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MONTHLY —
Current
Affairs

NATIONAL NEWS

MoJS launched E-flows Monitoring System to Monitor Ganga River Cleanup process

- It is developed by NMCG works under the Department of MoJS.
- This marks a major milestone towards ensuring the continuous and sustainable flow of the Ganga River.
- MoJS Minister: C.R. Patil, Director General NMCG - Rajeev Kumar

NITI Aayog Launched Two Initiatives under Atal Innovation Mission

- NITI Aayog launched the “AIM-ICDK Water Challenge 4.0” and the 5th edition of “Innovations for You”.
- Both these initiatives aim to foster innovation and sustainability in India.
- CEO – B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, Headquarters- New Delhi, Established – 2015

Cabinet Approves MSP For 14 Kharif Season Crops, Farmers To Get Rs 35,000 Crore More Over Previous Season

- The Union Cabinet approved an increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 14 Kharif crops, including paddy, ragi, bajra, jowar, maize, and cotton. The decision will have a financial implication of Rs 2 lakh crore for the government while ensuring a gain of Rs 35,000 crore for farmers over the previous season.
- Addressing the media after the Cabinet meeting, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw underscored the significance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s third term, which he said focuses on continuity with change through numerous decisions aimed at farmers’ welfare.

List of Cabinet Ministers of India 2024 in PM Modi 3.0

The recently concluded 2024 Lok Sabha elections have paved the way for the formation of a new council of ministers under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. As the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) unanimously elected Modi as their leader on June 5th, preparations are underway for his swearing-in ceremony, which will be attended by several foreign dignitaries from the neighborhood and Indian Ocean regions.

Key Points:

- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) became the largest single party in the 18th Lok Sabha, winning 240 seats.

- This represents a notable decline from their previous achievements of 303 seats in 2019 and 282 seats in 2014.
- Despite the decrease, the BJP's performance enabled them to establish the central government.
- The Indian National Congress, the primary opposition party, secured 99 seats in the election.

PM Narendra Modi Release 17th Instalment Of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi

Mr. Narendra Modi began his third term as Prime Minister. After starting his duties, he signed a file to release the 17th installment of the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi. This action will help 93 million farmers by distributing approximately 200 billion rupees. Mr. Modi stated that this initial decision of the new government demonstrates its dedication to farmer well-being. He added that his government will continue to prioritize farmers and agriculture in the future.

Key Points:

- Introduced in 2019, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) initiative provides eligible farmers with yearly financial aid totaling 6,000.
- The assistance is disbursed in three equal portions of 2,000 every four months.
- Payments are directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

India Creates World Record With 64.2 Crore Voters Participating in LoK Sabha Polls

In this Lok Sabha polls, 31.2 crore women voters cast their votes which is also the highest ever in the world. India created a world record with 64.2 crore voters, including 31.2 crore women, participating in the Lok Sabha Election 2024. Chief Election commissioner Rajiv Kumar said that the number is 1.5 times of the voters of all G7 countries – US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Canada. In this Lok Sabha polls, 31.2 crore women voters cast their votes which is also the highest ever in the world.

Key Points:

- Mr. Kumar highlighted a substantial reduction in repolls from 540 in the 2019 General Election to just 39 in the recent election.
- He stated that over 68,000 monitoring teams and 1.5 crore polling and security personnel participated in the electoral process.
- Chief Election Commissioner: Rajiv Kumar

NOTA Creates New Record in Madhya Pradesh, Crosses 1 Lakh Figure

In Madhya Pradesh, None of the Above, NOTA, has created a new record in Indore in the Lok Sabha election results. For the first time in the electoral history of the country, NOTA has received so many votes. According to the information so far, NOTA has received 1 lakh 55 thousand votes.

At the same time, BJP candidate Shankar Lalwani from Indore is going to create a new record by winning by about 7 lakh votes. So far, the record of the highest NOTA in the country is in the name of Gopalganj in Bihar.

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India's Supreme Court Reconstitutes Gender Sensitisation Committee

The Supreme Court of India has reconstituted its **Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee**, in accordance with the Gender Sensitisation and **Sexual Harassment regulations of 2013**. The reconstitution, initiated by the **Chief Justice of India**, appoints **Justice Hima Kohli** as the Chairperson, alongside Justice BV Nagarathna as a Member and Dr. Sukhda Pritam as the Member Secretary.

Key Points:

- Justice Hima Kohli, who previously led the committee, remains the Chairperson.
- Her continuation ensures consistency in leadership for the Supreme Court Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee.
- Representatives from various legal bodies, such as the Supreme Court Bar Association, Supreme Court Advocate-on-Record Association, and Supreme Court Bar Clerks' Association, are part of the committee.

Ministers of MoFPI unveiled a new web portal and mobile app for World Food India 2024

Union Minister Chirag Paswan, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) and Minister of State (MoS) Ravneet Singh , MoFPI, jointly launched the website and mobile application for the 3rd edition of World Food India (WFI 2024) during the curtain raiser ceremony of WFI 2024 held in New Delhi, Delhi.

Foot Note:

- The 1st edition of WFI was held in 2017 at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi and the 2nd edition of WFI was held in 2023 at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- As per the Government's official data, WFI 2017 and WFI 2023 attracted an investment of USD 11.25 billion and USD 3.93 billion respectively.
- The 2nd edition of WFI witnessed the participation of 1,208 exhibitors, 715 international buyers from 90 countries, 24 states, and 75,000 attendees.

About MoFPI:

Union Minister- Chirag Paswan

Minister of State (MoS)- Ravneet Singh

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the "One Week One Theme" (OWOT) Campaign.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences in the Government of India, has initiated the "One Week One Theme" (OWOT) campaign. This campaign showcases India's recent achievements across different fields of science and technology.

Note:

- He announced that the agenda for 2025 as One Week One Integrated Theme (OWIT).
- The campaign was initiated by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, inspired by the success of the "One Week One Lab" (OWOL) initiative launched in 2023.
- He emphasized the advancements in the Deep-Sea mission, Aroma mission, millet economy, Bioeconomy, and Next-generation technology.
- These advancements are expected to accelerate India's economic growth, potentially elevating it from the 5th largest to the 4th largest economy globally.

About CSIR:

President- Narendra Modi

DG- N. Kalaiselvi

Headquarters- New Delhi

The Ministry of Coal has started India's inaugural pilot project for Underground Coal Gasification

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Coal (MoC), Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has launched India's inaugural pilot project for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) at the Kasta coal block in Jamtara District, Jharkhand. This initiative seeks to set benchmarks in utilizing coal resources and support India's efforts towards achieving energy self-sufficiency.

Foot Note:

- The pilot project commenced on June 22, 2024, and is planned to span two phases across two years.
- Funding for the project is provided by the Coal India Limited Research and Development Board.
- The project is being executed in partnership with the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) Ranchi.
- Collaboration also includes the Canadian company Ergo Exergy Technologies Inc.

PM Gati Shakti Scheme is Transforming India's Infrastructure: Morgan Stanley

In a recent report American multi-national investment bank and financial company Morgan Stanley has all praise for PM Gati Shakti scheme. The report highlights increased and more

targeted investments, suggesting a continued emphasis on infrastructure spending in India's future.

Foot Note:

- India has significantly enhanced its infrastructure in the past decade, with focused investments aimed at boosting productivity.
- The report indicates India's commitment to continued infrastructure spending.
- Forecasts suggest that India's investment in infrastructure will rise steadily, increasing from 5.3% of GDP in F24 to 6.5% of GDP by F29.

About Morgan Stanley:

CEO : Ted Pick

CFO : Sharon Yeshaya

Presidents : Andy Saperstein

Headquarters : New York

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Urban Affairs Ministry to revamp affordable housing scheme

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), launched in 2015, is set to be revamped with new features. The scheme aims to provide affordable housing for the urban poor and will continue until December 2024.

Foot Note:

- The revamped PMAY-U 2.0 will include three categories: Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Low Income Group (LIG), and Middle Income Group (MIG).
- A key focus will be ensuring timely assistance to beneficiaries to avoid past delays.
- The Middle Income Group (MIG) category might be simplified or revised to better target beneficiaries.

Amit Shah launches fast track immigration - trusted traveller programme at IGI airport

- In a first-of-its-kind initiative in India to facilitate more amenities for Indian nationals and OCI passengers coming from other countries, Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the 'Fast Track Immigration - Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP)' at Terminal-3 of Indira Gandhi International Airport.

- The objective of the programme is to make international travel easy and secure by developing world-class immigration facilities through an accelerated immigration pathway for international travellers screened through automated gates (e-Gates).

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman To Chair 53rd GST Council Meeting In New Delhi

- Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will chair the 53rd GST Council meeting in New Delhi tomorrow. GST Council is meeting for the first time after the formation of new government. The last GST Council meeting was held on 7th October last year. During the meeting, the Council took several decisions. The GST Council had recommended amendments in conditions of appointment of President and Member of the proposed GST Appellate Tribunals regarding eligibility and age.
- The Council had also recommended nil rate for food preparation of millet flour in powder form. The Council had also decided to reduce GST on molasses from 28 percent to 5 percent in relief to cane farmers for faster clearance of dues and to reduce cost of manufacturing cattle feed.

Ministry of Women and Child Development Launches 100-Days Special Awareness Campaign on Women Empowerment

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) organized the "National Workshop on SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women - Launch of the 100-Days Special Awareness Campaign" at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. The workshop marks the commencement of a nationwide 100-days awareness campaign focused on women-centric issues, scheduled from 21st June to 4th October 2024.
- The one-day workshop featured sessions on legal provisions, communication strategies, and counselling techniques for grassroots functionaries of SANKALP: HEWs which are operational in 693 districts across India.

Bureau of Indian Standards announces new safety, quality standards for EVs

- Safety and quality of electric vehicles (EV) in India has come under severe scrutiny in the last couple of years. With a rapid boom in EV demand in the past half a decade, the number of various unfortunate incidents, especially in the electric two-wheeler space has also grown exponentially.
- Many EV and battery OEMs are now under the scanner for launching or developing sub-standard EV or EV components which can lead to potential hazards. In order to curb such incidents, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has introduced two new standards aimed at enhancing the safety and quality of EVs which are:

- IS 18590: 2024 and IS 18606: 2024: Focus on safety and performance of EV powertrains and batteries for vehicles in the L, M, and N categories.
- IS 18294: 2023: Establishes safety standards for e-rickshaws and e-karts, covering various aspects from construction to functionality.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India's Refusal to Sign Ukraine Declaration at Swiss Conference

- Only proposals acceptable to both Russia and Ukraine can lead to peace, said India as New Delhi decided to disassociate itself from the final document issued on June 16 at the conclusion of a Peace Summit in Switzerland. India was among at least seven countries that refused to endorse the “Joint Communiqué on a Peace Framework” released in Burgenstock, the venue of the two-day summit.
- The communiqué, that called for the protection of Ukraine’s “territorial integrity”, was built on Ukraine’s peace formula, and the UN charter and resolutions thus far was signed by more than 80 countries.

Nvidia becomes world's most valuable company

- Nvidia, the startup at the centre of the artificial intelligence boom, has become the world’s most valuable company, knocking Microsoft off the top spot. Nvidia’s market capitalisation hit \$3.335 trillion on June 18, as shares of the chipmaker rose by 3.5 percent to \$135.58.
- Nvidia Corporation is an American multinational corporation and technology company headquartered in Santa Clara, California, and incorporated in Delaware. It is a software and fabless company which designs and supplies graphics processing units (GPUs), application programming interfaces (APIs) for data science and high-performance computing, as well as system on a chip units (SoCs) for the mobile computing and automotive market. Nvidia is also a dominant supplier of artificial intelligence (AI) hardware and software.

9 Major Ports of India makes it to Global Top 100 by World Bank, a First for the country

- In a significant boost to the India’s port development programme, as many as 9 ports of India made it to the Global Top 100 in the latest edition of Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), 2023 - a report prepared by the World Bank and S&P Global Marketing

Intelligence. Vishakhapatnam Port has showcased strong performance with 27.5 moves per crane hour.

- These metrics highlight the port's efficiency in handling container ships and significantly influence customer preference. Seven other Indian ports, which secured ranks in the top 100, are Pipavav (41), Kamarajar (47), Cochin (63), Hazira (68), Krishnapatnam (71), Chennai (80) and Jawaharlal Nehru (96).

Thailand passes Southeast Asia's first same-sex marriage bill

- Thailand's Senate has passed a marriage equality bill in a move to make the country the first in Southeast Asia to legalize same-sex marriage. The bill was supported by an overwhelming majority of upper house lawmakers in a vote Tuesday. The legislation will be submitted for royal endorsement and is expected to come into force 120 days after its publication in the Royal Gazette by the end of this year. The House of Representatives had passed the bill in March
- Under the law, same-sex couples will be granted the same marriage rights as heterosexual couples, including the rights to adopt children and inherit assets. The law uses gender-neutral terms, referring to married couples as "two individuals" rather than "a man and a woman."

Foot Notes:

About Thailand:

Capital: Bangkok

Currency: Thai Baht

Prime Minister: Srettha Thavisin

Akashvani News Recognized As India's Most Trusted News Brand In 2024 Reuters Survey

- Akashvani News has been recognized as one of the most trusted news brands in India. A recent survey conducted by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, Oxford University has confirmed Akashvani News' preeminent position in the nation's media landscape. Released as part of the Digital News Report 2024, this annual publication revealed that Akashvani News received a trust score significantly higher than that of other prominent media houses in the country.
- Reacting to this remarkable feat Prasara Bharati Chairman Navneet Kumar Sehgal called it a validation of the unwavering commitment of Akashvani News to broadcasting the truth under all circumstances.

Foot Notes:

About Akashvani News:

Founded: 8 June 1936,

Headquarters: New Delhi

CEO: Shri Gaurav Dwivedi

DG : Ms Maushumi Chakravarty



Hungary Unveils 700-Metre Pedestrian ‘Bridge of National Unity’

A 700-metre pedestrian bridge, inaugurated on June 4. The Bridge of National Unity is one of the longest bridges in the world. The eastern Hungarian city of Satoraljaujhely has a new tourist attraction.

Key Points:

- The cable-stayed bridge, supported by six cable ropes, is 700 metres long. The Czech Dolni Morava bridge stretches 721 metres.
- The bridge was built at a cost of four billion HUF [10 million euros], financed from the national budget.
- The government says that no European Union funds were used.
- The bridge, which connects two nearby hills and has a glass floor in the middle, is expected to boost tourism in northeastern Hungary bordering Slovakia.
- The entrance price is 5,000 HUF [12 euros] per person.

About Hungary:

Capital: Budapest

President: Tamás Sulyok

Prime minister: Viktor Orbán

India Participated in the Inaugural IPEF Clean Economy Investor Forum held in Singapore

India took part in the first Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Clean Economy Investor Forum held in Singapore from June 5th to 6th, 2024. Sunil Barthwal, Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, led the Indian delegation to the forum. Additionally, a business delegation led by Invest India also attended the event.

Key Points:

- IPEF began on May 23, 2022, in Tokyo, Japan.
- It was launched by the United States with Indo-Pacific partners.
- The initiative aims to address economic challenges in the region.
- The aim is to strengthen alliances and partnerships.
- Its focus is on addressing economic challenges.
- The target region is the Indo-Pacific.
- The timeframe considered is the 21st century.

About Singapore:

Capital: Singapore city

President: Tharman Shanmugaratnam

Prime Minister: Lawrence Wong

Indian Tripartite Delegation at the 112th Session of International Labour Conference (ILC)

The Indian tripartite delegation led by Secretary (Labour & Employment), Ms. Sumita Dawra, participated in the 112th session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) of International Labour Organisation (ILO) being held in Geneva, Switzerland.

Key Points:

- Ms. Dawra is an IAS officer from the 1991 batch in the Andhra Pradesh Cadre.
- She currently works at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry as the Special Secretary in the Logistics division of DPIIT.
- In this role, she oversees the implementation of the Prime Minister's flagship program, the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan.
- Previously, from 1993 to 2008, she served in various districts of Andhra Pradesh, focusing on development and welfare programs.
- Afterward, she held positions at the state level in different capacities.

Oxford University Agrees to Return Stolen 500-Year-Old Bronze Idol to India

Oxford University's Ashmolean Museum has decided to return a 16th-century bronze sculpture of Saint Tirumankai Alvar to India, following a formal request from the Indian government. The

60cm-tall statue, believed to have been stolen from a temple in Tamil Nadu, was acquired by the museum in 1967 from Sotheby's auction house.

Key Points:

- The Ashmolean Museum obtained the statue in 1967 from Dr. J.R. Belmont's collection, asserting it was acquired in "good faith."
- An independent researcher raised doubts regarding the statue's origins, prompting the museum to conduct an investigation.
- Following the inquiry, the museum alerted the Indian High Commission about the concerns surrounding the statue.

About Oxford University:

Founded: 1096

Headquarters: United Kingdom

CEO: Dr Mairi Gibbs

India Participated in BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting in Russia

India attended a meeting with other countries like Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa, called BRICS. The meeting was held in Russia, which is currently leading BRICS. Sergey Lavrov, Russia's Foreign Minister, chaired the meeting. Leading the Indian team at the meeting was Dammu Ravi, who is the Secretary for Economic Relations in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Key Points:

- Naledi Pandor, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation from South Africa.
- Mauro Vieira, the Minister of Foreign Affairs representing Brazil.
- Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- Wang Yi, serving as the Foreign Minister for China.
- Sameh Shokri, the Foreign Minister representing Egypt.
- Other notable attendees included representatives from various countries.

Netherlands Becomes India's Third Largest Export Destination In FY 24

According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) data, the Netherlands ranked third as an export destination in FY24, following the United States of America (USA) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Key Points:

- In FY22, exports to the Netherlands were \$12.55 billion, and in FY21, they were \$6.5 billion.

- In FY22, the Netherlands ranked fifth among destinations for Indian exports, up from ninth in FY21.
- India's exports to the Netherlands were \$880 million in 2000-01, and they have been steadily growing since then.

About Netherlands:

Prime Minister– Mark Rutte

Capital – Amsterdam

Currency – Euro



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India Participated at ITU's WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event Held in Geneva

India participated in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS +20) Forum High-Level Event 2024 held in Geneva, Switzerland from 27th to 31st May 2024. This marks the 20 years of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS.

Key Points:

- India is now hosting the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2024 (WTSA-24) in New Delhi from October 15th to 24th.
- They launched the official website of the event, during the summit.
- WTSA is held every four years and sets the agenda for the ITU-T's future work.
- It's one of three conferences organized by the ITU, along with the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) and the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC).

About ITU:

Secretary-General– Doreen Bogdan-Martin

Headquarters– Geneva, Switzerland

Sri Lanka to get blue economy research fellowships from India BIMSTEC initiative

People from Sri Lanka will have chances to do their doctoral studies in India through a program introduced for **BIMSTEC** nations by the Indian High Commission in Colombo. The member countries are India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Nepal, Sri Lanka.

Key Points:

- Through the BIMReN Split-Site Doctoral Fellowships, doctoral students from BIMSTEC member countries receive a research grant of up to **1 million Indian rupees**.
- They also have the chance to conduct studies at Indian research laboratories for a period ranging from **6 to 12 months**.

About Sri Lanka:

Capitals: Colombo

President: Ranil Wickremesinghe

Prime minister: Dinesh Gunawardena

WHO Organised “Walk the Talk” Yoga Session Event in Geneva

The WHO arranged a "Walk the Talk" yoga session at the Place des Nations (Palace of Nations) in Geneva, Switzerland, in anticipation of International Yoga Day 2024 (21st June 2024). Union Health Secretary **Apurva Chandra** and WHO Director-General **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** took part in the event.

Key Points:

- Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra, along with Director General of WHO Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and other senior officers from India's delegation, participated in the event.
- They refreshed themselves by practicing yoga asanas.
- Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra, along with Director-General of WHO Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and other senior officers from the Indian delegation, actively participated in the event.
- They revitalized themselves by engaging in yoga asanas, enhancing their energy levels for the occasion.

Krishn Kanhai's ‘The Golden Krishna’ Exhibition Opens In Dubai

Renowned Indian artist Krishn Kanhai unveiled his latest collection, “**The Golden Krishna**,” in a grand opening ceremony on **May 31st**. The exhibition showcases Kanhai's exquisite new works centered around **Lord Krishna**.

Key Points:

- The exhibition's highlight is a stunning life-sized, three-dimensional painting of **Tirupati Balaji**.
- It's intricately made with **24-karat gold**.
- The painting is really big, it's 5 feet wide and 8 feet tall.
- This masterpiece showcases Kanhai's distinctive style, admired by art enthusiasts worldwide.

Ruchira Kamboj, India's first woman Permanent Representative to UN, retires

- Ruchira Kamboj, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, announced her retirement on Saturday, marking the end of a career that spanned over 35 years. Kamboj, who joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1987, was the first woman to hold the prestigious position of India's Ambassador to the UN.
- On social media, Kamboj, aged 60, shared her farewell message: "Thank you, Bharat, for extraordinary years and unforgettable experiences," posted on her X handle.

Tajikistan Government Bans Hijab and Other 'Alien Garments'

On June 19, the upper house of the Tajikistan parliament, Majlisi Milli, passed a law prohibiting "alien garments," which primarily targets the hijab and other traditional Islamic clothing. The lower chamber, Majlisi Namoyandagon, had passed the bill on May 8. This move has sparked debate among Tajikistan's predominantly Muslim population in the tightly governed ex-Soviet republic.

Foot Note:

- Tajikistan has unofficially restricted the wearing of the hijab since 2007, beginning with a ban on Islamic attire and Western-style miniskirts for students under the Ministry of Education's directive.
- Over time, this restriction expanded to include all public institutions, despite official denials of women being fined for wearing the hijab.
- Authorities implemented these restrictions with the help of dedicated teams and police operations, despite official denials of fines imposed on women wearing the hijab.

About Tajikistan:

Capital: Dushanbe

President: Emomali Rahmon

Prime minister: Kokhir Rasulzoda

New Postal Law, Post Office Act 2023 Comes into Effect, Repealed British Colonial-Era Law

The Indian government's Ministry of Communication announced that starting June 18, 2024, the new Post Office Act of 2023 has come into effect. This new law replaces the old Indian Post Office Act from 1898, which was in place for 125 years.

Foot Note:

- The Act removes the government's exclusive right to deliver letters. The services offered by the Indian Post will be detailed in rules.
- The Act includes a provision for appointing a Director General of Postal Services. It gives authority to the Director General to create rules on fees for postal services like selling postage stamps and stationery.
- According to the Act, the government can authorize certain officers, through notification, to inspect, open, hold, or dispose of items being sent through the Post Office. This can be

done in cases involving national security, international relations, public order, emergencies, public safety, or violations of the Act or other laws.

- The Act allows the government to set guidelines for how items should be addressed, including address labels and the use of postal codes.

Kozhikode Officially Declared as India's First UNESCO "City of Literature"

Kozhikode, located in northern Kerala, has achieved the distinction of being the first Indian city to be designated as a UNESCO "City of Literature." Kerala's Tourism Minister, P A Mohammed Riyas, unveiled the official logo commemorating this prestigious recognition.

Foot Note:

- Theme 2024 UCCN: "Bringing Youth to the Table for the Next
- Decade"
- MB Rajesh, from Kerala's State Local Self Government Department, declared that starting from 2024, 23rd June will be celebrated as "City of Literature" Day in Kozhikode, Kerala.
- This event will feature special awards given in six different categories of literature.
- Currently, Kozhikode hosts over 500 operational libraries.
- The city has been a hub for literary activities for many years, notably associated with the renowned Malayalam writer MT Vasudevan Nair.

About UNESCO:

DG- Audrey Azoulay

Headquarters- Paris, France

Established- 1945

China Becomes First Country to Retrieve Rocks From the Moon's Far Side

China's Chang'e 6 spacecraft has successfully brought samples from the far side of the moon back to Earth, marking the first-ever return of materials from this scarcely seen lunar region. The historic feat signals not only China's soaring ambitions as a rising space-exploration superpower but also the next phase of a new space race with the U.S. and its allies to establish outposts at the strategically valuable lunar south pole.

Foot Note:

- Chang'e 6 completed its 53-day mission, and its sample-return capsule descended by parachute to a designated location in China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on June 25.
- Inside the capsule are about two kilograms of rock and soil collected from both the surface and subsurface of the lunar landing site.
- The landing site is situated in the northeastern part of the moon's South Pole-Aitken Basin.
- This mission marks a significant achievement in China's lunar exploration program.

About China:

Capital: Beijing

Premier: Li Qiang

President: Xi Jinping

Finland to Launch World's First Bird Flu Vaccinations for Humans

Finland is the first country to start offering preemptive bird flu vaccinations to certain workers exposed to animals. Vaccines will be administered to workers at fur and poultry farms, lab technicians handling bird flu samples, veterinarians working as animal control officers, and people working in sanctuaries for wild birds, livestock farms, and animal by-product processing plants.

Foot Note:

- The vaccine is available to those aged 18 and over who are at higher risk of contracting avian influenza.
- Finland has secured vaccines for 10,000 people through a joint EU procurement effort.
- The joint EU procurement effort included up to 40 million doses for 15 nations from CSL Seqirus.

About Finland:

Capital: Helsinki

Prime minister: Petteri Orpo

India is hosting the 64th ISO Council Meeting from 25th-27th June 2024

India is hosting a significant global event in the sugar sector, the 'ISO Council Meeting,' in New Delhi from June 25th to 27th, 2024. This gathering will see delegates from over 30 countries and representatives from numerous international organizations come together to discuss critical issues related to the sugar and biofuel sectors.

Foot Note:

- India, as the world's largest consumer and the second-largest producer of sugar, has been selected to chair the International Sugar Organization (ISO) in 2024.
- To inaugurate the event, international delegates will visit a grain-based distillery located in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh on June 24, 2024.
- The purpose of this visit is to highlight India's utilization of cutting-edge technology in the production of biofuels and other derived products.

About ISO:

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

President: Sung Hwan Cho

Paraguay Joins International Solar Alliance as 100th Member

Paraguay has officially become the 100th full member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), marking a significant milestone in global solar energy cooperation. The Ambassador of Paraguay, H.E. Mr. Fleming Raul Duarte, handed over the Instrument of Ratification during a meeting in New Delhi with Shri Abhishek Singh, Joint Secretary (ED & MER) and Head of Depository.

Foot Note:

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was initiated in 2015 at COP21 by India and France.
- Its primary goal is to expedite the worldwide adoption of solar energy to bolster efforts against climate change.
- Based in India, the ISA focuses on overcoming obstacles related to technology, finance, and capacity in order to promote the global expansion of solar energy.

About Paraguay:

Capital: Asunción

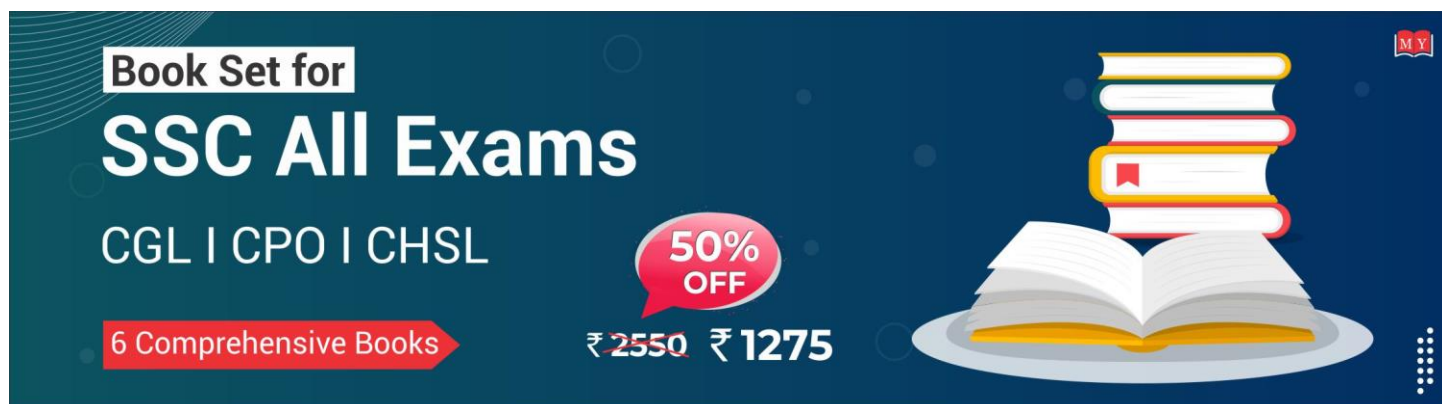
President: Santiago Peña

India Hosts 'India Africa Postal Leaders Meet' to Strengthen Postal Sector Ties

The 'India Africa Postal Leaders Meet' took place in India from June 21st to 25th, 2024. This event aimed to fortify relationships between postal administrations of African nations and India.

Foot Note:

- This notable gathering follows India's strategic endeavors, including the 'Voice of Global South Summit' and the India-Africa Forum.
- It also coincides with India's 2023 Presidency of the G20, which saw the inclusion of the African Union.
- The meeting was organized under the "South-South and Triangular Cooperation" initiative of the Universal Postal Union.
- It received support from India Post and the United States Postal Service.



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India to host council meeting of International Sugar Organisation in New Delhi

- India, as the Chair of the International Sugar Organisation (ISO), will host the global body's annual sugar meet in New Delhi from June 25 to June 27. The main inauguration

event is scheduled for June 25 and will be officiated by Food Minister Pralhad Joshi. Internal meetings of the ISO will follow on June 26-27.

- The ISO serves as a crucial intergovernmental organization dedicated to enhancing the global sugar market. It represents 87% of world sugar production, 64% of world sugar consumption. With a membership comprising approximately 88 nations, including India, the ISO facilitates cooperation and dialogue among diverse countries.

STATE NEWS

PM Modi Inaugurates New Campus of Nalanda University in Bihar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University in Rajgir, Bihar, on Wednesday. The new campus is near the ancient ruins of Nalanda University, which was established through the Nalanda University Act, 2010. This Act followed a decision made at the second East Asia Summit in the Philippines in 2007.
- Nalanda University, originally established in the fifth century, was a renowned institution attracting students worldwide. It thrived for 800 years until it was destroyed in the 12th century.

Foot Notes:

About Bihar:

Capital: Patna

Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar

Governor: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

Cabinet approves Vadhavan Port project worth over Rs 76,000 crore in Maharashtra

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Cabinet approved the development of greenfield deep draft port at Vadhavan in Maharashtra for Rs 76,200 crore. The port will have nine container terminals, each 1000 meters long, four multipurpose berths, including the coastal berth, four liquid cargo berths, a Ro-Ro berth, and a Coast Guard berth.
- While announcing the decision, Minister Ashiwini Vaishnaw informed that the port will further aid export and import through the India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor and International North South Transportation Corridor. Once completed, will be among the top 10 ports of the world.

Foot Notes:

About Maharashtra:

Capital: Mumbai

Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde

Governor: Ramesh Bais

Karnataka Governor Inaugurates First National Yoga Olympiad In Mysuru

- Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurated the National Yoga Olympiad in Mysuru. The Governor recalled during his inaugural speech that it was during the National Youth Festival in January last year that a massive yoga event was organised in the state to set a new Guinness World Record. He informed that the state is working towards making Karnataka the leading yoga-literate state of India through Har Ghar Yoga. The Governor observed that Yoga prescribed by our ancient scriptures has now gained global recognition, establishing Bharat as the Guru of Yoga.
- He pointed out that Yoga practice ensures physical, mental and emotional health. Quoting Swami Vivekananda, the Governor said that Yoga introduced India's rich heritage to the world. He explained that Yoga is a holistic tool that enhances the overall growth of the practitioner, including spiritual well-being. The National Yoga Olympiad is being held in Mysuru for the first time.

Foot Notes:

About Karnataka:

Capital: Bengaluru

Governor : Thawar Chand Gehlot

Chief Minister: Siddaramaiah

STPI Celebrated 33rd Foundation day in New Delhi

Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), celebrated its 33rd Foundation Day on 5th June 2024 at a special event held in New Delhi, Delhi).

Key Points:

- Established on June 5, 1991, STPI marks over 30 years of remarkable contributions to the Indian technology sector.
- It has made significant strides in software exports, showcasing excellence over the decades.

- STPI has played a pivotal role in fostering and nurturing modern technology startup ecosystems within India.
- S. Krishnan, serving as Secretary of MeitY, attended the event.
- Arvind Kumar, the Director General (DG) of STPI, was also present.
- Vishal Dhupar, the Managing Director (MD) of NVIDIA, participated in the event.
- Tejas Goenka, the Managing Director of Tally Solutions, also graced the occasion with his presence.

About STPI:

Director General (DG)- Arvind Kumar

Headquarters- New Delhi

Bihar's Nagi & Nakti Bird Sanctuaries Designated as RAMSAR sites

To mark World Environment Day 2024, the Indian government has named Bihar's Nagi Bird Sanctuary and Nakti Bird Sanctuary as important wetlands under the Ramsar convention. With this addition, India now has a total of 82 Ramsar sites.

Key Points:

- The 200-hectare wetland formed post the Nagi dam's construction on the Nagi River.
- It's a key spot for migrating birds during the winter months from October to April, hosting around 3% of the world's Bar-headed Geese.
- Home to over 75 bird species, 33 fish varieties, and 12 aquatic plants.
- Declared a Bird Sanctuary in 1984, also recognized as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by Birdlife International.

About Bihar:

Capital: Patna

Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar

Chandrababu Naidu Sworn In as Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister for 4th Term

Three years after vowing to enter the Assembly only as Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu has been sworn in for his fourth term as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. The oath-taking ceremony, held near Gannavaram Airport in Kesarapalli on the outskirts of Vijayawada, saw the attendance of key figures including PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Key Points:

- Chandrababu Naidu was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, where he embraced PM Modi on stage following the oath-taking.

- Following Naidu, JanaSena leader Pawan Kalyan and Naidu's son Nara Lokesh also took oath as ministers in the state.
- Naidu previously served as the Chief Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh from 1995, completing two consecutive terms.
- In 2014, he became the inaugural Chief Minister of the newly separated Andhra Pradesh until 2019.
- His return to power comes after a decisive victory in the 2024 elections.

About Andhra Pradesh:

Capital: Amaravati

Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik Resigns Following Defeat Of his Pary in Assembly Elections

After losing both the State Assembly and Parliamentary elections, Odisha Chief Minister and BJD chief **Naveen Patnaik** ended his **24-year term** by resigning. He submitted his resignation to Governor Raghubar Das at the **Raj Bhavan in Bhubaneswar**.

Key Points:

- Naveen Patnaik entered state politics unexpectedly through the BJD, a party named after his father, former Odisha **CM Biju Patnaik**.
- His political journey commenced with a win in the **1998 Lok Sabha bypoll**, where he represented his father's constituency of Aska.
- Following the BJD's triumph in the **2000 Assembly elections** and its coalition with the BJP, gaining a majority, Patnaik stepped down from his union cabinet position to assume the role of CM.

About Odisha:

Capital: Bhubaneswar

Governor: Raghubar Das

Srinagar has been designated as a 'World Craft City' by the World Crafts Council

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), has been acknowledged as a 'World Craft City' by the World Crafts Council AISBL (WCC-International). This recognition comes from a global non-profit organization that works to safeguard and promote traditional craftsmanship.

Foot Note:

- This recognition celebrates the rich history and exceptional skills of Srinagar's artisans, whose craftsmanship has earned international acclaim.
- Since 2014, over 60 cities worldwide have been recognized as World Craft Cities.

- Indian cities like Mamallapuram (Tamil Nadu), Jaipur (Rajasthan), and Mysore (Karnataka) were previously included in this prestigious list.
- This recognition is expected to greatly benefit the handloom and handicraft sectors, providing artisans with increased global visibility and new opportunities in international markets.

About World Crafts Council:
President– Saad Al-Qaddumi
Headquarters:Kuwait

Haryana Hikes OBC Reservation to 27% From 15%

- Haryana Chief Minister announced significant changes to the reservation policies for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the state. The reservation for backward classes in Group-A and Group-B government jobs will be increased from the current 15% to 27%, aligning with the Central Government's policy.
- Additionally, the annual income limit for identifying the 'creamy layer' among OBCs has been raised from ₹6 lakh to ₹8 lakh. Notably, income from salary and agriculture will not be included in this limit, making it easier for more families to qualify for the benefits of reservation, a decision which could face legal as well as political challenges.

Foot Notes:

About Haryana:

Capital: Chandigarh

Chief Minister: Nayab Singh Saini

Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya

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RANKING & INDEX NEWS

CII Estimates India's GDP to Grow at 8% in 2024

- It also expected that inflation is more likely to be within RBI's target range of 4 to 4.5% in 2024.
- Indicators of economic health are agriculture, information technology, services, and global trade.
- President- Sanjiv Puri, Headquarters- Delhi, Established- 1895

India Ranks 176 out of 180 Countries in Environment Performance Index 2024

- Estonia tops by Luxembourg and Germany at 2nd and 3rd respectively.
- India was ranked 180th in the EPI 2022 and 168th in the EPI 2020.
- This index is published by Yale University and Columbia University.

World's Top 100 Most Valuable Brands by Kantar BrandZ 2024 Report

- Rank of TCS (46th), HDFC Bank(47th), Airtel(73rd) and Infosys (77th) respectively.
- Apple retained its 1st position for the 3rd consecutive time Globally.
- Google and Microsoft of 2nd and 3rd position respectively.

IEP' Global Peace Index 2024

- India stands at 116th Rank out of 163 countries.
- The list is topped by Iceland followed by Ireland, Austria, NewZealand, and Singapore.
- Founder & Executive Chairman of IEP– Steve Killelea AM HQ– Sydney, Australia

Fitch Ratings Increases India's Growth Forecast For Current Fiscal Year To 7.2% From 7%

- Fitch Ratings increased India's growth forecast for the current fiscal year to 7.2 per cent, up from 7 per cent projected in March. This revision is due to a recovery in consumer spending and increased investment. Fitch Ratings quarterly Global Economic Outlook report published today also depicted raised the world growth forecast for 2024 to 2.6 per cent from 2.4 per cent.
- Fitch's estimates for FY25 are in line with that of RBI which earlier this month projected Indian economy to expand 7.2% in the current fiscal on the back of improving rural demand and moderating inflation. While the Asian Development Bank (ADB) estimates growth at 7%, S&P Global Ratings and Morgan Stanley project growth rate of 6.8%.

Foot Notes:

About Fitch:

Founded: 24 December 1913

Headquarter: USA

CEO: Paul Taylor

India has been ranked 176th in the recently published Environmental Performance Index 2024

Analysis of EPI data indicates that financial resources, effective governance, human development, and regulatory quality play vital roles in improving a nation's sustainability. By highlighting these connections, the EPI promotes sustainable development for a more secure and equitable environmental future.

Key Points:

- The EPI helps decision-makers identify the factors behind high environmental performance.
- The framework categorizes 58 indicators into 11 issue categories and three policy objectives.
- At each level, the weights are displayed as a percentage of the total score.

VCTPL Featured into Top 20 Rankings in World Bank's CPPI 2023

According to the 2023 World Bank Container Port Performance Index, Visakhapatnam Container Terminal Private Limited (VCTPL), which is owned by JM Baxi Ports & Logistics and located in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, is the only Indian port to make it into the top 20 rankings. VCTPL has been ranked 19th overall in the CPPI rankings.

Key Points:

- The 4th edition of CPPI was created by the World Bank's Transport Global Practice in collaboration with S&P Global Market Intelligence's Global Intelligence and Analytics division.
- This index evaluated 405 global container ports based on their efficiency and the time container vessels spent in the port.
- Ports included in the index had at least 24 valid port calls during the 12-month study period.
- The index utilized a massive dataset, including over 182,000 vessel calls, 238.2 million moves, and approximately 381 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) for the full calendar year of 2023.
- Sea transport accounts for over 80% of global merchandise trade, underscoring its crucial role in global markets and economic development.

About World Bank:

President- Ajay Banga

Headquarters- Washington

Established- 1944

Visakhapatnam Port Achieves Top 20 Ranking in World Bank's CPPI

The Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) has secured the 18th position in the World Bank's Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), marking a significant milestone for India's maritime industry. This achievement underscores the exemplary efforts of Terminal Operator M/s. Visakha Container Terminal Pvt. Ltd. (VCTPL) in enhancing operational efficiency and service delivery.

Key Points:

- VCTPL has showcased remarkable performance, evidenced by key indicators like 27.5 moves per crane hour and a turnaround time (TRT) of 21.4 hours.
- The port has also shown minimal berth idle time, emphasizing its efficiency in managing container ships.
- These accomplishments underscore VCTPL's capability to handle container ships effectively, impacting customer choices and solidifying its role as a vital trade hub.

About Visakhapatnam Port:

Established: 1933

Chairman: Dr. Madhaiyaan Angamuthu

IUCN reports: climate change is the primary factor causing over 50% of the world's mangroves to be at risk of collapse

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Red List of Mangrove Ecosystems, over 50% of the world's mangrove ecosystems are at risk of collapse, with nearly 1 in 5 faces severe risk. As per the study, climate change poses serious threats to 33% (1/3rd) of the mangrove ecosystems across the world.

Key Points:

- The IUCN Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) conducted its first global mangrove assessment.
- It's the first time an entire ecosystem group has been assessed worldwide using the RLE.
- Mangrove ecosystems were categorized into 36 regions, called provinces, to evaluate threats and risks.
- Over 250 experts from 44 countries participated in the study led by IUCN.

About IUCN:

Director-General - Dr. Grethel Aguilar

Headquarters- Gland, Switzerland

Establishment- 1948

Indian Universities Climb in QS 2025 Global Ranking

The most recent QS World University scores for **2025** show that Indian universities have made big strides forward. **61%** of those universities saw their scores go up. For the 13th year in a row, the **Massachusetts School of Technology (MIT)** has been ranked as the best school in the world.

Key Points:

- The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) has climbed to **118th** place globally, marking a significant jump of **31 spots** from its previous ranking.
- Following closely behind are **IIT Delhi** and the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, securing the second and third positions in India.
- **IIT Delhi** ascended by **47 spots**, while **IIT Madras** made a remarkable leap of **58 spots**, indicating substantial progress.
- Despite these advancements, **IIT Indore** experienced a decline, slipping down by 23 places in the rankings.

About Quacquarelli Symonds:

Founded :1990

Founder:Nunzio Quacquarelli

BANKING & FINANCE NEWS

RBI Imposes Rs 1.45 Cr Penalty on Central Bank of India

- The reason is for non-compliance with specific directives issued by RBI.
- The penalty was imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under sections of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- MD & CEO : MV Rao,Founded: 1911,Tagline : Build a Better Life Around Us.

ICICI Prudential Life offers Lifetime 15% Discount for Women on iProtect Smart Term Plan

- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance offered a 15% lifetime discount for women on all premiums for its best-selling term insurance product, iProtect Smart. Furthermore, salaried/working women will be eligible for an additional 15% off the first year's payment, allowing them to create financial stability for themselves and their loved ones.
- iProtect Smart, along with the critical disease benefit, covers 34 critical illnesses, including breast, ovarian, uterine, and cervical cancer. This combination provides the benefits of both health and life insurance. Importantly, the critical illness coverage sum is paid out upon

diagnosis, providing the necessary financial resources for rapid medical treatment without jeopardising the family's funds.

Foot Notes:

About ICICI Prudential Life:

Headquarter: Mumbai

Founded: 2001

CEO: Anup Bagchi

Axis Bank buys additional stake in Max Life Insurance for Rs 336 crore

- Axis Bank and its various subsidiaries' boards have approved raising their stake in Max Life Insurance to 19.99 per cent at Rs 336 crore in a cash deal, the private lender said in a stock exchange filing .
- In August 2023, Axis Bank's Board approved an infusion of ₹1,612 crore in Max Life, increasing the bank's direct stake to 16.22% and the collective stake of Axis Entities to 19.02%. Earlier, in April 2021, Axis Bank and its subsidiaries acquired a 12% stake in Max Life through a secondary transfer from Max Financial.

Foot Notes:

About Axis Bank:

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 3 December 1993

CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry

India Post Payments Bank joins forces with Ria Money Transfer to offer unique remittance services across Rural India

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has announced its partnership with Ria Money Transfer (Ria), global leader in the cross-border money transfer industry and business segment of Euronet Worldwide, Inc. The ease of access brought by this collaboration will provide customers in remote areas across India with convenient and affordable doorstep financial services.
- Sixty-five per cent of India's population lives in rural areas with limited financial infrastructure. These families need to travel long distances to withdraw their international inward remittance money, leading to loss of wage, incur travel expense & they also get exposed to risk associated with cash in transit or storage at home as they have to withdraw entire amount altogether.

India Exim Bank Opens Nairobi Office to Boost East Africa Trade

The Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank) inaugurated its East Africa Representative Office in Nairobi, Kenya, aiming to expand India's business footprint in the resource-rich and demographically young continent of East Africa. This initiative seeks to enhance trade and investment ties between India, Kenya, and the broader East African region.

Key Points:

- Over the last ten years, there has been a substantial increase in trade between India and East Africa.
- Merchandise trade between the two regions reached US\$12.9 billion in 2022, a notable rise from US\$9.7 billion in 2013.
- India's exports to East Africa surged from US\$8.6 billion in 2013 to US\$9.4 billion in 2022.
- These figures signify a notable improvement in trade relations between India and East Africa.

About India Exim Bank:

Founded: 1982

Headquarters: Mumbai

The UN report stated that worldwide public debt hit a new high of \$97 trillion in 2023

The United Nations released a report called "A World of Debt 2024: A Growing Burden to Global Prosperity." It says that the total amount of money owed by governments around the world, called public debt, reached \$97 trillion in 2023. This is \$5.6 trillion more than the previous year, 2022.

Key Points:

- African economies have suffered significant impacts.
- The number of countries with debt-to-GDP ratios above 60% increased.
- Between 2013 and 2023, this number rose from 6 to 27 countries.
- Africans now allocate more money for interest payments.
- This exceeds the spending on education and health.
- Per capita, interest payments average \$70, while education is \$60 and health is \$39.

World Bank Retains India's FY25 Growth Forecast at 6.6%

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee had its second meeting of the fiscal year 2024-2025 from June 5th to 7th, 2024. In this meeting, they raised India's expected GDP growth for FY25 from 7% to 7.2%. This meeting marked the 49th MPC gathering for the RBI.

Key Points:

- RBI predicts real GDP growth for each quarter: Q1 at 7.3%, Q2 at 7.2%, Q3 at 7.3%, and Q4 at 7.2%.
- The repo rate, which is part of the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF), has stayed the same at 6.50% for the 8th time in a row.
- However, two external members of RBI, Ashima Goyal and Jayanth R Varma, disagreed and wanted to reduce the repo rate by 25 basis points.
- The MPC (Monetary Policy Committee) aims to gradually withdraw accommodation to help align inflation with the target while still supporting growth. Goyal and Varma preferred changing the stance to 'neutral'.

Muthoot Microfin and SBI are teaming up to support women entrepreneurs through co-lending

Muthoot Microfin Limited, headquartered in Kochi, Kerala, has formed a strategic co-lending partnership with the State Bank of India (SBI). They aim to provide financial services to women entrepreneurs in rural and semi-urban areas across India. Muthoot Microfin Limited is the fifth largest microfinance NBFC in terms of gross loan portfolio.

Key Points:

- Partnership between Muthoot Microfin and SBI for joint lending to Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) involved in agriculture, allied activities, and income-generating enterprises.
- Loan amounts ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 3,00,000.
- Focus on empowering women entrepreneurs in rural areas.
- Aim to boost businesses and enhance livelihoods for women entrepreneurs.

The RBI has established a committee led by Mr. A P Hota to develop a Digital Payments Intelligence Platform

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established a committee chaired by Abhaya Prasad Hota, former Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). This committee's purpose is to assess different aspects concerning the establishment of a digital public infrastructure for the Digital Payments Intelligence platform proposed by the RBI.

Key Points:

- Besides the chairman, the committee will include representatives from financial institutions like State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank.

- Eminent individuals from the payments industry, such as Vipin Surelia from Visa, Arif Khan from Razorpay, Jitendra Gupta from Jupiter, and Pranay Jhaveri from Euronet, are also appointed as members.
- The committee will outline methods to spot fraudulent transactions, which will then be reported to the Central Payments Fraud Information Repository (CPFIR).
- Guidelines to ensure customer data privacy will be recommended by the committee.
- The committee's task also includes proposing strategies for the platform to become financially sustainable.

About RBI:

Founded: 1935

Founder: British Raj

Governor : Shaktikanta Das



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Bank of India Acquires Over 6% Stake in CCIL IFSC

The Bank of India (BOI), based in Maharashtra, has purchased a 6.125% ownership in Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL) International Financial Services Centre (IFSC). This new entity is listed in the Gujarat International Finance Tech-city (GIFT) Special Economic Zone (SEZ). This investment showcases BOI's dedication to the development of IFSC.

Key Points:

- This strategic investment of Rs 6.125 crore indicates the growth of GIFT City IFSC and its position as a global financial service provider.
- Subrat Kumar, the Executive Director of International Operations at BoI, announced this investment during an event commemorating the first anniversary of the bank's IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) in GIFT City.
- The establishment of the IBU at GIFT City in 2023 aimed to achieve a business volume of USD 1 billion in its first year, with a focus on advances.

- The IBU surpassed the USD 1 billion target by March 2024.

Peru became the first South American country to adopt UPI

NPCI International and the Reserve Bank of Peru have joined forces to introduce a UPI-like real-time payments system in Peru, marking a pioneering move for South America. This collaboration aims to revolutionize Peru's financial landscape, fostering economic growth and financial inclusion by leveraging India's renowned Unified Payment Interface technology.

Key Points:

- NPCI International and the Central Reserve Bank of Peru (BCRP) have teamed up to introduce a real-time payment system in Peru, similar to India's UPI.
- This partnership marks Peru as the first South American country to adopt UPI technology.
- The collaboration aims to improve efficiency and accessibility in Peru's payment system.

About Peru:

Capital: Lima

Currency: Sol

President : Dina Boluarte

Ashok Leyland rolls out 'Sarathi Suraksha' policy

Ashok Leyland, the Indian flagship of the Hinduja Group and one of the country's leading commercial manufacturers, launched '**Sarathi Suraksha Policy**' a comprehensive insurance policy for **safeguarding the driver community**.

Key Points:

- The "Sarathi Suraksha Policy" provides coverage for **accidental death, permanent disability, and partial disability** up to **INR 10 lakh** per chassis.
- Additionally, the policy includes benefits such as **children's special education bonuses** and coverage for unintentional hospitalization.
- Starting from June 1, 2024, all Intermediate Commercial vehicles (ICV) and haulage trucks invoiced to clients are automatically covered by this insurance policy without any extra charges.
- Ashoka Leyland vehicle drivers are safeguarded by the **Sarathi Suraksha Policy**, classified as an **Unnamed GPA** (Group Personal Accident) Policy, ensuring their overall safety.

About Ashok Leyland:

Founder: Raghunandan Saran

Founded: 7 September 1948

Headquarters: Chennai

CEO:Mr. Shenu Agarwal

SEBI introduced a new mobile app called "Saathi 2.0" to help investors manage their personal finances

The Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched “Saathi” (SAARTHI) 2.0” mobile application on personal finance for investors. The app introduced a **user-friendly interface** with comprehensive tools which aims to **simplify complex financial concepts**.

Key Points:

- The app includes financial calculators, and has modules that explain Know Your Customer (KYC) procedures, mutual funds, Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs).
- By using this app, investors can buy and sell shares on **stock exchanges**.
- It has investor **grievances redressal mechanism** and **Online Dispute Resolution (ODR)** platform.
- It also features **various videos** which are designed specifically to **help** the investors in their **personal financing**.

About SEBI:

Founded: 1988

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founder: Government of India

RBI Moves 100 Tonnes of Gold From UK To its Vaults in India

Reserve Bank of India has moved a little over 100 tonnes of gold from the UK to its vaults in the country, marking the first time at least since early 1991, when precious metal at this scale has been added to the stock held locally.

- India's total gold reserves increased by 27.46 metric tonnes in FY24.
- During the 2009 global financial crisis, it acquired 200 tonnes of gold from the IMF.
- In the first quarter of 2024, the RBI purchased 19 tonnes of gold, exceeding its 2023 acquisition of 16 tonnes, as reported by the WGC.
- Governor of RBI Shaktikanta Das , Founded: 1935

RBI Imposed Immediate Restrictions on Edelweiss Group's EARCL and ECL Finance

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has put limits on Edelweiss Group companies, including Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (EARCL) and ECL Finance Company Limited (ECL). They did this using their authority granted by the SARFAESI Act, 2002, and the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, due to important issues they observed while supervising these companies.

Key Points:

- RBI observed incorrect valuation of SRs in both ECL and EARCL.
- The RBI discovered additional violations by EARCL.
- These violations include failure to present the supervisory letter issued by RBI during the previous inspection (2021-2022) to the company's board.

- There was also non-compliance with regulations concerning loan settlements.
- Furthermore, EARCL was found to have shared non-public information about its clients with group entities.

Federal Bank, in partnership with NPCI, introduced the RuPay Wave credit card featuring UPI-enabled transactions

Federal Bank, an Indian private sector bank in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has launched the Federal RuPay Wave Credit Card, empowering customers with the Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-powered transactions on the RuPay network.

Foot Note:

- Simple Application by applying via the FedMobile (mobile banking) app.
- No Annual Maintenance Charge (AMC) and joining fees.
- 10% cashback on the first 5 UPI transactions using the Wave Credit Card.
- 1000 bonus reward points for quarterly spending of Rs 50,000.
- 1 reward point for every Rs 200 spent.

About Federal Bank:

CEO- Shyam Srinivasan

Headquarters–Kerala

Tagline– Your Perfect Banking Partner

ADB Approves USD 170 Million Policy-based Loan to Strengthen Health Systems in India

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has given approval for a USD 170 million policy-based loan to enhance India's healthcare system readiness and ability to handle future pandemics. This loan is part of the SMART Health Subprogram 1 and will aid India in implementing its National Health Policy 2017.

Foot Note:

- Enhance the disease surveillance systems to respond to public health threats.
- Establish laboratory networks for infectious disease surveillance at state/national levels.
- Improve the data systems to monitor and coordinate national health programs for vulnerable groups.
- Improve the governance and coordination of India's One Health approach, its multisector response to emerging infectious diseases.
- Its goal is to strengthen India's health infrastructure and improve its ability to respond effectively to future health crises.

About ADB:

President– Masatsugu Asakawa

Headquarters–Philippines

Members– 68 members

India's GDP growth for the first quarter of FY25 is projected to be 7.3%, according to the RBI's June 2024 Bulletin

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the June 2024 issue of its monthly Bulletin. As per RBI's latest bulletin, it is quite optimistic that India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will be 7.3% in Q1 (April-June) FY25 (2024-25). This GDP is in line with the projection made by RBI in its 2nd bi-monthly Monetary Policy released on 7th June, 2024.

Foot Note:

- RBI noted that India's GDP grew by 7.8% in the fourth quarter (January-March) of FY24, surpassing expectations, and the annual GDP for FY24 stood at 8.2%.
- According to an article in RBI's June 2024 Bulletin on the "State of the Economy," global growth was steady in Q1FY25, and many central banks worldwide have opted for a less restrictive monetary policy due to lower inflation in their economies.
- Recent data from high-frequency indicators indicate that India's real GDP growth in Q1FY25 is maintaining the momentum seen in Q4FY24.
- RBI emphasized that India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) in the external sector remained very low, with CAD for three quarters of FY24 standing at 1.2% of GDP.

About RBI:

Governor– Shaktikanta Das

Headquarter– Mumbai

Established–1935

Kotak Mahindra Bank Plans to Open Up to 200 New Branches in FY25

Kotak Mahindra Bank in India plans to expand its branch network by 175 to 200 branches in FY25. This decision comes despite recent regulatory restrictions from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on digital customer acquisition and credit card issuance due to IT-related issues. Group President and Head of Consumer Bank, Mr. Virat Diwanji, highlighted the bank's commitment to this expansion strategy, noting a historical addition rate of approximately 150 branches annually.

Foot Note:

- The bank expects that adding branches will not immediately boost customer numbers but will enhance its visibility and accessibility over time.
- Despite the immediate impact on customer numbers, the strategy is seen as beneficial in the long term for increasing the bank's presence and accessibility.

- Kotak Mahindra's strategy focuses on targeting regions where there is a significant availability of deposits to improve customer acquisition through its brick-and-mortar branches.

About Kotak Mahindra Bank:

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founder: Uday Kotak

Founded: 1985

S&P retains India's FY25 GDP growth estimate at 6.8%

- S&P Global Ratings on Monday retained India's GDP growth forecast for the current financial year at 6.8 per cent and said high interest rates and lower fiscal spur would temper demand. In its economic outlook for Asia Pacific, S&P Global Ratings said India's economic growth continues to surprise on the upside with the economy growing 8.2 per cent in fiscal year 2023-24.
- The rating agency expects the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to reduce its policy rate to 6 per cent in the current financial year from 6.5 per cent at present. Additionally, it anticipates further cuts in the lending rate to 5.5 per cent and 5.25 per cent in 2025-26 and 2026-27, respectively.

RBI Projects Further Moderation in Bank NPAs to 2.5%

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected a further improvement in the gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs), estimating it to decrease to 2.5% by March 2025. This optimistic outlook is based on macro stress tests evaluating banks' resilience against potential economic shocks.

Foot Note:

- As of March 2024, Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) registered their lowest Gross Non-Performing Asset (GNPA) ratio in 12 years, standing at 2.8%.
- Additionally, they reported a record low Net Non-Performing Asset (NPA) ratio of 0.6%.
- This improvement indicates a continual decrease in the addition of new NPAs and heightened provisioning by both public sector banks (PSBs) and foreign banks (FBs).

About RBI:

Founded :1935

Headquarters : Mumbai

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

NCAER Projects Over 7% Growth for Indian Economy in Fiscal 2025

The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) forecasts India's GDP to surpass 7% and possibly reach 7.5% in fiscal year 2024-25, citing resilient domestic economic indicators

and favorable global conditions. High-frequency data shows robust economic activity, prompting upward revisions by all major agencies. Factors supporting this outlook include expected normal monsoons and a focused policy stance on investment and stability.

Foot Note:

- Bank credit growth remains robust, albeit moderated in personal loans.
- Optimistic agricultural prospects contribute positively to overall economic momentum.
- NCAER forecasts GDP growth for the current fiscal year to range between 7.2% and 6.2%, indicating consistent economic strength.
- Director General Poonam Gupta highlights the possibility of growth surpassing 7%, citing robust performance in the first quarter and proactive economic policies as contributing factors.

About NCAER :

Headquarters: New Delhi

President: Nandan M. Nilekani



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Apple Becomes 1st Company Charged With Violating EU's Digital Markets Act Rules

The European Union (EU) has initiated a new investigation into Apple's support for alternative iOS marketplaces in Europe under the Digital Markets Act (DMA). The investigation focuses on Apple's App Store "steering" policies, which allegedly violate the DMA aimed at promoting competition.

Foot Note:

- Apple faced a €1.84 billion fine (around \$2 billion) from the EU's antitrust regulators.
- The fine was imposed due to practices within the App Store that discouraged anti-steering, according to a case predating the DMA.

Foot Note:

Founders: Steve Jobs

Headquarters: United States

CEO: Tim Cook

Reserve Bank of India Reports Current Account Balance Records Surplus of 0.6% of GDP in Q4 FY24

India's current account recorded a surplus of \$5.7 billion, equivalent to 0.6% of gross domestic product (GDP), in the January-March 2024 quarter.

This marks a significant improvement from a deficit of \$1.3 billion (0.2% of GDP) in Q4 FY2023 and a deficit of \$8.7 billion (1% of GDP) in Q3 FY24.

Foot Note:

- The current account deficit is the difference between exports and imports of goods and services.
- It is a key indicator of the country's external sector.
- India's current account deficit for the full fiscal year FY24 decreased to \$23.2 billion, which is equivalent to 0.7% of GDP.
- This marks a decline from the FY23 figures, where the deficit stood at \$67 billion, representing 2% of GDP.

About RBI:

Founded: 1935

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Founder: British

India is expected to achieve a growth rate of 7.5% in the fiscal year 2024-25, according to NCAER

Gross domestic product (GDP) growth during 2024-25 (FY25) may turn out to be higher than 7 per cent and even close to 7.5 per cent, with high frequency indicators showing resilience amid growth dynamism in the Indian economy. The monthly economic review released by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).

Foot Note:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased its forecast for India's real GDP growth in FY25 to 7.2% from the previous estimate of 7%.
- Several other agencies have also raised their growth projections, with the median forecast now standing at 6.9%.
- Global growth projections for 2024 have been revised upward by the IMF, World Bank, and other rating agencies.
- The projected global growth rate for 2024 is expected to range between 2.6% and 3.2%.

About NCAER:

Headquarters: New Delhi

President: Nandan M. Nilekani

External Debt Reaches \$663.8 Billion by End-March 2024

India's external debt increased by \$39.7 billion to \$663.8 billion at end-March 2024, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Despite the rise, the external debt to GDP ratio fell to 18.7%

from 19.0% at end-March 2023. Excluding the valuation effect caused by the appreciation of the US dollar against the Indian rupee and other major currencies, the external debt would have increased by \$48.4 billion. The valuation effect was calculated at \$8.7 billion.

Foot Note:

- India's external debt stood at \$663.8 billion as of March 2024, marking a rise of \$39.7 billion compared to March 2023.
- The external debt-to-GDP ratio decreased from 19.0% in March 2023 to 18.7% in March 2024, as per the Reserve Bank of India's latest data.
- A valuation effect due to the appreciation of the U.S. dollar against the Indian rupee and other major currencies (yen, euro, and SDR) accounted for \$8.7 billion.
- Excluding the valuation effect, the actual increase in external debt would have been \$48.4 billion by March 2024 over March 2023, instead of \$39.7 billion reported.

India sees 43% decline in FDI inflows in 2023, drops to 15th spot

- Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into India fell to \$28.1 billion in 2023 from \$49.3 billion in 2022 with the country slipping seven notches to rank 15 in the World Investment Ranking in 2023, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- FDI to developing countries fell by 7% to \$867 billion, with developing Asia seeing an 8% drop to \$621 billion. Notably, FDI to China, India, West Asia, and Central Asia also declined. India's FDI inflow in 2023 was \$28 billion, down from \$49 billion in 2022, resulting in its global FDI recipient ranking falling from 8th to 15th.

SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara Announces Plan to Establish 400 New Branches Nationwide in FY25

- As a part of the network expansion plan, State Bank of India (SBI) is planning to open 400 branches across the country in the current financial year. The country's biggest lender opened 137 branches last fiscal. Of the total, 59 new rural branches were launched. SBI has a network of 22,542 branches across the country as of March 2024.
- This investment slightly reduced SBI's stake from 69.95% to 69.11. SBI General Insurance reported a 30.4% increase in net profit to Rs 240 crore for the financial year ended March 2024, up from Rs 184 crore in the previous fiscal year.
- SBI Payment Services Private Limited: SBI Payment Services Private Limited, which is in the merchant acquiring business, is 74% owned by SBI, while the remaining stake is with Hitachi Payment Services.

Foot Notes:

About SBI :

Established : 1 July 1955

Headquarters : Mumbai

Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara

CFO : Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti

HDFC Bank launches digital investment platform SmartWealth

- Incorporating cutting-edge technology, the HDFC Bank SmartWealth comes loaded with first-ever features that allow investors to make the right investment decisions and plan their financial journey. It has been developed with first-time investors in mind, built with smart intelligence and has pioneering tools that allow users to make the right investment decisions to plan their finances, said the bank.
- Users can create SmartJars, which gives users personalised portfolio plans that can be modified or paused anytime. Model portfolios on Smart Wealth suggest curated investment baskets for DIY investing based on over 25 years of HDFC Bank's financial expertise. For users with a diversified portfolio, SmartWealth allows for a consolidated account statement (CAS), downloadable in just three clicks.

Foot Notes:

About HDFC Bank:

Founded: August 1994

Headquarters: Mumbai

CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan

AGREEMENT & MOU'S NEWS

Namdev Finvest Partners with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

- Namdev Finvest, a Jaipur-based NBFC, has entered into a strategic alliance with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, a leading insurance platform, to offer comprehensive financial solutions, including insurance and NBFC services, to its customers. The strategic alliance leverages Namdev's customer network and geographic presence, backed by Bajaj General Insurance.
- As part of this collaboration, Namdev strives to enhance its product portfolio, and offer complete risk cover against assets, thereby providing added value to its customers. Simultaneously, Bajaj General Insurance plans to leverage Namdev's customer base to deliver tailored insurance products and boast increased market reach.

Foot Notes:

About Bajaj Allianz General Insurance:

Headquarter: Pune

Founded: 2001

CEO: Tapan Singhel

MSDE partners with Australian Government to energise Agriculture Sector of India with emerging skills

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), in collaboration with the Australian Government, hosted a comprehensive and productive roundtable to discuss the learnings from the Australia-India Critical Agriculture Skills Pilot Project.
- The findings were shared with MSDE and the Australian Government and subsequently 107 emerging job roles were mapped to identify the 5 critical emerging job roles in the agriculture sector for the pilot projects. The six pilot projects nearing completion have been implemented in 4 states, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.

Foot Notes:

About Australian:

Capital: Canberra

Prime Minister : Anthony Albanese

CERT-In, Mastercard join hands to bolster cybersecurity for financial sector

- The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and Mastercard India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on enhancing cyber-resilience in India's financial sector. This partnership aims to leverage the shared expertise of both entities in cybersecurity incident response, capacity building, and advanced malware analysis.
- CERT-In, a government organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, serves as the national agency for incident response under Section 70B of the Information Technology Act, 2000. It operates a 24×7 incident response help desk and provides incident prevention, response services, and security quality management.

Foot Notes:

About Mastercard:

CEO: Michael Miebach

President: Michael Miebach

NHAI Signs MoU with IIT Delhi to Enhance Road Safety by deploying Artificial Intelligence

- Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Delhi, a Technical University established by the Government of National Capital Territory (NCT), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to enhance road safety. This collaboration aims to leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based solutions to improve the availability of road signs on National Highways.
- As part of the agreement, IIIT Delhi will undertake extensive surveys to collect imagery and other relevant data concerning the availability and condition of road signages along selected National Highway stretches. This project will encompass an approximate length of 25,000 kilometres. Through these surveys, IIIT Delhi aims to gather comprehensive information that will aid in assessing and improving the state of road signs, thereby enhancing safety and efficiency on the National Highways.

TotalEnergies signed LNG agreements with IOC Limited and Korea South-East Power for LNG supply

French energy major TotalEnergies signed agreements with Indian Public Sector Enterprise (PSE), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Korea South-East Power Co Ltd for the supply of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) over a medium to long term period.

Key Points:

- TotalEnergies and IOC Limited signed a Sales and Purchase Agreement.
- According to the agreement, TotalEnergies will provide up to 8 lakh Metric Tons Per Annum (MTPA) of LNG to India.
- LNG supply will start in 2026 and continue for 10 years.
- TotalEnergies entered into a Head of Agreement (HoA) with Korea South-East Power Ltd.
- Under the agreement, TotalEnergies will supply up to 5 lakh Metric Tons Per Annum (MTPA) of LNG to South Korea.
- LNG supply is scheduled to commence in 2027 and will continue for a period of 5 years.

About TotalEnergies:

CEO: Patrick Pouyanné

Headquarters: France

Founder: Ernest Mercier

Founded: 1924



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Peru and Slovakia sign the Artemis Accords for Peaceful Moon Exploration

Peru and Slovakia on May 30, signed NASA's Artemis Accords, making them the latest in a rapid number of countries to join the U.S.-led agreement on the safe exploration of space. Both countries signed the accords at NASA's Washington headquarters, but in separate ceremonies with Peru the first to add its name to the accords on May 30 followed by Slovakia. Peru became 41st and Slovakia 42nd countries to do so.

Key Points:

- The Artemis Accords were introduced in 2020 by NASA and seven other nations.
- They represent a nonbinding political commitment to a set of principles that govern civil space exploration.
- Named after the Artemis Program, which is spearheaded by NASA, these accords aim to establish a sustainable human presence on the Moon and, eventually, on Mars.
- NASA is collaborating with industry and international partners in leading the Artemis Program.

About Peru:

Capital: Lima

President: Dina Boluarte

Prime Minister: Gustavo Adrianzén

MoHFW Signed MoU with MoD To Set Up Dedicated Tele MANAS Cell For Armed Forces

The Health Ministry and Defence Ministry agreed to work together on a special Tele-Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) Cell. Tele MANAS Cell, the National Telemental Health Helpline of MoHFW, is a pilot project for a period of two years at the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) in Pune (Maharashtra).

Key Points:

- Tele MANAS is like an online version of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP). It provides all-day, every-day mental health services through the internet or phone.
- They've set up a free phone number, 14416, in every State and Union Territory to make it easy for people to get mental health support.
- Right now, there are 51 Tele MANAS centers working in all 36 States and Union Territories. They offer services in 20 different languages.
- Since starting in October 2022, Tele MANAS has gotten over 1 million calls and handles over 3,500 calls every day.
- The data shows that there's a big need for mental health services. This highlights how important it is to deal with mental health issues thoroughly and inclusively, especially in places like the Armed Forces.

The Department of School Education partnered with the National Book Trust to introduce Rashtriya E-Pustakalaya

The Ministry of Education's Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSE&L), under the Government of India (GoI), has entered into an MoU with the National Book Trust (NBT) to establish a framework for **Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya**, a digital library platform.

Key Points:

- Rashtriya E-Pustakalaya aims to bridge accessibility gaps, **offering 10,000+ books in 100+ languages within 2-3 years.**
- The portal, beyond English, provides access to 1,000+ non-academic books in 22+ languages from 40+ publishers, with over 1,000 books currently available.
- Books are categorized for ages **3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 as per NEP 2020.**
- The Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya app will be downloadable on Android and iOS devices.
- It covers various genres including adventure, **mystery, literature, non-fiction, history, comics, and more.**
- Aligned with Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, emphasizing inclusivity and cultural unity.
- Provides 24/7 book access, overcoming geographical limitations.

Reliance Foundation and INCOIS partnered to empower coastal communities through an MoU

The Reliance Foundation and INCOIS, located in Hyderabad, Telangana, which is part of the Ministry of Earth Sciences under the Government of India, signed an agreement to support people living in coastal regions.

Key Points:

- Reliance Foundation and INCOIS will use ocean data to improve preparedness for climate challenges and disasters.

- Reliance Foundation aims to assist around 25% of active marine fishing families across eight states in India.
- Reliance Foundation helps women access resources and schemes to boost earnings from fishing and related activities.
- They promote sustainable practices in the ocean economy by linking vulnerability maps with resilience efforts.
- They implement the 'Tsunami Ready Villages' program to safeguard coastal communities from tsunamis.

About INCOIS :

Founded : 1999

Chairman : Srinivasa Kumar

WMO & FAO Signed MoU to strengthen their collaboration & improve climate services in agriculture

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) agreed to work together more closely. They want to make weather and climate information better for farmers. Their goal is to help farmers deal with changes in weather and become more resilient to climate challenges.

Key Points:

- WMO is specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.
- It was established in 1950 and became a specialized agency of the UN in 1951.
- WMO's Secretary General– Celeste Saulo and Headquarters– Geneva
- FAO's Director–General– Qu Dongyu and Headquarters– Rome, Italy

MSDE collaborates with the Australian Government to enhance India's agriculture sector through emerging skills development.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), together with the Australian Government, organized an important discussion roundtable. They focused on sharing insights from the Australia-India Critical Agriculture Skills Pilot Project.

Foot Note:

- The project aims to expand and duplicate its success in different sectors.
- Key stakeholders involved are the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Education (MoE), and Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI).

- The project's development included discussions with 89 experts from 64 organizations and an examination of multiple government reports.
- The pilot project identified 107 new job roles in agriculture and selected 5 crucial roles for initial testing.

Sri Lanka To Sign Debt Restructuring Agreements With India & Japan

Sri Lanka is set to sign agreements with India and Japan to restructure bilateral debt, marking significant progress in its economic recovery efforts. Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister, M.U.M. Ali Sabry, was quoted by agencies as saying that Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe had given an update on the progress in the matter to all members of the Cabinet.

Foot Note:

- Sri Lanka has been in negotiations with the Paris Club, India, and China since declaring sovereign default in 2022.
- In-principle agreements were reached last year, paving the way for formal restructuring with bilateral creditors.
- Assurance from India and other creditors facilitated approval of IMF financing in March last year, crucial for Sri Lanka's economic stability and recovery.

About Sri Lanka:

Capitals: Colombo

President: Ranil Wickremesinghe

Prime minister: Dinesh Gunawardena

SCIENCE & TECH NEWS

Sunita Williams is the first woman to fly Boeing's Starliner spacecraft

Boeing's Starliner spacecraft launched into space on its first trip to the International Space Station (ISS), carrying two NASA astronauts, Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams. This marks the astronauts' first crewed flight test for the ISS.

Key Points:

- Validate the transportation system, launch pad, rocket, and spacecraft of Starliner.
- Test the spacecraft's capabilities for in-orbit operations.
- Ensure the safe return of astronauts to Earth.
- This marks the first launch of the Boeing spacecraft and ULA Atlas V rocket with astronauts to the ISS under NASA's Commercial Crew Program.
- Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams are embarking on their third mission to the ISS.

About Boeing:

CEO: Dave Calhoun

Founder: William E. Boeing

President: Dave Calhoun

Headquarters: United States

Pixxel, Sarvam AI, Nirmai Health Analytix Among 10 Indian Startups in WEF's Technology Pioneer 2024 List

The World Economic Forum's Technology Pioneers 2024 list includes Pixxel, Sarvam AI, and Nirmai Health Analytix, among others. Most of these Indian startups are focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI). The list has nine space companies, including India's Pixxel, four neurotechnology startups, and four startups in clean technology, like AmpereHour Energy and International Battery Company from India.

Key Points:

- Out of the 100 leading tech startups from 23 countries, around one-third were led by women CEOs.
- These companies focus on using AI advancements to create innovative solutions in sectors like clean energy, healthcare, biotechnology, space, and neurotechnology.
- The list is largely dominated by the USA and China, with India following closely in terms of the number of startups represented.
- Selected startups will share their expertise with WEF's global initiatives over the next two years and attend WEF meetings, including the Annual Meeting of the New Champions.

About WEF :

Founder- Prof. Klaus Schwab

MD- Saadia Zahidi

Headquarters–Switzerland

Established in- 1971

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SpaceX's Starship Completes 1st Full Flight With Successful Soft Splashdown

SpaceX's Starship, known as the most powerful launch vehicle ever made, finished its first full test flight. It returned to Earth, with the booster landing softly in the Gulf of Mexico and the spacecraft in the Indian Ocean.

Key points:

- This development is a big step toward creating a transportation system that can be used multiple times for carrying crew and cargo to different places like Earth's orbit, the Moon, Mars, and beyond.
- In the past, the first three flight demonstrations of Starship ended in explosions.
- SpaceX's Starship, which includes both the spacecraft and the Super Heavy rocket, is known collectively as "Starship." It's built to be fully reusable and can transport both crew and cargo.
- It has the capacity to carry up to 150 metric tonnes when fully reusable and 250 metric tonnes when expendable. It stands at 121 meters tall and has a diameter of 9 meters.

About SpaceX:

Founder: Elon Musk

CEO: Elon Musk

Headquarters: United States

Founded: 2002

ISRO develops PraVaHa software for aerodynamic design and analysis

ISRO, through its Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), has introduced the PraVaHa software, a Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) tool aimed at facilitating aerodynamic design and analysis for aerospace vehicles.

Key Points:

- PraVaHa stands for "Parallel RANS Solver for Aerospace Vehicle Aero-thermo-dynamic Analysis."
- It is designed to simulate both external and internal flows on different types of vehicles, such as launch vehicles, winged, and non-winged re-entry vehicles.
- PraVaHa is specifically tailored for aerospace applications, offering detailed analysis capabilities for aerodynamic and thermodynamic aspects.
- PraVaHa utilizes advancements in CFD (Computational Fluid Dynamics) technology to provide precise predictions for intricate aerodynamic flows.
- It enables faster simulation turnaround times, especially on High-Performance Computing Clusters.
- The software's adaptability extends to both CPU and GPU architectures, ensuring compatibility with current and future supercomputing facilities.

About ISRO:

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Founded: 15 August 1969

Founder: Vikram Sarabhai

DRDO Transfers Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket to Indian Navy

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over the Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR) to the Indian Navy at a ceremony held in New Delhi.

Foot Note:

- MOC, a specialized technology developed by DRDO's Defence Laboratory in Jodhpur, masks radar signals.
- It generates a microwave shield around platforms and assets, effectively lowering radar detection capabilities.
- Special fibers, with diameters measuring a few microns, possess distinctive properties for obscuring microwaves.
- These fibers have been incorporated into medium-range chaff rockets.

About DRDO :

Formed : 1958

Headquarters : New Delhi, India

Chairman : Sameer V. Kamat

Indian Space Research Organisation Successfully Completes 3rd and Final 'Pushpak' Reusable Launch Vehicle Landing Test

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the third and final landing experiment of its Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) 'Pushpak' at the Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga, Karnataka. The RLV LEX-03 which stands for Reusable Launch Vehicle Landing Experiment 3, demonstrated the autonomous landing capability under more severe wind conditions.
- The Chinook helicopter released the Reusable Launch Vehicle Pushpak at an altitude of 4.5 kms from the runway. Following the success of the RLV LEX-01 and LEX-02 missions, RLV LEX-03 re-demonstrated the autonomous landing capability of the RLV under more challenging release conditions (cross range of 500 m against 150 m for LEX-02) and more severe wind conditions.

Foot Notes:

About ISRO :

Established: 15 August 1969

Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka

Chairman: S. Somanath

Pixxel wins the iDEX Prime (Space) grant to develop Miniaturized Multi-Payload Satellites

- Pixxel, a leader in cutting-edge hyperspectral earth-imaging technology has won a multi-crore grant from iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence under the Ministry of Defence) for the Mission DefSpace Challenge under iDEX Prime (Space), to manufacture miniaturized multi-payload satellites for the Indian Air Force.
- Received as a part of the SPARK grants by iDEX, this grant will equip Pixxel to develop small satellites of up to 150 kgs for Electro-Optical, Infrared, Synthetic Aperture Radar and Hyper Spectral purposes; marking a significant milestone in Pixxel's mission to revolutionize the space industry.

Foot Notes:

About Pixxel:

Founded: February 2019

Headquarters: El Segundo, California, USA

CEO: Awais Ahmed

DEFENCE NEWS

Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi will be the next Chief of the Army Staff

- He is succeeding the incumbent General Manoj Pande.
- He currently serves as the vice-chief of the Army staff.

- India Army founded: April 1, 1895, Motto: Sewa Paramo Dharma

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) inked agreements with four banks to enlist them as 'SPARSH' service centers

The Defence Accounts Department (DAD) of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has partnered with four banks to set up System for Pension Administration – Raksha (SPARSH) service centers. These centers will be established across 1,128 branches of Bank of India (BOI), Canara Bank, Central Bank of India (CBI), and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited (USFBL) in India.

Key Points:

- MoUs enable last-mile connectivity for pensioners, particularly in remote areas lacking technical access to SPARSH.
- Service Centres offer a user-friendly interface for SPARSH pensioners to update profiles, address grievances, obtain digital annual identities, verify data, and access detailed monthly pension information.
- Access to these centers is provided free of cost, with only nominal service charges borne by the DAD.
- SPARSH Services are extended to over 26,000 branches of 15 banks nationwide, complementing the DAD's 199 dedicated service centers and over 3.75 lakh Common Service Centers (CSCs) across India.

Army Launches Integrated Generator Monitoring, Control System 'Vidyut Rakshak'

A tech-based innovation, an integrated generator monitoring, protection and control system, developed by the Indian Army was launched on June 5. 'Vidyut Rakshak', developed by the Army Design Bureau (ADB) was launched by the Army's Vice Chief Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi.

Key Points:

- Vidyut Rakshak is a system for monitoring, protecting, and controlling generators, using Internet of Things (IoT) technology.
- IoT involves devices connecting and sharing data with each other and the cloud.
- This innovation is suitable for all existing generators used by the Indian Army, regardless of their type, make, rating, or age.
- Besides monitoring generator parameters, it can predict and prevent faults automatically.

Japan-India Maritime Exercise JIMEX-24 Kicks Off in Yokosuka

The 8th edition of the Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX-24) has commenced at Yokosuka, Japan, hosted by the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF). Indian Navy's INS Shivalik and Japan's JS Yugiri are participating.

Key Points:

- INS Shivalik represents the Indian Navy, and JS Yugiri represents the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) in the exercise.
- The objective of the exercise is to exchange and learn from each other's best practices.
- It seeks to enhance operational interactions between the two navies.
- The exercise also aims to reaffirm their mutual commitments to maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region.

About Japan:

Capital: Tokyo

Prime minister: Fumio Kishida

Currency: Yen

Adani Defence and EDGE Group Forge Global Defence Partnership

Adani Defence and Aerospace has announced a strategic cooperation agreement with UAE-based EDGE Group, aimed at integrating their defence and aerospace capabilities. This partnership will leverage their combined product portfolios to cater to global and regional defence needs, emphasizing advancements in technology and bilateral cooperation between India and the UAE.

Key Points:

- The agreement concentrates on aligning their individual product domains, including missiles, weapons, unmanned systems, air defense solutions, electronic warfare, and cyber technologies.
- This collaboration aims to boost military capabilities and establish fresh benchmarks in the worldwide defense sector.

About Adani Group:

Founder: Gautam Adani

Headquarters: Ahmedabad

Founded: 1988

IAF Participates in 'Red Flag 24-2' Exercise in Alaska, USA

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has landed its most advanced fighter aircraft, Rafale, at the Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, United States of America (USA), to participate in the multinational Red Flag 24-2 exercise.

Key Points:

- The IAF will enhance its skills by training alongside top combat aircraft and weapon systems.
- This marks the first training opportunity for the IAF Rafale with the F-35 stealth fighters.
- The Red Flag exercise is a multinational exercise designed to replicate a realistic and challenging environment.
- It brings together aircrew and equipment from different nations and different services.
- There are two distinct Red Flag exercise locations at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada and in Alaska.
- The exercise in Nevada is organised by the United States Air Force Warfare Center (USAFWC).

About Indian Air Force :

Chief of Air staff – Vivek Ram Chaudhari

Headquarters –Delhi

Founded – 1932

Helen Mary, 1st woman brigadier in Pakistan from minority community

Dr. Helen Mary Roberts, a Christian lady, became the first woman to be promoted to the rank of one-star officer in Pakistan's 77-year military history. Her ascension coincides with increased attention being paid to atrocities against minorities in the nation with a majority of Muslims, particularly against Christians. In a historic move, the Pakistani Army elevated Dr. Helen Mary Roberts, a Christian woman, to the esteemed rank of Brigadier in the nation with a majority of Muslims.

Key Points:


- Data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics in 2021 indicates that 96.47% of the population are Muslims.
- Hindus make up 2.14% of the population, while Christians represent 1.27%.
- Ahmadi Muslims account for 0.09%, with the remaining 0.02% categorized as "others."
- Dr. Helen Mar Roberts holds the position of senior pathologist in the Pakistan Army Medical Corps, with the rank of Brigadier.
- With 26 years of service in the Army, she has demonstrated dedication and commitment.
- The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), representing the Pakistan Armed Forces, highlighted Dr. Roberts as a prime example of merit and national representation within the Army.

About Pakistan:

Capital : Islamabad

President : Asif Ali Zardari

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Indian Air Force and Navy Participate in Mega Multinational War Games

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has deployed its formidable Rafale fighter jets for the two-week multinational air exercise Red Flag, which commenced on May 30 in Alaska. The IAF contingent, supported by IL-78 air-to-air refuelers and C-17 transport aircraft, arrived at the Eielson Air Force Base in the United States for the advanced aerial combat training exercise.

Key Points:

- The Indian Navy is deploying the indigenous stealth frigate INS Shivalik for the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise.
- RIMPAC 24 is scheduled to be held in Hawaii from June 25 to August 2.
- The deployment aims to enhance interoperability with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, the U.S. Navy, and other participating partner navies.
- INS Shivalik's participation underscores India's commitment to maritime security and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

India Successfully Tests 'Abhyas' High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully completed six consecutive development trials of High Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) 'ABHYAS' with improved booster configuration from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.

Foot Note:

- Successful Development Trials: ABHYAS completed 10 development trials, confirming the system's reliability.
- Enhanced Systems: Trials featured improved Radar Cross Section, Visual, and Infrared augmentation systems.
- Validation of Mission Objectives: Trials validated various mission objectives including safe booster release, launcher clearance, and endurance performance.
- Rapid Launch Capability: Demonstrated capability with two launches conducted back-to-back within a 30-minute gap, highlighting operational efficiency with minimal logistics.
- Service Witnessing: Representatives from the Services observed the flight trials.

SAMEER, MeitY and MCTE, Indian Army forge strategic partnership for technological advancement

- In a landmark event today, Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Indian Army and Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER), an autonomous R&D laboratory under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to advance collaboration in 'Next Generation Wireless Technologies for Indian Army'.
- The MoU was signed by Lt Gen K H Gawas, Commandant MCTE and Colonel Commandant Corps of Signals and Dr P H Rao, Director General SAMEER. The initiative is aligned with the Indian Army's declared vision for 2024 as the 'Year of Technological Absorption'. Plans include establishing an 'Advanced Military Research and Incubation Centre' at MCTE, focusing on advanced wireless technologies.

Indian Army Opened Khalubar War Memorial To Tourists in Ladakh

- In Ladakh, as a tribute to the heroes of the Kargil War, the Indian Army has opened the Khalubar War Memorial to tourists. This opening ceremony was part of the 'Forever in Operations' Division's Pre-Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations as this year, the country will celebrate the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26 July. Located in the renowned Aryan Valley this memorial commemorates the bravery and sacrifices of soldiers who fought to reclaim the valley during the war.
- Khalubar, a serene valley near the border, became a focal point during the Kargil War when enemy forces captured it. The area was recaptured by the valiant efforts of Indian soldiers, including Captain Manoj Pandey, whose heroic actions are now immortalized at the memorial. Alongside the military, the local men and women played a pivotal role in the battle, cementing the valley's historical and cultural significance.

SPORTS NEWS

FIDE World Junior Chess Championships 2024

- India's Divya Deshmukh & Kazakhstan's Nogerbek Kazybek crowned the Champions.
- It was held at the Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- FIDE HQ : Lausanne, Switzerland, President : Arkady Dvorkovich, Founded: 1924

Indian Ultimate Frisbee Team Secures Silver at 2024 Asia Oceanic Championship in Japan

- The Indian National Ultimate Frisbee mixed team proudly secured a silver medal at the 2024 Asia Oceanic Ultimate Beach Championships (AOUBC) in Shirahama, Japan. They faced the reigning champions, the Philippines, who also claimed first place in the men's and women's categories, solidifying their status as the top team in Asia.

- This achievement, in a competition featuring teams from across Asia, Australia, and New Zealand, marks a significant milestone for Ultimate Frisbee, a sport still in its early stages of development in India. In the 2019 edition of the AOUBC, the Indian team won the bronze medal. This year, with the exception of one player from Bengaluru, the 18-member team predominantly comprised athletes from Chennai, selected through national tryouts and a selection camp.

Neeraj Chopra wins gold medal at the Paavo Nurmi Games 2024

- Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra marked his return to the circuit with a gold medal in the men's javelin throw at the Paavo Nurmi Games 2024 Tuesday. His winning throw of 85.97m saw him top a strong field of eight competitors. Anderson Peters, Max Dehning, Keshorn Walcott, Neeraj Chopra, Oliver Helander, Andrian Mardare, Lassi Etalatalo & Toni Keranen were the eight contestants in the competition.
- Chopra began steadily with a throw of 83.62m. Local favourite Oliver Helander pushed him for the lead, taking the top spot with an 83.96m throw in the second round. However, Chopra responded with his best throw of the day, a soaring 85.97m effort in his third attempt. His trademark roar returned as Chopra celebrated his throw in a typical manner.

Pat Cummins registers first hat-trick of T20 World Cup 2024

- Just a few hours after he was presented the Sir Garfield Sobers trophy for winning the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year award 2023, Pat Cummins took a hat-trick against Bangladesh in their T20 World Cup Super 8 clash at Antigua.
- Patrick James Cummins (born 8 May 1993) is an Australian international cricketer who captains the Australia men's national cricket team in Test and One Day International cricket. He is also the current captain of Sunrisers Hyderabad in the 2024 Indian Premier League. Cummins is widely regarded as an all-time great fast bowler in Test cricket and one of the finest fast bowlers of his generation. He is also known for being a handy lower-order batsman.

Magnus Carlsen, Ju Wenjun Win Norway Chess Titles

The prestigious Norway Chess Tournament witnessed an electrifying conclusion as the reigning World No. 1, Magnus Carlsen, etched his name into the annals of chess history by claiming his sixth title. In a gripping final round, Carlsen outmanoeuvred the formidable Fabiano Caruana in an intense Armageddon match, solidifying his dominance on the global stage.

Key Points:

- Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu, a young Indian prodigy, demonstrated his exceptional talent.
- He managed to draw against the formidable Hikaru Nakamura in a highly tense classical match.
- Despite winning the subsequent Armageddon encounter, Praggnanandhaa finished third overall.
- Hikaru Nakamura maintained his dominance, securing the top spot.

Max Verstappen Dominates Canadian Grand Prix for Third Consecutive Year

The Canadian Grand Prix 2024, also known as the AWS GRAND PRIX DU CANADA 2024, witnessed a remarkable display of skill and determination as Dutch-Belgian racing driver Max Verstappen of Red Bull claimed his third consecutive victory at the prestigious event. The 9th round of the 2024 F1 championships, held at the iconic Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, further solidified Verstappen's dominance on the track.

Key Points:

- Verstappen won the Canadian Grand Prix 2024.
- This victory marked his 60th Formula 1 win.
- It was also his sixth win out of nine races in the current season.
- Despite being the reigning champion, he continues to impress with his skills.
- His relentless pursuit of excellence has left his competitors amazed.

India Named Hosts for 2025 FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup

In a landmark decision, the Executive Board of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) has designated India as the host country for the inaugural FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup featuring 24 teams, set to take place in December 2025. This decision underscores FIH's commitment to expanding opportunities for National Associations and promoting diversity in the sport.

Key Points:

- The FIH's Empowerment and Engagement strategy includes increasing the participating teams to 24, demonstrating a dedication to expanding the sport's accessibility and inclusivity.
- President Tayyab Ikram stressed the importance of diversity highlighted in recent events.
- He eagerly looks forward to witnessing the talent showcased in the upcoming tournament.

About FIH:

President: Tayyab Ikram

Headquarters: Switzerland

CEO: Thierry Weil

Rohit Sharma become the first cricketer in the world to hit 600 sixes in international matches

The Indian cricket team, led by captain Rohit Sharma, kicked off their campaign at the 9th ICC T20 World Cup with a resounding 8-wicket victory over Ireland. The match, played at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York, USA, saw Jasprit Bumrah's magnificent bowling performance of 2 for 6 runs earn him the 'Man of the Match' award.

Key Points:

- Rohit Sharma became the second player globally and the first Indian to hit 100 sixes in ICC's T20 and ODI tournaments, following Chris Gayle's 127 sixes.
- He's the third player, alongside Virat Kohli and Babar Azam, to score over 4000 runs in T20I cricket.
- Rohit Sharma also joined the exclusive club of Virat Kohli and Mahela Jayawardene by scoring 1000 runs in the T20 World Cup, totaling 1015 runs in 40 matches.

Kedar Jadhav has declared that he is retiring from all types of cricket

The 39-year-old dashing batsman, the only World Cupper from Pune, chose the social media for the announcement after leading his Kolhapur team to 54-run loss in the Maharashtra Premier League opener against Ratnagiri at Gahunje.

Key Points:

- He is **captained the Kolhapur Tuskers** in the Maharashtra Premier League, which got underway in Pune on **June 2 2024**.
- Jadhav also represented India in the **2019 World Cup**.
- His last One Day International (ODI) match for India was against **New Zealand** in Auckland on **February 8, 2020**.

R Praggnanandhaa Beats World No 2 Fabiano Caruana: Enter Top 10 World Ranking

Indian teenage chess sensation R Praggnanandhaa continued with his dominating ways in the ongoing Norway Chess competition as he defeated the world number two player Fabiano Caruana in round five in a classical chess game on Saturday night.

Key Points:

- Praggnanandhaa's rise to the top ten reflects his growing prominence and talent in the world of chess.
- He achieved this by defeating Fabiano Caruana, the world number two player, in a classical chess game.

- This was Praggnanandhaa's first time beating both world number one Magnus Carlsen of Norway and world number two Caruana in classical chess.

India's D.P Manu Clinches Gold in Javelin Throw at Taiwan Athletics Open

- India's DP Manu claimed the gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at the Taiwan Open 2024 in Taipei with a throw of 81.58m on Saturday. The Asian Athletics Championship silver medallist achieved his best throw in his final attempt. The Taiwan Open is a World Athletics Continental Tour bronze-level meet, offering crucial ranking points.
- Manu's throws at the Taiwan Open progressed steadily, starting with a 78.32m effort and a 76.80m throw in his second attempt. He then improved with throws of 80.59m and 81.52m in his third and fifth attempts, respectively.

Nayana James Clinches Gold Medal in Women's Long Jump at Taiwan Athletics Open

Nayana defeated Sumire Hata from Japan, the current Asian champion, to win the gold medal. Hata earned the silver with a jump of 6.37m, while Yu Jeongmi from the Republic of Korea took bronze with 6.14m.

Key Points:

- Nayana has achieved her fourth podium finish of the season.
- Previously, she claimed victory in the Indian Open Jumps Competition in March, recording a personal best of 6.67m.
- She also won the Federation Cup last month.
- In April, Nayana secured the silver medal at the Indian Grand Prix-1 in Bengaluru.

India secured 9 medals at WTT Contender Lagos 2024, with Sreeja Akula becoming the first Indian to win the WTT Singles title

Indian athletes earned a total of 9 medals (3 gold, 1 silver, and 5 bronze) at the World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender Lagos 2024, held from June 19 to 23 at Sir Molade Okoya Thomas Indoor Sports Hall in Lagos, Nigeria.

Foot Note:

- Ayhika and Suthirtha Mukherjee earned bronze in women's singles after losing in the semifinals.
- Sreeja Akula and Archana Kamath clinched the women's doubles title by defeating Yashaswini Ghorpade and Diya Chitale in the finals. Ghorpade and Chitale took home the silver medal.
- Sreeja Akula from India won the 2024 WTT Women's Singles championship by defeating China's Yijie Ding in the finals.

- Her victory in the finals made her the first Indian player to claim a Women's Singles title at the WTT Contender tournament.

Max Verstappen of Red Bull claimed the 2024 Spanish GP title

Red Bull's Max Verstappen, a Belgian-Dutch racing driver, won the 2024 Spanish Grand Prix (GP) (officially known as the Formula 1 (F1) Aramco Gran Premio de España 2024) held at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya in Montmeló, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain.

Foot Note:

- Verstappen's victory in the 2024 Spanish GP is his 7th win out of 11 races this season and marks his 61st career win.
- Verstappen and Norris have finished 1-2 (in either order) five times in the last six races.
- Verstappen now leads the F1 drivers' championship standings with 219 points, followed by Norris in 2nd with 150 points, and Charles Leclerc of Ferrari in 3rd with 148 points.
- Norris secures the 2nd position in the drivers' championship standings for the first time.
- The 2024 Spanish GP is the 10th round of the 2024 F1 World Championship.

AFMS Officers Create History at 43rd World Medical and Health Games in Saint-Tropez

- Four officers from the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) have achieved a historic milestone by participating in the 43rd World Medical and Health Games held in Saint-Tropez, France. This remarkable event saw participants from over 40 countries competing in various sports. The AFMS officers showcased exceptional performance, bringing laurels to India by securing top positions in multiple disciplines.
- Their participation not only highlighted the prowess of Indian medical professionals on an international stage but also underscored the importance of physical fitness in the medical profession. The AFMS officers participated in diverse sports categories, including athletics, tennis, and swimming. Their performance was commendable, with several officers winning gold, silver, and bronze medals.

AWARDS NEWS

Renowned Wildlife Filmmaker Shri Subbiah Nallamuthu announced as winner of V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award at 18th MIFF

- The 18th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) is honoring the illustrious wildlife filmmaker Shri Subbiah Nallamuthu by conferring upon him the much coveted V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award, announced Dr. L. Murugan, the Minister of State

for Information & Broadcasting. Shri Subbiah Nallamuthu, has made exceptional contributions to wildlife cinematography, earning him global acclaim.

- An alumnus of the Film and Television Institute of India, he gained prominence with his work on Living on the Edge, India's longest-running Panda Award-winning environment series. His expertise extends to his tenure with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as a high-speed cameraman.

Arya Vaidya Sala celebrates award of honorary DSc degree to P.M. Varier

- Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala celebrated the award of honorary Doctor of Science (DSc) degree to its managing trustee and chief physician P. Madhavankutty Varier. The degree was awarded to him and two others by the Kerala University of Health Sciences
- The recognition of Dr. Varier's contributions reflects the growing acceptance and appreciation for Ayurvedic medicine and its holistic approach to health and well-being. Ayurveda, an ancient Indian system of medicine, has witnessed a resurgence in recent years, with more people seeking alternative and complementary therapies. The Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala, with its rich heritage and dedication to scientific research in Ayurveda, has played a pivotal role in promoting and advancing this traditional medical system.

Sarabjot Singh Shines at ISSF World Cup in Munich

The International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup, a prestigious shooting tournament, is currently underway in Munich, Germany, from May 31 to June 8, 2024. Amidst the intense competition, Indian shooter Sarabjot Singh has etched his name in history by claiming India's first medal at the event.

Key Points:

- Sarabjot Singh achieved a remarkable victory by winning the gold medal in the men's 10-meter air pistol event.
- He demonstrated exceptional skill and precision, scoring an impressive 242.7 points in the final, surpassing his competitors.
- Shuaihang Bu from the People's Republic of China secured the silver medal.
- Robin Walter from Germany earned the bronze medal, settling for third place.

About ISSF:

Headquarters: Germany

Presidents: Vladimir Lisin, Luciano Rossi

Founded: 1907

Nar Singh received the Dilip Bose Lifetime Achievement Award

The All India Tennis Association (AITA) has announced the Dilip Bose award for lifetime achievement to coach Nar Singh. The first award would be presented to the 69-year-old Rohini Lokhande who was a member of the national team along with Kiran Bedi, Nirupama Mankad, Susan Das and Udaya Kumar, before she took to coaching at a young age.

Key Points:

- In 2002, the All India Tennis Association established a lifetime achievement award in honor of Dilip Bose.
- This award, accompanied by a cash prize of Rs. 50,000, will be given during the 11th National Coaches Workshop.
- The workshop is scheduled to take place at the PYC Hindu Gymkhana in Pune on June 7 and 8.

Vellayan Subbiah Named EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2024

Vellayan Subbiah, Executive Vice Chairman of Tube Investments of India (TII) and Chairman of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co Ltd., secured the prestigious EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2024 award, marking the fourth time an entrepreneur from India has won this global title. His visionary leadership and transformative strategies have propelled both TII and Chola to unprecedented success, earning him recognition on the global stage.

Key Points:

- Subbiah embarked on his entrepreneurial journey with a foundation in engineering and strategic consulting.
- He transitioned into a leadership role within his family's business.
- At Cholamandalam Investment and Finance, he navigated through difficult periods and eventually ascended to the position of Chairman.
- Under his leadership, the company experienced impressive growth in market capitalization.
- Following his success at Cholamandalam, Subbiah assumed control of Tube Investments of India (TII).
- He implemented substantial changes to the business model of TII.
- Through his efforts, TII witnessed significant growth in its share price.

Carlos Alcaraz has won the men's singles title at French Open 2024

The French Open 2024 witnessed a thrilling conclusion as the young Spanish sensation, Carlos Alcaraz, emerged victorious in the men's singles final. In a gruelling five-set battle against the formidable Alexander Zverev, Alcaraz showcased his resilience and skill, conquering the German with a scoreline of 6-3, 2-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2.

Key Points:

- Alcaraz, aged only 21, has made a significant mark in tennis history.
- He has become the youngest man in the Open era to win Grand Slam titles on hard court, clay, and grass surfaces.
- This remarkable achievement highlights his versatility and steadfast determination in tennis.
- Iga Swiatek, the determined player, secured victory once more at Roland Garros stadium in the women's singles final.
- This 23-year-old Polish tennis star won her fourth French Open title.
- Her dominance on clay courts further establishes her reputation as a master of the surface.

Iga Swiatek eases past Jasmine Paolini to win third consecutive French Open

Iga Swiatek won her third consecutive French Open championship, defeating Jasmine Paolini of Italy 6-2, 6-1 in the final. This victory marks her fourth French Open title in five years and her fifth Grand Slam title overall.

Key Points:

- Swiatek joins an elite group as the third woman to achieve the feat of winning three consecutive titles at the French Open.
- She follows in the footsteps of Monica Seles, who achieved this from 1990 to 1992, and Justine Henin, who did so from 2005 to 2007.
- Four years ago, Swiatek secured her first Grand Slam victory at the French Open.
- In 2022, she added to her Grand Slam tally by clinching the US Open title.

Sanya Malhotra has won the Best Actress award at the New York Indian Film Festival 2024

At the prestigious New York Indian Film Festival 2024, Sanya Malhotra has etched her name in glory by winning the Best Actress award for her captivating performance in the film "Mrs." This triumph marks a significant milestone in Malhotra's burgeoning career and underscores her exceptional talent as an actress.

Key Points:

- "Mrs" is a thought-provoking adaptation of the Malayalam movie "The Great Indian Kitchen," exploring societal pressures and marital expectations.
- Malhotra's portrayal of a woman facing the challenges of marriage while seeking her own identity has been praised by both audiences and critics.
- The film addresses the issue of societal conformity, and Malhotra's nuanced performance has struck a chord, depicting a woman's journey to find her voice and identity amid traditional norms.

Sanjana Thakur Wins 2024 Commonwealth Short Story Prize

Sanjana Thakur has been named the overall winner of the 2024 Commonwealth Short Story Prize. The prize, valued at £5,000 (approx. \$8,664.38 Cdn), recognises the best piece of unpublished short fiction from the Commonwealth's 56 member states.

Foot Note:

- The Commonwealth Short Story Prize is awarded annually.
- It selects the best short fiction from five regional winners: Africa, Asia, Canada and Europe, Caribbean, and Pacific.
- Thakur's story, Aishwarya Rai, initially won the Asia category before being selected as the overall winner.
- This prestigious recognition underscores Thakur's exceptional storytelling skills.

RailTel Receives ET Government PSU Leadership & Excellence Award 2024

RailTel was honoured with the ET Government PSU Leadership & Excellence Award 2024 in the 'Leadership in Digital Transformation' category. The award ceremony took place during the 5th ET Govt National PSU Summit 2024, where Dr. Jitendra Singh presented the prestigious accolade.

Foot Note:

- The award recognizes RailTel for its outstanding achievements in digital transformation within the public sector.
- RailTel received recognition for effectively deploying the Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) across 709 healthcare facilities of Indian Railways.
- HMIS implementation has enhanced hospital operations and elevated patient care standards through electronic medical record management.

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Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank bags national award for APY enrolment

- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB), sponsored by Canara Bank, has received the national award for significant enrolment under the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
- At a summit held in New Delhi, the chairman of KVG Bank Shreekant M. Bhandiwad received the award from Secretary, DFS, Government of India Vivek Joshi and Chairman of PFRDA Deepak Mohanty. APY provides a safety net for workers in the informal sector, ensuring a pre-defined pension after 60 years.

Foot Notes:

About Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank:

Headquarters: Dharwad

Founded: 12 September 2005

Chairman : Shreekant M Bhandiwad

APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

Paytm Appoints Rajeev Agarwal as Non-Executive Independent Director

- Paytm announced that it has appointed Rajeev Krishnamuralilal Agarwal as non-executive independent director of the company, according to a stock exchange filing. Agarwal will join Paytm with immediate effect for a term of five consecutive years. Former Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer Aggarwal is currently serving as independent director of companies such as U GRO Capital, Star Health, TRUST Mutual Fund and ACC Limited.
- Meanwhile, Paytm has also announced the resignation of Neeraj Arora who was the non-executive independent director of the firm. For the unaware, Arora is the former executive of Meta-owned WhatsApp and was previously associated with Google Inc. Currently, he is the founder of halloapp, Inc.

Foot Notes:

About Paytm:

CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Founded: August 2010

Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Cyril Ramaphosa Re-elected as President of South Africa for 2nd Term

- He is the President of African National Congress (ANC) party
- He founded National Union of Mine workers in 1982.
- Capital- Pretoria (executive), Currency- South African Rand

Dhanlaxmi Bank appoints Ajith Kumar KK as MD and CEO

- Private sector Dhanlaxmi Bank has appointed Ajith Kumar KK as Managing Director (MD) of the bank. He will take charge on June 20, Kerala-based Dhanlaxmi Bank said in a regulatory filing. The bank will seek approval of the shareholders for the said appointment within the prescribed time period in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and SEBI regulations.
- Ajith Kumar KK's career at Federal Bank has equipped him with a robust understanding of banking operations and strategic leadership, making him well-suited to lead Dhanlaxmi Bank as its new MD & CEO.

Foot Notes:

About Dhanlaxmi Bank:

Headquarter: Thrissur, Kerala

Founded: 14 November 1927

Tagline: Banking on Relationships forever

Sudhakararao Papa Appointed Director (Enterprise) at BSNL

- Sudhakararao Papa has been appointed as the Director (Enterprise) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), following a rigorous selection process by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) on June 15, 2024. Currently serving as the Chief General Manager of Chennai Telecom District Circle at BSNL, Sudhakararao Papa brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his new role.
- His appointment is pending final vigilance clearances and approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Papa emerged successfully from a competitive pool of 11 candidates interviewed during the selection meeting, showcasing his leadership qualities

and strategic vision for BSNL's enterprise operations. His tenure as Director (Enterprise) is expected to further bolster BSNL's position in the telecommunications sector, driving innovation and operational excellence across the enterprise division.

Foot Notes:

About BSNL:

Founded: 15 September 2000

Headquarter: New Delhi

CEO: Pravin Kumar Purwar

GWEC India appoints Girish Tanti of Suzlon Group as new Chair

- As Global Wind Day is celebrated across the world, GWEC India has announced that Mr Girish Tanti, Vice-Chairman of Suzlon Group, has been appointed as the Chair. The position plays a key role in driving GWEC India's work with national and state government's that assist government and industry's efforts for building the right momentum and establishing policy frameworks that will ensure India delivers on its enormous wind energy and supply chain potential, both onshore and offshore. Mr Tanti steps up to the position to take a dual role with GWEC, having assumed the position of Vice-Chair with the Global Wind Energy Council earlier this year.

Foot Notes:

About GWEC:

Founded: 2005

Headquarter: Brussels, Belgium

Sameer Bansal Appointed CEO of PNB MetLife

PNB MetLife India Insurance has announced Sameer Bansal as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, effective from July 1, 2024. Bansal, currently serving as the Chief Distribution Officer, brings over 25 years of financial services experience to his new role. He will succeed Ashish Srivastava, who is transitioning to MD for MetLife Inc.'s Global Shared Services team in India.

Key Points:

- Sameer Bansal, having joined PNB MetLife in 2007, has been named as the MD and CEO, pending regulatory approvals.
- He brings with him vast expertise in financial services, particularly in overseeing diverse distribution channels.

- His experience spans Bancassurance, Agency, Digital, Employee Benefits, and Direct marketing.

Philemon Yang has been elected as the President of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) on June 6, elected former Cameroonian Prime Minister Philemon Yang as president of the 79th UNGA session. Yang will succeed Denis Francis of Trinidad and Tobago, president of the 78th UNGA session, when the 79th UNGA session opens on Sept. 10 at the UN headquarters in New York.

Key Points:

- Yang, born in June 1947, was Cameroon's prime minister from 2009 to 2019.
- Since 2020, he has held the position of Grand Chancellor of National Orders at the Presidency of the Republic.
- He served as Cameroon's high commissioner to Canada from 1984 to 2004.
- Since February 2020, he has chaired the Panel of Eminent Africans of the African Union.
- Cameroon becomes the 13th African country to have a representative appointed as president of the UN General Assembly, following Uganda (2014) and Nigeria (2019).

Raj Priy Singh Appointed Director in Department of Rural Development

Raj Priy Singh, an Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officer of the 2010 batch, has been appointed as the Director in the Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Rural Development. His appointment follows a recommendation for Central deputation by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and is governed by the Central Staffing Scheme (CSS).

Key Points:

- Raj Priy Singh has been appointed as Director in the Department of Rural Development.
- This appointment falls under the Central Staffing Scheme.
- The duration of his appointment is five years.
- His term begins from the date he assumes charge of the post.
- The appointment remains effective until further orders, or until the completion of five years, whichever occurs earlier.

Prem Singh Tamang Sworn in as Sikkim Chief Minister

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) supremo Prem Singh Tamang on June 10 took oath as the Chief Minister of the Himalayan state for the second consecutive term. The 56-year-old politician

was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya at a function held in Paljoar Stadium in Gangtok.

Key Points:

- SKM achieved a landslide win in the assembly elections.
- They secured victory in 31 out of 32 seats.
- The elections were held on April 19, concurrent with the general election in the state's single Lok Sabha constituency.
- The opposition party, Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF), led by former chief minister Pawan Chamling, won just one seat.
- The official results were announced on June 4.

About Sikkim:

Capital: Gangtok

Governor: Lakshman Acharya

French President Dissolves Parliament After EU Election Defeat

In response to his party's heavy loss in the European Parliamentary elections, French President Emmanuel Macron has dissolved the National Assembly and called for snap parliamentary elections. The far-right Rassemblement National (RN) secured a significant victory, winning 31.5% of the vote compared to Macron's Renaissance Party's 15.2%. Macron announced the dissolution of the National Assembly in an hour-long national address, citing the need to restore trust in the French electoral process.

Key Points:

- Macron's choice to dissolve the National Assembly starts a procedure leading to snap parliamentary elections.
- The first round of voting is set for June 30.
- A runoff round will follow on July 7.
- These elections provide French citizens with a chance to reshape the political landscape.
- This action is a response to the outcome of the EU vote.

About French:

Capital: Paris

President: Emmanuel Macron

Prime minister: Gabriel Attal

Philemon Yang, former Prime Minister of Cameroon, has been elected as President of the 79th session of the UNGA

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) elected Ambassador Philemon Yang, former Prime Minister (PM) of Cameroon (2009 to 2019) by acclamation, as President for its 79th session starting on 10 September 2024.

Key Points:

- Philemon Yang will succeed Ambassador Dennis Francis of Trinidad and Tobago as President of the 79th Session of the UNGA.
- The theme for the 79th session is "Unity in diversity, for the advancement of peace, sustainable development, and human dignity for everyone everywhere."

"Election results:

- African and Asia-Pacific Group: Pakistan received 182 votes, Somalia received 179 votes, with 5 countries abstaining.
- Latin America and the Caribbean Group: Panama received 183 votes, Argentina received 1 vote, with 6 countries abstaining.
- Western European and Other States Group: Denmark received 184 votes, Greece received 182 votes, Italy and Norway each received 1 vote, with 2 countries abstaining.

Abhijit Kishore and Rahul Vatts Appointed as New Leadership of COAI

The Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) has announced its new leadership for the 2024-25 term, effective from June 2024. Abhijit Kishore, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Vodafone Idea (VI), has been appointed as the Chairman, while Rahul Vatts, Chief Regulatory Officer (CRO) of Bharti Airtel, will serve as the Vice Chairman.

Key Points:

- Abhijit Kishore, boasting more than thirty years of telecom industry experience, brings extensive expertise to his recent appointment.
- Before assuming the position of COO at Vodafone Idea, he spearheaded the company's Enterprise Business division.
- Rahul Vatts, a seasoned telecom professional with 29 years of experience, holds expertise in various areas such as Telecom and Broadcasting Licensing, Economic Regulations, Spectrum Management, and Regulatory Litigation.

About COAI:

Headquarters : Kolkata

Founded :1995

Chairman : Pramod K Mittal

Sheikh Sabah Al Khalid Al Sabah has become the Crown Prince of Kuwait

Sheikh Meshal recently dissolved parliament for as many as four years amid the widespread political dysfunction that's gripped Kuwait. Kuwait Emir named the small nation's new crown prince, nearly six months after he took the throne. Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al Sabah will become next in line to the throne.

Key Points:

- Sabah replaced Mohammad Al Sabah as the foreign minister.
- He also served as the minister of state for cabinet affairs after a reorganization on December 14, 2011, until Mohammad Abdullah Al Mubarak Al Sabah took over.
- Sabah became the first deputy prime minister on August 4, 2013.
- Following the resignation of Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Sabah became Kuwait's eighth prime minister on November 19, 2019.
- He resigned from the government on April 5, 2022, which was accepted by the emir on May 10, 2022.

About Kuwait:

Capital: Kuwait City

Currency: Kuwaiti Dinar

Rakesh Mohan Joshi has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor of IIFT

Rakesh Mohan Joshi, an international trade and management expert, has been appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), a prestigious business school under the Ministry of Commerce.

Key Points:

- Joshi assumed the position of Vice-Chancellor at IIFT, a prestigious institution focused on international trade and management education.
- Before becoming Vice-Chancellor, he worked as the Dean at IIFT and served as the Director at the Indian Institute of Plantation Management in Bengaluru.
- IIFT officially announced Joshi's appointment as Vice-Chancellor, expressing pride in his new role.

About IIFT :

Chairman: Ratnadeep Lal

Founded:2002

PV Sindhu Appointed Brand Ambassador For Tobacco Control

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, organized an event to observe World No Tobacco Day 2024. This year's theme, "**Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference,**" highlights the urgent need to shield youth from the detrimental influences of

tobacco consumption. During the event, the Union Health Secretary, **Shri Apurva Chandra**, addressed the gathering through a video message, focusing on the devastating **impact of tobacco use**.

Key Points:

- Shri Apurva Chandra highlighted the Government's proactive approach in implementing measures at multiple levels—**local, national, regional, and global**—to reduce tobacco prevalence and exposure to tobacco smoke, promoting healthier communities.
- He revealed the primary focus areas for tobacco control initiatives in 2024, which consist of enforcing India's National Tobacco Control Law – **COTPA 2003 rigorously**.
- The initiatives aim to intensify public awareness campaigns, **enhance the number of tobacco-free educational institutions**, and establish tobacco-free villages across the country.

Claudia Sheinbaum Elected as First Woman President Of Mexico

Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo has been elected as the first woman president of Mexico after what was a historic landslide win on Sunday. Ms Claudia, who will take office on October 1, will replace her mentor, outgoing President Andres Manuel Lpez Obrador.

Key Points:

- During her victory speech, Ms. Claudia expressed gratitude to the Mexicans who supported her and assured them she wouldn't disappoint.
- She specifically thanked millions of Mexican women and men who voted for her on the historic day.
- Ms. Claudia's statement, as quoted by AFP, emphasized her commitment to not letting down those who placed their trust in her.

About Mexico:

Capital: Mexico City

President: Andrés Manuel López Obrador

S.Tripathy appointed as the first director of UVCE

On this significant day for higher education in Karnataka, the State government has made a crucial appointment that marks a new era for the University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE). This appointment represents an important step in the institution's history and development.

Foot Note:

- S. Tripathy, a renowned professor from the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, has been appointed as the inaugural director of UVCE.

- This appointment marks a significant achievement for UVCE as it strives to enhance its reputation in engineering education.
- The selection of S. Tripathy as director represents a pivotal moment in UVCE's pursuit of academic excellence.

Akhil Gupta Named as the Chairman of Bharti AXA Life Insurance

- Akhil Gupta, currently the Vice Chairman of Bharti Enterprises Limited, has been appointed as the Chairman of Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company Limited, which is fully owned by the Bharti Group. Gupta, with more than 40 years of experience, has played a key role in the growth of Bharti Airtel since its beginning.
- He has demonstrated leadership in forging strategic partnerships for Bharti with leading investors such as Warburg Pincus, Temasek, KKR, Qatar Foundation Endowment, Alternative Investment Fund (AIF), and Sequoia Capital. He has also led the successful public listings of Bharti Airtel, Bharti Infratel and Airtel Africa.

Anuj Tyagi has been appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of HDFC Ergo General Insurance

Anuj Tyagi has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Limited, effective from July 1, 2024. He will take over from Ritesh Kumar, who has been serving as the MD & CEO since 2008. Ritesh Kumar will transition to the role of Deputy Chief Operating Officer (COO) on the Board of Management of ERGO International, starting October 4, 2024.

Foot Note:

- Anuj Tyagi has accumulated around 25 years of professional expertise in banking and insurance.
- His responsibilities have included overseeing Sales channels, Reinsurance, Underwriting, Claims, Technology, and People operations within the industry.
- He joined HDFC Ergo General Insurance in 2008 as the Head of Corporate Business Group.
- Since 2016, he has been a member of the Board of Management.
- He was promoted to the position of Joint Managing Director in 2023.

About HDFC Ergo General Insurance:

Chairman – Keki M Mistry

Headquarters – Mumbai

Founded- 2002

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S N Subrahmanyan takes over as Chairman of LTIMindtree following A M Naik's resignation

Global technology consulting and digital solutions company LTIMindtree has appointed veteran S N Subrahmanyan, (Vice-Chairman) as Chairman with effect from June 27, 2024.

Foot Note:

- Subrahmanyan joined the board of L&T Infotech in 2015 and was appointed Vice Chairman in 2017.
- He played a pivotal role in overseeing the acquisition of Mindtree in 2019.
- Subrahmanyan also facilitated the subsequent merger between L&T Infotech and Mindtree.

About LTIMindtree Limited :

Founded : 23 December 1996

Headquarters : Mumbai

Mark Rutte Appointed as Next Secretary General of NATO

In a significant development for global security, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) has announced the appointment of Mark Rutte, the outgoing Dutch Prime Minister, as its next Secretary General. This decision marks an important milestone for the 75-year-old alliance as it faces critical challenges in the coming years.

Foot Note:

- Mark Rutte, aged 57, is a veteran politician hailing from the Netherlands.
- He has held the position of Dutch Prime Minister for 14 years, establishing himself as one of the longest-serving leaders in Europe.
- Rutte is renowned for his diplomatic acumen and knack for fostering consensus among different parties.
- He is widely regarded as a dependable leader capable of guiding NATO through challenging periods.

About NATO:

Founded: 4 April 1949

Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium

ESAF Small Finance Bank MD elected as Chairman of Sa-Dhan

K Paul Thomas MD and CEO of ESAF Small Finance Bank has been elected as the Chairman of Sa-Dhan, the largest association of community development finance institutions in India. ESAF Small Finance Bank (ESAF SFB) the new age social bank continues to redefine the banking experience to all the stakeholders.

We primarily focus on expanding the banking horizon to new unbanked/underbanked area, yet we stand as a bank for all with presence in urban, semi urban, rural and rural unbanked areas. ESAF started its journey as an NGO during the year 1992, with a larger vision of sustainable and holistic transformation of the poor and the marginalized.

Foot Notes:

About ESAF Small Finance Bank:

Headquarters: Thrissur

Founded: 10 March 2017

Sony Pictures Networks India appoints Gaurav Banerjee as MD & CEO

- Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI) has appointed Gaurav Banerjee as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective on or before August 26, 2024, pending regulatory approvals.
- Banerjee previously served as head of content for Hindi entertainment and Disney+ Hotstar, and business head for Star Bharat, Hindi and English movies, kids and infotainment, and regional (east). In these roles, he oversaw content curation across several languages and also spearheaded original series and films.

Govt Appoints Girija Subramanian as CMD of New India Assurance Company

- The government has appointed Girija Subramanian as chairman and managing director (CMD) of New India Assurance, the largest general insurer in India. She will hold this position from June 19, 2024, until she attains the age of superannuation or until further orders.
- Before her appointment as CMD of New India Assurance, Subramanian served as CMD of AIC of India from September 2022. Her leadership at AIC of India was marked by significant contributions to the company's growth and operations. She succeeded Neerja Kapur, who retired in April, leaving the CMD position at New India Assurance vacant.

Foot Notes:

About New India Assurance Company:

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 23 July 1919

IMPORTANT DAYS NEWS

Conference on 'Yoga for Space' Marks International Day of Yoga 2024 in Bengaluru

- The Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy (CCRYN) and Svyasa, Deemed to be University, jointly organized a landmark conference titled "Yoga for Space" at S-Vyasa University in Bengaluru. This event was held in observance of International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2024, with the theme "Yoga for Self & Society." The conference aimed to unite experts from diverse fields, including space exploration, to explore yoga's potential benefits for society and astronauts.
- The conference began with a traditional prayer, followed by a detailed outline of IDY 2024 activities and challenges, organized by the Ministry of AYUSH. These included a "Yoga with Family" global video contest, YogaTech Challenges for innovative yoga ideas by Indian startups, Yoga Quiz, and Yoga Jingles. These initiatives aim to raise societal awareness and promote vigorous yoga practice, echoing the IDY 2024 theme that a healthy individual contributes to a healthy society.

International Day of Yoga is celebrated every year on 21st June

- The International Day of Yoga is a day in recognition of Yoga, that is celebrated across the world annually on June 21, following its adoption by the United Nations in 2014. As Yoga exercises have shown significant benefits for physical and mental well-being, it was considered important by the UN to globally promote this wellness practice, which originated in ancient India.
- This year marks the 10th International Day of Yoga with the theme "Yoga for Self and Society." Yoga, a transformative practice, represents the harmony of mind and body, the balance between thought and action, and the unity of restraint and fulfillment. It integrates the body, mind, spirit, and soul, offering a holistic approach to health and well-being that brings peace to our hectic lives. Its power to transform is what we celebrate on this special day.

World Oceans day observed on 8th June

World Oceans Day on June 8, 2024, it's crucial to recognize the vital role our oceans play in sustaining life on Earth. Covering nearly 70% of the planet's surface, these vast bodies of water are not only home to countless marine species but also produce around 50% of the world's oxygen.

Key Points:

- The concept of a day dedicated to oceans was initially suggested at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.
- June 8 was officially designated as World Oceans Day by the United Nations General Assembly on December 5, 2008.
- This annual event aims to raise awareness about the deep connection between humans and oceans.
- The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea organizes events each year to promote ocean conservation and emphasize their importance.

Russian Language day observed on 6th June

UN Russian Language Day is observed annually on **June 6th** and was established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2010. This day is dedicated to promoting the study and appreciation of the Russian language. It coincides with the birthday of **Aleksandr Pushkin**, one of the most prominent Russian writers and creators.

Key Points:

- The birthday of **Aleksandr Pushkin**, regarded as the father of contemporary Russian literature, is commemorated on February **6th, 1799**.
- Pushkin's literary journey began at a young age, with his first poem being published when he was just **15 years old**.
- Russian, a Slavic language, ranks as the eighth most spoken language globally and is known for its **fascinating characteristics**.
- It is considered one of the most accessible languages to learn, offering an opportunity to explore its extensive history and delve into the works of celebrated Russian writers.

World Environment day observed on 5th June

Every year on June 5th, World Environment Day raises public awareness about various concerns such as increasing deforestation, which contributes to global warming. In 1972, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution, designating June 5th as World Environment Day during the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.

Key Points:

- The inaugural World Environment Day took place in 1973 under the theme "Only One Earth."

- Since its inception, World Environment Day has been observed every year on June 5th.
- Each year, a different host country and theme are selected for World Environment Day celebrations.
- Organised by: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- Theme: **“Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience”**

OBITUARY NEWS

The Hunger Games’ Actor Donald Sutherland Dies at 88.

- Donald Sutherland, whose acting career spanned six decades and included starring in such highly acclaimed films as Don’t Look Now, M*A*S*H and The Hunger Games, has died aged 88. He died in Miami after a long illness, confirmed by his representatives.
- His son, actor Kiefer Sutherland, also shared the news on X. “With a heavy heart, I tell you that my father, Donald Sutherland, has passed away,” he wrote. “I personally think one of the most important actors in the history of film. Never daunted by a role, good, bad or ugly. He loved what he did and did what he loved, and one can never ask for more than that. A life well lived.”

Renowned wildlife conservationist AJT Jaan Singh has passed away

The world of wildlife conservation has lost a pioneering figure with the passing of A.J.T. Johnsingh, a renowned wildlife field biologist and conservationist, in Bengaluru at the age of 78. Johnsingh’s impact on the field of wildlife conservation was far-reaching.

Key Points:

- Johnsingh started his journey in the early 1970s as a Zoology lecturer in Sivakasi.
- His regular field trips to the forests sparked a deep passion within him.
- This passion motivated him to pursue a Ph.D. in wildlife studies.
- In the early 1980s, his groundbreaking research on elephants played a pivotal role.
- His work influenced the Government of India to establish Project Elephant.
- Project Elephant is a major initiative aimed at safeguarding elephants and their habitats.

British TV Presenter Michael Mosley Discovered Dead on Greek Island

British TV presenter and advocate for healthy living, Michael Hugh Mosley, has been discovered dead on the Greek island of Symi at the age of 67. He was a prominent British television

journalist, producer, presenter, and writer, known for his work with the BBC starting from 1985, following his medical school education.

Key Points:

- Mosley was born in Calcutta, India, on 22 March 1957
- He presented various television programs focusing on biology and medicine, and he was a regular contributor to “The One Show.”
- He also hosted the BBC podcast “Just One Thing” and had a column in the Daily Mail.

Amol Kale, the Honorary President of the Mumbai Cricket Association, dies during the India-Pakistan match

Mumbai Cricket Association president Amol Kale has passed away due to cardiac arrest in New York. Kale had travelled to United States and watched the India vs Pakistan match live from the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium along with MCA secretary Ajinkya Naik and apex council member Suraj Samat on June 9.

Key Points:

- Amol Kale assumed the presidency of the MCA in October 2022, defeating 1983 World Cup winner Sandeep Patil.
- During his tenure, Kale implemented several significant decisions.
- He prioritized the promotion of domestic red-ball cricket as a key focus at the MCA.
- Under his leadership, senior Mumbai players saw a doubling of their match fees.
- This increase followed the Board of Control for Cricket in India's decision to raise fees for domestic players.

About Pakistan:

Capital: Islamabad

President: Asif Ali Zardari

Prime Minister: Shehbaz Sharif

Keladi dynasty expert Gunda Jois passes away in Karnataka

Gunda Jois, a scholar in the history of the Keladi dynasty, passed away at his son's residence at Alalekoppa in Sagar, Shivamogga district of Karnataka, on June 2 evening. He was 94. He is survived by his son and two daughters.

Key Points:

- Jois established a museum at Keladi in 1960, which has proven instrumental in facilitating research on the dynasty for numerous students.
- In 2005, Kuvempu University assumed control of the museum.

- The museum features a diverse array of exhibits including manuscripts, sculptures, paintings, historical documents, and artifacts, all open for public viewing.

About Karnataka:

Capital: Bengaluru

Chief Minister: Siddaramaiah

Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot

Maguni Kuanr, a famous puppeteer who received the Padma Shri award, has passed away

Maguni Charan Kuanr, a famous puppeteer who was honored with the Padma Shri award, has passed away at the age of 88 in Keonjhar, Odisha. He was born in 1937 in the same place. Maguni Kuanr received the Padma Shri award in 2023 from Droupadi Murmu, the President of India. He was recognized for his lifelong dedication to the art world, specifically for preserving the ancient art of rod puppetry and popularizing traditional rod puppet dances.

Key Points:

- Maguni Charan Kuanr was inspired by his father, Baishnab Charan Kuanr, to pursue puppetry.
- He helped bring recognition to Kandhei Nach (rod puppetry) outside of Odisha.
- Maguni Charan Kuanr not only created his own puppets but also designed costumes and narrated the plays performed.
- He founded a group of puppeteers called Utkal Vishwakarma Kalakunja Kandhei Nach, which was based in Keonjhar, Odisha.

Renowned Bharatanatyam Dancer & Padma Bhushan Awardee C V Chandrasekhar Passed Away

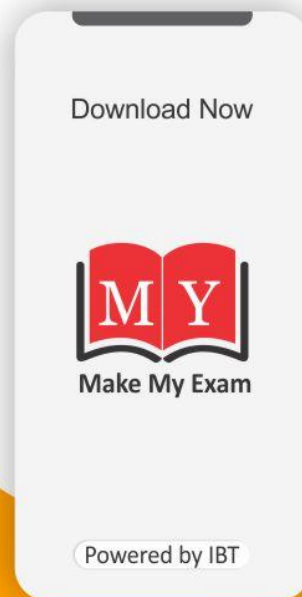
Professor C V Chandrasekhar (fondly referred to as CVC or Chandru anna), a renowned Bharatanatyam Dancer and Padma Bhushan Awardee, has passed away at the age of 89. He was born on 22nd May 1935 at Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.

Foot Note:

- In 2013, he was honored with the M N Subramanian Memorial Award at the Music Academy in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- He was awarded the Natya Kalanidhi by the Association of Bharatanatyam Artistes of India (ABHAI) in 2013.
- He received the UP Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1978, the Gujarat Nritya Natak Akademi Award in 1988, and the Kalidas Samman in 2008.
- He has also been recognized with awards such as the Sangeeta Kala Acharya from the Music Academy and the Nritya Choodamani from Sri Krishna Gana Sabha.

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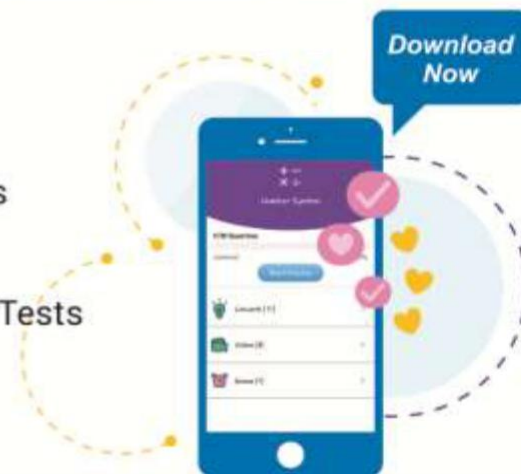
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