Western European cities also performed well, with Copenhagen, Zurich, and Geneva ranking closely behind Vienna.
- These cities are noted for their robust healthcare systems, excellent infrastructure, and rich cultural environments.
- On the other hand, major Indian cities such as Delhi and Mumbai ranked around the 141st position.

About Austria

PM:Karl Nehammer

Capital:Vienna

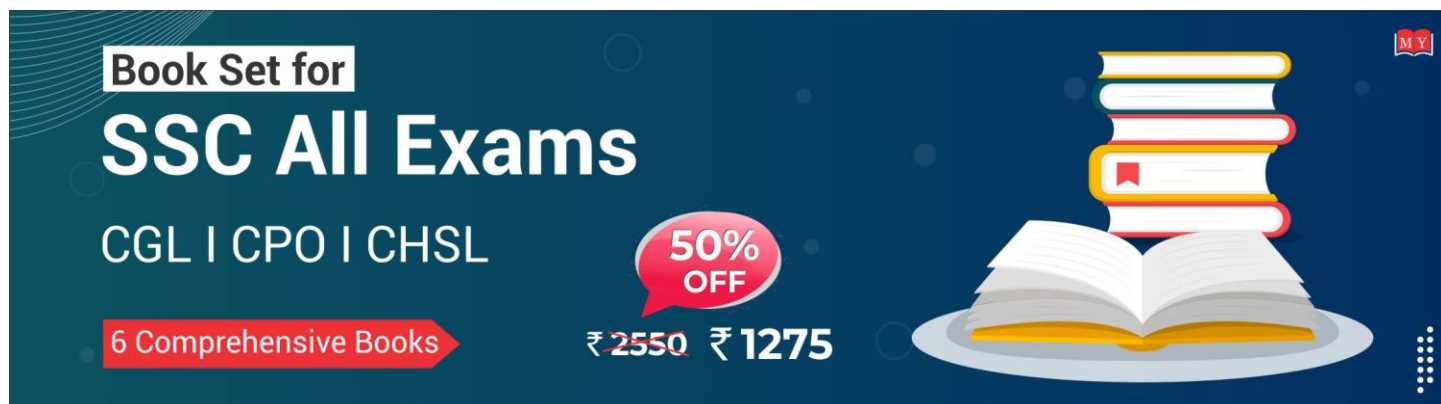
Currency:euro

## New 'Snowblind' Banking Malware Targets Android Users With Linux Kernel Exploit

As more people use mobile banking, they are enjoying never-before-seen levels of convenience when handling **their money**. But this change has also caught the attention of hackers who want to steal private user data. **Promon**, a cybersecurity company, recently found a new danger called **"Snowblind" malware**.

Foot Note:

- Snowblind utilizes the **Linux kernel** feature "seccomp" to evade built-in security safeguards.
- It **exploits accessibility** features to remotely view victims' screens.
- The malware can intercept banking login details and initiate **unauthorized transactions**.
- It has the capability to disable **two-factor authentication (2FA)** and biometric verification methods.
- Snowblind aims to operate covertly, potentially remaining unnoticed by victims on their devices.



## Financial Inclusion Index Rises with Growth Across All Segments

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index), which measures the extent of financial inclusion across the country, rose to 64.2 in March 2024 from 60.1 in March 2023. This improvement reflects growth across all sub-indices, indicating a deepening of financial inclusion.

Foot Note:

- The FI-Index measures financial inclusion from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating total exclusion and 100 indicating full inclusion.
- It rose to 64.2 in March 2024 from 60.1 in March 2023, indicating substantial advancement.
- This increase signifies notable progress in enhancing financial inclusivity.

## India's population is projected to peak at 1.7 billion by the 2060s and then decline, says a UN report

India's population is projected to peak at 1.7 billion in the early 2060s before declining by 12%, as predicted by the United Nations' World Population Prospects 2024 report. Despite the decline, India will remain the world's most populous country throughout the 21st century.

Foot Note:

- India's current population: 1.45 billion.

- Expected to reach 1.69 billion by 2054.
- Projected peak of about 1.7 billion in the early 2060s.
- Population to decline by 12%, reaching around 1.5 billion by 2100.

### **Kantar: Google and Tata Motors are India's top 'most inclusive' brands.**

A recent study by Kantar reveals that Google, Tata Motors, Amazon, Jio, and Apple are ranked as the 'most inclusive' brands in India. The Kantar Brand Inclusion Index 2024 highlights significant issues of discrimination and the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) for Indian consumers.

Foot Note:

- 68% of Indians report experiencing discrimination, higher than the global average of 46%.
- 75% of global consumers consider a brand's DEI reputation in purchasing decisions.
- In India, 86% of consumers value DEI in life and brand choices.
- The Brand Inclusion Index 2024 surveyed over 23,000 people in 18 countries, including 1,000+ from India.

## **BANKING & FINANCE NEWS**

### **Insurtech Startup Covrzy Receives Broking Licence from IRDAI**

Covrzy, a Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based Insurance technology (Insurtech) startup has obtained a direct broking (general) licence from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), Hyderabad, Telangana.

Foot Note:

- Founded: Covrzy was established in 2023 by Ankit Kamra.
- Specialization: Insurance for startups and small businesses.
- Operated by: Bizcovr Technologies Private Limited (BTPL), an insurance broking firm.
- Platform: Web-based tool for managing the entire insurance process, from discovery to claims.

### **RBI Cancels Licence of Mahabhairab Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Tezpur, Assam**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the licence of the Mahabhairab Cooperative Urban Bank Limited, Tezpur, Assam. As a result, the bank ceased all banking operations from the close of business on 24 July 2024. The Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Assam, has been asked to issue a winding-up order and appoint a liquidator.

Foot Note:

- Non-compliance with various sections of the Banking Regulation Act of 1949
- The bank's continuance is deemed prejudicial to depositors' interests
- Inability to pay current depositors in full
- Potential adverse effects on public interest if allowed to continue operations.

### **Karnataka Bank Partners with ICICI Lombard General Insurance**

Karnataka Bank has announced a strategic partnership with ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company, enabling its customers to access a comprehensive range of insurance products. This collaboration aims to cater to various insurance needs, including health, motor, travel, and home insurance, for both individuals and businesses.

Foot Note:

- Health Insurance: Covers medical expenses and health issues.
- Motor Insurance: Protects vehicles from damage and theft.
- Travel Insurance: Provides coverage for travel-related risks and emergencies.
- Home Insurance: Protects residential properties from various risks.

### **Digital Payments Rise 12.6% by March-End 2024: RBI Data**

digital payments in India experienced a 12.6% year-over-year increase, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI). The index reached 445.5, marking an increase from 418.77 in September 2023 and 395.57 in March 2023. The RBI attributed this growth to improvements in payment performance and infrastructure across the country.

Foot Note:

- Global Cybercrime Costs: Expected to reach \$13.82 trillion by 2028, up from \$8.15 trillion in 2023.
- Average Cost of a Data Breach: \$4.45 million in 2023, a 15% increase over three years (IBM, 2023).
- Central Banks' Response: Increased cybersecurity budgets by 5% since 2020.

### **EQT Private Capital Asia Exits RBL Bank, sells Entire 7.89% Stake for Rs 1,091 C**

EQT Private Capital Asia (formerly Baring Private Equity Asia BPEA EQT), a Swedish private equity firm, exited RBL Bank, one of India's leading private-sector banks, by selling its entire 7.89% stake, amounting to 4.78 crore shares in the RBL Bank, through its entity Maple II BV.

Foot Note:

- In November 2020, the Hong Kong-based Baring Private Equity Asia (BPEA) invested Rs 999 crore through
- Maple II BV for a 9.44% stake in RBL Bank.
- In 2022, EQT AB acquired BPEA and was operated under the new BPEA EQT branding,
- In January 2024, BPEA EQT was rebranded to EQT Private Capital Asia

### **SEBI Launches AI Chatbot 'SEVA' for Investors**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched 'SEVA,' an AI-powered chatbot to help investors with various functions. This initiative is designed to improve the investor experience and provide easy access to essential market information.

Foot Note:

- SEVA provides key securities market details and latest master circulars.
- It offers guidance on the grievance redressal process.
- Features speech-to-text and text-to-speech for accessibility.



- Supports follow-up questions for improved responses and engagement.

About SEBI:

Founded: 1988

Headquarters: Maharashtra

### **RBI selected 5 firms under 5th cohort of RS on the Theme 'Neutral'**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has chosen 5 out of 22 applicants for the Test Phase of the 5th cohort of the Regulatory Sandbox (RS) with the theme 'Neutral.' These entities will start testing their products in August 2024. The 5th cohort was announced in September 2022.

Foot Note:

- Connectingdot Consultancy Private Limited (CCPL), Kolkata, West Bengal
- Epifi Technologies Private Limited (ETPL), Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Finagg Technologies Private Limited (FTPL), Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- Indian Banks' Digital Infrastructure Company (IBDIC) Private Limited, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Signzy Technologies Private Limited (STPL), Bengaluru, Karnataka

### **ADB to give \$200 mn loan to India for solid waste management in 100 cities**

The Asian Development Bank and the Government of India have recently signed a \$200 million (approximately Rs 1,700 crore) loan agreement to enhance solid waste management and sanitation in 100 cities across eight states.

Foot Note:

- Juhi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary of the Finance Ministry, and Mio Oka, Country Director for ADB's India Resident Mission, signed the loan agreement.
- The agreement is for the Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 - Comprehensive Municipal Waste Management in Indian Cities Program.
- The loan is part of a \$200 million (around Rs 1,700 crore) initiative.

About ADB:

Headquarters: Philippines

Founded: 1966

President: Masatsugu Asakawa

### **Shriram Group gets RBI Approval to enter into Asset Reconstruction Sector**

Shriram Capital has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to establish an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC). The approval, granted after Shriram Capital's application in November 2023, marks a significant step for the company.

Foot Note:

- Approval Status: Shriram Capital has secured in-principle approval from RBI for its ARC.
- Internal Operations: The company is now focusing on internal operations and strategic planning over the next two quarters.

- Leadership: Decisions regarding the head of the ARC are still pending. Shriram Group, not just Shriram Finance, will explore leadership options.

### **LIC Launches Agency Transformation Initiative 'Jeevan Samarth'**

LIC has introduced 'Jeevan Samarth', an initiative to transform its agency workforce of 1.4 million agents in collaboration with A. T. Kearney, a global strategy consulting firm. The project aims to prepare agents to better serve changing customer needs by reviewing LIC's current agency setup.

Foot Note:

- The initiative involves restructuring agency operations at Branch, Division, and Zonal levels, integrating global best practices to adapt to changes in India's insurance industry and regulations.
- Its goal is to align the agency network with the changing requirements of Indian families.
- The focus will be on offering comprehensive solutions including long-term savings, protection, health insurance, Unit Linked Insurance Plans (ULIPs), and pensions.
- This transformation aims to enhance the capabilities of LIC agents, providing them with advanced tools and skills within a stronger ecosystem to drive profitable growth for the company.

About LIC:

Chairperson: Siddhartha Mohanty

Founded: 1 September 1956

Headquarters: Mumbai

### **Bank of Baroda to Raise 7,500 Crore Through AT1 and Tier 2 Bonds**

Bank of Baroda (BoB) plans to raise up to ₹7,500 crore through Additional Tier-I (AT1) and Tier-II bonds to meet regulatory requirements and support business growth. This capital will be raised in multiple tranches up to March 31, 2025, and beyond, depending on market conditions.

Foot Note:

- Bank of Baroda's board approved raising up to ₹7,500 crore through AT1 and Tier-II bonds.
- The bonds may also be issued in the international market, pending favorable conditions.
- During FY23, Bank of Baroda successfully raised ₹2,474 crore through AT1 capital and ₹5,000 crore through Tier-II capital.
- As of March 2024, Bank of Baroda's capital adequacy ratio (CAR) stood at 16.31%.
- The common equity Tier-I ratio was reported at 12.54%, while the additional Tier-I capital ratio was 1.53% and the Tier-II capital ratio was 2.24%.

About Bank of Baroda:

Headquarters: Vadodara

Founder: Sayajirao Gaekwad III

Founded: 1908

### **SBI Unveils 11 New Initiatives on its 69th Foundation Day**

On its 69th foundation day on July 1, 2024, the State Bank of India (SBI) introduced 11 new measures. These include digital upgrades, better customer service, and specialized products for different customer groups, aiming to improve banking accessibility and experience.

Foot Note:

- SBI has improved its digital payment options with new features: tap-and-pay on the BHIM SBI PAY app and digital loans against mutual funds on the YONO app.
- It introduced a fully digital process for SBI Surya Ghar Loan, enabling customers to apply for loans to install solar rooftops under the PM Surya Ghar Scheme.
- Loans are available for solar rooftop installations up to 10 KW capacity, facilitating easier access to renewable energy solutions.

About SBI:

Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1955

### **Commemorative Coin of Rs 100 Released in Memory of Lokmat Founder Jawaharlal Darda**

Eknath Shinde, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, unveiled a Rs 100 commemorative coin honoring the 100th birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Amolakchand Darda, a freedom fighter and the founder-editor of Lokmat Media Group.

Foot Note:

- Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, was present at the event.
- Dr. Vijay Darda, Chairman of Lokmat Media Group's Editorial Board and a former Rajya Sabha member, also attended.
- Rajendra Darda, Editor-in-Chief of Lokmat Media Group, was among the attendees.
- In 2005, the Government of India issued a Rs 5 postage stamp to honor his contributions to India.

### **SEBI Issues New Guidelines to Enhance Credit Rating Agency Operations**

Markets regulator SEBI has issued new guidelines to streamline operations and enhance the ease of doing business for credit rating agencies. The circular introduces specific timelines for dealing with appeals made by companies regarding rating actions carried out during periodic surveillance of ratings.

Foot Note:

- SEBI has set strict deadlines for disclosures, requiring daily updates on non-cooperative issuers.
- Credit rating agencies (CRAs) must keep records of ratings declined by issuers for 12 months.
- Compliance with these guidelines will be monitored through biannual internal audits of CRAs.

- These measures are aimed at protecting investor interests and ensuring orderly market regulation.

About SEBI:

Founded: 12 April 1988

Founder: Government of India

Headquarters: Mumbai

### **LIC Raises Stake in IDFC First Bank to 2.68% via Private Placement**

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the country's largest insurance company, has raised its ownership in IDFC First Bank Limited. LIC's stake in the bank has grown from 0.20% to 2.68% of the total capital. This increase translates to holding more than 20.02 crore shares, up from slightly over 1.42 crore shares.

LIC purchased 18,60,34,900 shares of IDFC First Bank through a private placement at an average price of Rs 80.63 per share. The total cost of this acquisition amounts to Rs 1,500 Crore.

About IDFC:

CEO: V. Vaidyanathan

Headquarters: Mumbai



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### **India's employment rate, as per RBI data, grew to 6% in FY24 from 3.2% in FY23**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has published the India KLEMS Database for measuring productivity at the industry level. According to RBI's latest figures, India's employment rate grew by 6% in the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2024, up from 3.2% in FY23 (2022-23).

Foot Note:

1. According to RBI's KLEMS database, the proportion of employed people relative to the total population rose from 34.7% in FY18 to 44.2% in FY24.
2. Unemployment decreased from 2.2% in FY18 to 1.4% in FY24 based on RBI data.
3. Employment in India grew from 57.75 crore in FY22 to 59.67 crore in FY23.
4. Employment in sectors such as agriculture, hunting, forestry, and fishing increased from 24.82 crore in FY22 to 25.3 crore in FY23 according to RBI's database.

About RBI:

Founded: 1935

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Founder: British Raj

### **EXIM Bank inked USD 2.5mn LoC Agreement with Guyana**

The Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) has agreed with the Government of Guyana to offer a USD 2.50 million Line of Credit (LoC). This funding will support the installation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant at Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) in Timehri, Guyana.

Foot Note:

- At least 75% of goods, works, and services for the project must come from India, with the remaining 25% allowed from foreign sources.
- Disbursements must be completed within 48 months after the project's finish date.
- Goods and services eligible for export from India must meet criteria outlined in India's Foreign Trade Policy and be financed through an agreement with EXIM Bank.

About EXIM Bank:

Founded: 1 January 1982

Headquarters: Mumbai

CEO: HARSHA BANGARI

### **Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund Launches BSE PSU Index Fund**

Kotak Mahindra AMC has introduced the Kotak BSE PSU Index Fund, a passive equity scheme mirroring the BSE PSU Index comprising 56 PSU stocks. This fund aims to capitalize on the strong momentum in public sector undertaking (PSU) stocks, which have shown significant growth recently. Investors can participate in India's economic trajectory through a cost-effective investment vehicle managed systematically by the fund.

Foot Note:

- The Kotak BSE PSU Index Fund aims to replicate the BSE PSU Index's total returns, accounting for tracking errors.
- Allocates 95-100% of its portfolio to equity and equity-related securities from the index.
- The remaining portion is invested in debt and money market instruments.
- Benchmarked against the BSE PSU Index (Total Return Index).
- Focuses on long-term capital appreciation.

About Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund:

Founded: 1985

CEO: Mr. Nilesh Shah

Founder: Uday Kotak

### **PNB launches 'Safety Ring' to boost security for online and mobile banking users**

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has introduced a new security feature called 'Safety Ring' in its Internet and Mobile Banking systems to combat rising cyber fraud.

Foot Note:

- Safety Ring is an optional feature for setting daily transaction limits on Term Deposits (TDs) for online closures or overdraft requests.



- It adds extra security to prevent losses from unauthorized access.
- The limit set by the customer applies across all digital channels for TD closures or overdraft requests.
- Customers can set or adjust the Safety Ring limit at branches or online through Internet and Mobile Banking.

About PNB:

MD & CEO – Atul Kumar Goel

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established – May 19, 1894

### **Paytm Payments Bank Appoints Arun Bansal as New CEO**

Paytm Payments Bank, an associate entity of One97 Communications (OCL), has appointed Arun Kumar Bansal as its new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Bansal, a former executive at IDBI Bank, resigned from his position as Executive Director and Head of Treasury at IDBI Bank following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval of his appointment.

Foot Note:

- The Reserve Bank of India approved his appointment as MD and CEO of Paytm Payments Bank.
- In his resignation letter, Bansal noted the RBI's approval and stated his resignation from IDBI Bank.

About Paytm Payments Bank:

Founded: 2017

Founder: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Headquarters: Noida

### **REC Limited Secured Green Loan worth USD 200 million from Deutsche Bank for Indian Projects**

REC Limited has obtained a 5-year green loan of JPY 31.96 billion (about USD 200 million) from Deutsche Bank AG's GIFT City branch in Gandhinagar. This loan is a major step towards supporting sustainable development in India and highlights REC's commitment to green financing under its Green Finance Framework.

Foot Note:

- This green loan is the first collaboration of its kind between an Indian government entity and Deutsche Bank AG's GIFT City branch, setting a new standard for green financing in India.
- It is also one of Deutsche Bank AG's first JPY-denominated green loan transactions, highlighting a focus on sustainable financing.
- The loan will support projects that meet strict environmental standards, boost renewable energy, and reduce carbon emissions in India.

About REC:

Headquarters: National Capital Region

Founded: 1969

CEO: Shri Vivek Kumar Dewangan

### **Punjab National Bank Signed MoU with SAIL to Offer Loans**

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has signed an agreement with Steel Authority of India (SAIL) to provide home, car, and education loans to SAIL employees at discounted rates. This partnership aims to improve the financial well-being of SAIL employees and help PNB grow its customer base in the steel sector. It will benefit SAIL employees and boost PNB's presence in the industry.

Foot Note:

- The MoU was signed by Sudhir Dalal (GM, PNB) and Bikram Uppal (GGM-HR, SAIL).
- The signing took place in the presence of Bibhu Prasad Mahapatra (ED, PNB), Sunil Agrawal (Chief GM, PNB), Mohit Dhawan (GM, PNB), Praveen Nigam (ED-Finance, SAIL), and BS Popli (ED, SAIL), among others.

About PNB:

MD and CEO – Atul Kumar Goel

Headquarters- New Delhi

Tagline- ‘The name you can bank upon’

About SAIL:

Chairman- Amarendu Prakash

Headquarters- New Delhi

### **SBI launches Amrit Vrishti 444-Days Term Deposit With 7.25% Interest Rate**

State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a 444-day term deposit scheme, “Amrit Vrishti”, with an interest rate of 7.25 per cent. This scheme is available to domestic and non-resident Indian customers and will be effective July 15, 2024. India’s largest bank will offer an additional 0.50 per cent to senior citizens on the scheme.

Foot Note:

- The “Amrit Vrishti” scheme is open for investment until March 31, 2025, offering retail investors the chance to benefit from higher interest rates.
- Dinesh Kumar Khara, Chairman of SBI, stated that this new term deposit scheme variant is tailored to meet the needs of a diverse customer base.
- The bank emphasized the extended availability period in its statement, encouraging retail investors to take advantage of the scheme.

About SBI:

Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1955

## **SEBI introduced new rules for passive mutual fund schemes to address and reduce sponsor bias**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced new rules for passively managed mutual fund (MF) schemes, limiting their investments in the group companies of their sponsors. These changes aim to simplify compliance for mutual funds by streamlining norms related to exposure to securities of sponsor group companies. A SEBI working group proposed amendments to the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996.

Foot Note:

- SEBI implemented stricter regulations on passively managed mutual funds.
- The new rules limit investments in companies affiliated with their sponsors.
- The goal is to reduce concentration risk and promote greater diversification.

About SEBI:

Founded: 1988

Headquarters: Mumbai

CEO: Madhabi Puri Buch

## **ADB Approves \$240.5 Mn Loan For Rooftop Solar Systems In India**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of USD 240.5 million to finance rooftop solar systems in India, aiding the government's efforts to expand energy access through renewable energy. The ADB announced on July 17, that this financing will support tranches 2 and 3 of the Multitranche Financing Facility (MFF) Solar Rooftop Investment Program, initially approved by ADB in 2016.

Foot Note:

- India targets 50% of electric power capacity from non-fossil fuels by 2030 to reduce carbon emissions.
- ADB financing supports this goal.
- It will also contribute to the Prime Minister's Surya Ghar program, promoting rooftop solar installations nationwide, according to ADB Principal Energy Specialist Kaoru Ogino.

About ADB:

Headquarters: Philippines

Founded: 1966

President: Masatsugu Asakawa

## **NABARD Launches Rs 750-Crore Agri-SURE Fund to Boost Agri Startups**

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched the Agri-SURE fund to support start-ups and agripreneurs. This fund will invest in sector-specific, sector-agnostic, and debt Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).

Foot Note:

- A Rs 750 crore Category-II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) will be established to promote innovation and sustainability in India's agricultural sector.

- The fund was unveiled at a Pre-Launch Stakeholder meeting at NABARD Headquarters in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- NABARD also launched the "AgriSURE Greenathon 2024" hackathon during the event.

About NABARD:

Chairman– Shaji Krishnan V

Headquarters– Maharashtra

### **FICCI Projects 7% GDP Growth for India in 2024-25**

FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey projects a robust 7% GDP growth for India in the fiscal year 2024-25. The survey, conducted in July 2024, reflects optimism among participating economists about the country's economic prospects, though caution is advised due to global headwinds and inflationary pressures.

Foot Note:

- Survey predicts annual median GDP growth of 7% for 2024-25.
- RBI has raised its GDP growth projection to 7.2% for the fiscal year.
- Q1 and Q2 of 2024-25 are expected to see GDP growth rates of 6.8% and 7.2%, respectively.

About FICCI:

President: Subhrakant Panda

Founded: 1927

Founder: Ghanshyam Das Birla

Headquarters: New Delhi

### **SIDBI To Build \$1B Fund For Green Financing With \$215 M**

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), which received approval of funding of \$ 215.6 m from the Green Climate Fund, will create a corpus of \$1 billion for 'financing mitigation and adaptation projects' (FMAP) of Medium and Small Enterprises (MSMEs). The board of the Green Climate Fund, which is an entity set up by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), approved a \$200 million loan and \$15.6 million grant for capacity building to SIDBI.

Foot Note:

- SIDBI press release announces FMAP facility
- Provides nearly 10,000 concessional loans to MSMEs
- Promotes low-emission, climate-resilient technologies
- Expected reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 35.3 million tonnes
- Adaptation activities lead to substantial water savings

About SIDBI:

Founded: 1990

Headquarters: Lucknow

CEO: Shri Sivasubramanian Ramann

## **IndusInd Bank Launches ‘Wrestle for Glory’ CSR Initiative**

IndusInd Bank has introduced the ‘Wrestle for Glory’ program, a significant CSR initiative developed in partnership with the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS). This initiative aims to support 50 promising female wrestling athletes from across India by providing them with fully-funded scholarships for coaching at IIS’s premier facility in Vijayanagar, Bellary.

Foot Note:

- Access to top-tier training facilities
- Expert coaching and comprehensive sports science resources
- Cutting-edge equipment and nutritional support
- Educational assistance and a supportive training environment

## **AU Small Finance Bank Seeks Universal Banking License**

AU Small Finance Bank’s board has approved a proposal to transition from a Small Finance Bank (SFB) to a universal bank. This decision aligns with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines issued on August 1, 2016, and the circular on voluntary transition of SFBs to universal banks dated April 26, 2024. A four-member Committee of Directors has been formed to oversee the application process, with HR Khan, the bank’s part-time Chairman and Independent Director, serving as Chairperson.

RBI Guidelines and Criteria

As per RBI’s April 2024 guidelines, SFBs wishing to become universal banks must meet several criteria:

- Minimum net worth of 1,000 crore
- Listing on a recognized stock exchange
- Net profit in the last two financial years
- Gross NPA ratio of  $\leq 3\%$  and Net NPA ratio of  $\leq 1\%$

About AU Small Finance Bank:

Headquarters: Jaipur

Founder: Sanjay Agarwal

CEO: Sanjay Agarwal

## **Paytm Teams Up with Axis Bank to Provide POS Solutions and EDC Devices to Merchants**

One 97 Communications (OCL), the parent company of fintech firm Paytm, has partnered with Axis Bank to provide point-of-sale (PoS) solutions and Electronic Data Capture (EDC) devices to Axis Bank and its merchant network.

Foot Note:

- Background: Paytm shifted its nodal account to Axis Bank amid RBI regulatory scrutiny.
- Expansion: Partnership broadens Paytm’s reach via Axis Bank’s larger merchant base.
- Portfolio Enhancement: Strengthens Axis Bank’s merchant acquiring portfolio and transaction efficiency.

About Axis Bank:

Headquarters: Mumbai



CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry

Founded: 1993

About Paytm:

Founder & CEO : Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Founded: August 2010

### **Hindustan Zinc launches EcoZen: Asia's first low-carbon 'green' zinc brand**

Hindustan Zinc, the world's second-largest zinc producer, has introduced EcoZen, a new low-carbon zinc brand. EcoZen is mainly used for galvanizing steel to prevent corrosion and is applied in industries like steel, infrastructure, automotive, renewable energy, electronics, high-tech manufacturing, energy storage, defense, and electric mobility.

Foot Note:

- Low Carbon Footprint: EcoZen is Asia's first low-carbon 'green' zinc.
- Emissions: 75% lower carbon footprint than global average; under one tonne of carbon equivalent per tonne of zinc.
- Production: Made using renewable energy.
- Certification: Certified by a global sustainability consulting firm through a life cycle assessment.



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## **AGREEMENT & MOU'S NEWS**

### **MoSPI launched eSankhyiki Portal for Enhanced Data Access**

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has introduced the **eSankhyiki portal** to revolutionize data accessibility and user experience. This initiative aims to **centralize and streamline access** to key national statistical data, supporting planners, policymakers, researchers, and the public.

Foot Note:

- The portal's Data Catalogue Module integrates more than **2291 datasets**, encompassing National Accounts Statistics, **Consumer Price Index**, and other data categories.
- Provides comprehensive metadata and visualization tools aimed at improving the **accessibility and applicability** of the data.
- Enhances the usability and reusability of the datasets through detailed metadata and advanced visualization capabilities.

## **BPCL Partners With IOA as Principal Sponsor from Paris 2024 to LA 2028 Olympics**

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has entered into a partnership with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the official Principal Partner for 4 years starting from Paris Olympics 2024 through Los Angeles (LA) Olympics 2028.

Foot Note:

- This 4-year partnership aims to celebrate and acknowledge the determination of Indian athletes, many of whom come from modest backgrounds and remote areas of India.
- BPCL will initiate campaigns under this partnership to specifically support and uplift the Indian team participating in the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- Through these initiatives, BPCL reaffirms its dedication to nurturing young sporting talent and promoting national pride and unity.

About BPCL:

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1952

CEO: Shri G. Krishnakumar

## **Philippines and Japan Strengthen Security Ties with New Agreement**

The Philippines and Japan have taken a big step in their security relationship. They signed a new deal that allows their military forces to enter each other's countries more easily. This comes at a time when there are growing concerns in the Indo-Pacific region.

Foot Note:

- It's a deal that makes it easier for military forces from both countries to visit each other.
- It helps with military cooperation by simplifying the entry of foreign personnel and equipment.
- Philippine defense minister Gilberto Teodoro and Japanese foreign minister Yoko Kamikawa signed the deal.
- The signing happened in Manila, with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. watching.

About Philippines:

Capital: Manila

President: Bongbong Marcos

About Japan:

Capital: Tokyo

Prime minister: Fumio Kishida

## **ADB and AHFL Partner to Expand Housing Loans for Low-Income Women**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has entered into a \$60 million financing agreement with Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) to provide housing loans to women in India. The initiative aims to address the shortage of financing in the low-income and affordable housing segment. Half of the funds will be deployed in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

Foot Note:

- ADB signed a \$60 million nonconvertible debentures financing agreement with AHFL.

- \$30 million has been disbursed so far.
- The financing is aimed at lending exclusively to women borrowers or co-borrowers.
- Specializes in housing finance for the low-income segment.
- Loan sizes under 1.5 million Indian rupees (around \$17,976).
- Targets lower-income borrowers with products tailored to their needs.

About ADB:

Headquarters: Philippines

Founded: 1966

President: Masatsugu Asakawa

### **WEP and TransUnion CIBIL collaborate on SEHER program to empower women entrepreneurs**

The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and TransUnion CIBIL have teamed up to introduce SEHER. This program aims to empower women entrepreneurs in India by providing them with financial knowledge, credit education, and business skills. Its goal is to improve their access to financial resources and support economic development.

Foot Note:

- The SEHER program aims to boost India's USD 5 trillion economy goal by enabling women to build successful businesses.
- Anna Roy, Mission Director of WEP and Principal Economic Adviser at NITI Aayog, launched the program.
- It is part of WEP's Financing Women Collaborative (FWC), focusing on enhancing financial access for women entrepreneurs.

### **MoRD & CESL Signed MoU to facilitate STREE for SHG Women of DAY-NRLM**

CESL is a subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a JV of public sector companies under the Ministry of Power (MoP). DAY-NRLM supports SHG women-led enterprises, offering opportunities in both manufacturing and service sectors across farm and non-farm domains.

Foot Note:

- The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) partnered with Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL).
- They signed an MoU to implement "Sustainable Transport for Rural Entrepreneurs through Electric Bicycles" (STREE).
- The initiative targets Self Help Group (SHG) women under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

### **CSIR and MSSRF Sign MoU for Rural Livelihood Generation**

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing

livelihood opportunities among rural, tribal, and farming communities in India. This collaboration aims to leverage CSIR's technological innovations and MSSRF's grassroots outreach to empower marginalized groups.

Foot Note:

- Under the MoU, CSIR will transfer cost-effective and impactful technologies from its labs to MSSRF-selected groups.
- Recipients include SHGs, NGOs, and FPOs.
- Technologies will target key rural development sectors like agriculture, nutrition, and healthcare.

### **Ixigo and AU Small Finance Bank Unveil Travel Credit Card for RuPay Users**

ixigo, India's leading OTA for the next billion users and AU Small Finance Bank, the largest Small Finance Bank of India, announced the launch of the RuPay variant for its premium co-branded ixigo-AU Small Finance Bank travel credit card, enabling UPI-based payments and rewards.

Foot Note:

- Discounts: 10% discount on flights, buses, and hotels.
- Zero PG Charges: Zero payment gateway charges on train bookings via the ixigo app.
- Concierge Services: Access to premium 24/7 concierge services.

About AU Small Finance Bank:

Headquarters: Jaipur

Founder: Sanjay Agarwal

Founded: 1996

### **ICAI and MeitY team up to create an 'AI Audit Tool' for Indian businesses**

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) are working together to create an AI tool to monitor Indian businesses and spot fraud.

Foot Note:

- The AI Audit Tool will help monitor company performance, detect fraud, and support business operations.
- ICAI has set aside Rs.25 crore for AI tool development, with plans to increase this to Rs.100 crore.
- A new AI GPT tool will aid over 9 lakh CA students in exam prep with 75 years of past questions.
- The tool will also be available to 4 lakh ICAI members for accessing financial statements of 17.06 lakh companies.

### **India signs MoU with Marshall Islands for four community development projects**

India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) for annual Grant-In-Aid to implement four Community Development Projects (CDPs) in the RMI. The signing took place at the Embassy of India in Tokyo, Japan.

Foot Note:

- The RMI delegation included Ambassador Alexander Carter Bing, Secretary Isabela Silk, Chief of Staff Emma Kabua-Tibon, and Assistant Secretary Winder Loeak.
- Indian officials included Union Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- The MoU includes projects for a community sports center in Ailuk Atoll, an airport terminal on Mejit Island, and community centers at Arno and Wotje Atolls.
- These projects aim to improve the lives of RMI citizens through India's grant assistance.
- Cooperation focuses on healthcare, affordable medicines, education, capacity building, renewable energy, and clean water facilities.

### **AIM, WIPO Join Hands To Boost Innovation In Global South**

The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) at NITI Aayog and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) on July 22, joined hands towards building joint innovation programmes in the Global South. Union Minister for Education and Skill Development Dharmendra Pradhan said that innovation is India's strength.

Foot Note:

- AIM and WIPO partnership to share India's innovation models globally
- Enhances understanding of IPR from the school level
- Unlocks global innovation potential
- Promotes inclusive and sustainable economic growth
- Sherif Saadallah (WIPO Academy): IP is crucial for innovation, youth development, and achieving SDGs

### **UGRO Capital and SIDBI Forge Co-Lending Partnership**

UGRO Capital, a data-tech non-banking financial company (NBFC), has entered into a co-lending agreement with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to provide timely and affordable credit to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). This initiative aligns with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) co-lending framework, aimed at enhancing priority-sector lending by combining the strengths of banks and NBFCs.

Foot Note:

- Shachindra Nath, Founder and Managing Director of UGRO Capital, expressed excitement about the partnership.
- He highlighted its potential to enhance credit access for MSMEs.
- The collaboration aims to provide quick and cost-effective financial solutions.
- It reflects UGRO Capital's commitment to financial inclusion and MSME growth.

About UGRO:



Headquarters: India

Founded: 1993

CEO: Shachindra Nath

### **ICICI Lombard & Karnataka Bank Announces Strategic Bancassurance Partnership**

ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company, based in Mumbai, has formed a strategic bancassurance partnership with Karnataka Bank. This partnership will allow Karnataka Bank customers to access ICICI Lombard's insurance products.

Foot Note:

- ICICI Lombard's insurance products will be available at Karnataka Bank's 915 branches, serving over 13 million customers.
- The partnership aims to offer long-term financial security and highlights both companies' commitment to innovation and reliability.
- In 2022, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) opened the bancassurance channel to boost insurance coverage in India, aiming for 'Insurance For All' by 2047.

### **BIS & GBPUAT Sign MoU to Develop For Standardised Agriculture Demonstration Farm**

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (GBPUAT) to create India's first 'Standardised Agriculture Demonstration Farm' (SADF). This MoU aims to develop SADFs at GBPUAT, improve agricultural practices by incorporating Indian Standards, and benefit farmers while advancing agricultural innovation.

Foot Note:

- The farms will serve as experimental sites for testing and implementing agricultural practices and new technologies according to Indian standards.
- The partnership aims to promote standardized practices and introduce advanced technologies to boost productivity and sustainability in Indian agriculture.
- GBPUAT, or Pantnagar University, is India's first agricultural university, located in Uttarakhand.
- BIS is the National Standards Body of India, a statutory organization headquartered in New Delhi under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986.

### **NIIT IFBI & HDFC Bank Launches 'ACE Banker Program'**

NIIT Institute of Finance, Banking and Insurance (NIIT IFBI), a subsidiary of the National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT) based in Gurgaon (Haryana), has announced the launch of the 'ACE Banker Program' in partnership with HDFC Bank Limited.

Foot Note:

- The ACE Banker Program is designed to meet the evolving needs of the banking sector and prepare participants for customer service roles at HDFC Bank.
- It is a key component of NIIT's Talent Pipeline as a Service (TPaaS) initiative, focusing on recruiting and training customer service professionals for HDFC Bank.

- The program includes 45 days of residential training at the NIIT University campus.

About HDFC Bank:

CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan

Founded: 1994

Headquarters: Mumbai

### **India and Vietnam Partner on Maritime Heritage Complex in Lothal**

India and Vietnam have partnered to develop the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) in Lothal, Gujarat, reflecting their deep maritime connections. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed at Hyderabad House in New Delhi marks a significant step in this collaborative effort, which aims to preserve and celebrate the shared maritime heritage of both nations.

Foot Note:

- Nations will exchange artifacts, replicas, paintings, and archival data on maritime histories.
- Collaboration includes sharing expertise in design, technology, and maintenance for an educational and recreational space.
- The Government of Gujarat has allocated 400 acres in Saragwala village for the NMHC.
- Phase 1A of the complex is over 55% complete and is expected to open next year.

About Vietnam:

Capital: Hanoi

Prime minister: Pham Minh Chinh

President: To Lam

## **SCIENCE & TECH NEWS**

### **ISRO's Aditya-L1 Completes First Halo Orbit**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on June 2, announced that India's inaugural solar mission has completed its halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point on July 2. This significant breakthrough was achieved after a station keeper manoeuvre made its transition into the second halo orbit.

Foot Note:

- The Aditya-L1 mission is an Indian solar observatory stationed at the Lagrangian point L1, launched in September 2023.
- ISRO noted that the Aditya-L1 spacecraft completed its orbit around the L1 point in a halo orbit within 178 days.
- ISRO successfully positioned the spacecraft into its designated halo orbit on January 6, 2024.

About ISRO:

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Founded: 15 August 1969

Founder: Vikram Sarabhai

## **ISRO Announced Bharatiya Antariksh Hackathon for 1st National Space Day**

Dr. Sreedhara Panicker Somanath, Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), inaugurated the 'Bharatiya Antariksh Hackathon' (Indian Space Hackathon) during the inaugural National Space Day (NSpD 2024) celebrations.

Foot Note:

- The hackathon will focus on 12 problem statements in geospatial domain, space science, and image processing.
- Institutions like Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), and Space Applications Centre (SAC) will contribute to the challenges.
- Areas such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) or Machine Learning (ML) are open for participation by undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD students nationwide.
- Teams of 3 to 4 students can join the hackathon to tackle challenges with innovative solutions, following a two-level screening process.

About ISRO:

Founded: 15 August 1969

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Founder: Vikram Sarabhai

## **ASELSAN launches Türkiye's first home-made TÜRKSAT-6A communication satellite.**

ASELSAN, a Turkish Armed Forces Foundation (TAFF) company, has successfully launched Türkiye's first home-made communication satellite, TÜRKSAT-6A, into orbit. The satellite was sent aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral in the USA.

Foot Note:

- The 4.25-tonne TÜRKSAT-6A will have a 15-year service life at 42 degrees East.
- Integration and testing were done at the USET Center.
- ASELSAN-designed payloads use 5 kW of power and weigh 300 kg.
- The satellite will orbit 35,786 km above Earth and undergo a month of orbital tests.

About Türkiye:

Capital– Ankara

President– Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

Currency– Turkish lira

## **Europe's Ariane 6 Rocket Blasts off For the First Time**

The European Space Agency's (ESA) new heavy-lift rocket, Ariane 6, was launched into space for the first time from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana. The 63-meter-tall rocket, developed by ArianeGroup (a joint venture of Airbus and Safran), had an estimated development cost of 4 billion euros.

Foot Note:

- Ariane 6 is a project of 13 ESA member states, led by France (56%) and Germany (21%).
- The 13 partners provide annual subsidies of up to 340 million euros to support early exploitation stages.

- The rocket carries various new satellites and experiments, including a smart-farming satellite, a radio beacon demonstrator, and re-entry capsules for testing new materials.
- Ariane 6 aims to be a workhorse rocket, ensuring European governments and companies have independent access to space.

### NASA's Historic Discovery: Six New Exoplanets

NASA has achieved a significant milestone with the discovery of six new exoplanets: HD 36384 b, TOI-198 b, TOI-2095 b, TOI-2095 c, TOI-4860 b, and MWC 758 c. This brings the total number of confirmed exoplanets outside our solar system to 5,502, marking a remarkable advancement in our understanding of the universe and the potential for extraterrestrial life.

Foot Note :

- First exoplanets confirmed in 1992: Poltergeist and Phobos orbiting pulsar PSR B1257+12.
- By March 2022, over 5,000 exoplanets had been discovered.
- This milestone highlights the rapid progress in exoplanet research over the past 31 years.

About NASA:

Founded: 1958

Founder: Dwight D. Eisenhower

Headquarters: Washington



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### Airbus and Tata to Debut India's First H125 Helicopter by 2026

Airbus and Tata are joining forces to manufacture India's first H125 helicopter, which is set to roll out by 2026. This partnership aligns with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and reflects Airbus's commitment to investing in the Indian aerospace market despite regulatory challenges.

Foot Note:

- Airbus and Tata plan to establish a Final Assembly Line (FAL) for H-125 helicopters in India by winter.
- Eight potential sites have been identified for the assembly line.
- The location decision is expected soon.
- Initial production capacity: 10 helicopters per year.
- Potential to scale up to 50 helicopters annually in future years.

About Airbus:

Founder: Roger Béteille  
Headquarters: Netherlands  
Founded: 1970

### **ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 Team Won Prestigious IAF World Space Award 2024**

The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Chandrayaan-3 mission team won the 2024 World Space Award, presented by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), for their significant contributions to space exploration. The IAF World Space Award is given annually for outstanding contributions to space science, technology, medicine, law, or management that significantly advance global astronautics.

Foot Note:

- The award recognizes Chandrayaan-3's historic achievement of a soft landing near the lunar South Pole.
- It acknowledges India as the first country to land near the lunar South Pole.
- ISRO's Headquarters: Bengaluru , Founded: 15 August 1969, Founder: Vikram Sarabhai
- IAF's President- Eugene Clayton Mowry , Headquarters- Paris, France ,Established- 1951

### **European Space Agency Introduced Ramses, a Mission to study Asteroid Apophis**

In 1994, the Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet broke apart and hit Jupiter, raising concerns about protecting planets. This event led to discussions on preventing similar impacts on Earth. Planetary defense systems are now a major focus worldwide due to the risk of asteroids hitting Earth. The ESA's Space Safety program aims to reduce these risks through future missions.

Foot Note:

- ESA is preparing for the Ramses mission, which stands for Rapid Apophis Mission for Space Safety.
- The mission aims to study asteroid 99942 Apophis when it approaches Earth in 2029.
- Apophis, approximately 375 meters across, will pass within 32,000 km of Earth on April 13, 2029.
- The asteroid will be visible to billions of people.
- This event is very rare, occurring about once every 5,000 to 10,000 years.
- Apophis does not pose a collision threat for at least the next 100 years.

### **An international team of astronomers, including an IIT Kanpur professor, has discovered a giant exoplanet orbiting a Sun-like star**

An international team of astronomers including Prashant Pathak, Assistant Professor at the Department of Space, Planetary and Astronomical Sciences & Engineering (SPASE), the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh(UP), discovered 'Epsilon Indi Ab', a giant planet orbiting a nearby star similar to the Sun in the solar system.

Foot Note:

- Classification: 'Super-Jupiter' due to its mass, over six times that of Jupiter.
- Location: 12 light-years from Earth.



- Temperature: About  $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $30^{\circ}\text{F}$ ).
- Orbit: 28 times farther from its star than Earth is from the Sun.
- Composition: High metal content and unique carbon-to-oxygen ratio compared to other solar system planets.

## DEFENCE NEWS

### Inauguration of Indian Air Force Weapon Systems School

The Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief, Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari, inaugurated the Weapon Systems School (WSS) in Hyderabad, marking a significant advancement for the IAF. Established to recalibrate and transform the IAF into a future-oriented force, the WSS aims to provide contemporary, effect-based training to officers of the newly formed Weapon Systems (WS) branch. This initiative integrates ground-based and specialist weapon system operators under one umbrella, enhancing the IAF's war-fighting capabilities.

Foot Note:

- The WSS marks a significant development subsequent to the establishment of the WS branch in 2022.
- The WS branch comprises four distinct streams: flying, remote operations, mission commanders, and intelligence.
- Its primary objective is to educate officers in the operation of various airborne and ground-based weapon systems critical for contemporary air combat.

### India-Mongolia joint military exercise 'Nomadic Elephant2024'

The 16th edition of the India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT began today at the Foreign Training Node in Umroi, Meghalaya. The exercise will run from July 3 to 16, 2024, and involves 45 Indian soldiers from the SIKKIM SCOUTS Battalion and other units.

Foot Notes:

- The exercise includes the participation of the 150 Quick Reaction Force Battalion from the Mongolian Army.
- It is held annually, alternating between India and Mongolia. The previous exercise took place in Mongolia in July 2023.
- Dambajavyn Ganbold, Mongolia's Ambassador to India, and Major General Prasanna Joshi, General Officer Commanding 51 Sub Area of the Indian Army, attended the opening ceremony.

### Azerbaijan Army Participates in "Birlestik-2024" Joint Military Exercises in Kazakhstan

Azerbaijan Army servicemen have arrived in Kazakhstan to take part in the "Birlestik-2024" operational-tactical command-staff exercise. This joint military drill, scheduled from July 11 to July 17, will be conducted at the Oymasha training ground and Cape Tokmak in the Caspian Sea. The exercise is part of a collaborative effort between the Defense Ministries of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Foot Note:

- Azerbaijan's team comprises commando units from the Land Forces.
- It also includes personnel from the Parachute Descent and Search-Rescue services.
- The Air Force is represented by Su-25 aircraft.
- The Navy contributes patrol and descent ships to the contingent.

About Kazakhstan:

Capital: Astana

President: Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

### **Indian Army Departs for Multinational Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2024**

The Indian Army contingent has embarked on its journey to participate in the multinational military exercise KHAAN QUEST 2024. This prestigious event is scheduled to take place from 27th July to 9th August 2024 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The exercise serves as a platform for military forces worldwide to collaborate and enhance their peacekeeping capabilities.

Foot Note:

- In 2006, KHAAN QUEST evolved into a Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise.
- The 2024 iteration marks the 21st occurrence of this multinational event.
- The previous edition was conducted in Mongolia from 19th June to 2nd July 2023.

### **Indian Army Launches E-SeHAT Tele-Consultancy for Veterans**

The Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) has launched the E-SeHAT module. This new service allows ECHS beneficiaries to get online medical consultations from home, avoiding trips to ECHS Polyclinics. E-SeHAT provides structured video consultations to improve healthcare delivery for veterans by offering timely and quality care remotely.

Foot Note:

- The pilot phase of E-SeHAT has begun at 12 ECHS Polyclinics, including remote locations like Baramulla, Imphal, Churachandpur, Dimapur, and Aizawl.
- The project has successfully held tele-consultations with beneficiaries in these areas.
- The full nationwide rollout of E-SeHAT is planned for November 2024.

### **India to host first multinational air exercise 'Tarang Shakti 2024' in two phases**

India will host its first multinational air exercise, 'Tarang Shakti 2024', in two phases starting on the 6th of next month in Sular, Tamil Nadu. In this exercise, nearly 30 countries will participate, and out of 30, ten countries will join the exercise with their fighter aircraft. The exercise will showcase India's defence prowess and provide a platform for participating militaries to foster interoperability.

Foot Note:

- Indian Air Force's LCA Tejas, Mirage 2000, and Rafale will participate in a major exercise.
- Air Marshal A P Singh, Vice Chief of the Air Staff, stated the exercise will demonstrate India's defense capabilities.
- The event supports India's push towards self-reliance in defense (Atmanirbharta).

## SPORTS NEWS

### India Wins T20 World Cup after 17 years by beating South africa.

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 is over today 29th June 2024 as team India won the final match. Till now, 9 editions of the T20 World Cups have been concluded. India, West Indies and England are the most successful teams with two titles each. This year the final was played between India and South Africa on 29th June by team India won it by 7 runs. This is the second time India won the T20 world cup.

About BCCI

Chairman: Jay Shah

Established : December 1928

### Adani Group Announced as Principal Sponsor for Indian Team at 2024 Paris Olympics

In a significant development for Indian sports, Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, has declared that the conglomerate will be the principal sponsor of the Indian contingent at the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympics. This announcement marks a pivotal moment in the preparation of Indian athletes for one of the world's most prestigious sporting events.

Foot Note:

- Adani Group to sponsor Indian team for Paris Olympics 2024
- Campaign launched with theme Deshka GeetAtOlympics
- Focus on athletes' dedication and national pride

### Indian Badminton Players Triumph at 3rd BWF Saint-Denis Reunion Open 2024

The 3rd BWF Saint-Denis Reunion Open 2024, held from July 3 to 7 in Saint-Denis, the capital of the French overseas département of Réunion in the Western Indian Ocean, saw Indian badminton players dominate the tournament. They secured both the men's and women's singles titles, showcasing India's growing prowess in international badminton.

Foot Note:

- Tasnim Mir, ranked world No. 75 and from Gujarat, won the women's singles title.
- She defeated fellow Indian Rakshitha Sree in straight sets: 21-15, 21-19.
- This win is Tasnim's third challenger title and her first since 2022.
- The victory highlights her consistent performance and improvement internationally.

### PUMA Partners with Indian Olympic Association for Paris Olympics 2024

Sports brand PUMA India has announced a significant partnership with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), becoming the Official Footwear Partner for the Indian contingent at the Paris Olympics 2024. This collaboration marks a major step in supporting Indian athletes on the global stage and promoting sports excellence in the country.

Foot Note:

- PUMA has unveiled a major outdoor campaign called "See the Game Like We Do."
- The campaign is designed to capitalize on the new partnership and generate excitement for the Indian Olympic team.

- PV Sindhu's smash at 349 kmph, displayed across the coaches of Mumbai's Central Line trains.
- Kishore Jena's best throw of 87.54 meters, commemorated on a skyscraper-sized structure in Prabhadevi.

About PUMA:

Founder: Rudolf Dassler

Headquarters: Germany

Founded: 1948

### **India Shines At 35th International Biology Olympiad 2024 In Kazakhstan**

The Indian team, which participated at the 35th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2024 achieved remarkable success, with one student winning a GOLD medal and three students securing SILVER medals.

Foot Note:

- Vedant Sakre from Mumbai, Maharashtra won a gold medal.
- Ishan Pednekar from Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, Shrijith Sivakumar from Chennai, Tamil Nadu, and Yashashwi Kumar from Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh each won a silver medal.
- The 35th IBO took place in Astana, Kazakhstan, from July 7 to July 13, 2024.

### **Manolo Marquez Appointed Head Coach Of Indian Men's Football Team**

Manolo Marquez was appointed as the new head coach of the Indian men's football team by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) on July 20. Marquez will take over as the full-time national team head coach after ISL 2024-25.

Foot Note:

- Marquez, from Barcelona, Spain, has a stellar coaching record in India.
- He transformed Hyderabad FC into ISL champions in his first stint.
- Marquez then took over at Goa, leading them to third place and the semifinals last season.
- The 55-year-old Spaniard will immediately take on a new role.
- Marquez will continue his duties as head coach of FC Goa until the end of the 2024-25 season.

### **Kush Maini Wins Maiden Formula 2 Sprint Race at Hungarian Grand Prix**

Indian driver Kush Maini clinched his first Formula 2 Sprint Race victory at the Hungarian Grand Prix after initial winner Richard Verschoor was disqualified due to a technical infringement. This win marks a significant achievement for Maini, who is 23 years old and drives for Invicta Racing.

Foot Note:

- Kush Maini won his first Formula 2 Sprint Race at the Hungarian Grand Prix
- Richard Verschoor's disqualification allowed Maini to win
- Added 10 points, bringing his total to 66
- Moved to P8 in the Formula 2 Drivers Standings, surpassing Kimi Antonelli

### **PR Sreejesh Announces Retirement After Paris Olympics 2024**

Indian hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, a pivotal figure in the sport, has announced that he will retire from international hockey following the Paris Olympics 2024. This decision marks the end of an illustrious career, characterized by significant achievements and a lasting impact on the team.

Foot Note:

- Sreejesh debuted internationally in 2006
- Key player in Indian hockey's resurgence
- Experienced team's failures at Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Olympics
- Demonstrated leadership and perseverance
- Played crucial role in securing bronze at Tokyo 2021

### **Sania Mirza, Mary Kom And Rannvijay Singha Join Play Sports As Brand Ambassadors**

Six-time Grand Slam winner and former World No. 1 in women's doubles Sania Mirza, six-time World Champion and Olympic bronze medallist MC Mary Kom and actor Rannvijay Singha have joined 'Play Sports' as brand ambassadors. Play Sport's objective is to create a sustainable sports eco system in India by working with schools, developing sports, managing sports infrastructure, running academies and scouting talent from grassroots.

Foot Note:

- Play Sports aims to improve sports infrastructure and training facilities at schools and societies in Delhi NCR and Jaipur initially, with plans to expand nationwide.
- They upgrade existing sports infrastructure at schools and develop new playgrounds where needed.
- Play Sports provides equipment support and develops sports curriculums for schools.

### **Abhinav Bindra awarded a prestigious Olympic Order by the IOC**

Abhinav Bindra, the first Indian to win individual gold at the Olympics, has been honoured with the Olympic Order for his outstanding contributions to the Olympic movement. The Olympic Order is the highest accolade bestowed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for exceptional service.

Foot Note:

- The Olympic Order is the highest award from the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- Established in 1975, it honors distinguished service to the Olympic Movement.
- It has three grades: gold, silver, and bronze, with gold being the most prestigious.
- Recipients are selected by the IOC's Executive Board.

### **France Set To Host 2030 Winter Olympics**

The International Olympic Committee named the French Alps as the host for the 2030 Winter Games on July 24, though the decision is subject to certain conditions. While presenting the bid to IOC members in Paris, French President Emmanuel Macron assured the committee that the government formed after the 2024 Summer Games in Paris would handle all outstanding organisational and financial guarantees.

Foot Note:



- France has a caretaker government due to recent elections not yielding a majority for any party.
- Despite the deadlock, 2030 project organisers are confident in securing guarantees.
- They believe the next government will provide the needed guarantees.
- Capital: Paris ,Prime Minister:Gabriel Attal ,President:Emmanuel Macron

### **Manu Bhaker is the first Indian woman to win a bronze medal in shooting at the Paris Olympics 2024**

The Olympics are a grand celebration for sports fans worldwide. They bring people together, showcasing unity despite diverse cultures, interests, and genders, with events often categorized by gender and physique.

Foot Note:

- Manu Bhaker: First Indian woman to win a medal at the Paris Olympics 2024.
- Event: Women's 10m air pistol final.
- Achievement: Won bronze with 221.7 points.
- Significance: Breaks the stereotype that women cannot play sports.

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### **Sri Lanka Clinches Maiden Women's Asia Cup Title with Win Over India**

Sri Lanka won their first Women's Asia Cup title by defeating India by 8 wickets. The final match was held at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium. India batted first, scoring 165/6 in 20 overs after winning the toss. Sri Lanka successfully chased the target in the 19th over.

Foot Note:

- Scored 61 runs, giving Sri Lanka a strong start.
- Named Player of the Tournament for scoring 304 runs and taking three wickets.
- Despite dropping two catches, she contributed with a vital counter-attacking half-century.

About Sri Lanka:

Capitals: Colombo

President: Ranil Wickremesinghe

Prime minister: Dinesh Gunawardena

### **Manu and Sarabjot achieve a historic win by securing the bronze medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event**

Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh won a bronze medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event at the Paris Olympics, defeating South Korea 16-10. This achievement makes Bhaker the first Indian female athlete to win two medals in a single Olympics.

Foot Note:

- Their accomplishment has received praise and support from family and their coach.
- Their performance showcases their skill and determination.
- It contributes to India's rising success in shooting sports globally.

### **Jia Rai: Youngest and fastest para-swimmer to cross the English Channel**

Sixteen-year-old Jiya Rai from Mumbai has set a world record as the youngest and fastest para-swimmer to cross the English Channel. Despite having Autism Spectrum Disorder, Jiya completed the 34-kilometer swim from Abbot's Cliff in England to Pointe de la Courte-Dune in France in 17 hours and 25 minutes on July 28-29, 2024.

Foot Note:

- Jiya Rai holds the record for the youngest and fastest swimmer to cross the Palk Strait.
- She swam the 29-kilometer distance from Talaimannar, Sri Lanka, to Dhanuskodi, India.
- She completed the swim in 13 hours and 10 minutes on March 20, 2022.

### **Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the Belgian Grand Prix 2024**

British racing driver Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes won the 2024 Formula 1 Rolex Belgian Grand Prix, held at the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps in Stavelot, Belgium. This marks Hamilton's 2nd GP title of 2024 after the Great Britain GP held in July 2024. McLaren's Oscar Piastri, (Australia) secured the 2nd place on the podium and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc (Monaco) moved up to the 3rd position.

Foot Note:

- Mercedes' George Russell, who initially finished first, was disqualified due to his car being underweight.
- The FIA reported that 2.8 liters of fuel were improperly drained from Russell's car after it had initially met the minimum weight limit.
- The car's actual weight was 796.5 kg, below the required minimum of 798.0 kg.

### **Swapnil Kusale Secures Bronze Medal in 50m Rifle 3 Positions at Paris Olympics**

In a thrilling display of marksmanship, 28-year-old Swapnil Kusale has secured India's third medal at the Paris Olympics. Kusale clinched the bronze medal in the 50m rifle 3 positions final on Thursday, adding to India's growing tally in the shooting events.

Foot Note:

- Kusale earned a total of 451.4 points, just missing the silver medal.
- Y.K. Liu won the gold medal with 463.6 points.
- Serhiy Kulish of Ukraine secured the silver medal with 461.3 points.

### **Lieutenant Colonel Kabilan Sai Ashok: India's youngest Olympic boxing referee at Paris 2024**

Beyond the attention-grabbing performances of Indian shooters lie another feat that has gone unnoticed so far. Lieutenant Colonel Kabilan Sai Ashok, a serving Indian Army Officer, has become India's youngest referee to officiate the boxing events at the ongoing Paris Olympics 2024.

Foot Note:

- Lt Col Ashok, 32, is the fourth Indian since 1904 to officiate at the Olympics.
- He is the first Indian to have represented the country as both a player and an official at a world championship event.
- He is also the first Indian to become president of the World Military Boxing Council.

### **Leon Marchand Secures Second Gold Medal at Paris Olympics, Eyes Historic Same-Day Double**

Leon Marchand from France won his second gold medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics. He set an Olympic record in the 200-metre butterfly event. Marchand is aiming for an unprecedented same-day double in the 200-metre butterfly and breaststroke events.

Foot Notes;

- Marchand triumphed in the 200-metre butterfly, setting an Olympic record.
- He defeated Hungary's world record holder and reigning champion Kristof Milak.
- Canada's Ilya Kharun secured the bronze medal.
- Marchand is the poster boy for Paris 2024, symbolizing French hopes and athletic excellence.

## **AWARDS NEWS**

### **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Receives Navratna Status.**

Department of Public Enterprises(DPE), under the Ministry of Finance(MoF), has granted the 'Navratna' status to Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL), a Central Public Sector Undertaking(CPSU) under the Ministry of Defence(MoD).CEL Gets 'Mini RATNA'(Category-1) Status.

#### **About Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL):**

CMD– Sanjeev Singhal

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Founded– 1934

#### **About Central Electronics Limited (CEL):**

CMD– Chetan Prakash Jain

Headquarters– New Delhi, Delhi

Established– 1974

### **P.Geetha wins first ever K.Saraswathi Amma-Award**

Writer, critic and feminist activist **P. Geetha** was presented with the **first K. Saraswathi Amma Award**, instituted by WINGS (Women's Integration and Growth Through Sports) Kerala, for feminist studies. Her work Aan Thachukal (male creations) about **M.T. Vasudevan Nair's scripts** won the award.

Foot Note:

- Joseph pointed out that it was fitting for Ms. Geetha to receive an award named after Saraswathi Amma, which symbolizes justice.
- Ms. Geetha, known for her advocacy on **gender justice issues**, has faced criticism but is recognized for her strong stance.
- The event honored Ms. Geetha for her **achievements despite facing difficulties** and resistance.

### **"Girls Will Be Girls" won the Grand Jury Award at the Indian Film Festival in Los Angeles**

Actors Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal's production 'Girls Will Be Girls', which is directed by Shuchi Talati, has won the Grand Jury honour at the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles (IFFLA). This marks the third accolade for the film, having recently won Grand Jury prizes at the Transylvania International Film Festival in Romania and the Biarritz Film Festival in France.

Foot Note:

- Winning the Grand Jury Prize at IFFLA is a tremendous honor for us. It's rewarding to see our entire team's hard work and commitment acknowledged on such a prestigious stage.
- "Girls Will Be Girls" is a story that is very dear to us, and we are delighted that it continues to resonate with audiences worldwide.
- This marks the film's third award this month, which is a significant achievement for us as producers.
- The response and love the film has received have been overwhelming and truly exceptional. We couldn't have asked for a better debut in our roles as producers.

### **Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal Awarded PPM & IPM To 39 CBI Officers**

Arjun Ram Meghwal, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge-IC), Ministry of Law & Justice (MoL&J) and Minister of State (MoS) for Parliamentary Affairs awarded the 'President's Police Medal' (PPM) for Distinguished Service and the 'Indian Police Medal' (IPM) for Meritorious Service to 39 Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officers and officials.

Foot Note:

- These laws aim to expedite justice delivery and save time for all involved in legal proceedings.
- President's Police Medal (PPM) recognizes exceptional police service, originally named the President's Police and Fire Service Medal.
- Indian Police Medal is awarded for meritorious police service.

About CBI:

Founded: 1963

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founder: Government of India

**Dr. Arpit Chopra Receives Prestigious Excellence Award for Pioneering Work in Homeopathy**

In a significant recognition of his contributions to alternative medicine, Dr. Arpit Chopra, a distinguished homoeopathic practitioner, was bestowed with the Excellence Award at the NDTV MSMES (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) Summit held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The award ceremony, which took place at the Marriott Hotel, saw the presence of several high-ranking state officials and industry leaders.

Foot Note:

- Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav personally awarded Dr. Arpit Chopra the Excellence Award.
- The award recognizes Dr. Chopra's exceptional contributions to homeopathy and dedication to public health.
- Dr. Arpit Chopra has emerged as a prominent figure in the homeopathic community due to his innovative methods and commitment to patient welfare.
- He founded Aarogya Homeopathic and has actively promoted and elevated homeopathic therapies across India.

### **Jasprit Bumrah and Mandhana Clinch ICC Player of the Month Awards**

Jasprit Bumrah, the hero of India's victorious T20 World Cup campaign, has added another accolade to his illustrious career. He was named the 'ICC Men's Player of the Month for June', cementing his status as one of cricket's premier fast bowlers.

Foot Note:

- Bumrah's outstanding display in the T20 World Cup led to him securing 15 wickets and being honored with the Player-of-the-Tournament award.
- This accomplishment places him alongside Virat Kohli as the sole Indian recipients of this accolade in the T20 World Cup.

### **Tamil writer Sivashankari selected for Dr. C. Narayana Reddy National Literary Award**

Tamil literature, renowned author Sivashankari has been selected as the recipient of the highly esteemed Dr. C. Narayana Reddy National Literary Award. This prestigious accolade celebrates her immense contributions to the rich tapestry of Tamil literary culture and her role in shaping contemporary Indian literature.

Foot Note:

- The award ceremony will be held on July 29, 2024, at Ravindra Bharati in Hyderabad.
- This date is significant as it aligns with the 93rd birth anniversary of Dr. C. Narayana Reddy.
- Dr. C. Narayana Reddy, a celebrated Telugu poet and academic, lends his name to the award.

About Tamil Nadu:

Capital: Chennai

Chief Minister: M. K. Stalin

Governor: R. N. Ravi



## **France awarded Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson of HCLTech, the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.**

Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson of HCL Technologies, has received France's highest civilian award, the "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur." She was honored for her business achievements, efforts to enhance economic relations between France and India, and dedication to social and environmental causes.

Foot Note:

- Roshni Nadar Malhotra became Chairperson of HCLTech in July 2020, succeeding her father Shiv Nadar, the company's founder. She became the first woman to lead a listed IT company in India.
- She serves as a trustee of the Shiv Nadar Foundation, primarily focused on education.
- In 2018, she founded The Habitats Trust with a mission to conserve India's natural habitats and indigenous species.

## **India's Tasnim Mir and Tharun Manneppalli win singles titles at the Saint-Denis Reunion Open 2024.**

Indian badminton players Tasnim Mir and Tharun Manneppalli won the women's and men's singles titles at the 3rd Saint-Denis Reunion Open 2024, held from July 3 to 7, 2024, in Saint-Denis, Réunion Island.

Foot Note:

- Tharun Manneppalli won the Men's Singles title by defeating Yudai Okimoto of Japan.
- Tasnim Mir won the Women's Singles title against Indian Rakshitha Sree.
- In Men's Doubles, Prakash Raj and Gouse Shaik were runners-up, losing to Julien Maio and William Villeger from France.
- Tasnim Mir earned her 3rd International Challenge title, adding to her wins at the Iran Fajr International and India Chhattisgarh International in 2022.

## **Nagaland named Best State in Horticulture at the Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024.**

In a significant recognition of its efforts in agricultural development, Nagaland has been awarded the title of best state in horticulture at the prestigious Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024. This accolade highlights the state's commitment to innovative agricultural practices and rural development.

Foot Note:

- The Agriculture Leadership Awards, established in 2008, honor achievements in agricultural development and rural prosperity.
- The 2024 awards were presented during the 15th Agriculture Leadership Conclave in New Delhi.

## **IMO Announced the Winners of IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea 2024**

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has announced the winners of the 2024 IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea:

- Captain Avhilash Rawat and the crew of the oil tanker Marlin Luanda, nominated by the Marshall Islands.
- Captain Jorge Fernando Galaviz Fuentes and the crew of the tugboat Pemex Maya, nominated by Mexico.
- The IMO awarded Letters of Commendation to Indian Navy Captain Brijesh Nambiar and the crew of INS Visakhapatnam.
- Captain Avhilash Rawat and the crew of Marlin Luanda were recognized for their bravery in fighting a fire after an anti-ship missile hit their vessel.
- Captain Jorge Fernando Galaviz Fuentes and the crew of Pemex Maya were honored for rescuing 6 shipwrecked individuals from 4 vessels during a hurricane.

About IMO :

Secretary-General- Kitack Lim

Member States- 175 member states and 3 associate members

Headquarters- London

### **Sudarsan Pattnaik won gold at International Sand Sculpture Championship**

Renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik on July 12, won the Golden Sand Master award at an international championship in Russia. The event, International Sand Sculpture Championship was organised from July 4-12 in St Petersburg at the iconic Peter and Paul Fortress. The world's 21 master sculptors participated in the event.

Foot Note:

- He was awarded Padma Shri by Government of India, the Fourth Highest Civilian Award in India, in 2014 for his contribution in Sand Arts.
- People's Choice Award at Sand Sculpting World Cup 2014 at Atlantic City, US.
- First Indian to win the Italian Sand Art Award, 2019, at the International Scorrano Sand Nativity event held in Lecce, Italy from 13 to 17 November.

### **Sri Kurumba Trust Wins Global CSR ESG Award 2024**

Sobha Group's CSR wing, Sri Kurumba Educational and Charitable Trust, has been honoured with the "Best Child and Women Development Initiatives of the Year 2024." This esteemed accolade was presented at the Global CSR, Sustainability, and ESG Awards 2024, at the Hyatt Regency, Gurgaon. The event was organised by Marketing and Brand Honchos and brought together industry leaders and champions of social responsibility.

Foot Note:

- Mr. Nagarajan S, Vice President of Projects at Sobha Limited, accepted the award on behalf of the organization.
- The award recognizes the innovative initiatives of Sri Kurumba Educational and Charitable Trust.

- Trust's initiatives focus on empowering children and women through:
- World-class education programs
- Community development programs

### **APCNF Wins Prestigious Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity 2024**

The Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) program, led by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, received the Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity 2024. Announcement made by Angela Merkel, former Federal Chancellor of Germany, in Lisbon, Portugal on July 11th.

Foot Note:

- APCNF shares a €1 million prize with Dr. Rattan Lal (USA) and SEKEM (Egypt).
- Dr. Rattan Lal is a distinguished soil scientist.
- SEKEM is recognized for promoting biodynamic farming.
- They are acknowledged for their joint efforts in advancing sustainable agriculture through both research and practical implementation.

### **Abhinav Bindra Awarded Prestigious Olympic Order by IOC**

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has honored Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual Olympic gold medallist, with the prestigious Olympic Order. This recognition will be formally presented during the 142nd IOC Session in Paris on August 10, 2024, a day before the closing of the Paris Olympics. The Olympic Order, the IOC's highest award, acknowledges distinguished contributions to the Olympic Movement.

Foot Note:

- Bindra won the men's 10-meter air rifle event at the 2008 Beijing Olympics
- First Indian to secure an individual Olympic gold
- Member of the IOC Athlete Commission since 2018
- Will receive the Olympic Order at the 142nd IOC Session in Paris
- Award recognizes notable contributions to the Olympic Movement and significant services to the Olympic cause

### **Shah Rukh Khan, First Indian Actor, Honoured With Gold Coins**

Shah Rukh Khan has added another feather to his staggering cap. The superstar has made history by becoming the first Indian actor to have a special coin dedicated to him at Paris' Grevin Museum. The news has gone viral on social media with several fan-clubs of the actor brimming with excitement on this honour.

Foot Note:

- In 2024, the Grevin Museum honored Shah Rukh's global persona.
- A golden coin was struck featuring his image and name.
- This coin symbolizes his far-reaching influence.

### **Jitendra Singh Conferred The Prestigious "Lifetime Achievement Award"**

In a ceremony to mark the International Meet of leading medical celebrities, professionals and Medicos from all over the country and abroad, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh was conferred the prestigious “Lifetime Achievement Award”. In recognition of his exemplary dedication to the advancement of diabetology, diabetes care and diabetes research he earned acknowledgement across the country and overseas.

Foot Note:

- Dr. Jitendra Singh, like the renowned Dr. B.C. Roy, is a distinguished medical professional.
- He achieved national recognition not only in his medical field but also in public life.
- Dr. Singh was elected to the Lok Sabha (House of the People) for three consecutive terms with a decisive margin.
- He is one of the few individuals in the country and the first from Jammu & Kashmir to secure a position in the Union Council of Ministers during his third term.

### **CWC Wins GEEF Global WaterTech Award 2024**

The Central Water Commission (CWC) has been honored with the GEEF Global WaterTech Award in the category ‘Water Department of the Year’ at the Global Water Tech Summit – 2024, held by the Global Energy and Environment Foundation (GEEF) in New Delhi.

Foot Note:

- Enhanced Synergy with State/UT Water Resources/Irrigation/Jal Shakti Departments
- Urban Hydrology Capacity Building for State Officials
- Extended Hydrological Prediction (EHP) Development
- Mobile App ‘Floodwatch India’ for Public Flood Information Dissemination

### **V. Vedachalam wins V Venkayya Epigraphy Award 2024**

Dr. Vedachalam, author of over 25 books on topics including epigraphy, numismatics, temple art, religion, and society, expressed his honor at receiving the award named after V. Venkayya, the first Indian Chief Epigraphist to the Government of India.

Foot Note:

- The annual award was established by Sunitha Madhavan, the great-granddaughter of Mr. Venkayya.
- It is organized in collaboration with the Tamil Heritage Trust.
- The award honors the pioneering work of Mr. Venkayya, the first Indian Chief Epigraphist.
- It recognizes exceptional contributions to epigraphy in any Indian language.
- Categories include discovering new inscriptions, offering fresh interpretations, sharing knowledge, and preserving epigraphic resources.

### **Lewis Hamilton Wins Dramatic Belgian Grand Prix After George Russell’s Disqualification**

Lewis Hamilton secured victory at the 2024 Formula 1 Rolex Belgian Grand Prix. The win came after his Mercedes team-mate George Russell was disqualified. George Russell, who initially finished first, was disqualified because his car was found underweight in the post-race inspection. A Technical Delegate’s Report confirmed the violation.

Foot Note:

- The race saw a fierce contest between Mercedes drivers Hamilton and Russell.
- Hamilton used a two-stop strategy, while Russell went for a single pit stop.
- The different strategies made for an exciting final segment.
- Hamilton narrowed the gap but finished 0.526 seconds behind Russell.

### **Rigoberta Menchú Tum & Victor Gonzalez Torres Receives Gandhi Mandela Award 2020**

Rigoberta Menchú Tum, the Nobel Prize winner and Guatemalan human rights activist, and Victor Gonzalez Torres, a Mexican politician and businessman, received the Gandhi Mandela Award 2020. The award was presented on Nelson Mandela's 106th birthday, July 18, 2024.

Foot Note:

- Rigoberta Menchú Tum became an activist for women's rights and social reform through the Catholic Church.
- In 1979, she joined the Committee of the Peasant Union (CUC) to advocate for farm workers' rights and educate Indigenous peasants.
- Her activism led to her exile in Mexico in 1981, where she co-founded the United Representation of the Guatemalan Opposition (RUOG) in 1982.
- Her autobiography, *I, Rigoberta Menchú*, published in 1983, gained international attention.
- She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992 for her efforts in social justice and reconciliation and received the Princess of Asturias Award in 1998.

### **DMRC Won Global Water Tech Award 2024 For Environmental Initiatives**

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has received the 'Global Water Tech Award 2024' from the Global Energy & Environment Foundation (GEEF) in the 'Organization' category for its efforts in environmental conservation.

Foot Note:

- DMRC's key initiatives include rainwater harvesting pits, sewage treatment plants, and using treated effluent for construction, horticulture, and dust suppression.
- The corporation has also installed water-efficient fixtures, Beton Wash facilities at construction sites, and dual plumbing systems to utilize 'dewatered water' effectively.
- These measures have reduced water demand and supported environmental sustainability in urban infrastructure development.
- During Phase I of construction, DMRC revitalized the dry Sarpakar Lake in the ridge area using dewatered water from its site near Delhi University.

## **BOOKS NEWS**

### **Book on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Leadership Legacy**

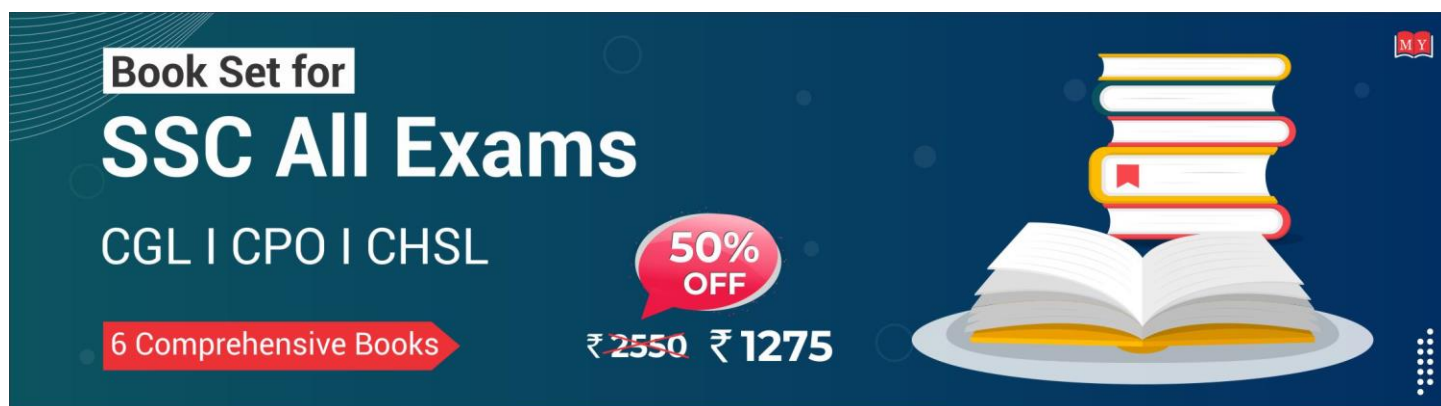
Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh was recently presented with a significant book titled "Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi", authored by Dr. R Balasubramaniam. Dr. Balasubramaniam, a noted intellectual, former Rhodes Professor at Cornell University, and



current Member HR at the Capacity Building Commission, has previously written acclaimed works such as *Voices From The Grassroots* and *Leadership Lessons For Daily Living*.

Foot Note:

- "Power Within" explores Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership journey.
- The book examines his leadership through Western and Indic perspectives.
- It offers an integrated view of Modi's leadership style.
- The book reflects on how Modi's principles and practices resonate with India's civilizational wisdom.
- It aims to provide a comprehensive roadmap for individuals aspiring to public service.



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### **A Book Title Jamsetji Tata: Powerful Learnings For Corporate Success**

Interwoven with engaging real-life stories and interesting anecdotes that went into the making of India's popular brands such as Tata Tea, Tata Motors, Titan and Tanishq. This unique account brings alive the vision of Jamsetji Tata and what we can learn from it.

Foot Note:

- From Empress Mills to the Iron and Steel Plant
- Establishment of IISc to building the Taj Mahal Hotel
- Jamsetji's vision elevated India
- R. Gopalakrishnan and Harish Bhat offer insights
- Entrepreneurial principles behind a lasting enterprise

### **Sudipta Sengupta, released her memoir "Breaking Rocks and Barriers"**

Sudipta Sengupta, a name that resonates with groundbreaking achievements in geology and mountaineering, is the subject of a new book titled "Breaking Rocks and Barriers." Set to be released on July 24 by HarperCollins India, this book offers a captivating glimpse into the life of one of India's most remarkable women scientists and adventurers.

Foot Note:

- In 1983, Sengupta became one of the first Indian women to visit Antarctica.
- She was a key member of the Third Indian Expedition to Antarctica, from December 3, 1983, to March 25, 1984.
- The expedition was a major milestone for India's scientific endeavors and gender equality in field research.

## **PM Modi Released Three Books On Life And Journey of Former Vice President M.Venkaiah Naidu**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released **three books** on the life and journey of former Vice President of India **M Venkaiah Naidu** via video conferencing on June 30. The book release event was organised at Anvaya Convention Centre in **Gachibowli in Telangana's Hyderabad**, on the eve of the **75th birthday** of the former **Vice President Naidu**.

The Prime Minister released three books:

- **A biography titled "Venkaiah Naidu – Life in Service"** about the former Vice President, written by S. Nagesh Kumar.
- **"Celebrating Bharat – The Mission and Message of Shri M Venkaiah Naidu as 13th Vice-President of India,"** a photo chronicle compiled by Dr. I.V. Subba Rao.
- **A pictorial biography in Telugu called "Mahaneta – Life and Journey of Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu,"** authored by Sanjay Kishore.

## **Mallika Sarabhai releases book on Guruvayurappan College**

Chancellor Mallika Sarabhai of Kerala Kalamandalam released "Anubhava Charitram," a book detailing the 150-year history of Samoothiri Guruvayurappan College in Pokkunnu, Kozhikode. Sarabhai highlighted that books and music can bring both tears and joy, especially during times of hatred, fear, and insecurity.

Foot Note:

- Sarabhai highlighted that books and music offer comfort and joy, especially in times of fear and insecurity.
- She praised the Salkrithi Educational and Cultural Trust for their dedication to the institution and called for Kozhikode and Kerala to help guide India through challenging times.
- Mayor Beena Philip, who received the book's first copy, noted the Zamorins' significant role in advancing education throughout north Kerala.

## **TN CM Stalin releases coffee table books on Tamil Nadu forts and indigenous deities**

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin released two English coffee table books titled 'Folk Deities of Tamil Nadu: Worship, Tradition and Custom' and 'Forts of Tamil Nadu: A Walk-Through'. The books were launched in collaboration with The Hindu Group at the Secretariat in Chennai.

Foot Note:

- The TN Tourism Department released 'Forts of Tamil Nadu: A Walk-Through', highlighting historic forts and their significance.
- The HR & CE Department released 'Folk Deities of Tamil Nadu: Worship, Tradition and Custom' to explain the rituals and cultural practices of indigenous deities.
- K. Ramachandran, Minister for Tourism, and P.K. Sekarbabu, Minister for HR & CE, received the first copies of the books, with Nirmala Lakshman from The Hindu Group also present.

About Tamil Nadu:

Capital: Chennai

Chief Minister: M. K. Stalin

Governor: R. N. Ravi

## APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

### **António Costa was elected as President of the European Council**

Former prime minister of Portugal, António Luís Santos da Costa, has been elected as the President of the European Council in Brussels. He became the first Portuguese leader to hold this position, and the appointment marks a significant milestone in European politics. The European Council brings together EU leaders to set the EU's political agenda. It represents the highest level of political cooperation between EU countries. One of the EU's 7 official institutions, the European Council takes the form of summit meetings between EU leaders, chaired by a permanent president.

#### **About European Council**

Established in: 1974 (informal forum), 1992 (formal status), 2009 (official EU institution)

Members: Heads of state or government of EU countries, European Council President, European Commission President

### **Naveen Chandra Jha Appointed as New MD & CEO of SBI General Insurance.**

Naveen Chandra Jha has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of SBI General Insurance Company Limited. He was nominated by the parent company, State Bank of India (SBI) and succeeds Kishore Kumar Poludasu.

- Prior to this current role, he served as the Deputy Managing Director of SBI. He has been associated with the SBI since 1994 and has held several key positions during his tenure.
- He has also served as the Chief General Manager (CGM) of Amaravati Circle, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

He has held various functional and operational roles, including Branch Management, Credit and Risk Management with a focus on Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Credit, Human Resources (HR) & Administration, and Retail Banking.

### **Bank of Baroda Appoints Sumit Nagal as its Brand Endorser**

Bank of Baroda has appointed Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal as its brand endorser, reflecting the bank's commitment to supporting emerging Indian athletes on the global stage. Sumit Nagal, 26, will focus on engaging with a younger audience and promoting products designed for this demographic, in line with the bank's strategy. Currently the highest-ranked Indian singles tennis player, Nagal achieved a career-high world ranking of No. 71 on June 17, 2024, and secured a spot in the Indian Olympic team for Paris. In January 2024, he made history as the first Indian in 35 years to defeat a seeded player in a Grand Slam men's singles match at the Australian Open.

About Bank of Baroda

MD: Devdutt Chand

Established: July 20, 1908

Headquater:Alkapuri, Vadodara

### CS Shetty will be the next Sbi Chairman

Challa Sreenivasulu Setty has been selected as the next chairman of State Bank of India (SBI) by the Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB), an arm of the central government. The two other contenders were Ashwini Tiwari and Vinay Tonse. Setty will succeed current chairman Dinesh Khara, Setty is managing director at SBI, the country's largest state-owned bank. Tiwari and Tonse are the other two MDs who were called for interview by the FSIB. Setty, who has worked for SBI for about 35 years, heads international banking, global markets and technology at the lender. A career banker, he took charge as MD of SBI in January 2020. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and is a certified associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers.

About State Bank of India

Headquater:Mumbai

Established:1 July 1955

### Lt Gen Devendra Sharma takes over as new GoC-in –C,ARTRAC

Lt Gen Devendra Sharma took over as the **25th general officer** commanding in chief (GOC-in-C) of the Shimla-based Army Training Command. Lt Gen Sharma is an alumnus of **Mayo College, Ajmer, National Defence Academy** and Indian Military Academy. A recipient of the sword of honour, he was commissioned into The Scinde Horse on December 19, 1987.

Foot Note:

- Career spans nearly four decades with **extensive command experience** in sensitive operational sectors.
- Commanded **The Scinde Horse**, an armoured brigade within a strike corps, an infantry division, and a corps on the western front.
- Specializes in **counter-terrorism operations** and high-altitude terrain.
- Previously served as Chief of Staff at **HQ Western Command**, Chandimandir.

About Army Training Command:

Headquarters: Shimla

Fonunded:1991

### IAS officer Sujata Saunik becomes Maharashtra's first female Chief Secretary

Sujata Saunik, a **1987 batch** IAS officer, became the **first female** Chief Secretary of Maharashtra when she took over from **retiring Chief Secretary Nitin Kareer**. Incidentally, Kareer had taken the charge of this post from Saunik's husband Manoj Saunik.

Foot Note:

- Sujata Saunik previously served as **additional chief secretary** in the Home Department and **General Administration Department** of the Maharashtra government.
- She is set to become the **45th Chief Secretary of Maharashtra** since the state's establishment in **1960**.
- The outgoing Chief Secretary received a three-month extension from the central government in **March 2024**.

- This extension was granted in light of the Lok Sabha election period, which concluded on June 4 with the announcement of results.

About IAS:

Founder: Parliament of India

Founded: 1858

CEO: Naresh Chandra

### **Puma India, Roped Riyan Parag and Nitish Kumar Reddy as ambassadors**

Marks an important day for sports fashion in India. On this day, Puma India, a leading sports brand, announced two new brand ambassadors: Riyan Parag and Nitish Kumar Reddy. This exciting news showcases Puma's commitment to supporting young talent and connecting with India's youth.

Foot Note:


- Puma's collaboration with these young cricketers reflects their commitment to nurturing future sports stars in India.
- By selecting young and popular cricketers, Puma intends to deepen its bond with youth nationwide.
- This initiative underscores the burgeoning talent in Indian cricket and provides a platform for these players to gain wider recognition.

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### **IRS Officer Ravi Agrawal Appointed as Chairman Of CBDT**

Ravi Agrawal, a 1988-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), which oversees the Income Tax Department. He succeeded Nitin Gupta, whose extended tenure ended on June 30, 2024.

Foot Note:

- Ravi Agrawal was appointed as a member of CBDT to handle direct tax matters.
- He previously served as the Director General (DG) of Income Tax Investigation in Delhi.
- In July 2023, he assumed the role of member of CBDT overseeing administration.

About CBDT:

Chairman – Ravi Agrawal

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

Established – 1963



### **Dick Schoof: Ex-spy chief sworn in as Dutch prime minister**

Former spy chief Dick Schoof is the new Dutch prime minister, leading a right-wing coalition with a focus on implementing the “strictest-ever” immigration policy. Schoof, 67, previously headed the Dutch Secret Service and takes over from Mark Rutte, who served 14 years in power.

Foot Note:

- Geert Wilders’ far-right party, the Freedom Party (PVV), secured five ministerial posts.
- Wilders stepped back from his own prime ministerial ambitions to maintain coalition stability.
- Schoof, a former Labour Party member, was chosen as a compromise candidate due to his extensive government experience.

### **Labour leader Keir Starmer appointed as the UK’s 58th PM**

Keir Starmer became the 58th Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, replacing Rishi Sunak. He was appointed by King Charles III, the UK's monarch. Starmer's Labour Party won 412 seats, a significant increase, while Rishi Sunak's Conservative Party secured only 121 seats, the lowest in their history.

Foot Note:

- Keir Starmer is the first Labour Party Prime Minister since Gordon Brown, marking 14 years since their last tenure.
- He is also the first Labour Party leader to win a general election since Tony Blair's era from 1997 to 2007.
- He is the first knighted individual to become UK's Prime Minister since Sir Alec Douglas-Home in 1963.
- Starmer entered Parliament in 2015 and has held various significant roles before assuming the Prime Ministership.

About UK:

Capital: London

Prime Minister: Keir Starmer

### **Gagan Narang Appointed as India’s Chef-De-Mission for Paris Olympics 2024**

Four-time Olympian and 2012 Olympic bronze medalist Gagan Narang has been appointed as India’s Chef-De-Mission for the 2024 Paris Olympics. This decision comes after Mary Kom’s resignation from the position due to health issues.

Foot Note:

- Mary Kom, the boxing legend, stepped down as Chef-De-Mission citing health reasons.
- Her resignation prompted the selection of a new leader for the Indian Olympic team.
- Serving as the primary point of contact with organizing committees
- Liaising with sporting members of the contingent

## **Govind Singh has been reappointed as MD & CEO of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank by the RBI**

The RBI has approved Govind Singh's reappointment as MD and CEO of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited (USFBL) for another three years, starting from September 21, 2024.

Foot Note:

- Govind Singh first became MD & CEO of USFBL in 2017, resigned in May 2018, and was reappointed in September 2018.
- He is also a Director at Utkarsh Welfare Foundation (UWF).
- Govind Singh has served on the Working Group to review the Business Correspondent Model in India.
- He has held positions such as Director at Cashpor Micro Credit, Head of Microbanking Business at ICICI Bank Limited, and Member of a Working Group at RBI.
- His experience includes roles at ICICI Bank overseeing Rural and Agri Liabilities, as well as the TASC segment.

About Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited:

MD & CEO – Govind Singh

Headquarters –Uttar Pradesh

## **Rajat Sharma Elected as NBDA President**

In a significant development for the Indian media landscape, Rajat Sharma, the esteemed Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of India TV, has been unanimously elected as the President of the News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA). This landmark decision was made during the NBDA's board meeting held on July 9, 2024, marking a new chapter in the organization's history.

Foot Note:

- The NBDA is India's largest organization of news broadcasters.
- It represents a coalition of influential news networks in the country.
- Membership includes traditional TV broadcasters and modern digital platforms.
- The association plays a pivotal role in shaping news dissemination in India.
- It advocates for member interests and promotes ethical journalism practices.

About NBDA:

Founded : 2007

President : Avinash Pandey

## **Government Appoints Robert J Ravi as New CMD of BSNL**

The Indian government has made a significant move in the telecommunications sector by appointing Robert Jerard Ravi as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). This appointment, effective from July 15, 2024, marks a new chapter for the state-run telecom operator.

Foot Note:

- Ravi has been appointed following the government's decision not to extend P K Purwar's tenure.
- Purwar, who led BSNL and MTNL since July 2019, completed his term on July 14, 2024.
- Despite seeking an extension, the government chose to change leadership.

About BSNL:

Founder: Government of India

Founded: 2000

Headquarters: New Delhi

### **Mamata Banerjee Reinstates Senior IPS Officer Rajeev Kumar As West Bengal DGP**

The West Bengal government on July 15 reinstated senior IPS officer Rajeev Kumar as the Director General of Police (DGP) of West Bengal. Mr. Kumar will replace Sanjoy Mukherjee, who was appointed the State's DGP at the directions of the Election Commission of India during the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls.

Foot Note:

- Mr. Kumar remains Additional Chief Secretary, Department of IT and Electronics.
- Mr. Mukherjee appointed Director General of State Fire and Emergency Services.
- Vivek Sahay initially named DGP of State Police before Lok Sabha elections.
- Mr. Mukherjee was quickly appointed DGP of State Police, replacing Sahay.

### **Appointment of Manoj Saunik as MahaRERA Chairman**

Former Chief Secretary of Maharashtra, Manoj Saunik, has been appointed as the next Chairman of the Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority (MahaRERA). He will succeed Ajay Mehta, whose term ends in September 2024.

Foot Note:

- Saunik, an IAS officer of the 1987 batch, retired as Chief Secretary in December 2023.
- He currently serves as the Principal Advisor to the Chief Minister.
- Saunik was selected by a committee from a pool of applicants for his new role.
- Notification issued by the state housing department.
- MahaRERA is enforcing project updates from developers.
- MahaRERA is integrating AI tools to assess real estate projects.

### **Vikram Misri takes charge as new Foreign Secretary**

Vikram Misri became India's new Foreign Secretary for a two-year term. He is a 1989 batch Indian Foreign Service officer. Previously, he served with three prime ministers and two external affairs ministers.

Foot Note:

- He completed his schooling at the Scindia School in Gwalior.
- He earned a Bachelor's degree with honours in History from Hindu College, University of Delhi, and an MBA from XLRI, Jamshedpur.

- Before joining the government, he worked for three years in the private sector in advertising and advertising film-making.

### **Roberta Metsola Re-elected as European Parliament President**

Roberta Metsola, a prominent Maltese politician, has secured a historic second term as President of the European Parliament, making her the first woman to achieve this feat in the EU assembly's history. Known for her leadership and advocacy, Metsola garnered significant support from EU politicians, receiving 562 out of 623 votes in her favor.

Foot Note:

- Roberta Metsola stressed the importance of the European Parliament asserting its leadership role.
- She highlighted the need to support Ukraine during the ongoing conflict with Russia.
- Her visit to Kyiv early in the war demonstrated her commitment to EU values and solidarity.

### **Paul Kagame Re-elected for Fourth Term as Rwandan President**

President Paul Kagame has secured a decisive victory in Rwanda's 2024 presidential election, capturing 99.15% of the votes, as reported by the National Electoral Commission. This marks his fourth consecutive term in office.

Foot Note:

- Frank Habineza of the Democratic Green Party received 0.53% of the votes.
- Independent candidate Philippe Mpayimana received 0.32% of the votes.
- Approximately 65% of Rwanda's predominantly young population (under 35) participated in the election.

### **Von der Leyen Re-elected as EU Commission President**

European Parliament lawmakers re-elected Ursula von der Leyen to a second five-year term as President of the European Union's executive commission. Von der Leyen secured a comfortable majority, preventing a potential leadership vacuum.

Foot Note:

- Parliament President Roberta Metsola announced the result.
- Von der Leyen responded with raised fists in victory.
- She called her re-election a triumph for "pro-European, pro-Ukraine, and pro-rule of law" lawmakers.

### **Virat Kohli Tops Celebrity Brand Valuation In 2023**

Cricketer Virat Kohli has reclaimed the top spot to become India's most valued celebrity, boasting a brand value of \$227.9 million in 2023. However, this value still falls short of his peak brand value of \$237.7 million in 2020, as reported by Kroll's Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2023.

Foot Note:

- Virat Kohli reclaimed the number one spot with a brand value of \$227.9 million.
- Bollywood star Ranveer Singh moved to second place with a brand value of \$203.1 million.

- Data from Kroll's latest celebrity brand valuation study, 'Brands, Business, Bollywood'.

### **RBI approves Krishnan Venkat Subramanian as Federal Bank's MD & CEO**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Krishnan Venkat Subramanian (KV Manian) as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Federal Bank Limited for three years, starting September 23, 2024, under Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 2013.

Foot Note:

- Krishnan Venkat Subramanian is a registered Director with the MCA.
- He has extensive experience in Investment Banking, modernizing technology, and enhancing transaction banking.
- He was a Director at Kotak Mahindra Investments Limited from 2014 to 2022.
- From 2003 to 2014, he was Head of Consumer Bank at KMBL, helping establish the Consumer Bank.
- Governor of RBI : Shaktikanta Das , Founded: 1935

### **Ajinkya Naik Elected as the Youngest MCA President**

Ajinkya Naik, 37, has been elected as the youngest president in Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) history. He won decisively, defeating Sanjay Naik by 107 votes in a one-sided election. Ajinkya Naik received 221 votes, while Sanjay Naik got 114 votes. The election took place after the passing of former MCA President Amol Kale.

Foot Note:

- His victory is seen as a significant step for the local cricket community.
- Naik has promised to address issues such as job scarcity for players.
- MCA's President: Amol Kale , Founded: 1930 ,Headquarters: Mumbai

### **Kristen Michal Appointed as Estonia's New Prime Minister**

Estonian President Alar Karis has sworn in Kristen Michal, Chairman of the centrist Reform Party, as the new Prime Minister. Michal succeeds Kaja Kallas, who resigned on July 15, 2024, to become the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Before this, Kristen Michal served as Minister of Climate since April 2023.

Foot Note:

- The new coalition agreement followed Kaja Kallas's resignation.
- The coalition consists of the Reform Party, Social Democratic Party (SDE), and Estonia 200.
- It includes the Reform Party, Social Democratic Party (SDE), and Estonia 200.
- Estonia's Capital: Tallinn ,President: Alar Karis , Prime Minister:Kristen Michal

### **Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak Elected New President of ICAI**

CMA Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak, a Fellow Member of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI) and a member of the Bhubaneswar Chapter, has been elected as the 67th President of ICAI for the 2024-2025 term. With over 30 years of experience in finance and cost accountancy, he is the third Cost Accountant from Odisha to hold this role.



Foot Note:

- Nayak's election is a proud moment for Odisha and the Bhubaneswar Chapter, with the ICMAI community nationwide offering congratulations.
- Founded: 1959 , Founder:Jubilant Bhartia Group
- It is the second-largest cost and management accounting body globally and the largest in Asia.
- Headquartered in Kolkata, it has four Regional Councils, 113 Chapters in India, and 10 overseas Centers.
- ICMAI is a founding member of IFAC, CAPA, and SAFA.

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### **HS Dhaliwal appointed as new DGP of Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on July 25, appointed senior IPS officer Hargobinder Singh Dhaliwal as the new Director General of Police of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Prior to his new role, Dhaliwal, a 1997-batch IPS officer, served as the special commissioner of police in New Delhi, overseeing traffic zone-II.

Foot Note:

- Mr. Dhaliwal is a 1997-batch IPS officer with nearly three decades of service.
- He achieved significant milestones in his career, including solving high-profile cases.
- Notable cases he solved include the Dhaula Kuan gangrape, journalist Saumya Vishwanathan's murder, and the Jigisha Ghosh murder case.
- He was also pivotal in investigating the murder case of Punjabi singer-turned-politician Sidhu Moosewala.

### **Manoj Mittal Appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of Small Industries Development Bank of India**

Manoj Mittal has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) by the Government of India. He succeeds S Ramann, who joined SIDBI in April 2021 for a three-year term.

Foot Note:

- Manoj Mittal was formerly Managing Director and CEO at the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI).
- He also served as Deputy Managing Director at SIDBI.

- SIDBI is the Principal Financial Institution for promoting, financing, and developing the MSME sector.
- SIDBI coordinates the functions of various institutions involved in similar activities.

### **Suhel Ajaz Khan concurrently appointed as ambassador to Yemen**

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced that Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan, currently the Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia, will also serve as the Ambassador of India to Yemen, while residing in Riyadh.

Foot Note:

- Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan is currently the Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia.
- He has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Yemen.
- He will continue to reside in Riyadh.
- He is a 1997-batch IFS officer.

### **Nicolas Maduro Re-elected as President of Venezuela For 3rd Term**

Nicolás Maduro Moros has been re-elected as the President of Venezuela for a third six-year term (2024-2030). He has been in office since April 2013. Maduro won the election with 51% of the vote, while opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia came in second with 44%. Maduro has been a member of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) since 2007.

Foot Note:

- Nicolás Maduro Moros was elected to the Venezuelan Chamber of Deputies in 1998 and to the National Constituent Assembly in 1999.
- In 2000, he was elected to the National Assembly.
- Under President Hugo Chávez, Maduro served as President of the National Assembly (2005-2006), Minister of Foreign Affairs (2006-2012), and Vice President (2012-2013).
- After Chávez's death on March 5, 2013, Maduro became President of Venezuela.
- He was formally elected President in April 2013 and re-elected for a second term in 2018.

About Venezuela:

President – Nicolás Maduro Moros

Capital – Caracas

Currency – Venezuelan bolívar

### **Indian Armed Forces gets the first Woman Director General of Medical Service (ARMY)**

Lt Gen Sadhna Saxena Nair became the Director General Medical Services of the Indian Army, making her the first woman to hold this important position. She was also the first woman to be promoted to Air Marshal and serve as DG Hospital Services (Armed Forces). Lt Gen Nair graduated from the Armed Forces Medical College in Pune and joined the Army Medical Corps in December 1985.

Foot Note:

- Lt Gen Nair completed a two-year Medical Informatics training program at AIIMS, New Delhi.

- She trained in Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Warfare with the Israeli Defence Forces.
- She also trained in Military Medical Ethics with the Swiss Armed Forces in Spiez.
- She was the first woman Principal Medical Officer of Western Air Command and Training Command, Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Lt Gen Nair was an expert member of the Dr. Kasturirangan Committee, contributing to the medical education component of the National Education Policy.

### **Sanjay Shukla Assumes Charge As M.D Of National Housing Bank**

The National Housing Bank announced that Sanjay Shukla has officially assumed the role of Managing Director (MD) as of July 30, 2024. Shukla, a chartered accountant with over 30 years of experience in housing and retail asset finance, is recognized for his extensive background in leading and transforming financial institutions.

Foot Note:

- Shukla started his career in 1991 as an officer at LIC Housing Finance Limited.
- He served as the business head of consumer assets at ING Vysya Bank, where he expanded the consumer loan segment.
- He was also crucial in launching Tata Capital's retail housing finance business as its first business head.

### **Boeing's new CEO is aerospace veteran Robert 'Kelly' Ortberg**

Boeing has named aerospace veteran Robert "Kelly" Ortberg as its next CEO. Ortberg, who previously led Rockwell Collins's integration into United Technologies (which later merged with Raytheon to form RTX), will officially take over on August 8. His appointment comes at a time when Boeing is grappling with significant operational problems and financial losses.

Foot Note:

- Retirement from RTX: The 64-year-old retired from RTX in 2021.
- Aerospace Expertise: Ortberg is an experienced aerospace engineer and an outsider to Boeing.
- Leadership Role: His appointment is part of Boeing's efforts to rebound from safety and quality control issues, which have increased scrutiny of the company.
- Financial Losses: Boeing reported a \$1.4 billion loss in the second quarter, compared to a \$149 million loss in the same period last year.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS NEWS**

### **World Sports Journalists day observed on 2<sup>nd</sup> of July**

Sports play a vital role in our lives. For some, it's a fun activity, while for others, it's a career. World Sports **Journalists Day** is celebrated every year on **July 2** to honour those who bring sports stories to life – the sports journalists.

Sports journalism is a special type of reporting that focuses on sports-related news and events. Sports journalists work in different areas:

- **Print media** (newspapers and magazines)
- **Digital platforms** (websites and social media)
- **Television and radio**

### **World Population day observed on 11 july**

On July 11th of this current year, World Population Day 2024 is celebrated and observed all over the world as an awareness program. "World Population Day 2024 theme is "To leave no one behind, count everyone."

Foot Note:

- In 1804, The world population reached 1 billion people.
- In 1927, The world population doubled to 2 billion.
- In 1989, The world population reached 3 billion.
- In 1989, The United Nations recognized July 11 as World Population Day.
- On 11 July 1990, the day was first marked in more than 90 countries.

### **World Youth Skills Day observed on 15<sup>th</sup> July**

World Youth Skills Day, observed annually on July 15th, was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014. This day serves as a global platform to highlight the importance of equipping young people with skills essential for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship.

Foot Note:

- Violent conflicts disrupt education and stability in many regions.
- A polarized online environment often fosters negativity and division.
- Persistent economic inequality continues to limit opportunities for many young people.

### **World Day for International Justice observed on 17<sup>th</sup> July**

- World Day for International Justice, observed annually on July 17, is a global event dedicated to promoting international criminal justice and supporting the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC). This day serves to highlight the importance of justice in achieving sustainable peace and security worldwide.
- Theme of World Day for International Justice "To unite all stakeholders in support of justice and victims of crime." It is an opportunity for people around the world to recognize the role of international justice in addressing crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide.

### **Pi Approximation day observed on 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

Pi Approximation Day is observed on July 22 (22/7 in the day/month date format), since the fraction 22/7 is a common approximation of  $\pi$ , which is accurate to two decimal places and dates from Archimedes. A number of people celebrate March 14 as Pi Day as the date lines up in the

numbers of the famous constant 3.14. However, such a format of writing dates is mostly followed in the US.

Foot Note:

- Pi ( $\pi$ ) has been known and used for nearly 4000 years.
- Ancient Babylonians approximated  $\pi$  by calculating the area of a circle as three times the square of its radius, which equated  $\pi$  to 3.
- Archimedes of Syracuse (287–212 BC) was the first to rigorously calculate  $\pi$ .
- He determined that  $\pi$  is between  $3 \frac{1}{7}$  and  $3 \frac{10}{71}$ .

### **National Broadcasting day observed on 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

National Broadcasting Day in India, observed annually on July 23, commemorates the evolution of the country's broadcasting landscape since its inception in 1927. This day highlights the pivotal role broadcasting has played in India's development, educational outreach, and cultural preservation. As India observes another National Broadcasting Day, it envisions a future where broadcasting continues to adapt and serve as a crucial instrument for national unity, education, and citizen empowerment.

Foot Note:

- Indian broadcasting began in June 1923 with Radio Club of Bombay's first transmission
- Organized broadcasting started on July 23, 1927, with the Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC)
- July 23 is celebrated as National Broadcasting Day

### **National Income Tax Day observed on 24<sup>th</sup> July**

National Income Tax Day marks a significant milestone in India's fiscal history. The day is marked on July 24. Income tax is a crucial government levy on the income earned by individuals and businesses during a financial year. The concept of "income" is broadly defined under Section 2(24) of the Income Tax Act, encompassing various sources of earnings.

Foot Note:

- This category includes all forms of employee compensation, such as basic pay, allowances, commissions, and retirement benefits.
- It ensures all monetary benefits are considered in tax calculations.
- Rental income from residential or commercial properties is taxable, regardless of property size.

### **Kargil Vijay Diwas 2024, Remembering India's Triumph in the Kargil War**

Every year on July 26, India observes Kargil Vijay Diwas to commemorate the brave hearts of the Indian Army and celebrate the victory of the Indian Armed Forces over Pakistan during the 1999 Kargil Conflict. This day holds significant importance in India's military history, marking the successful conclusion of Operation Vijay.

Foot Note:

- 25th anniversary of historic victory.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Drass sector, Ladakh.



- Pay homage to martyrs at Kargil War Memorial.
- Honor their supreme sacrifice and dedication to the nation.

### **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons observed on 30<sup>th</sup> July**

Every year, World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2024 is observed on 30th July to build awareness of the anxiety of human trafficking victims and to promote and protect their rights.

Foot Note:

- The 2024 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons theme is “Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking.”
- In 2010, the UN General Assembly adopted the Global Plan of Action to combat trafficking.
- The plan urges global governments to make coordinated and consistent efforts against trafficking.

## **OBITUARY NEWS**

### **Legendary cricketer Anshuman Gaekwad dies at 71 after battling cancer**

Former Indian cricketer Anshuman Gaekwad passed away at the age of 71 after a prolonged battle with blood cancer. In a career that spanned 12 years, Gaekwad played 40 Tests and 15 ODIs, scoring a total of 2254 runs. He achieved two centuries, with his highest score being 201 against Pakistan in Jalandhar in 1983.

Foot Notes:

- Notably, 1983 World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev also rallied for monetary support for Gaekwad.
- Dev, alongside former cricket legends such as Mohinder Amarnath, Sunil Gavaskar, Sandeep Patil, Dilip Vengsarkar, Madan Lal, Ravi Shastri, and Kirti Azad, worked towards raising funds to support their ailing colleague.
- In a compassionate gesture, BCCI Secretary Jay Shah pledged INR 1 crore to aid Gaekwad and directly contacted Gaekwad’s family to extend heartfelt support during this challenging period.

### **Bhupinder Singh Rawat, Former Indian Midfielder passes away at 85: AIFF**

Former India midfielder Bhupinder Singh Rawat, who played in the 1969 Merdeka Cup in Malaysia died after a brief illness, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) stated. A speedy winger of the 1960s and 1970s, Rawat played for India in the 1969 Merdeka tournament in Malaysia. Domestically, he played for Delhi Garrison, Gorkha Brigade and Mafatlal.

Foot Note:

- The All India Football Federation expressed sorrow over the passing of former India winger Bhupinder Singh Rawat, who died in Surat, Gujarat, on June 29, 2024, following a short illness. He was 85 years old.
- Rawat is survived by his wife, one son, and one daughter.

- Known for his speed, Rawat played as a winger for India during the 1960s and 1970s.
- He represented India in the 1969 Merdeka tournament held in Malaysia.
- In domestic football, Rawat played for prominent clubs such as Delhi Garrison, Gorkha Brigade, and Mafatlal.

### **Robert Towne, Oscar-winning writer of ‘Chinatown,’ dies at 89**

Robert Towne, a celebrated screenwriter known for his significant impact on films such as “Chinatown,” “Shampoo,” and “The Last Detail,” has died at 89. His publicist, Carri McClure, confirmed that he passed away peacefully on Monday at his Los Angeles home, with his family by his side. The cause of death was not disclosed.

Foot Note:

- Robert Towne's career was distinguished by a high level of prestige, placing him on par with the actors and directors he worked with.
- In an industry that sometimes undervalues writers, Towne was recognized as a unique auteur.
- His close friendships with Hollywood stars such as Warren Beatty and Jack Nicholson played a crucial role in shaping his career.
- During the creative heyday of the 1960s and '70s, Towne co-wrote or wrote many of the era's most iconic films, benefiting from significant creative freedom.

### **Gajinder Singh Khalsa, founder of Dal Khalsa and the hijacker of the 1981 Indian Airlines flight, has died in Pakistan**

74-year-old Gajinder Singh, the wanted terrorist and hijacker of an Indian Airlines (IA) flight to Lahore in 1981, has died of a heart attack at a hospital in Pakistan. Singh was placed on the list of 20 most-wanted terrorists in 2002.

Foot Note:

- Hijackers diverted the plane to Lahore, demanding the release of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and other Khalistani extremists.
- Gajinder Singh Khalsa co-founded the terrorist group Dal Khalsa and was involved in anti-India activities until recently.
- In September 2020, the five high priests led by the then officiating Jathedar of Akal Takht, Harpreet Singh, planned to honor Gajinder Singh with the title "Sikh warrior in-exile," but the ceremony did not happen.

### **Veteran horse trainer S.K. Sunderji passed away**

Veteran trainer Sheraz K. Sunderji passed away on Sunday, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was 64-years-old and had recently surrendered his trainer's licence. Sunderji began his remarkable horse training career in 1985. Over nearly four decades, he saddled more than 1000 winners.

Foot Note:

- Sunderji started horse training in 1985.

- Trained over 1000 winners in nearly 40 years.
- Achieved dream of winning the Indian Derby in 2018 with Rochester.
- Notable wins in Pune Derby: Desert Warrior (1989), Desert Carnival (1995), Ocean And Beyond (2010), Trouvaille (2019).

### **Former Sri Lankan U19 Captain Dhammika Niroshana Shot Dead**

Former Sri Lankan cricketer Dhammika Niroshana was shot dead at 41 at his residence in Ambalangoda. Niroshana, a right-arm fast bowler and capable lower-order batsman, was regarded as a rising talent during his playing career.

Foot Note:

- Played 12 first-class matches and 8 List-A games for Galle Cricket Club between 2001 and 2004.
- Scored over 300 runs and took 19 wickets during his tenure.
- Made his debut for the Sri Lankan U19 team in 2000, featuring in under-19 Test and ODI cricket for two years.
- Captained the Sri Lankan U19 team in 10 matches, leading future stars including Farveez Maharoof, Angelo Mathews, and Upul Tharanga, who later represented Sri Lanka at the international level.

### **Passing Away of Vietnamese Leader Nguyen Phu Trong**

Vietnam's long-serving leader Nguyen Phu Trong has died "after a period of illness," marking the end of a political era. The announcement follows the government's recent statement that he was stepping back to focus on his health and had transferred his duties to President To Lam.

Foot Note:

- Nguyen Phu Trong was the general secretary of Vietnam's ruling Communist Party since 2011.
- He also served as president at one point.
- He was one of Vietnam's most powerful leaders in decades.
- Trong oversaw Vietnam's rapid economic growth.
- Known for his "blazing furnaces" anti-corruption campaign.

About Vietnam:

Capital: Hanoi

Prime minister: Pham Minh Chinh

President: To Lam

### **Padma Shri Awardee Kamala Pujari Passes Away at 74**

Kamala Pujari, the renowned Padma Shri awardee and pioneering organic farmer, passed away at the age of 74 due to kidney-related ailments. She was being treated at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack but succumbed to her condition early on Saturday. Her death has

prompted condolences from prominent leaders and the announcement of state honours by the Odisha government.

Foot Note:

- Kamala Pujari was admitted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack two days before her death.
- Her condition had worsened, prompting the admission.
- A four-member medical team attended to her.
- She was transferred from Jeypore District Headquarters Hospital due to the severity of her ailments.

### **C.T. Kurien, distinguished economist, Passes Away**

the world of economics lost a brilliant mind and compassionate soul. C.T. Kurien, a distinguished economist and former professor of Madras Christian College, passed away at the age of 93 due to age-related ailments. His death marks the end of an era in Indian economics, but his legacy continues to inspire generations of economists and social thinkers.

Foot Note:

- C.T. Kurien's interest in economics was sparked by the stark contrast between his comfortable life and the surrounding poverty.
- This early exposure to economic inequality influenced his career and life mission.
- In 1953, Kurien earned a Master's degree in Economics from Madras Christian College.
- He chose to study economics to understand and help eradicate poverty.

### **Former Indonesia Vice President Hamzah Haz Dies at 84**

Hamzah Haz, the vice-president of Indonesia from 2001 to 2004, has died. He was aged 84. Hamzah, who served under President Megawati Soekarnoputri, died at a hospital in Jakarta on July 24, a politician from the Development Planning Party, known as PPP, said in a locally televised interview.

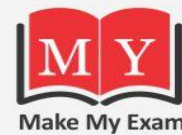
Foot Note:

- Hamzah Haz: Former minister for investment and coordinating minister for people's welfare.
- 2004: Contender in presidential elections.
- PPP: Key figure in Indonesia's major Islamic political party.
- Capital: Jakarta ,President:Joko Widodo

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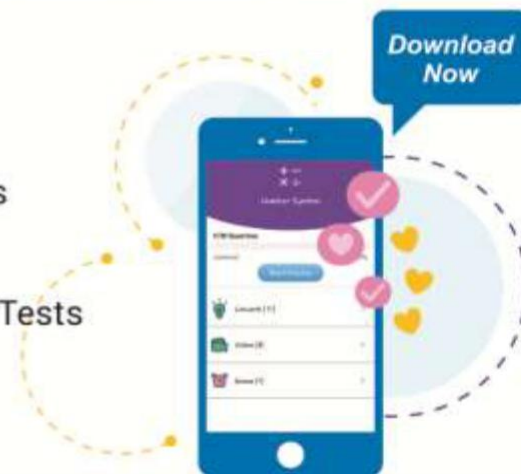
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