

Current Affairs

06th May, 2024



Today's Important News

India is placed 159th out of 180 countries in the 2024 World Press Freedom Index

1. India is placed 159th out of 180 countries in the 2024 World Press Freedom Index

In the latest edition of the World Press Freedom Index published annually by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), India finds itself at a concerning position, ranking 159th out of 180 countries. This marks a slight improvement from its previous rank of 161, yet it still underscores significant challenges faced by journalists in the country.



Key Points

- The World Press Freedom Index assesses 180 countries regarding journalists' freedom and independence in their work.
- It highlights the disparities in press freedom worldwide.
- The Asia-Pacific region, ranked as the second most challenging area for journalism, sees several countries posing significant dangers for media personnel, including Myanmar, China, North Korea, Vietnam, and Afghanistan.
- Remarkably, none of the Asian countries made it to the top 15 in this year's Index, indicating a widespread issue with press freedom across the region.

2. India and Kenya to Discuss Cheetah Sourcing for Wildlife Sanctuary

India has expressed interest in sourcing cheetahs from Kenya for the next stage of Project Cheetah. A delegation of Kenyan officials is due to visit India later this month to discuss the possible translocation, including the number of cheetahs they might be willing to part with.

Key Points:

- The Gandhi Sagar wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh is chosen for this phase of Project Cheetah.
- The project aims to introduce 8 to 14 cheetahs annually over five years, contingent on availability.
- Presently, Kuno holds 27 cheetahs, comprising 13 adults and 14 cubs.
- Ten cheetahs have succumbed to illnesses and infections since the project's initiation, leading to a concerning mortality rate.
- India is considering Kenya as an alternative source for cheetahs due to this high mortality rate.



About Kenya:

Capital: Nairobi

President : William Ruto

Currency : Kenyan Shilling

3. RailTel signs MoU with tech firm for KAVACH implementation projects

- The railways inked an agreement with a tech firm for “exploring and delivering” train collision avoidance system KAVACH implementation projects in India as well as other countries.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for this purpose was signed between RailTel Corporation of India Limited and Quadrant Future Tek Limited.
- KAVACH is an indigenously developed automatic train protection (ATP) system of the Indian Railways.
- It is a highly technology-intensive system that requires safety certification of the highest order.
- The Indian Railways is also marketing the system in other countries.



4. RBI Approves Appointment of Sanjeev Nautiyal as Next MD & CEO of Ujjivan SFB

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given the green light to Sanjeev Nautiyal's appointment as the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited (Ujjivan SFB). His tenure will last for three years starting from 1st July 2024. Before assuming the role of MD and CEO, he will initially serve as the President upon joining the bank.



Key Points:

- Nautiyal's appointment as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer is contingent upon shareholder approval at the forthcoming annual general meeting, as stated in an exchange filing by the small finance bank.
- If approved, Nautiyal will succeed the current Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Ittira Davis.

About RBI:

Founded: 1st April 1935

Headquarters: Mumbai

CEO: Shaktikanta Das

5. Atanu Chakraborty has been reappointed as Part-Time Chairman and Independent Director of HDFC Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as the Part Time Chairman of HDFC Bank for a period of three years w.e.f. May 05, 2024 to May 04, 2027. Following the RBI's approval and upon the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee, the bank's board has ratified Chakraborty's re-appointment as part-time Chairman and Independent Director.



Key Points:

- Atanu Chakraborty is reappointed as Part-Time Chairman and Independent Director of HDFC Bank for a duration of three years.
- Chakraborty has held the position of Part-Time Chairman and Independent Director at HDFC Bank Limited since 2021.

About HDFC Bank:

CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan

Founded: August 1994

Headquarters: Mumbai

6. India, Nigeria to finalise Local Currency Settlement System Agreement

- India and Nigeria have agreed to an early conclusion of a local currency settlement system agreement to further strengthen economic ties between the two countries.
- According to the Department of commerce, a seven-member delegation from India led by Additional Secretary in the Commerce Ministry Amardeep Singh Bhatia visited Abuja, Nigeria for the second session of India-Nigeria Joint Trade Committee (JTC) on April 29-30.
- It was held after a gap of five years.



- Both sides have identified several focus areas to enhance bilateral trade and mutually beneficial investments.

7. Paytm Leadership Changes and Expansion in Financial Services

In a strategic move to bolster its financial services division, Paytm has announced significant leadership changes and portfolio expansions. The company aims to double down on its commitment to offering diverse financial products and enhancing its market presence.



Key Points:

- Bhavesh Gupta, President and Chief Operating Officer in charge of payments and lending divisions, will shift to an advisory position for personal reasons.
- The transition intends to maintain seamless continuity in Paytm's growth endeavors.
- Concurrently, Rakesh Singh is named the new CEO of Paytm Money Ltd.
- This appointment signifies a revitalized emphasis on expanding and innovating wealth management offerings.

About Paytm:

Founder: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Headquarters: Noida

CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Founded: August 2010

8. German Company HyImpulse Launched Candle Wax-Powered Rocket on a Test Flight into Space

HyImpulse, a German private space company, accomplished a successful test launch of the "SR75" rocket powered by candle wax. The launch took place at a site in Koonibba, South Australia. This marks the first instance of a rocket carrying commercial satellites on a test suborbital journey into space.



Key Points:

- The test rocket measures 12 meters in length and weighs approximately 2.5 tonnes, functioning as a single-stage rocket.
- It possesses the capability to transport satellites weighing up to 250 kg to altitudes reaching 250 kilometers.
- The rocket is propelled by a combination of paraffin (candle wax) and liquid oxygen.
- Paraffin serves as the rocket's fuel due to its cost-effectiveness, potentially reducing transportation expenses by 50%. Moreover, it offers a safer alternative fuel option for rockets.

9. Mumbai City FC regain the Indian Super League crown over Mohun Bagan SG

- In the final at the Salt Lake Stadium, Mumbai City FC mounted a remarkable comeback against home favorites Mohun Bagan Super Giant, clinching a 3-1 victory to reclaim the Indian Super League title. After trailing due to a goal from Jason Cummings in the first half, Mumbai City FC swiftly equalized with a strike from Argentine forward Pereyra Diaz immediately after the break.
- Substitutes Bipin Singh and Jakub Vojtus then each found the net in the second half, securing the win for Mumbai City FC. This victory marks their second ISL crown, with their previous win in the 2020-21 season against the same opponent in Goa.



10. Tejaswin Shankar Clinches Gold in High Jump At USATF Festival

India's Tejaswin Shankar won India's first medal in athletics at the Commonwealth games 2022, by clinching a historic bronze in the men's high jump final. Tejaswin, competing for India for the first time in four years nailed a landing of 2.22m to secure a podium finish. He did not have trouble clearing 2.5m and 2.10m in the opening two jumps. Then 2.19m and 2.22m quite easily on the first try.



Key Points:

- Tejaswin Shankar, born on December 21, 1998, is an Indian athlete specializing in the high jump.
- He established the national record for high jump at 2.29 meters in April 2018.
- Shankar secured the gold medal at the 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games held in Apia, achieving a Games record of 2.14 meters.
- At the 2016 South Asian Games in Guwahati, he claimed the silver medal with a jump of 2.17 meters.
- However, due to a groin injury, he finished sixth at the Asian Junior Championships and was unable to participate in the 2016 World Junior Championships.

About USATF:

Headquarters: Indianapolis, Indiana, United States

CEO: Max Siegel

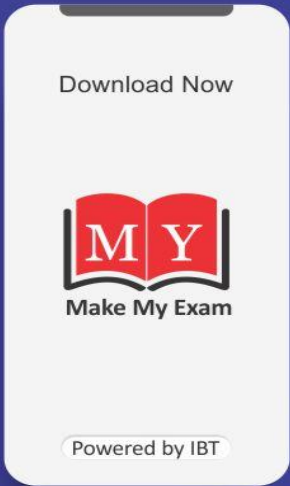
President: Vin Lananna

Founder: William Buckingham Curtis

Founded: 30 January 1878

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