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## NATIONAL NEWS

### India's fiscal situation for the year 2023-24 shows a significant increase in revenue alongside a deficit update.

- India's fiscal deficit for the fiscal year ending March 2024 is anticipated to outperform government projections, coming in slightly better than the estimated 17.35 trillion rupees (\$207.81 billion). This optimistic outlook is attributed to increased tax receipts and bolstered non-tax revenues, according to a government source speaking anonymously in New Delhi. The official announcement regarding the 2023/24 fiscal deficit is slated for May 31st.
- Income tax receipts in India surged by 17.7% year-on-year, reaching nearly \$235 billion in the fiscal year 2023/24. This figure exceeds the government's initial projection, indicating a robust revenue performance for the period under review.

### India's inaugural commercial utility-scale BESS project has gained regulatory approval

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL), along with India Grid Trust (IndiGrid) and the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP), is developing the project. It's a **20 MW/40 MWh** BESS to be installed at BRPL's Kilokari substation in **Delhi**. GEAPP is providing a concessional loan covering **70%** of the **project's total cost**.

Key Points:

- The project will commence its operations within **18 to 20 months**.
- The Project will include cutting-edge technologies for a cleaner, **more sustainable energy future**.
- The project is unique for its cost effectiveness as it will levy annual tariff of **Rs 57.6 lakh** per MW, which is **55%** lower than previous benchmark i.e. Rs 130 lakh per MW per annum.

### Japan Launches World's First 6G Device, 20 Times Faster Than 5G

Japan has launched the world's **first high-speed 6G** prototype device, with data transmission rate of **100 gigabits** per second (Gbps), 20 times faster than the Gold Standard **5G technology**. The 6G device offers services covering an impressive range of 300 feet, showcasing the potential for a significant advancement in internet technology.

Key Points:

- Developed by Japan's leading telecom companies, such as **NTT DOCOMO, NTT Corporation, NEC Corporation India**
- 6G technology offers **real-time holographic communication** and immersive **virtual/mixed reality experiences**.

- Japan's Capital: **Tokyo**, Prime minister : **Fumio Kishida**

### **Centre issues first set of citizenship certificates under CAA to 14 applicants**

The ministry of home affairs has issued the **first set** of citizenship certificates under the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act**. Union home secretary handed over citizenship certificates to **first 14** people in New Delhi after their applications were processed online through a designated portal.

Key Points:

- The amendment aims to **redefine illegal immigrant status** specifically for Hindu, Sikh, Parsi, Buddhist, Jain, and Christian migrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh, excluding Muslims.
- These migrants, residing in India without proper documentation, will be eligible for expedited Indian citizenship **within 5 years**, significantly reducing the waiting period by **11 years**.
- The Act, an amendment to the Citizenship **Act of 1955**, includes provisions for revoking Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) registration if the OCI cardholder violates any provision of the **Citizenship Act or other applicable laws**.

### **Logistics Startup Porter's becomes India's 3rd Unicorn in 2024**

- Logistics startup Porter has become the third unicorn this year, following an internal funding round where friends and family purchased shares directly from the company's employee stock ownership plan, according to sources familiar with the matter.
- Moneycontrol was the first to report the news, which said 15-20 individuals bought shares worth Rs 25 crore in the company, at a valuation of above \$1 billion. Earlier this year, fintech firm Perfios and Ola's AI venture Krutrim had turned unicorns. As per Tracxn, there were 113 unicorns in India as of earlier this month.

### **Thiruvananthapuram International Airport gets certification for waste management**

- Thiruvananthapuram International Airport has achieved the zero waste to landfill (ZWL) certification by the Confederation of Indian Industry Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CII-ITC). The ZWL assessment verified that Thiruvananthapuram International Airport has implemented the best waste management practices and achieved a 99.50% waste diversion from landfill.
- The goal of zero waste to landfill is to divert at least 99% of generated waste from landfills while reducing the amount of waste generated. The assessment of ZWL practices at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport was conducted for the financial year 2022-2023. The main sources of waste generation at the site were paper waste, cutlery waste, food waste, and road waste, which contributed most to the municipal solid waste.

### **First Indian space tourist completes flight**

- Gopi Thotakura, a commercial pilot from India, made history by becoming the **first person** from India to go on a recreational space trip. This happened on **May 19** on a **Blue Origin-owned** spaceship. Participants in the flight, which lasted only ten minutes from start to finish, reached an altitude of about **105 km** above Earth, crossing the Karman line, which is the line between **Earth's atmosphere** and space.
- Private space research encompasses endeavors beyond suborbital journeys, extending to **orbital flights**.
- Dennis Tito, an American, holds the distinction of being the inaugural space tourist.
- **In 2001**, Tito embarked on a journey to the International Space Station (ISS) via a **Russian Soyuz rocket**.
- Longer space expeditions enable tourists to orbit the Earth multiple times, offering prolonged exposure to microgravity.

### **Payal Kapadia's 'All We Imagine as Light' created Indian history by clinching the Grand Prix at Cannes 2024**

The Cannes Film Festival showed some of the **best movies** from around the world. Indian producers got a lot of attention. Notably, All We Imagine As Light, director **Payal Kapadia's first full-length movie**, won the **Grand Prix**.

Key Points:

- Attendees of the festival anticipate numerous film premieres and screenings, predominantly held at the Palais des Festivals et des Congrès.
- Renowned personalities and movie stars worldwide grace the prestigious red carpet events, although access to these events is restricted for the general public and press.
- The interactions with the media and various side events occurring alongside enhance the exclusivity and sophistication of the festival even further.

### **India's first research testbed to be deployed to study Nor'westers**

Meteorologists are planning to use **drones, mobile vans**, and advanced instruments to monitor the powerful nor'westers, also known as **Kalbaisakhi**, which impact the eastern and northeastern regions of India during the summer.

- A proposed research testbed facility, costing millions of rupees, will be established to cover a vast area near **West Bengal, Odisha, and Jharkhand**.
- While the nor'westers were relatively less active this summer, there were sporadic occurrences in **April and early May**.

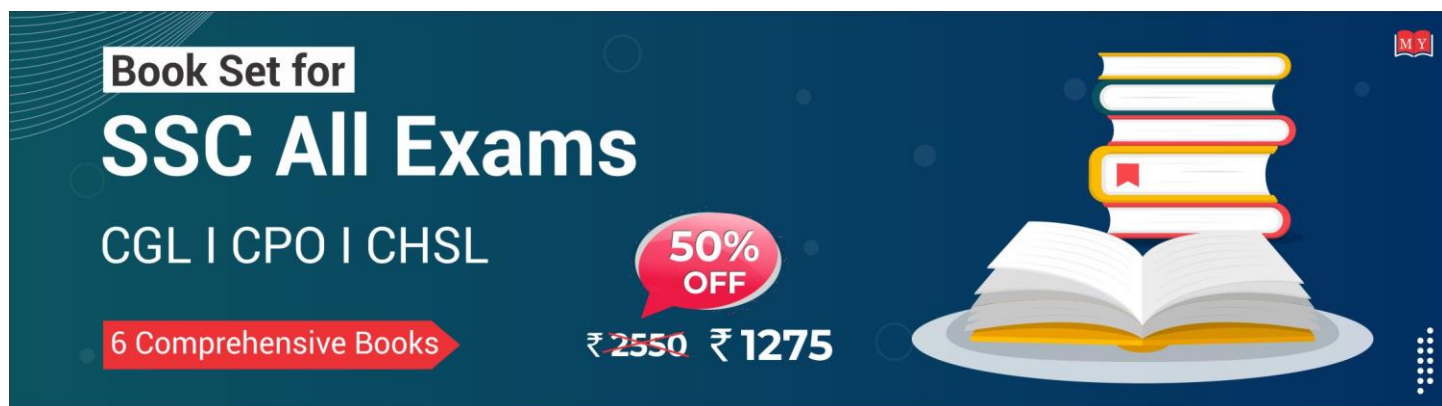
- This study will involve the deployment of meteorological instruments, **drones**, and various other equipment to **systematically monitor and track thunderstorms**.

### Income Tax Department Sets Cost Inflation Index for FY 2024-25

In its latest notification, the Income Tax department has established the Cost Inflation Index (CII) for the financial year 2024-25 at 363. This index is crucial for taxpayers as it aids in computing long-term capital gains arising from the sale of various capital assets, including immovable property, securities, and jewellery.

Key Points:

- The Cost Inflation Index (CII), annually revised by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), mirrors the inflationary patterns within the economy.
- This revision serves to offset the rising prices of goods and services over time.
- Taxpayers find advantage in a heightened CII, allowing for increased tax rebates and a notable reduction in tax obligations.
- Furthermore, the CII simplifies the computation of the indexed cost of acquisition, a pivotal factor in evaluating long-term capital gains.



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### Procter & Gamble India Names Mrinalini Srinivasan as Chief Financial Officer

- Procter & Gamble Hygiene and Health Care, one of P&G India's listed entities that includes brands like Vicks and Whisper, announced the appointment of Mrinalini Srinivasan as the company's chief financial officer (CFO) effective June 29, 2024.
- Srinivasan will succeed Prashant Bhatnagar, who is stepping down after nearly 28 years of service with the company. She joined P&G in 2008 in India and has held positions across different geographies, including Singapore, India, and Dubai.

### India's first urban ropeway in Varanasi to be ready by August 2024

Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, is getting its first urban ropeway, scheduled to be completed by August 2024. Apart from reducing travel time, this ropeway will offer a bird's-eye view of the city. Prime



Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the ropeway on March 24, 2022, as part of the 'Pravatmala Pariyojana' National Ropeways Development Programme.

Key Points:

- The travel time from Varanasi Junction to Godowlia will be greatly reduced by this project, taking only 16 minutes.
- The service will feature around 150 gondolas, each accommodating ten passengers, allowing up to 6,000 passengers to be transported per hour.
- Gondolas will arrive at each of the four stations every two to three minutes, ensuring smooth and efficient commuting.

### **NSDC & ILO Partners to Enhance Skill Development & Lifelong Learning**

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has signed an Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to advance skill development and lifelong learning in India and globally.

Key Points:

- Helping people worldwide gain important skills and qualifications to improve their job prospects and contribute to sustainable economic growth.
- Creating better policies, governance, and funding systems to improve skill development at both national and global levels.
- The Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) is a central part of this partnership, focusing on practical implementation.

About ILO:

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Founded: 1919

About NSDC:

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 2008

CEO: Ved Mani Tiwari

## **STATE NEWS**

### **Climeworks unveiled the world's largest DAC + S plant, named 'Mammoth', in Iceland**

A Swiss startup called Climeworks AG has launched the biggest Direct Air Capture and Storage (DAC + S) plant in the world, named "**Mammoth**," in Iceland. Mammoth will take Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) out of the air and store it underground as rock. This is Climeworks' second **DAC**

+ **S** plant, and it's much larger than their first one called **Orca**, which opened in Iceland in 2021. Mammoth is designed in sections and will be finished by the end of 2024.

Key Points:

- To capture air, Mammoth uses renewable energy from geothermal sources, which produce low-temperature heat.
- After the **CO<sub>2</sub>** is filtered out, it's taken underground where it reacts with basaltic rocks, turning into stone naturally.
- Mammoth has a total of **72** collector containers, with **12** already set up on-site.
- **By 2030**, the technology aims to lower the cost of removing CO<sub>2</sub> to \$400 to \$600 per ton, and by 2040, it aims to reduce it further to \$200 to \$350 per ton.

About Iceland:

Capital: Reykjavik

Prime Minister (PM): Bjarni Benediktsson

Currency: Icelandic Krona (IKR)

### 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

### 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.

### Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey Inaugurates 'School On Wheels'

"School on Wheels" initiative aiming to impart **education** to students sheltered in **relief camps** in the state following the year long **ethnic strife** in the state. Manipur Governor **Anusuiya Uikey** launched the "School on Wheels" initiative. Under this the school bus, equipped with a **library**, **computers**, and **sports items**, would visit different camps accompanied by a teacher.

Key Points:

- The Governor expressed appreciation for the initiative, **emphasizing** that children in the camps should **not experience** any educational shortcomings.
- She highlighted that the initiative would facilitate reaching **displaced students** residing in relief camps.

About Manipur:

Capital: Imphal

Chief Minister: N. Biren Singh

Governor: Anusuiya Uikey

### Uttarakhand Launches 'Pirul Lao-Paise Pao' campaign to Combat Forest Fires

According to the "**Global Electricity Review 2024**" report by the international energy analytics agency Ember, India became the world's third-largest solar power producer in 2023, surpassing Japan. India generated 113 Terawatt-hours (TWh) of solar power, while Japan generated **110 TWh** during the same period. This marked a significant advancement for India, as it climbed from 9th place in solar energy production in **2015**. Solar energy generation in India increased by **17 times** from 0.5% in 2015 to 5.8% in 2023. Additionally, India's wind energy generation saw a slight increase from **2.5% to 4.2%** in 2023.

Key Points:

- India had the world's **fourth-largest** increase in solar power generation in 2023, adding 18 terawatt hours (TWh). Only **China**, the United States, and Brazil had larger increases.
- India ranked **5th globally** in installed solar power capacity with **73 gigawatts (GW)**, while Japan ranked 3rd with 83 GW.



- Solar energy made **up 5.5%** of the world's electricity in 2023, while wind power contributed 7.8%.
- Solar power has been growing faster than any other energy source globally for 19 years in a row, beating coal. Solar generation increased by **307 TWh** (23%), while wind increased by **206 TWh** (9.8%).
- Differences between **installed capacity and actual production** show changes in demand and local conditions.

About Uttarakhand:

Capital: Dehradun (Winter)

Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami


Governor: Gurmit Singh

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### Delhi Ranks 350 In Oxford Global Cities Index Report 2024

- Delhi has achieved the best ranking among Indian cities in the 2024 Oxford Economics Global Cities Index, positioned at 350th. This index analyzes the global standing of 1,000 cities based on several pivotal categories. The index contains five categories: Economics, Human Capital, Quality of Life, Environment, and Governance, which are aggregated to create an overall score for each city.
- New York ranks first on the index, followed by London, San Jose, Tokyo, Paris, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Melbourne and Zurich. In India, Bengaluru is ranked 411, Mumbai 427, Chennai 472, Kochi 521, Kolkata 528, Pune 534, Thrissur 550, Hyderabad 564 and Kozhikode 580. South Indian cities appear to be ranked higher on the list.

### Ambaji Marble from Gujarat Receives Geographical Indication (GI) Tag from Central Government

Marble mined in Gujarat's Ambaji has been awarded the **Geographical Indication** (GI) tag by the **Central Government**. Ambaji Marble is renowned for its stunning white appearance and unique natural patterns. It is also known as **Amba White Marble** and **Ambe White Marble**.

**Key Points:**

- A Geographical Indication (GI) is a type of **Intellectual Property Right** (IPR).
- It applies to agricultural, natural, or manufactured products (including handicrafts and industrial goods) from a specific geographical area.
- A GI label indicates a product's specific geographical origin and related characteristics.
- The GI tag is valid for **10 years** and can be renewed.
- It has a very **long-lasting shine and durability**.
- The maximum whiteness in the range of **95.80 – 96.30 percent**.

**About Gujarat :**

Governor: Acharya Devvrat

Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel

Capital: Gandhinagar

**Assam introduced DRIMS to report damages incurred during disasters**

Assam has launched the Disaster Reporting and Information Management System (DRIMS), a digital platform for accurate reporting and assessment of damages caused by disasters. It is a state-of-the-art initiative of the **Assam State** Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) which was inaugurated by **Ravi Kota**, Chief Secretary of Assam, at Assam Administrative Staff College (AASC), Khanapara in **Guwahati, Assam**.

**Key Points:**

- Ravi Kota opened the State Level Training Program on **Incident Response System** (IRS) for responders, organized by the **National Institute of Disaster Management** (NIDM).
- He also unveiled a handbook on financial aid during disasters, aiming to educate individuals, especially **women, and children**, about their rights and benefits during and post-disasters.

**Conference on Administration of Criminal Justice held in Guwahati**

The Union Ministry of Law and Justice, in collaboration with the Assam Government, organized a conference in Guwahati titled 'India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System'. The conference focused on discussing recent changes in India's criminal justice system. Three new laws were highlighted at the event:

- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita
- Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita
- Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam

These laws will replace outdated British-era laws. Implementation of the new laws is set for July 1, 2024.

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

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

Key points:

- UPPTCL added **1,460 ckm** of transmission lines in **2023-24**, leading among state-run power utility companies.
- Its contribution accounted for over **20% of the total transmission** line additions, while **GETCO contributed around 13%**.
- **Ghanshyam Prasad** is the **current chairman** of UPPTCL.
- The authority comprises **six full-time** members and **a chairman**.
- Its **headquarters** are located in **New Delhi**.

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

In a heartening development, the annual waterhole census conducted in the **National Desert Park**, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, has revealed a significant presence of the **critically endangered** Great Indian Bustard. The survey, which employs the waterhole technique during the scorching summer months, counted a staggering **64 Great Indian Bustards** within the park's boundaries.

Key Points:

- The Great Indian Bustard, also called the "**Godawan**," is Rajasthan's state bird and is critically endangered.
- These magnificent birds are easily identified by their **unique appearance**.
- Their body and wings exhibit a mixture of **brown, black, and grey** colors.

### Sikkim High Court introduces menstrual leave policy for its women employees

The Sikkim High Court registry has introduced a menstrual leave policy for female employees, according to a report from Bar and Bench. The notification specifies that women staff members can avail "2-3 days of menstrual leave" each month.

Key Points:

- Women working in the High Court Registry can now take menstrual leave for 2-3 days per month.
- To take advantage of this leave, they need to first consult the Medical Officer at the High Court.
- The Medical Officer will provide a recommendation for the menstrual leave upon assessment.

About Sikkim:

Capital: Gangtok

Chief minister: Prem Singh Tamang

Governor: Lakshman Acharya

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### 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.

### Nepal introduce new Rs 100 currency note featuring Indian territories

Nepal's government spokesperson **Rekha Sharma** stated that the inclusion of the disputed territories in the currency note's design was decided upon during a meeting led by the Prime Minister of Nepal.

- Nepal has recently revealed plans for printing a **new Rs 100 currency** note, which includes a map featuring Indian territories of **Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura, and Kalapani**, prompting objections from India.
- The decision to include these disputed territories in the new map was made during a meeting chaired by Nepali Prime Minister **Pushpakamal Dahal Prachanda**.
- The council of ministers in Nepal has endorsed the incorporation of the contentious territories into the **updated map of the country**.

About Nepal:

Capital: Kathmandu

Prime Minister: Pushpa Kamal Dahal  
President: Ram Chandra Poudel

### Nepal's Population Growth Rate Hits 80-Year Low at 0.92% Per Annum Over Past Decade

Nepal's population growth rate has dropped to 0.92% per annum over the past decade, the lowest in the last 80 years. The National Statistics Office (NSO) revealed this rate is less than 1% per year during the 10-year review period.

Between mid-April 2011 and mid-April 2021, Nepal's population increased by 2.7 million. Karnali Province has the highest life expectancy at 72.5 years, while Lumbini Province has the lowest at 69.5 years.

About Nepal :

President : Ram Chandra Poudel

Prime Minister : Pushpa Kamal Dahal

Capital : Kathmandu



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### Japan Launches World's First 6G Device, 20 Times Faster Than 5G

Japan has launched the world's **first high-speed 6G** prototype device, with data transmission rate of **100 gigabits** per second (Gbps), 20 times faster than the Gold Standard **5G technology**. The 6G device offers services covering an impressive range of 300 feet, showcasing the potential for a significant advancement in internet technology.

Key Points:

- Developed by Japan's leading telecom companies, such as **NTT DOCOMO, NTT Corporation, NEC Corporation India**
- 6G technology offers **real-time holographic communication** and immersive **virtual/mixed reality experiences**.
- Japan's Capital: **Tokyo**, Prime minister : **Fumio Kishida**

### Highlights of 19th United Nations Forum on Forests held in New York



The 19th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF19) took place at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in **New York**, United States (US), spanning from **May 6 to May 10, 2024**. The event was coordinated by the UNFF Secretariat and presided over by Zéphyrin Maniratanga from **Burundi**.

Key Points:

- During the 19th **UNFF session**, a midterm review of the International Arrangement on **Forests** was conducted.
- Significant outcomes included the declaration of a **High-Level Segment and the adoption of an omnibus resolution**.
- India spotlighted its Forest Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management efforts during the session, which contributed to a consistent increase in forest cover over the **past fifteen years**.
- Additionally, India introduced the '**Green Credit Program**' aimed at incentivizing entities to restore degraded forest lands and engage in tree planting activities.

### **Maiden India Pavilion at World Hydrogen Summit 2024**

India has set up its **own pavilion**, at the World Hydrogen Summit 2024, being held in **Rotterdam, Netherlands**, during May 13 – 15, 2024. The India Pavilion, set up by the Ministry of **New & Renewable Energy**, Government of India, is one of the largest pavilions at the Summit and has been inaugurated by Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, **Shri Bhupinder S. Bhalla**.

Key Points:

- India initiated its National Green Hydrogen Mission in **January 2023**, allocating **Rs. 19,744 crores** for the endeavor.
- The mission aims to achieve a **green hydrogen** production capacity of 5 MMT by **2030**.
- Scheme guidelines have been established for utilizing Green Hydrogen in sectors like **steel, transport, and shipping**.
- The Department of Science and Technology has launched Hydrogen Valley Innovation Clusters to stimulate innovation and bolster the **Green Hydrogen ecosystem in India**.

### **UNESCO adds three Indian literary masterpieces to Memory of the World Register**

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

Key Points:

- The Ramcharitmanas, authored by **Goswami Tulsidas**, the Panchatantra by Pt. **Vishnu Sharma**, and the Sahrdayāloka-Locana by **Acharya Anandvardhan** have had a profound impact on Indian literature and culture.
- These works have left an **enduring impression** on readers and artists, shaping both **moral values and artistic expressions** in the nation.
- The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) played a crucial role in this achievement during the **10th meeting of the Memory of the World Committee** for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP).
- Gaur garnered support from representatives and observers by highlighting the importance of these **literary works**.

About UNESCO:

Founded : 16 November 1945

Headquarters: Paris, France

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

**In FY24, China became India's leading trading partner, with trade valued at USD 118.4 billion**

According to the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), China became **India's biggest** trading partner in FY24, with a total trade volume of **USD 118.4 billion**. In the same period, the United States came in **second place** with USD 118.3 billion in trade with India.

Key Points:

- In FY24, India's exports to China grew by **8.7%** to USD 16.67 billion, driven by sectors like **iron ore, cotton yarn/fabrics, handlooms, spices, fruits, and vegetables**.
- India's imports from China in FY24 rose by 3.24% to USD 101.7 billion, with critical items including telecom and smartphone parts, advanced technology components, and **lithium (Li)** for India's transport sector electrification.
- India's trade deficit with China widened from USD **53.57 billion in FY19** to **USD 85.09 billion in FY24**, as per the GTRI report.

About China:

Capital : Beijing

Premier : Li Qiang

President : Xi Jinping

**Sei Whales Return to Argentina After Century**

For the first time in over a century, sei whales have been observed in the marine areas near **Argentina's Patagonian coast**. This is an important event in marine conservation, symbolising a rebound after years of alarming decline due to historical **whaling activities**.

Key Points:

- During the **1920s and 1930s**, sei whales experienced heavy **hunting pressure**, especially from whaling operations in and around Argentine waters.
- This hunting significantly decreased their population, nearly causing them to vanish from the **region altogether**.
- The species was hunted to the point of almost being wiped out, resulting in sightings becoming **increasingly uncommon**.

About Argentina:

Capital: Buenos Aires

President: Javier Milei

### **Payal Kapadia's 'All We Imagine as Light' created Indian history by clinching the Grand Prix at Cannes 2024**

The Cannes Film Festival showed some of the **best movies** from around the world. Indian producers got a lot of attention. Notably, All We Imagine As Light, director **Payal Kapadia's first full-length movie**, won the **Grand Prix**.

Key Points:

- Attendees of the festival anticipate numerous film premieres and screenings, predominantly held at the Palais des Festivals et des Congrès.
- Renowned personalities and movie stars worldwide grace the prestigious red carpet events, although access to these events is restricted for the general public and press.
- The interactions with the media and various side events occurring alongside enhance the exclusivity and sophistication of the festival even further.

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

In a move that reflects the **strengthening ties** between **India and the Maldives**, the island nation has announced its intention to launch India's **RuPay service**. This decision underscores the growing economic and financial cooperation between the two countries

Key Points:

- RuPay, created by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, stands as India's inaugural domestic **card payment network**.
- Its broad acceptance spans **ATMs**, point-of-sale (POS) devices, and **e-commerce platforms throughout India**.

- This extensive reach has established RuPay as a dependable and convenient payment choice for **millions of Indian consumers**.

### **National Archives Of India Undertakes First Overseas Digitization Of Diaspora Records In Oman**

The Indian Embassy in Muscat and the National Archives of India (NAI) collaborate on a groundbreaking project to archive historical documents of the Indian diaspora in Oman, titled “The Oman Collection – Archival Heritage of the Indian Community in Oman.”

Key Points:

- Running from May 19th to 27th, 2024, this project marks a significant milestone in preserving the rich heritage of the Indian community in Oman.
- This initiative marks a groundbreaking international effort by the NAI to digitize diaspora documents.
- It involves the digitization of over 7,000 documents in languages including English, Arabic, Gujarati, and Hindi.
- Some of these documents date back to 1838, providing invaluable insights into the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- The venture offers a unique opportunity to preserve and access historical records from the diaspora community.

About Oman:

Capital: Muscat

President: Haitham bin Tariq Al

### **India assumed Chair of Colombo Process for 2024-2026**

- India has assumed the Chair of the Colombo Process for 2024-2026, marking the 1st time it has taken on this role since the Process's inception in 2003. It is a Regional Consultative Process involving migrant worker origin countries from South and S-E Asia.
- This forum, consisting of 12 Member States, serves as a platform for sharing best practices on overseas employment and contractual labor.

## **BANKING NEWS**

### **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: 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founder: British Raj

CEO: Shaktikanta Das



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

### 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

### **SEBI introduces Framework for Stock Exchanges to supervise RAs & Ias**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has unveiled a framework for the management and oversight of **Research Analysts and Investment Advisers**. Under this framework, stock exchanges will be designated as **RAASB** (Research Analyst Administration and Supervisory Body) and **IAASB** (Investment Adviser Administration and Supervisory Body) to administer and supervise Research Analysts (RAs) and Investment Advisers (IAs) correspondingly.

Key Points:

- Stock Exchanges are acknowledged as RAASB and IAASB according to **Regulation 14** of the 'RA Regulations' and 'IA Regulations'.
- To streamline operations and save costs, the same stock exchange must serve as both **RAASB and IAASB**.
- Being operational for a **minimum of 15** years.
- Having a net worth of at least Rs **200 crore**.
- Maintaining terminals and investor service centers across **20 cities** nationwide.

About SEBI:

Headquarters : Mumbai

Founded : 12 April 1988

Founder : Government of India

### **ADB Agreed to Replenish USD 5 billion for ADF 14 & TASF 8**

During its **57th Annual Meeting** in Georgia, USA, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and donors have agreed to provide USD **5 billion** for the Asian Development Fund (ADF) 14 and Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF) **8 to support** projects and initiatives.

Key Points:

- ADF 14, the 13th of replenishment of ADF, will support grant operations during **2025–2028**.
- TASF 8 will provide grants that help in preparing **projects, building capacity**, and providing technical or policy advice.
- ADF 14 will be about **22% higher** than the previous ADF 13, which had USD **4.1 billion** available.
- It will offer the largest-ever volume of ADF grants to eligible ADB members.

- **Approximately 51%** of the replenishment, around **USD 2.5 billion**, will be funded by contributions from donors, including two new countries: Armenia and Georgia.
- There will be a significant increase of **35% in ADB's** net income transfer to ADF, rising from **USD 1.2 billion** in ADF 13 to USD 1.6 billion in ADF 14.

### **RBI Reports Housing Credit Surging by Rs 10 Trillion in the Past 2 Years**

- According to Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) data on 'Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit', Credit outstanding to the housing sector rose by nearly Rs 10 lakh crore in the last two fiscals to reach a record Rs 27.23 lakh crore in March 2024.
- This represents a significant rise from Rs 19.88 lakh crore in March 2023 and Rs 17.27 lakh crore in March 2022. It was at Rs 2,97,231 crore in March 2022.

About RBI:

Founded: 1<sup>ST</sup> April 1935

Founder: British Raj

CEO: Shaktikanta Das

### **Reserve Bank of India instructs NBFCs to maintain the Rs 20,000 limit for cash disbursement in gold loans**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a caution to non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) that offer gold loans, warning them against exceeding the Rs 20,000 limit for cash loan disbursement.
- The advisory refers to Section 269 SS of the Income Tax Act, 1961, which prohibits any individual from receiving more than Rs 20,000 as a loan amount in cash.

About RBI :

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

### **SBI's Q4 Report Highlights Strong Performance and Improved Asset Quality**

- In its latest quarterly report, State Bank of India (SBI) showcased remarkable financial performance, recording its highest standalone quarterly net profit at ₹20,698 crore. This exceptional result was primarily driven by a surge in non-interest income, effective cost management, and a favorable adjustment in asset provisions.
- SBI's Chairman, Dinesh Kumar Khara, expressed optimism regarding sustained loan growth and maintained net interest margin. The bank anticipates a 14-16% loan growth

and 12-13% deposit growth for FY25. Notably, gross non-performing assets (NPAs) decreased to 2.24% of gross advances, indicating improved asset quality.

### Transaction Overview: Bharti Enterprises Sells ICICI Lombard Shares for ₹663 Crore

- Bharti Enterprises, led by Sunil Bharti Mittal, divested 38.50 lakh shares of ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company for ₹663 crore through open market transactions. This sale reduced Bharti Enterprises' stake in ICICI Lombard from 2.43% to 1.63%. Concurrently, ICICI Bank, the promoter, increased its stake in ICICI Lombard to 51.7% by purchasing 21 lakh shares.
- Bharti Enterprises sold shares to various entities including Axis Mutual Fund, Aditya Birla Sun Life MF, Invesco MF, Morgan Stanley Asia Singapore, Societe Generale, Goldman Sachs Singapore, and Blackstone Aqua Master Sub-Fund. ICICI Bank, the promoter, acquired additional shares.

### RBI Lifts Restrictions on Bank Of Baroda's 'BoB World' Mobile App

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the lifting of restrictions on Bank of Baroda's **BoB World** mobile application, permitting the bank to onboard customers immediately. This decision follows the RBI's directive in **October 2023** to suspend customer onboarding on the app due to supervisory concerns. Bank of Baroda, in response, has undertaken corrective measures to address these concerns.

Key Points:

- The RBI has lifted restrictions on Bank of Baroda's BoB World app, enabling the bank to onboard customers through the application **without delay**.
- In compliance with regulatory guidelines, Bank of Baroda has confirmed its readiness to resume onboarding new customers through the BoB World application.
- In October 2023, the RBI directed Bank of Baroda to suspend customer onboarding on the BoB World app, citing specific **supervisory concerns**.

About RBI:

Founded: 1<sup>ST</sup> April 1935

Founder: British Raj

CEO: Shaktikanta Das

### TATA AIG General Insurance launches India's first Satellite In-Orbit Third-Party Liability Insurance policy

TATA AIG General Insurance Company Limited has launched **India's first 'Satellite In-Orbit Third-Party Liability Insurance'** policy. This policy offers essential financial protection tailored to the requirements of satellite manufacturers and operators in the Indian space sector.

Key Points:

- The in-orbit coverage addresses the needs of satellite manufacturers and operators in the Indian space sector, especially in the event of solar storms, highlighting the **potential risks** to orbiting spacecraft.
- This policy also protects satellite owners from legal claims arising from **third-party** bodily injury and **property damage** caused by their satellites in orbit.

### **Bajaj Finserv introduces India's inaugural Multi Asset Allocation Fund featuring a Dividend Yield Strategy.**

Bajaj Finserv Asset Management Limited unveiled the Bajaj Finserv Multi Asset Allocation Fund, an **open-ended investment scheme** providing investors with a distinctive opportunity to invest across various asset classes through a **single platform**.

Key Points:

- It is India's **1st Multi Asset Fund** with a dividend yield strategy that aims to provide **stability** and **growth** by diversifying across asset classes.
- Allocate assets across various categories: **35% to 80%** in stocks, **10% to 55%** in bonds, **10% to 55%** in commodities, and **0% to 10%** in REITs/InvITs. This approach covers multiple themes, sectors, and market caps.
- Focus on building a **high-quality portfolio** with a safety-first mindset.
- Adjust allocations in bonds based on factors like overall economic conditions, valuation measures, and investor sentiments.

About Bajaj Finserv Asset Management Ltd:

CEO- Ganesh Mohan

Incorporated – 2021

Headquarters– Pune

### **SBI becomes the first bank as trading,clearing member of IIBX**

the State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest Public Sector Bank (PSB), made an announcement stating that it had achieved a significant milestone. SBI became the first bank in India to serve as a Trading-cum-Clearing Member (TCM) at the India International Bullion Exchange IFSC Limited (IIBX). This exchange is India's inaugural International Bullion Exchange, situated in GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Key Points:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given permission to branches of Indian Banks in GIFT IFSC (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City-International Financial Services Centre) to operate as Trading Members (TM) or Trading and Clearing Members (TCM) of IIBX.

- This authorization also allows authorized Indian Banks to function as Special Category Clients (SCCs) for the importation of Gold or Silver through IIBX.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the IIBX at GIFT-IFSC in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, on June 29, 2022.
- IIBX operates under the regulation of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).
- Entities eligible to become members of IIBX include Registered Partnership Firms, Private Limited Companies, Public Limited Companies, and IBU Branches at GIFT City, among others.

About State Bank of India(SBI):

Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Tag line: The Banker to Every Indian

Founded in: 1955

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### **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd celebrates 250<sup>th</sup> Foundation day**

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) celebrated its 250th anniversary with various events. From its modest beginnings as a small dry dock in 1774, it officially became incorporated in 1934. Since 1960, it has been under the stewardship of the Government of India.

Key Points:

- To commemorate this significant milestone, MDL organized several activities.
- These included the inauguration of newly acquired land from the Mumbai Port Authority (MPA).
- They also launched a prototype of the indigenous midget submarine called 'Arowana'.
- Additionally, they commissioned a Solar Electric Hybrid boat.
- MDL marked the occasion by releasing a Commemorative Coin symbolizing 250 years of its existence.
- Furthermore, a day-long technical seminar was conducted as part of the celebrations.



About Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd:

Headquarters: India

Owner: Government of India (84.83%)

Founded: 1934

### **HDFC Bank & AIM Empower Social Sector Start-Ups with Rs 19.6 Crore Grants**

In FY24 (FY 2023-24), HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, collaborated with **Atal Innovation Mission** (AIM) under **NITI Aayog** to provide grants totaling Rs 19.6 crore to social sector startups.

Key Points:

- The 2024 grant program **emphasized** key areas including Climate Innovation, Financial Inclusion, Agriculture and Sustainable Rural Economy, Accessible and Affordable Healthcare, Education and Livelihood Enhancement, Gender Diversity, and Inclusion.
- Start-ups awarded grants are located in various states such as **Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu (TN), Karnataka, Rajasthan, Delhi, and Haryana**.
- Grants were distributed to incubators like Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre (HITC) at Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT Madras**, TN; Agriculture & Water Technology Development Hub (AWaDH) at **IIT Ropar**, Punjab; Technology-Hub (T-Hub), Hyderabad.
- For FY24, collaborative efforts were made with nodal agencies including **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub** (RBI-H), Ministry of **Food Processing Industries** (MoFPI), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and Goa Start-up mission to develop high-impact tracks.

About HDFC:

CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: August 1994

### **Hinduja Group's IIHL gets the green light from IRDAI for Reliance Capital acquisition**

Hinduja Group's IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL) has obtained approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for the **acquisition** of Reliance Capital. This acquisition encompasses Reliance Capital's insurance **subsidiaries**, including Reliance General Insurance and Reliance Nippon Life Insurance.

Key Points:

- Chairman Ashok Hinduja aims to expand IIHL's listed financial services ventures to reach a market capitalization of **USD 50 billion** by **2030**.
- His vision emphasizes strategic emphasis on **sustainable growth** and value generation.

- IIHL is focusing on aligning with regulatory standards, addressing concerns, and outlining a thorough **financial and operational plan**.
- These efforts aim to ensure a successful acquisition and a **continuous growth** path in the financial services industry.

About Hinduja Group:

Founder: Parmanand Hinduja

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1914

### **Bank of Maharashtra leads PSU banks in business growth for FY24; SBI's net profit for FY24 increases by 21.59%**

According to the published financial numbers of public sector banks (PSBs), Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) stood out as the **top performer** among **PSBs** in terms of business growth for the Fiscal Year **2023-24**. BoM achieved an impressive **15.94% increase** in total domestic business during FY24.

- Deposit **Mobilization Growth** with a **15.66%** increase in deposits in **FY24**.
- Current Account Savings Account (CASA) Deposits with a **52.73%** growth rate
- BoM and SBI followed closely with loan growth rates of **16.30%** and **16.26%**, respectively.
- Other PSBs had loan growth rates below 16% in FY24.
- BoM and SBI reported the lowest gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) at **1.88%** and **2.24%**, respectively, as of March 31, 2024.

About Bank of Maharashtra:

Headquarters: Pune

Founders : D. K. Sathe, V. G. Kale

Founded : 16 September 1935

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

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

Key Points:

- His role is expected to significantly contribute to the **bank's growth trajectory**.

- During a crucial leadership transition, **IDFC FIRST Bank** reported strong financial results for the fourth quarter ending in March 2024.
- The bank achieved a **net profit of Rs 724 crore**, demonstrating resilience and operational efficiency in a **dynamic economic environment**.

### **HDFC Bank gets \$500 million from IFC to support loans for women**

HDFC Bank received **\$500** million from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to help women who have limited access to loans. This money is meant to support women's **financial inclusion**, boost their incomes, and promote social and economic growth.

Key Points:

- The funds will be used to give micro-loans to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) through HDFC's Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative (SLI).
- SLI is HDFC Bank's program for providing microfinance loans to women.
- Non-banking financial companies, including microfinance institutions (MFIs) and small finance banks, are important in providing microfinance loans to women in India. As of December 31, 2023, they handled 65.7% of all microfinance loans, amounting to \$31.6 billion, and served about 47 million clients.

Managing Director– Makhtar Diop

Parent organization– World Bank Group

Headquarters– Washington

Establishment– 1956

### **Yes Bank launches YES Grandeur for India's growing affluent segment**

Yes Bank has introduced YES Grandeur, a banking program offering a Savings Account and Debit Card for India's growing affluent population. This program is aimed at individuals with an Average Monthly Balance of Rs 5 lakh or a Net Relationship Value of Rs 20 lakh.

Key Points:

- The YES Grandeur Debit Card provides travel benefits, such as zero cross-currency markup charges and access to airport lounges.

- The program includes dedicated relationship managers, preferential rates, fee exemptions, and a special 3-in-1 account that combines demat, trading, and savings.
- According to Mumbai-based People Research on India's Consumer Economy (PRICE) ICE 360° pan India primary surveys, the Indian middle class is expected to nearly double to 61% by 2046-47.

### Google Invests \$350 Million in Walmart-Owned Flipkart

Tech giant Google is **investing \$350 million** in Walmart-owned e-commerce firm **Flipkart** as part of a **\$1 billion funding round**. This investment aims to **support Flipkart's growth** as it targets a **\$60 billion valuation** at the time of its initial public offering (IPO), **planned for 2025-26**.

Key Points:

- Flipkart raised **\$600 million** from Walmart earlier and **\$3.6 billion in 2021** when including **PhonePe**.
- Walmart acquired a **77% stake in Flipkart** for **\$16 billion in 2018**, with **PhonePe** included as a bolt-on acquisition.
- The capital will be used to enhance infrastructure, seller support ecosystem, and incorporate advanced technologies like **AI and generative AI**.
- The fundraise will bolster Flipkart's position against competitors such as **Amazon, Reliance JioMart, and Tata Digital**.

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

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

Key Points:

- Bank of Baroda is presently under scrutiny by the South African Reserve Bank due to suspected compliance issues at its **South African branch**.
- The bank is engaging actively with the investigations and cooperating with the authorities.
- The bank pledges to provide updates to the **stock exchanges** regarding any notable developments stemming from these investigations.

About SBI:

Headquarters: Mumbai

Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara

## SEBI Amends Framework for Dynamic Price Bands for Scrips in Derivatives Segment

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the market regulator, has **revised its guidelines** concerning dynamic price bands for stocks in the derivatives segment. These amendments seek to address uncertainty in management and mitigate information imbalances.

- The aim is to **enhance management predictability** and lessen information asymmetry.
- Scrip is a **substitute** for money that isn't **official currency**.
- A scrip dividend pays shareholders with extra **shares rather than cash**.
- A Price Band sets limits, like a **minimum and maximum price**, within which buyers can bid on a security.
- It's commonly used **during an initial public offering (IPO)** to regulate trading.



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## Ghana Partners with Reliance Jio Arm and Others for Telecom Infrastructure

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

Key Points:

- Ghana is considering the implementation of both **4G and 5G networks**, in addition to exploring discussions with **Elon Musk's Starlink** for satellite connectivity.
- This expansion plan is in line with Ghana's objective to enhance **telecommunications penetration**.

About Ghana:

Capital: Accra

President: Nana Akufo-Addo

Currency: Ghanaian Cedi

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



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

Key Points:

- Funding encompasses various initiatives, including the Visakhapatnam–Chennai Industrial Corridor.
- It also extends to urban service enhancement projects in Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, and Tripura.
- Road connectivity schemes in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar are also part of the funding allocation.
- Additionally, funding supports horticulture development endeavors in Himachal Pradesh.
- The expansion of the Delhi–Meerut rapid rail transit corridor is another recipient of funding support.

About Asian Development Bank:

Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines

Founded: 1966

President: Masatsugu Asakawa

### **Tata Consultancy Services and Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay Collaborate to Develop India's First Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager**

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has joined forces with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) to create India's inaugural Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager.
- This collaboration aims to develop a tool for assessing the quality of semiconductors. This collaboration is aligned with the government of India's National Quantum Mission.

About TCS :

Founded : 1968

Headquarters : Mumbai

Chairman : Natarajan Chandrasekaran

CEO : K. Krithivasan

### **CRISIL's analysis on the credit growth outlook for banks in fiscal year 2025**

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

Key Points:

**Corporate Credit:** Expected to maintain steady growth at 13%, driven by private sector industrial capex, particularly in sectors like steel, cement, and pharmaceuticals.

**Retail Credit:** Anticipated to be the fastest-growing segment at 16%, supported by sustained consumer demand.

**MSME Credit:** Likely to witness a slowdown in growth due to a high base effect.

About CRISIL:

CEO: Amish Mehta

Headquarters: Mumbai

### ICMR proposes new guidelines to limit sugar in processed foods

India's National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), has introduced new dietary guidelines to address the high sugar levels in packaged foods and drinks. This marks a significant departure from the previous focus on calorie limits, which had been in effect for 13 years.

- The revised guidelines, formulated by an expert committee at NIN, establish specific sugar content limits.
- For solid foods, the proposed threshold is approximately 5% of total energy intake from added sugar, with a maximum of 10% from all sugars (including natural ones).
- Beverages must follow strict guidelines: no more than 10% of energy from added sugar and a maximum of 30% from all sugars, including those naturally in fruit juices and milk.

About ICMR:

Founded: 1911

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founder: Government of India

## AGREEMENT & MOUS NEWS

### Fship Logistics Partners with India Post for Last-mile E-commerce Delivery Services

Fship Logistics, a technology-focused logistics platform, has joined hands with **India Post** to improve the delivery of **online shopping** orders to customers' doorsteps. This partnership will particularly help **small businesses**, **startups**, and **medium-sized enterprises** all over India.

Key Points:

- The goal of this partnership is to make deliveries more **affordable**, especially in rural regions with limited logistics facilities.
- Fship aims to meet the rising demand for **logistics services**.

- Fship will extend its coverage to all parts of the country, including **remote areas** where India Post is the only **courier service** available.

### **FPSB India, IFSCA sign pact to promote GIFT IFSC as ‘Global Finance Hub’**

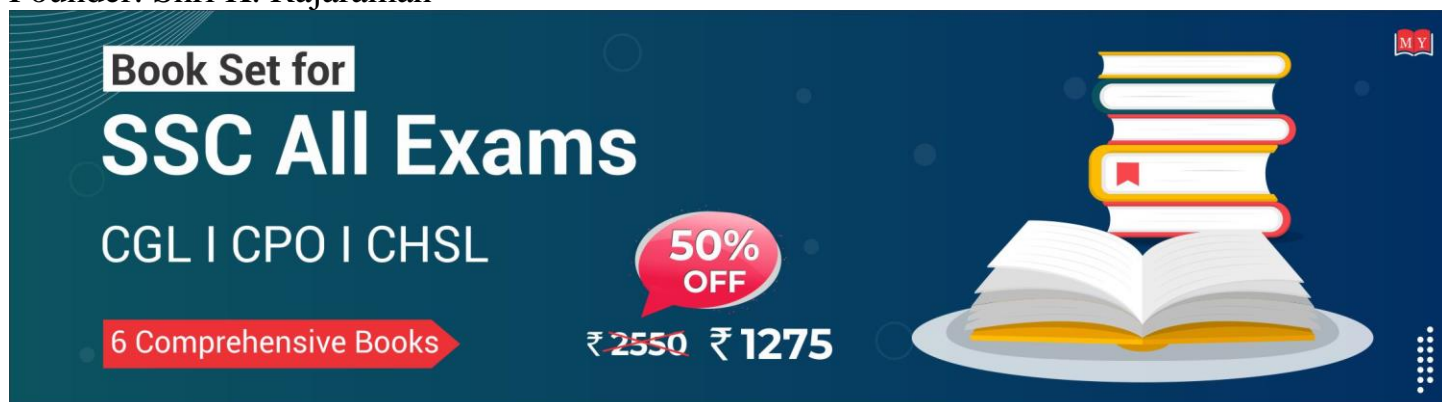
- Financial Planning Standards Board India has announced that it has signed a pact with the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), GIFT City, Gandhinagar, to promote GIFT IFSC as a ‘Global Finance Hub’.
- FPSB India and IFSCA aim to enhance the financial market ecosystem and nurture skilled professionals for GIFT City’s expanding financial workforce. Both organisations will jointly organise international and domestic events to raise awareness and establish GIFT IFSC as a ‘Global Finance Hub’.

About IFSCA:

Headquarters : GIFT City, Gandhinagar in Gujarat

Founded : April 27, 2020

Founder: Shri K. Rajaraman



### **Sri Lanka Inks 20-Year Power Purchase Deal with Adani Green Energy**

- The Sri Lankan government has approved an agreement with Adani Green Energy, led by Gautam Adani, for the development of wind power stations in Mannar and Pooner. The agreement was given the green light by the Sri Lankan cabinet on May 7. Under the power purchase agreement, which has a duration of 20 years, Adani Green Energy will be paid 8.26 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for the electricity generated from the wind power stations.
- The deal follows Adani Green Energy’s approval in February 2023 to invest \$442 million and develop 484 megawatts of wind power plants in the two towns of Mannar and Pooner in Northern Sri Lanka.

About Sri Lanka:

Capitals: Colombo

President: Ranil Wickremesinghe  
Prime minister: Dinesh Gunawardena

### Expanding Global Trade Opportunities: Collaboration between YES BANK and EBANX

- YES BANK, a leading private sector bank in India, is collaborating with EBANX, a global fintech firm specializing in payment solutions for emerging markets. Together, they aim to provide a comprehensive range of scalable payment solutions to merchants, facilitating seamless cross-border transactions and expanding global commerce opportunities for both merchants and customers in India.
- By leveraging EBANX's global experience and YES BANK's technical capabilities, this partnership seeks to streamline cross-border payment processing, offering merchants easy access to a suite of scalable payment solutions tailored for the Indian market.

### INOX Air Products and Asahi India Glass sign MoU for Green Hydrogen

- INOX Air Products, a manufacturer of industrial and medical gases, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Asahi India Glass Limited (AIS) for a 20-year offtake agreement to supply green hydrogen to AIS's greenfield float glass facility in Soniyana, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan.
- The company stated that this will be India's first-ever green hydrogen plant for the float glass industry. The plant will have a capacity to generate up to 190 tonnes of green hydrogen per annum through the electrolysis process.

### Mahindra & Mahindra Sign MoU with MSDE for 'Drone Didi' Pilot Project

To boost rural **women's empowerment**, the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.** to conduct two Pilot Projects under the **Drone Didi Yojana** at **Noida And Hyderabad**.

Key points:

- The initiative is designed to empower women in **agriculture** by providing training in drone operation.
- The goal is to train **15,000 women** to use drones for tasks such as **crop monitoring and seeding**.
- These projects will be conducted at centers in **Noida and Hyderabad**.
- The training program will cover various aspects including drone flying, data analysis, and maintenance.

- The focus will be on **rural women**, with **500 individuals** targeted for training in each location.

About Mahindra & Mahindra:

CEO: Anish Shah

Founded : 2 October 1945, Ludhiana

Headquarters: Mumbai

### **UAE-India CEPA Council inks MoU with Indian Chamber of Commerce**

The UAE-India CEPA Council (UICC) and the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to **enhance economic and trade relations** between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and India.

Key Points:

- The UICC and ICC have initiated a comprehensive collaboration aimed at promoting awareness of the UAE-India **bilateral economic** partnership and the advantages of the UAE-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- The collaboration focuses on enhancing **public awareness**, increasing understanding, and **mobilizing private sector** stakeholders to **promote economic** engagement between the two nations.
- Activities under this collaboration will involve **dialogues, sharing of information, and hosting joint events** to facilitate interactions among members and highlight the roles of the organizations in promoting bilateral economic relations.

## **AWARDS NEWS**

### **Lando Norris earns 1<sup>st</sup> career F1 victory at Miami**

In a surprising turn of events, Lando Norris from McLaren won his **first Formula One** race at the **Miami Grand Prix**. He defeated world champion **Max Verstappen**, who finished second. This victory injected excitement into the F1 season, which was at risk of being dominated by just one driver. Norris, in his **110th race** for McLaren, finished more than seven seconds ahead of Verstappen, while Charles Leclerc from Ferrari came in third place.

Key Points:

- Verstappen, starting from pole position, had won four out of the first five races of the season and was leading the **world championship** standings.
- Initially, it seemed like a typical race for **Verstappen**, who had won the previous two Miami races, as he led until **lap 24** when he made a pit stop, and Norris's McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri took the lead.



- Piastri, from **Australia**, also went into the pits four laps later, allowing Norris to seize the lead, which he held onto till the end.

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

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

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

- Pawan Sindhi was bestowed with the prestigious Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024 at an event attended by esteemed saints, Mahatmas, and sadhus. The occasion celebrated Mr. Sindhi's remarkable contributions to society and his dedication to serving humanity.
- The award night witnessed a gathering of like-minded individuals who came together to promote the values of humanity, peace, and prosperity. In his acceptance speech, Mr. Sindhi expressed his gratitude for being recognized and highlighted the importance of such events in spreading noble messages within society.

### **Magnus Carlsen Wins 2024 Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland**

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

Key Points:

- The **Grand Chess Tour** is a year-long, **multi-level chess** competition.
- The tournament, starting in **2015** with three legs, saw **Magnus Carlsen** as the victor.
- **Magnus Carlsen**, the five-time World Champion and current **top-ranked** player in chess.

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

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

Key Points:

- The 2024 edition of the prestigious tournament featured six teams: **Japan, Pakistan, Canada, South Korea, New Zealand, and the host nation Malaysia.**
- Japan claimed the championship title, while **Pakistan attained the runner-up position.**
- **Malaysia** secured **third place**, with New Zealand, South Korea, and Canada following in the final standings.

About Japan:

Capital: Tokyo

Prime minister: Fumio Kishida

### **Ruskin Bond awarded Sahitya Akademi Fellowship**

The prestigious Sahitya Akademi Fellowship has been given to **Ruskin Bond**, a renowned British-Indian author. This honor was given to him at his home in **Mussoorie**. At first, Bond was named the winner of this prestigious award in **September 2021**. The official presentation had to be pushed back because of health problems, but it was finally done recently.

Key Points:

- The Sahitya Akademi Fellowship is the most prestigious award presented by **India's National Academy of Letters**, the Sahitya Akademi.
- Recipients of this award are recognized for their exceptional contributions to **enriching** Indian literature.
- Winners are selected based on their significant achievements and impact in the writing world over the course of their careers.

### **Chad military dictator Idriss Deby win's Presidential election**

Mahamat Idris Deby Itno, Chad's military dictator and interim president, has secured victory in the presidential election held **on May 6, 2024**. This provisional result, announced by the **National Election Management Agency** on May 10, 2024, is poised to extend Deby's rule for another **six years**.

Key Points:

- Idriss Deby, the father of **Mahamat**, governed Chad for three decades with a strong grip until he passed away in **2021**.
- Following his father's death, Mahamat Idris Deby assumed the role of **interim president**.
- He later solidified his control with the backing of **army generals**.

About Chad:

Capital : N'Djamena

President : Idriss Deby

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

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

Key Points:

- McGill University, located in Montreal, is a prestigious public research institution with a rich history of over **two hundred years**.
- The university bestows honorary degrees upon individuals who have **demonstrated** exceptional scholarly, scientific, or artistic accomplishments throughout their lifetime.
- Honorary degrees are also conferred upon those who have made outstanding contributions to the **public good** through their professional endeavors or philanthropic activities.

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### **Uttar Pradesh's Arti Receives Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award from King Charles III**

In a remarkable testament to the power of determination and resilience, **Arti**, an 18-year-old woman from the **Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh**, has been honored with the **prestigious Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award** by King Charles III of the United Kingdom.

Key points:

- The Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award, named after the renowned English barrister Amal Clooney, is supported by the British charity Prince's Trust International.
- Established by King Charles during his time as the Prince of Wales, the Trust acknowledges and celebrates the remarkable accomplishments of young women.
- These women have triumphed over significant challenges to create a lasting positive impact on their communities.

### **Anasuya Sengupta has made history by becoming the first Indian to win Best Actress at Cannes**

The actress, who has worked primarily as a production designer in Mumbai and lives in Goa, took home the **Best Actress** award at the festival's Un Certain Regard segment which runs parallel to the main competition and aims to **highlight new trends**, new paths and **new countries of cinema**.

**Key Points:**

- The festival officially announced the winner.
- The film was directed by Chidananda S Naik, with cinematography by Suraj Thakur, editing by Manoj V, and sound by Abhishek Kadam.
- The 77th Cannes Film Festival saw several entries from India across various categories.

**Dipa Karmakar secures India's inaugural gold in women's pole-vault at Asian Championships in Tashkent**

Dipa Karmakar of **Tripura** became the first ever Indian **gymnast** to win a gold medal in any Asian Championships. Dipa won the gold medal in the **women's vault** individual final at the Asian Women's Artistic Gymnastics Championships 2024 in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 26 May 2024**.

**Key Points:**

- Dipa Karmakar earned the **gold medal** with an average score of **13.566 points**.
- Kim Son-hyang from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) claimed the **silver medal with 13.466 points**, while **Jo Kyong-byol**, also from North Korea, secured the **bronze with 12.966 points**.
- Despite her **gold medal win**, Dipa Karmakar couldn't secure a quota for the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics as she finished 16th in the all-round category.

**Charles Leclerc Makes History with Monaco Grand Prix Triumph**

Charles Leclerc, the Ferrari driver, has achieved a remarkable feat by becoming the first **Monegasque driver** to win the Monaco Grand Prix since Louis Chiron in **1931**, ending a drought of 92 years.

**Key Points:**

- In Monaco's tight street circuit, overtaking chances are scarce, and Leclerc made the most of this situation.
- Oscar Piastri from McLaren claimed second position, trailing Leclerc by a margin of 7.1 seconds, while Carlos Sainz from Ferrari secured third place.

**PFC wins “ CSR Champion Award” for sustainability efforts**

Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC) received the Corporate Social Responsibility award in the NF (Non-Fossil Fuel) business category. The award was presented during the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024 in Goa. Smt. Parminder Chopra, Chairperson & Managing Director of PFC, accepted the award.

**Key Points:**

- PFC's victory in the CSR NF category underscores its steadfast dedication to social responsibility and sustainable business approaches.

- The Summit recognized notable individuals and innovators across different categories for their remarkable contributions to sustainability.
- Shri V. Srinivas, Secretary of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India, presented the award.
- Officials from the Department of Public Enterprises, IIT Goa, and Outlook were also present during the ceremony.

About PFC:

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: July 1986

CEO: Parminder Chopra

## APPOINTMENTS & PERSON IN NEWS

### **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

### **Appointment of Subodh Kumar (IAS) as Director in Ministry of Ayush**

- Subodh Kumar (IAS), a 2010-batch Indian Administrative Service officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, has been appointed as Director in the Ministry of Ayush. The appointment, effective from the date of assuming charge, is initially until October 8 or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Presently, Kumar is on 'Compulsory wait' in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.



- According to an order issued by the Department of Personnel (DoPT) on May 3, Subodh Kumar has been selected for the position. The order instructs his immediate release from his current assignment with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and to assume his new role in the Ministry of Ayush.

### Sanjaya Kumar Mishra Takes Oath as 1<sup>st</sup> President of GST Appellate Tribunal

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. **Nirmala Sitharaman** administered the oath of integrity and secrecy to Justice (Retd.) **Sanjaya Kumar** Mishra as the President of the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT), in New Delhi. Mishra's appointment marks the beginning of the operationalisation of the GSTAT, a crucial body for resolving **GST-related** disputes.

#### Key Points

- The Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) functions as the Appellate Authority under the Central Goods and Services **Tax Act, 2017**.
- It consists of a Principal Bench situated in **New Delhi** and multiple State Benches located across the nation.
- The Government, with approval from the **GST Council**, has designated the Principal Bench in New Delhi and **31 State** Benches in various regions of the country.
- The establishment of GSTAT aims to **expedite, ensure fairness**, and deliver effective resolution of GST disputes, consequently alleviating the burden on higher courts.
- It is anticipated to boost the efficiency of the GST system and foster transparency within the **nation's tax framework**.

### Kareena Kapoor Khan appointed as National Ambassador for UNICEF

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

#### Key Points:

- **Gauranshi Sharma**, hailing from Madhya Pradesh, is an advocate for the right to play and disability inclusion.
- Kartik Verma, based in **Uttar Pradesh**, is a leading voice in climate action and child rights advocacy.
- Nahid Afrin, representing Assam, is dedicated to raising awareness about mental health and early **childhood development**.
- Vinisha Umashankar, originating from **Tamil Nadu**, is recognized as a budding innovator and pioneer in **STEM fields**.

### Visa Appoints Sujai Raina as India Country Manager

- Visa, the global digital payments platform, announced on Tuesday that it has appointed Sujai Raina as the new Country Manager for India. In this role, Raina will be responsible for leading and executing Visa's strategic initiatives in the Indian market, partnering with clients and the broader payments ecosystem.
- Additionally, Sandeep Ghosh will continue in his role as Group Country Manager for India and South Asia, overseeing Visa's operations in India and other markets across the subcontinent, including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives.



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### **John Swinney Set to Succeed Humza Yousaf as Scotland's First Minister**

- Scottish National Party (SNP) veteran John Swinney was elected as its new leader and is set to replace Humza Yousaf as Scotland's first minister after he emerged as the sole contender in the contest to pick a new premier.
- He has served as an ally to former First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, holding the position of her deputy for a record 9 years. Born in Edinburgh in April 1964, Swinney joined the SNP at a young age, rising through the party's ranks quickly.

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

- SBI General Insurance has announced the appointment of Jaya Tripathi as the Head – Key Relations Group. In her new role, Tripathi will lead the expansion of new business opportunities and partnerships, drive sales team growth, and deepen partner relationships to enhance profitability.
- With a diverse background spanning general insurance, fashion retail, and tourism, Tripathi brings an array of experience to her new position. Her extensive background includes holding senior leadership roles at renowned organizations such as Mahindra Holidays, ICICI Lombard, Forevermark Diamonds (De Beers Group), and Aditya Birla Group, where she has significantly contributed to business and strategic development.

About SBI:

Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara

Founded: 1 July 1955

Headquarters: Mumbai

### **Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla Assumes Charge as The Chief Of Personnel Of Indian Navy**

- Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, AVSM, NM, has assumed the charge of Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy. He was commissioned in the Indian Navy on **01 January 1989**.
- His tenure as Chief of Personnel will be marked by a number of important appointments, both afloat and ashore. After completing his specialisation Course in Communication and Electronic Warfare, Bhalla served on a number of frontline **warships**.

### **China appointed Xu Feihong as its new envoy to India**

After **18 months** of China not having an Ambassador in India, senior diplomat Xu Feihong arrived in Delhi to assume office as the 17th Ambassador to India, Chinese government-run media **CGTN** reported.

Key Points:

- President **Xi Jinping** and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have reached a significant **agreement**.
- They recognize that China and India should cooperate rather than compete.
- Both leaders understand that their countries present development opportunities for each other, not threats.
- These principles should serve as the core guidelines for the advancement of bilateral relations, as stated to **CGTN**.

About China:

Capital: Beijing

Premier: Li Qiang

President: Xi Jinping

### **Lawrence Wong sworn in as Singapore's first new Prime Minister**

Singapore swore in Lawrence Wong as **the city-state's new prime minister** in a ceremony broadcast live on television on Wednesday after **Lee Hsien Loong** stepped down following two decades in office.

Key points:

- **Lee Kuan Yew**, father of **Lee Hsien Loong**, was Singapore's first prime minister after its brief, unsuccessful union with Malaysia.
- Known as a stern **patriarch**, he preferred being feared to being loved.

- Lee Kuan Yew transformed Singapore from a sleepy British colonial outpost into a financial hub in just over 30 years.
- In 1990, he handed over power to his deputy, former shipping executive Goh Chok Tong.
- Goh Chok Tong was initially seen as a "seat-warmer" for Lee Kuan Yew's son.

### **IIFL Securities Limited Appointed Nemkumar as its New Managing Director (MD)**

IIFL Securities Limited(formerly known as India Infoline Limited), a leading financial services company has appointed **Nemkumar H** as its new Managing Director (**MD**) for a period of **5 years**,with effect from 15th May, 2024

Key Points:

- He is a **Chartered Accountant (CA)** by profession and accumulated almost **ten years** of experience at **CLSA Limited**, previously known as **Credit Lyonnais Securities Asia**, where he served as an **Equity Analyst**.
- Within his tenure at CLSA, he held the positions of **head of research** and **country head**.
- He commenced his career at Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (**BPCL**) and spent eight years working in the corporate treasury and pricing departments.
- In 2007, he joined **IIFL** and played a pivotal role as one of the **founding members** of IIFL's Institutional Equities Business.

About IIFL:

CEO:Mr. Nirmal Jain

Headquarters:India

### **Rizwan Koita Replaces Mahesh Verma as Chairperson of NABH**

Rizwan Koita, who is an entrepreneur, **philanthropist**, and **Director** of the Koita Foundation (KF), has been chosen as the new Chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for **Hospitals and Healthcare Providers** (NABH). He takes over from Padma Shri Dr. Mahesh Verma, who was previously holding the position **since 2022**.

NABH, which is part of the Quality Council of India (QCI), establishes standards for quality and gives accreditation to **healthcare facilities**.

About Rizwan Koita:

- Rizwan Koita began his career as a **senior consultant** at McKinsey & Co., where he helped businesses with strategies and operations.
- **In 1999**, he co-founded TransWorks (now known as Concentrix), one of the first Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) companies in India.

About NABH:

Founded : 2006, India

CEO: Atul Mohan Kochhar

Headquarters: New Delhi



### **N Chandrasekaran will serve as the Chairman of Tata Electronics.**

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

Key Points:

- The pandemic and recent geopolitical shifts have led to significant disruptions in supply chains, prompting prominent brands to reduce reliance on **China**.
- Indian companies such as the Tata group are in a favorable position to recognize and exploit these evolving **market trends**.
- They present an **appealing** option for leading brands aiming to diversify their supply chains.
- With N Chandrasekaran leading the way, Tata Electronics is ready to seize the increasing opportunities in semiconductor and **electronics manufacturing**.
- The company will utilize the extensive resources and knowledge of the Tata group to propel its **ambitious expansion** strategies.

About Tata Motors:

Founder: J. R. D. Tata

Founded: 1945, Mumbai

Headquarters: Mumbai

### **Kami Rita Sherpa of Nepal achieves a record-breaking 29th ascent of Mount Everest**

Renowned Nepali mountaineer **Kami Rita Sherpa** has achieved a historic feat by conquering Mount Everest for the 29th time. At **54 years** old, Kami reached the **8,849-meter** summit at **7:25** am local time, leading a group of climbers organized by Seven Summit Treks. His remarkable journey began in **1992**, and since then, he has fearlessly conquered several of the world's highest



peaks, including **K2**, Cho Oyu, Lhotse, and Manaslu. Kami's dedication and expertise have solidified his place in mountaineering history.

Key Points:

- British climber Kenton Cool grabs attention by conquering Everest for the 18th time, surpassing his previous record for the most Everest summits by a foreign climber.
- Cool's achievements underscore the global fascination with Mount Everest, attracting climbers of various nationalities and backgrounds.
- The allure of the world's tallest peak continues to draw adventurers keen on testing their abilities and resilience in the challenging Himalayan environment.

### **Vivek Bipindada Kolhe elected as a Director of IFFCO**

IFFCO, the cornerstone of India's agricultural landscape, stands as a beacon of support for **farmers** nationwide. Kolhe's representation of **Maharashtra, Telangana, and Goa** on the esteemed board of directors signifies a bright future for cooperative endeavors in these regions.

Key Points:

- Kolhe's appointment is met with widespread celebration, reflecting admiration for his outstanding accomplishments and steadfast commitment to **farmers' welfare**.
- His previous contributions and commitment to advocacy for farmers have garnered praise.
- Kolhe's vision for the future **suggests** he is prepared to significantly influence the cooperative farming community.
- His leadership is anticipated to leave a lasting impression due to his dedication and promise of continued support for farmers.

About IFFCO:

Headquarters: New Delhi

CEO: Dr. Udai Shanker Awasthi

Founded: 3 November 1967, New Delhi

Founder: Udaybhansinhji Natwarsinhji Jethwa

### **Idashisha Nongrang appointed first woman police DGP of Meghalaya**

**Idashisha Nongrang** breaks barriers as the first woman and **tribal lady** to become the Director General of Police (DGP) in Meghalaya, taking office on **May 20, 2024**.

Appointed from a UPSC-recommended list, Nongrang, with a stellar background in civil defence and as SP, East Khasi Hills, assumes the role for two years. She is set to take charge after retirement of the incumbent **LR Bishnoi**.

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

- Shri Ramesh Babu V. has been sworn in as a Member of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) on May 21, 2024. The oath of office and secrecy was administered by the Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R. K. Singh.
- Shri Ramesh Babu V. brings extensive experience and expertise to his new role. He holds a Master of Technology degree in Thermal Engineering and a Bachelor of Technology degree in Mechanical Engineering. Before his retirement, he served as Director (Operations) at NTPC from May 2020, and he has held various key positions within NTPC throughout his career.

Foot Notes:

About Formed: 24 July 1998

Headquarters: New Delhi

### **Luis Abinader Re-elected as President of Dominican Republic for 2nd Term**

- Luis Rodolfo Abinader Corona has been re-elected as the President of the Dominican Republic for 2nd four-year term from 2024 to 2028. He has been serving as the President of the Dominican Republic since 2020. Abinader won the presidential election by securing 58.85% of the vote. Leonel Fernandez, former President, finished 2nd with 27.29% of the votes.
- Luis Rodolfo Abinader Corona is a Dominican economist, businessman, and politician. He is the Executive President of the ABICOR Group, which has developed and operated important tourism projects in the Dominican Republic.

### **Kaamya Karthikeyan becomes youngest Indian to scale Mt Everest**

- Sixteen-year-old Kaamya Karthikeyan has become the youngest Indian mountaineer to scale the Mt Everest from the Nepal side. She also becomes the second youngest girl in the world to achieve this feat.
- Kaamya has completed six milestones in her mission to summit the highest peak of all seven continents and aims to climb Mt. Vinson Massif in Antarctica this December to become the youngest girl to accomplish the '7summits challenge'. Supported by the Tata Steel Adventure Foundation (TSAF), Kaamya's father Commodore S Karthikeyan of the Indian Navy accompanied her on the expedition. She is targeting the Vinson Massif in Antarctica this December.

### **Vietnam Communist party names security minister as president**

- Vietnam's Communist Party has named police minister To Lam president, the government said Saturday, and nominated a new head of the parliament in a major leadership reshuffle.
- Unprecedentedly for a one-party nation once known for its stable politics, two state presidents and a parliament speaker have stepped down in less than 18 months, all for unspecified "wrongdoing" amid a major antigraft campaign that is unnerving foreign investors because of its chilling effect on bureaucracy. After approval from parliament,

which could come next week, Lam, 66, will replace Vo Van Thuong, who stepped down in March after being accused of violating party rules, just over a year after his appointment.

### **John Slaven has been appointed as the Vice President of International Aluminium Institute**

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

Key Points:

- The International Aluminium Institute (IAI) was **established** in **1972**.
- It is the **sole organization** representing the **global primary aluminium industry**.
- The IAI **advocates** for responsible aluminium production.
- It's President Ali Al Baqali

### **IndiaFirst Life Insurance has approved Rushabh Gandhi as its new MD and CEO**

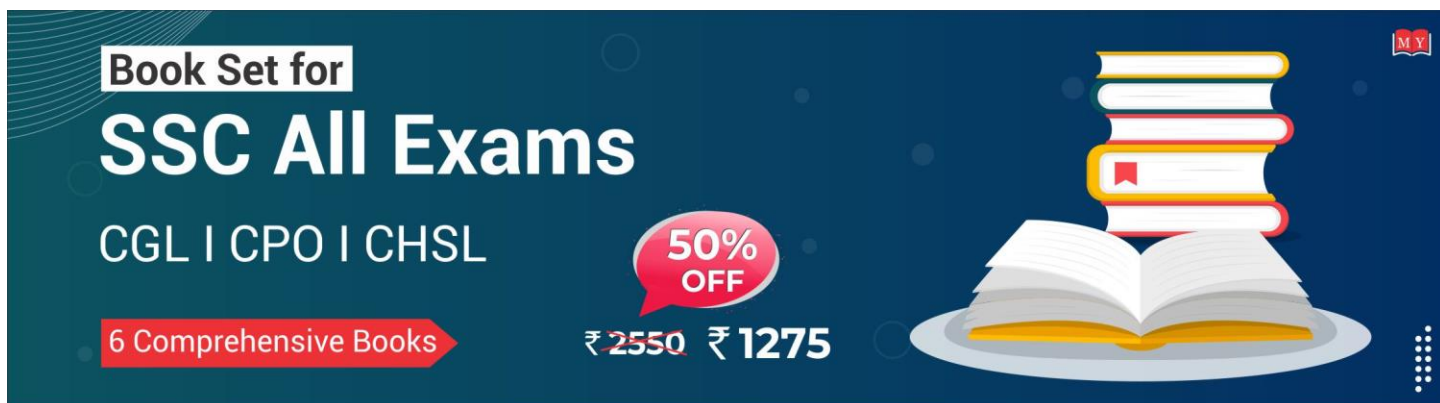
The Board of India First Life Insurance Company Limited has given the **green light** to appoint **Rushabh Gandhi** as its new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for five years, starting from **July 1, 2024**, or upon receiving regulatory approvals, whichever comes first.

- Currently, Rushabh Gandhi holds the position of **Deputy CEO** at India FirstLife Insurance.
- He is set to take over from **R.M. Vishakha**, the current **MD and CEO**, whose term ends on **June 30, 2024**.
- Rushabh Gandhi boasts nearly **three decades** of extensive experience in the financial services sector.

Headquarters: Mumbai

CEO: R. M. Vishakha

Founded:2009



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### Lai Ching-te sworn in as new President of Taiwan

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

#### Key Points:

- Lai has pledged to continue Tsai's efforts to maintain stability with China.
- He aims to enhance Taiwan's security through advanced military imports from the US.
- There will be an expansion of Taiwan's domestic defense industry.
- Strengthening regional partnerships with allies such as the US, Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines is a priority.

Capital: Taipei City

### "Lai Ching-te" is set for appointment as Taiwan's President

President-elect Lai Ching-te of Taiwan, the current **Vice President**, will take oath after winning the presidential election in January. Lai, **aged 64**, has pledged to work towards national prosperity and to maintain the status **quo across the Taiwan Strait**, emphasizing diplomacy and stability.

Taiwan/Capital: **Taipei City**

Currency: **New Taiwan dollar**

**WSJ: Nimesh Arora, of Indian descent, ranks as the second-highest-paid CEO in the US for 2023**

According to the **Wall Street Journal** (WSJ)'s list of the **highest-paid Chief Executive Officers** (CEOs) in the United States of America (USA) for 2023. Indian-origin **Nikesh Arora**, chairman and CEO of Palo Alto Networks became the world's 2nd highest-paid CEO in 2023 with a substantial remuneration of USD **151.43** million (approximately Rs 1,260 crore).

Key Points:

- **Nikesh Arora** was born in 1968, in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India.
- His father was a member of the **Indian Air Force**.
- Initially, he worked briefly at **Wipro** before relocating to the United States.

### **Saudi Arabia appoints first ambassador to Syria since 2012**

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

Key Points:

- The Saudi Arabia-Syria discord surfaced in **2011 during the Syrian civil war**
- Diplomatic relations were severed in 2012, resulting in the shutdown of Saudi Arabia's embassy in **Damascus**.

About Saudi Arabia:

Capital: Riyadh

President: Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud

About Syria:

Capital: Damascus

President: Bashar al-Assad

### **Jetha Ahir Elected as NAFED Chairman**

**Shehra BJP MLA Jetha Ahir**, who has previously served as the **deputy speaker** of the **Gujarat Assembly**, has been elected uncontested as the chairman of the **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation** of India (NAFED).

Key Points:

- Gujarat's agricultural and rural economy heavily relies on the cooperative sector, renowned for its robust movement, featuring numerous cooperative societies across various domains such as **dairy, fertilizers, and marketing**.
- NAFED, operating at the national level as **a cooperative organization**, holds a vital responsibility in advancing cooperative marketing of agricultural goods and guaranteeing equitable prices for farmers.



- Ahir's appointment as NAFED chairman, given his substantial experience in the cooperative sector and his role as an **MLA**, is anticipated to yield substantial advantages for the farming community in Gujarat.

### **P Santhosh Takes the Helm as MD & CEO of NARCL**

The National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL), India's state-owned bad bank, has appointed P Santhosh as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. The decision was made by NARCL's board, which recommended Santhosh for a three-year term at the helm of the asset reconstruction company.

Key Points:

- Santhosh's appointment follows his tenure as the acting CEO of NARCL since January 2024.
- His interim role commenced after the unexpected departure of N Sundar before the conclusion of his term.
- Santhosh assumed responsibility to address the leadership vacuum.
- Impressively, his performance during this interim period garnered approval from the board.
- Consequently, he received the recommendation for the top position within the organization.

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

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

Key Points:

- Shah Rukh Khan, serving as the group's brand ambassador, will feature in MPG's campaigns across various channels.
- These campaigns are aimed at promoting the group's diverse range of financial services and products.
- The goal is to highlight MPG's commitment to enhancing accessibility and convenience for all, thereby revolutionizing the financial landscape.

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

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has granted approval for the appointment of Sandeep Batra as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company. The company announced this development.

- Sandeep Batra has been part of the ICICI Group since September 2000, demonstrating his dedication to the organization over many years.

- During his tenure, he has held key roles such as Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company.
- He has also served as the Group Compliance Officer at ICICI Bank, showcasing his wide-ranging experience within the group.

About IRDAI:

Chairperson: Debasish Panda

Founded: 1999

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## SCIENCE & TECH NEWS

### Uttarakhand Tourism introduces India's inaugural Astro Tourism Campaign titled 'Nakshatra Sabha'

The Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board collaborates with **Starscapes**, an astro-tourism firm, to launch Nakshatra Sabha, a groundbreaking venture providing a holistic astro-tourism encounter. It extends beyond traditional **stargazing**, offering diverse activities like exclusive solar observations, **astrophotography** competitions, and overnight camping beneath the stars.

Key Points

- Nakshatra Sabha is an inventive astro-tourism endeavor launched jointly by the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board and Starscapes.
- Its goal is to deliver a comprehensive **celestial experience** to participants.
- It transcends conventional stargazing by incorporating activities such as special **solar observations**, **astrophotography** contests, and **overnight camping beneath the stars**.
- The initiative targets astronomy enthusiasts, adventurers, and travelers, aiming to draw them to Uttarakhand.
- It encourages engagement with the cosmos while appreciating the natural beauty of the state.

About Uttarakhand:

Capital: Dehradun (Winter)

Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami

Governor: Gurmit Singh

### Indigenous bomber unmanned aircraft developed by Bengaluru firm

Indigenous bomber unmanned aircraft developed by Bengaluru firm unveiled. Flying Wedge Defence, a city based defence and aerospace technology firm unveiled the **FWD-200B** unmanned aircraft. The firm claimed that it is India's first indigenous bomber unmanned aircraft.

Key Points:

- The company, driven by a dedication to diminish India's dependence on expensive imported bomber unmanned aircraft, is striving to bolster the **Make in India** campaign.
- Their goal is to establish India as a prominent global hub for drone manufacturing and technology.
- Simultaneously, they aim to furnish the nation with adequate air defense capabilities, thereby **bolstering** national security.
- These objectives were outlined in a press release from **Flying Wedge**.

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

- In a groundbreaking discovery detailed in *Frontiers in Marine Science*, researchers have revealed the Taam Ja' Blue Hole in Mexico's Chetumal Bay as the deepest known blue hole on Earth, descending to a staggering depth of 1,380 feet. Surpassing the previous record-holder, the Sansha Yongle Blue Hole, by 480 feet, this abyss presents a tantalizing opportunity for scientific exploration and the potential discovery of new marine life.
- Initial depth readings of the Taam Ja' Blue Hole, taken in 2021, left much to conjecture, reaching only 900 feet with echo-sounders. However, a recent dive equipped with advanced technology, including a state-of-the-art CTD profiler, provided deeper insights into its dimensions. Despite their best efforts, researchers were unable to reach the bottom, encountering possible obstacles like underwater ledges or strong currents at 1,380 feet.

### ISRO Develops Semi-Cryogenic Engine Using Liquid Oxygen Kerosene

- ISRO, through the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) with support from other launch vehicle centers, is advancing the development of a semi-cryogenic propulsion system. This system aims to enhance the payload capacity of Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) and future launch vehicles by utilizing a 2,000 kN thrust semi-cryogenic engine powered by a combination of liquid oxygen (LOX) and kerosene.
- A significant milestone in ISRO's semi-cryogenic engine development is the successful ignition of the semi-cryo pre-burner. This achievement, crucial for initiating the semi-

cryogenic engine, was realized through testing conducted at the Isro Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri.

About ISRO:

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Founded: 15 August 1969

Founder: Vikram Sarabhai

### **Astronomers finally detect a rocky planet with an atmosphere**

Astronomers using the Nasa's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) have achieved a significant milestone by detecting an atmosphere around the rocky exoplanet **55 Cancrie**, which orbits a Sun-like star some **12.6** parsecs away from Earth. This discovery marks the first time an atmosphere has been identified surrounding a terrestrial planet outside our Solar System.

Key Points:

- There is a planet classified as a "super-Earth," which is larger than our planet but smaller than Neptune.
- It orbits very close to a star that is dimmer and slightly less massive than our sun, completing one orbit every **18 hours**.
- Infrared observations conducted with the **James Webb Space Telescope** revealed the existence of a significant atmosphere surrounding this planet.
- This atmosphere potentially contains high levels of carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide, along with other gases like water vapor and sulfur dioxide.

### **ISRO's Mangalyaan-2 Mission to Feature Helicopter, Sky Crane, and Rover for Mars Navigation**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has revealed an **extensive plan** for its upcoming Mars mission, "**Mangalyaan-2**." This announcement was made during a special presentation at the Space Application Centre (SAC) on the eve of **National Technology Day**, May 11th, 2024.

Key Points:

- ISRO plans to use a **rover** and **helicopter** for Mars exploration, drawing inspiration from NASA's Perseverance Rover.
- Currently, ISRO is developing a **supersonic parachute and sky-crane system** inspired by NASA's deployment techniques. This method will ensure the safe and precise landing of the Indian rover on the **Martian surface**.
- The Mangalyaan-2 mission will be launched aboard the **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III (LVM3)**.

About ISRO:

Headquarters: Bengaluru  
Founded: 15 August 1969  
Founder: Vikram Sarabhai

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

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

Key Points:

- Developed by DRDO, the Rudram-II signifies a significant leap in India's defense capabilities.
- It possesses the capability to target enemy ground radars and communication stations, making it a crucial asset in Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses (SEAD) operations.
- Rudram-II is equipped with a solid-propelled air-launched system, enhancing precision and operational versatility.
- Its advanced features enable the neutralization of diverse enemy assets effectively.
- Noteworthy is its internal guidance system, facilitating autonomous target acquisition after launch.

### **T.N.-based Agnikul launches world's first rocket with fully 3D-printed engine**

Agnikul Cosmos, a startup incubated at IIT Madras, conducted a test launch of the world's first rocket with a single-piece 3D printed engine. This successful sub-orbital test flight marks a significant milestone for Agnikul Cosmos.

Key Points:

- Agnikul Cosmos' inaugural flight aimed to collect vital flight data and ensure the optimal performance of systems for their orbital launch vehicle, Agnibaan.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi commended the accomplishment on a microblogging site.
- He highlighted the importance of the successful launch of the Agnibaan rocket.
- The rocket is powered by the world's first single-piece 3D printed semi-cryogenic engine.
- This achievement is seen as a major milestone for India's space sector.

## **DEFENCE NEWS**

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

The Indian Army's Kharga Corps, under the aegis of the Army's Western Command, successfully conducted a three-day joint exercise with the Indian Air Force (IAF) at multiple locations in



Punjab. The exercise aimed to refine processes and validate the employment of attack helicopters in support of mechanized operations in developed terrain.

The exercise, titled “Gagan Strike-II,” incorporated various force multipliers, including Apache and ALH-WSI helicopters, Unarmed Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), and special forces of the Indian Army. The primary objective was to validate the use of these assets in support of ground offensive operations by strike corps, along with live firing by helicopters as demanded by mechanized forces during offensive maneuvers.

About Punjab:

Capital: Chandigarh

Chief Minister: Bhagwant Mann

Governor: Banwarilal Purohit

### **7th India-France Joint Military “Ex-SHAKTI” 2024 Commences in Meghalaya**

Exercise SHAKTI 2024, the seventh joint military drill between India and France, kicked off on May 13, 2024, at Umroi, located within a fully equipped Foreign Training Node in Meghalaya. Ex-SHAKTI is held every two years, alternating between India and France for its conduct.

Key Points:

- The Indian team in Exercise SHAKTI consists mainly of 90 soldiers from the RAJPUT Regiment, with additional observers from the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy joining.
- The French team comprises mainly 90 personnel from the 13th Foreign Legion Half-Brigade (13th DBLE).
- The primary objective of the exercise is to enhance the combined military capabilities of India and France for conducting operations across various domains, particularly in a Sub-Conventional scenario as outlined in Chapter VII of the UN mandate.
- Tactical drills during the exercise will include responding to terrorist activities involving the capture of specific territories, setting up a Joint Command Post, and establishing an Intelligence and Surveillance Centre, among others.

About Indian Army:

Chief of Army Staff: Manoj Pande

Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi

Established – April 01, 1895

About France:

President: Emmanuel Macron

Capital: Paris

Currency: Euro

## India withdraws all military personnel from Maldives

India has completed the withdrawal of its military from the Maldives ahead of the **May 10** deadline set by Maldives' President, a move seen as fulfilling one of his key electoral promises and reflecting a **pro-China stance**.

The withdrawing troops, totaling around **90**, were involved in operating and maintaining two **helicopters and a Dornier aircraft** that India had previously gifted to the Maldives

## CDS Gen. Anil Chauhan Emphasizes Cyber Defence Prowess at 'Exercise Cyber Suraksha -2024'

- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan attended 'Exercise Cyber Suraksha - 2024', highlighting the essential need of strengthening India's cyber defence capabilities on May 22, 2024. This comprehensive cyber defense exercise, which will be conducted by the defense Cyber Agency from May 20 to May 24, 2024, aims to strengthen collaboration and integration across military and national agencies, therefore strengthening the nation's cyber defence readiness.
- Gen Chauhan emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts among all stakeholders in the cyber domain, commending the exercise for establishing a collaborative atmosphere to combat rising cyber threats. He praised the participants and organizers for their dedication and efforts in coordinating this critical exercise.

## The Indian Army received the 'AK-203' assault rifle through collaboration with Russia

The Indian Army has started receiving the Russian **AK-203** assault rifles after the deal with Russia saw back-to-back delays, partly due to the war in **Ukraine** and payment delays. As many as **27,000 rifles** have been handed over to the Army so far by the **Indo-Russian joint venture established** at Korwa in **Uttar Pradesh**, according to official sources.

Key Points:

- Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) was established near Korwa in the Amethi district of **Uttar Pradesh** for the production of AK-203 rifles.
- Approximately **670,000** AK-203 assault rifles will be supplied to the **Indian armed forces**.
- Out of these, **600,000 rifles** will be produced at the **IRRPL plant**.
- India will be the first foreign country to produce the **200th series** of **Kalashnikov assault rifles**.

About Russia:

Capital : Moscow

Currency: Ruble

President : Vladimir Putin

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### Indian Army and IOCL Join Forces for Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus Technology Trials

Indian Army has joined hands with the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for demonstration trials of Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus technology. This collaboration underscores the Army's commitment to innovation and environmental stewardship.

Key Points:

- A formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Army and IOCL, initiating a mutually advantageous partnership.
- This agreement was officially executed in the presence of General Manoj Pande, the esteemed Chief of the Army Staff (COAS).
- Mr. Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, the esteemed Chairman of Indian Oil, was also present during the signing ceremony.
- The MoU signifies the beginning of a cooperative endeavor between the two entities.

About IOCL:

Chairperson: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 30 June 1959

## SPORTS NEWS

### 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

### Neeraj Chopra Wins Gold In Federation Cup With Throw Of 82.27 Metres

Indian Athlete and Olympic champion, Neeraj Chopra clinched the gold medal in the javelin throw at the Athletics Championships with a remarkable throw **of 82.27 metres**. The event, held at the Federation Cup 2024 athletics meet at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, **Odisha**. Neeraj showcased his prowess and reaffirmed his status as one of the **top javelin** throwers from India.

Key Points:

- Indian athlete and Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal in the javelin throw at the Athletics Championships.
- He achieved a remarkable throw of 82.27 metres.
- The event took place at the Federation Cup 2024 athletics meet.
- It was held at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, on Wednesday.
- Neeraj's performance showcased his skill and reaffirmed his status as one of India's top javelin throwers.

### Sunil Chhetri announces retirement from international football after FIFA World Cup qualifier

**Chhetri, 39**, announced his decision to retire from international football after the FIFA World Cup qualifying match against **Kuwait on June 6**, bringing the curtains down on a 19-year career during which he became India's top goal-scorer with 94 strikes.

Key Points:

- Sunil Chhetri, a prominent figure in **Indian football**, has enjoyed a stellar career spanning over two decades.

- As a talented forward, he has excelled in both domestic leagues and on the international stage.
- In a twist of fate, Chhetri will play his final game in the same city where he debuted for India 19 years ago.
- India faces a crucial match against Kuwait, which they must win to remain in contention for a World Cup Qualifiers **Round 3 berth**.
- India is currently ranked second in Group A with four points from four games.

### **Manika Batra becomes first Indian woman paddler to break top-25 world ranking now at NO. 24**

India's ace women's table tennis player **Manika Batra** became the **first Indian woman** paddler to break into the **top 25** of the world Women's singles rankings. She rose to her career-best ranking of 24, following her **success in the Saudi Smash**. She also equalled **G. Sathyan's five year old** record for the highest rank achieved by an Indian in **singles table tennis**.

Key Points:

- Manika not only reaffirmed her position as India's **top-ranked player**, surpassing Sreeja Akula, but she also made history at **25 years old**.
- Manika experienced a remarkable ascent driven by her outstanding performance at the recent **Saudi Smash tournament**.
- She achieved a stunning upset by defeating the **formidable world No. 2** and Olympic medallist Wang Manyu of China.
- In the quarterfinals, she encountered a tough opponent in **Hina Hayata of Japan**.

### **P Shyaamnikhil of Tamil Nadu becomes India's 85<sup>th</sup> Chess Grandmaster**

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

Key Points:

- Before the Dubai event, **Shyaamnikhil** required only one victory and eight draws to achieve the prestigious **GM title**.
- Despite obtaining the necessary **2500 ELO** rating points and securing two GM norms in **2012**, he struggled to obtain the elusive third norm for over **ten years**.
- However, Shyaamnikhil's steadfast determination and expertise eventually led to his **successful rise** to the Grandmaster's status.



About Tamil Nadu:

Capital: Chennai

Chief Minister: M. K. Stalin

Governor: R. N. Ravi

### **Coca-Cola India announces its first ever partnership with Hockey India, for the National Women's Hockey League**

Anandana, The Coca-Cola India Foundation, has forged its maiden alliance with Hockey India for the National **Women's Hockey League 2024**. This partnership strives to **raise the profile** of women's hockey by offering vital resources and assistance to players. It aligns with Coca-Cola India's dedication to sports and **gender equality**, as demonstrated by its #SheTheDifference campaign.

Key Points:

- Coca-Cola India and Hockey India have launched a strategic initiative spanning **three years** to enhance women's hockey.
- The focus is on providing **specialized coaching**, supplying **training equipment**, offering **nutritional support**, and arranging camps and tournaments to encourage development.
- Sporting **Ethos** is backing this initiative, which aims to uplift female hockey players both at the national and international levels.

About Coca-Cola:

Founder: Asa Griggs Candler

Headquarters: Atlanta, Georgia, United States

CEO: James Quincey

### **K M Deeksha breaks 1500m National mark in LA meet**

KM Deeksha of MP Athletics Academy made history at the prestigious **Sound Running Track Festival** in **Los Angeles**, by setting a new national record in the women's **1500m** event and grabbing the third position in the highly competitive World Athletics Continental Tour **Bronze event**.

Key Points:

- KM Deeksha from MP Athletics Academy achieved a historic **milestone** at the esteemed Sound Running Track Festival in Los Angeles.
- A **25-year-old** athlete from **Madhya Pradesh**, who previously surprised Harmilan and clinched the Inter-State National gold in Bhubaneswar last year, achieved a remarkable feat.
- She recorded a time of **4:04.78s**, surpassing her previous best of **4:06.07s**, while securing the **third position** in Los Angeles.

- The title was won by **American Kristlin Gear**, the US National **3000m** steeplechase champion, who set a personal best of **4:03.65s**.



### **Sachin Sarjerao Khilari clinches gold medal in shot put at World Para Athletics C'ship**

- In Para Athletics, India's Sachin Sarjerao Khilari clinched the gold medal in the men's shot put at the World Para Athletics Championship in Kobe, Japan. He also set a new Asian record with a throw of 16.30 metres in the F46 category, to defended his title at the world championships.
- Another Indian, Dharambir bagged the Bronze Medal in the Men's Club Throw. His final throw distance of 33.31 metres not only secured him the Bronze Medal but also set a new Asian Record in the F51 Category. Mariyappan Thangavelu clinched his maiden gold medal at the World Para Athletics by leaping 1.88m in the men's T63 high jump event.

### **Australia and Uzbekistan confirmed as 2026 and 2029 AFC Women's Asian CuP hosts**

- Australia and Uzbekistan have been confirmed as the hosts of the 2026 and 2029 editions of the AFC Women's Asian Cup™ respectively after the AFC Executive Committee today ratified the AFC Women's Football Committee's recommendations at its third meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand, on the eve of the 34th AFC Congress.
- The AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 will feature 12 top women's national football teams from the continent. The teams will be divided into three groups of four each, with matches being played across the host states of New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia.

Foot Notes:

About Australia:

Capital: Canberra

Prime Minister: Anthony Albanese

### **Puma India become the sponsor of Athletics Federation of India**

The Indian arm of **German sportswear** giant Puma has agreed a multi-year deal with the **Athletics Federation of India (AFI)** to become its official **kit partner**. Through the tie-up, Puma

will provide apparel, accessories, and footwear to all AFI competitors (of which there are over 400) across a variety of track and field disciplines in **international and domestic events**.

Key Points:

- The partnership does not include the **Paris 2024 Olympic Games** or the **Commonwealth and Asian Games, both scheduled for 2026**.
- IOS Sports and Entertainment brokered the agreement.
- Puma's chief executive, Arne Freundt, highlighted India as one of Puma's "most dynamic markets," emphasizing its importance to the brand's future plans.

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

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

- Ronaldo earned a total of **\$260** million over the past year, according to Forbes.
- This includes **\$200 million** from his contract with Saudi club **Al-Nassr**.
- He made an additional **\$60** million from off-field activities.
- At 39 years old, his financial success is unmatched among his peers.
- He belongs to **Portugal**.
- Popularly known by his nickname 'CR7'

### **Nikhat Zareen and Minakshi Clinch Gold Medals at Elorda Cup in Kazakhstan**

Reigning world champion Nikhat Zareen and Minakshi clinched a gold each as the Indian team concluded their Elorda Cup campaign with a best-ever tally of a whopping **12 medals**. This surpassed their previous record of five medals from the last edition. Minakshi also secured a **gold medal in the tournament**.

Indian boxers won a total of 12 medals:

- 2 gold
- 2 silver
- 8 bronze

### **Brazil to Host 2027 Women's World Cup Soccer**

The 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup will be held in **Brazil**. This is a big deal in the world of international **women's football**. Brazil will be hosting this prestigious event for the first time. It will be a chance to show off its rich culture and love of football. The news comes as FIFA focuses more on making women's football more popular and easier for people around the **world to play**.

Key Points:

- Brazil was chosen due to its rich football history and experience in hosting major events like the **2014 FIFA Men's World Cup** and the **2016 Summer Olympics**.
- The country boasts a well-established sports infrastructure and a large, passionate football fanbase.
- Hosting the Women's World Cup is anticipated to significantly boost local economies and promote **gender equality** in sports.
- The event aims to inspire young women to participate in sports both in Brazil and globally.

### **India's Simran Sharma wins Gold Medal at World Para Athletics Championship in Kobe, Japan**

India's Simran Sharma has won a **Gold medal in the World Para Athletics Championships** in Kobe, Japan. Simran clinched the gold in the women's **200m T12 event**, achieving a personal best time of 24.95 seconds

Key Points:

- India wrapped up their participation in the World Para Athletics Championships with outstanding accomplishments, garnering a total of **17 medals**.
- Among these medals were **six golds**, a remarkable feat that propelled India to the **sixth position** in the overall standings.
- Simran Sharma's exceptional performance not only elevated India's medal tally but also saw her surpass her previous personal best time of **25.16 seconds**, ultimately securing the **gold medal**.

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

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

Key Points:

- The ICC Men's T20 World Cup is set to begin on **1st June**.
- The host nation, USA, will kick off the tournament against Canada at the **Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas**.
- A highly anticipated match between arch-rivals **India and Pakistan** is slated for 9th June in **New York**, guaranteeing excitement for fans.
- His aggressive batting approach was particularly effective in **limited-overs cricket**, especially in the T20 format.

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## INDEX NEWS

### 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.

## IMPORTANT DAYS NEWS

### World Athletics day observed on 7<sup>th</sup> May

World Athletics Day, established by the International Amateur Athletic Federation, is celebrated on May 7th each year. The aim of this day is to **promote sports** and exercise as a means of preventing diseases and maintaining **good health**. The focus is on **encouraging people to participate** in athletics and other fitness activities to keep themselves healthy.

#### Key Points:

- It presents a chance for individuals to unite and commemorate their strength and perseverance in conquering the obstacles posed by the pandemic.



- This occasion symbolizes resilience and serves as a reminder of the collective effort needed to overcome challenges and rebuild communities.

### **National Technology day observed on 11<sup>th</sup> May**

The theme of National Technology Day 2024 has not been announced yet. However, like every year, the day will be recognized to embrace the advancements of India in the field of **science and technology**.

#### **Key Points:**

- National Technology Day is observed every year on May 11 in India.
- It is a day dedicated to honoring the achievements of innovators, scientists, and engineers.
- The objective is to encourage scientific and technological innovation across the nation.
- The day was initially established in 1998.
- It commemorates the successful nuclear test conducted at Pokhran.
- This test marked a significant milestone in India's technological progress.
- It enabled India to emerge as a key player in nuclear weapons technology.

### **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day(WTISD)**

The purpose of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to **bridge the digital divide**. The origins of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day date back to the signing of the First International Telegraph Convention on **17 May 1865**, which marked the establishment of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

#### **Key Points:**

- World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is observed every year.
- Its purpose is to raise awareness about the potential benefits of utilizing the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) in societies and economies.
- The day also aims to highlight methods for narrowing the digital divide.

### **International day of Light is observed on 16<sup>th</sup> May**

The International Day of Light is observed on **May 16** every year to commemorate Theodore Maiman's successful operation of the **laser** in **1960**. This day serves as a reminder to enhance scientific collaboration and leverage its capacity to promote peace and sustainable progress. The International Day of Light is an annual event that recognizes the crucial significance of light in **science, culture, art, education**, and sustainable development.

#### **Key Points:**

- The International Day of Light is important because it highlights how **crucial light** is in many parts of **our lives**.

- The day encourages sharing **scientific knowledge and working together** across different parts of society.
- It shows how light-based technologies can help solve big **global problems** and make the future better for everyone.

### United Nations proclaimed May 25 as World Football Day

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

Key Points:

- The resolution, presented by **Taher M. El-Sonni**, Permanent Representative of the State of Libya to the United Nations, received unanimous approval from the **193-member** General Assembly.
- It highlights the significance of football in advancing peace, development, and **solidarity** among nations.
- This aligns with the United Nations' objective of building a better world through sports and **embracing the Olympic ideal**.

### National Anti-Terrorism Day observed on 21st May

India observes National Anti-Terrorism Day. This day is dedicated to raising awareness about the dangers of terrorism and the importance of unity in combating this global menace. It also commemorates the assassination of former Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi**, who was killed by a suicide bomber on this day in **1991**.

Key Points:

- National Anti-Terrorism Day was inaugurated in 1992, one year subsequent to the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi.
- Rajiv Gandhi, India's youngest Prime Minister at 40, was a notable advocate for peace and modernization.
- His assassination by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) served as a poignant reminder of terrorism's profound impact on society.

### World Metrology day observed on 20<sup>th</sup> May

World Metrology Day is an annual event celebrated to commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the Meter Convention in **1875**. Metrology is the science of measurement. The day is organized by the International **Bureau of Weights and Measures** (BIPM). The BIPM was established under the terms of the Meter Convention signed in 1875 by 17 nations, including **France, Germany, and the United States**.

Key Points:

- Metrology is essential for maintaining standards and ensuring accuracy across various sectors.
- It establishes consistent and reliable **measurement practices**, facilitating fair trade, supporting scientific advancements, and enhancing the overall quality of life.
- The purpose of World Metrology Day is to raise awareness about the importance of accurate and reliable measurements in industry, trade, scientific research, and **everyday life**.
- Events and activities are organized **globally** to emphasize the importance of metrology and its **impact on society**.

### World Hunger day observed on 28<sup>th</sup> May

World Hunger Day is observed globally on 28 May every year. The objective of this day is to **raise awareness** about more than 820 million people living in chronic hunger worldwide. It is observed since 2011 to not only spread awareness about the malaise of chronic hunger but also to solve hunger and poverty through **sustainable undertakings**.

Key Points:

- The theme for World Hunger Day 2024 is "**Thriving Mothers, Thriving World**," highlighting the pivotal role of women in securing food for their families and communities.
- More than **1 billion women and adolescent girls** suffer from malnutrition, a condition with severe repercussions for both mothers and their children, as stated by the UN.
- Investing in women's health, education, and economic empowerment can disrupt the cycle of hunger, paving the way for a future where everyone can prosper.

### World No-Tobacco day observed on 31<sup>st</sup> May

Every year, World No Tobacco Day reminds people of the health hazards associated with tobacco and promotes effective policies to decrease its usage. It highlights various health risks including heart disease, stroke, cancer, and respiratory illnesses, serving as a cautionary reminder.

Key Points:

- Smoking is profoundly harmful, leading to millions of deaths annually and placing a significant strain on healthcare systems.
- In 1987, the World Health Organisation (WHO) adopted resolution WHA40.38, designating April 7, 1988, as the inaugural World No-Smoking Day.

- This declaration coincided with the organisation's 40th anniversary and represented the initial phase of a larger campaign against smoking.

## OBITUARY NEWS

### Actor Bernard Hill, known for playing King Theoden in 'The Lord of the Rings', Passes away

Renowned British actor Bernard Hill, celebrated for his portrayal of King Theoden in Peter Jackson's epic The Lord of the Rings trilogy, has passed away at the age of 80.

Born on December 17, 1944, in Manchester, England, Hill began his acting career on the stage before transitioning to film and television. His versatility and talent allowed him to tackle a diverse range of roles, including BBC series Boys from the Blackstuff and James Cameron's Titanic. But it was his portrayal of the noble King Theoden that etched his name into cinematic history.

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

- Shaikh Abdussalam Abdurrazzaq, the renowned Urdu litterateur and academician, popularly known by his pseudonym Salam Bin Razzaq, passed away on Tuesday at his residence in Navi Mumbai after a prolonged illness, as informed by a family friend.
- Razzaq, aged 83, left behind a rich literary legacy. He was the recipient of the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu literature in 2004 for his acclaimed short story collection, 'Shikasta Buton Ke Darmiyan'.

### Varugeese Koshy, chess International Master and renowned trainer, died

- International Master, renowned trainer and a mentor to many aspirants, Varugeese Koshy, has died. He was **66**. Koshy leaves behind two sons and his wife.
- Koshy had known about his terminal lung cancer for about ten months and he dealt with the dreaded disease with his impeccable sense of humour. "**Apna time aa gaya,**" he had said in October last year.

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### Sahitya Akademi winner Urdu litterateur Salam Bin Razzaq passes at 83

Shaikh Abdussalam Abdurrazzaq, a celebrated Urdu writer and recipient of the **Sahitya Akademi** Award in 2004, passed away **at 83**. Known by his pen name **Salam Bin Razzaq**, he was born in **1941** in Panvel, Raigad district, **Maharashtra**.

#### Key Points:

- Shaikh Abdussalam Abdurrazzaq published his debut short story in the literary magazine Shaa'ir back in 1962.
- He authored three collections of short stories, two in Urdu and one in Hindi. Additionally, he translated Marathi fiction into Urdu.
- More than four dozen of his stories have been aired on All India Radio (AIR), and over a dozen are part of the curriculum for students in schools, colleges, and universities.
- Some of his notable literary works include "Nangi Dopahar Ka Sipahi" (1977), "Muabbir" (1987), and "Zindagi Afsana Nahin" (2012).

### Passing Away Of Former Gujarat Governor Dr Kamla Beniwal

Former Gujarat governor and veteran Congress leader Kamla Beniwal died after a brief illness at a hospital in Jaipur, Rajasthan. She was **97**. She served as the 18th governor of Gujarat from Nov 27, 2009 to July 6, 2014.

#### Key Points:

- Kamla Beniwal, a veteran of the Congress party, has served in various significant positions.
- She was the **Deputy Chief Minister** of Rajasthan in **2003**.
- Beniwal also held the esteemed post of **Governor** in three states: **Tripura, Gujarat, and Mizoram**.
- Born in **1927 in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu district**, she actively participated in the freedom struggle during her youth.
- At the **age of 27**, she made history by becoming Rajasthan's first woman minister.

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

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

Key Points:

- Despite winning many literary awards, like the Nobel Prize in **Literature in 2013** and the International **Booker Prize** in **2009**, Munro stayed humble and down-to-earth.
- She knew she wanted to be a writer since she was 11 years old and never changed her mind about it.

### **Former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Sushil Kumar Modi passed away at 72**

Sushil Kumar Modi passed away on **May 13, 2024**, at the age of **72**, after battling **cancer**. His death marked the end of an era in **Bihar politics**, where he left an indelible mark with his unwavering commitment to his principles and his tireless work for the people of Bihar. Sushil Kumar Modi was an important politician from Bihar, India. He was a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He served as the **Deputy Chief Minister** of Bihar for many years and was also a Member of Parliament.

Key Points:

- Sushil Kumar Modi was born on **January 5, 1952**, in Bihar and attended **Patna Science College**.
- He earned a degree in **Botany** but chose to discontinue his further studies to participate in the student movement led by **Jai Prakash Narayan**.
- Modi's political activism began at a young age, notably being involved in the Bihar Student's **Movement in 1974** and the JP Movement against the Emergency.

About Bihar:

Capital: Patna

Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar

Governor: Rajendra Arlekar

### **Fomer Bureaucrat & Padma Bhushan Awardee Moosa Raza Passed Away**

Padma Bhushan Awardee Moosa Raza, who served as **Chief Secretary** of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) from **1988 to 1990**, passed away at the age of 87 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu(TN). He was **born** on 27th February **1937** in Villupuram district in TN Moosa Raza was an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1960 batch of **Gujarat** cadre.

Key Points:

- He worked as a Collector and **District Magistrate** in different districts of **Gujarat**.
- Additionally, he held positions as the **Principal Secretary** to the Chief Minister of Gujarat and Advisor to the Governor of **Uttar Pradesh**.



- Following his **retirement** in **1995**, he became the director general of the India Islamic Cultural Centre project.
- He was also a member of the **National Integration Council** of India after retirement.
- Since 2000, he has been the Chairman of the South Indian Educational Trust (S.I.E.T.), overseeing **six** educational institutions.

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

The news of Patar's demise has been met with an outpouring of grief and condolences from political leaders and literary figures alike. **Bhagwant Mann**, the Chief Minister of Punjab, and Kultar Singh Sandhwan, the Speaker of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, expressed their deep sorrow and **acknowledged Patar's** significant contribution to the promotion and preservation of the Punjabi language globally.

Surjit Patar's literary journey was marked by numerous accolades and honours, including the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award for his exceptional work in regional language writing. His achievements were recognized at the highest level when he was conferred the Padma Shri in **2012**, a well-deserved recognition of his contributions to **Punjabi literature**.

About Punjab:

Capital: Chandigarh

Chief Minister: Bhagwant Mann

Governor: Banwarilal Purohit

### **Narayan Vaghul passed away, In which year was he awarded Padma Bhushan**

Veteran banker and former chairman of **ICICI Bank Narayanan Vaghul** passed away at the age of **88**. He breathed his last at **Apollo Hospital in Chennai**. In his career spanning several decades, Waghul did many **important works**. This includes making ICICI Bank a full-fledged bank from an early stage finance institution. Let us know about Waghul's achievements in detail.

- Narayanan Vaghul served as chairman and **CEO of ICICI Bank Limited for 24 years**, transforming it into **India's second-largest commercial bank** and pioneering the Universal Banking Model in India.
- He established India's **first venture capital company**, which has grown to be an industry leader.

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

The Indian banking industry mourns the loss of a legendary figure, N Vaghul, who passed away on Saturday in Chennai at the age of 88. Vaghul, a former chairman of ICICI Bank, left an

indelible mark on the financial sector with his visionary leadership and commitment to excellence.

- Vaghul spent close to twenty years at SBI before transitioning to the National Institute of Bank Management.
- Later, he assumed the role of executive director at the Central Bank of India, showcasing his leadership skills.
- Subsequently, he ascended to the position of chairman and managing director at Bank of India.
- However, his most notable impact occurred upon joining the former development bank ICICI Ltd in 1985.

### **‘Ice cream man of India’ Raghunandan Kamath dies at 70**

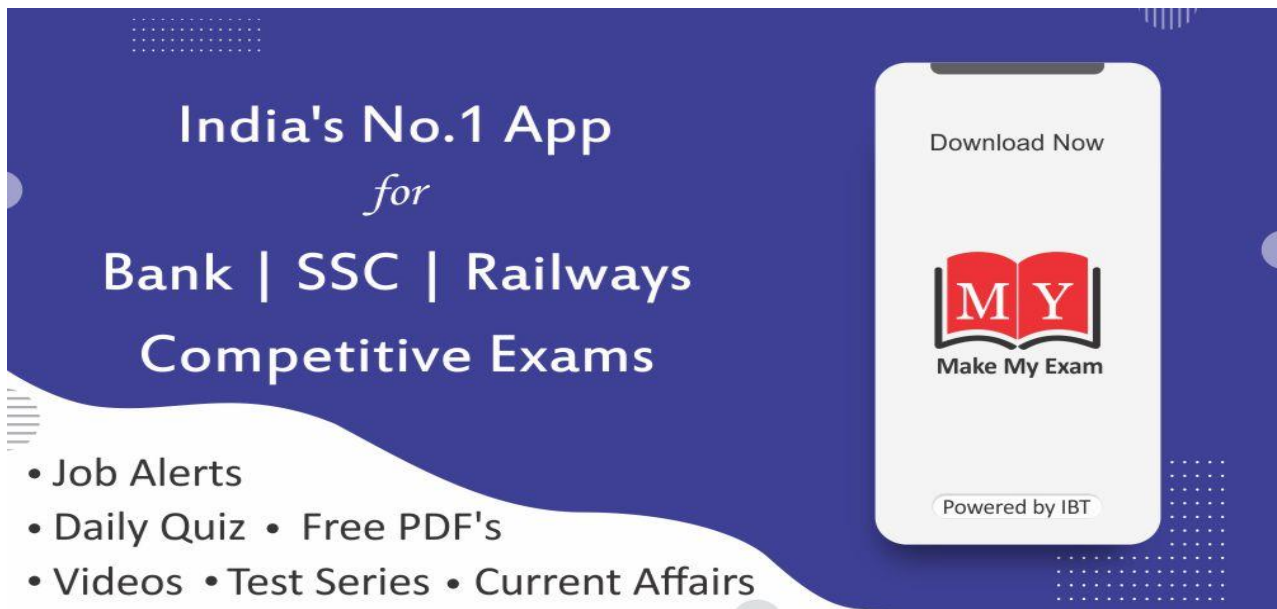
- Raghunandan Srinivas Kamath, the founder of **Naturals Ice Cream**, passed away. He was **70**. His last rites were performed evening at Amboli, Andheri West. Born to a mango vendor in a village in Mangaluru, Kamath went on to establish Naturals, an ice cream parlour estimated to be worth Rs **400 crore**, becoming a well-known figure in the industry and an inspiration to many.
- His first ice cream parlour was launched in **1984** in Juhu, with the initial menu featuring around **12 flavours**, each being a testament to the knowledge he acquired during the time he assisted his father in **Mangaluru**.

### **Richard Sherman, songwriter behind Disney hits, dies at 95**

Richard M Sherman, one half of the prolific, award-winning pair of brothers who helped form millions of childhoods by penning the instantly memorable songs for “**Mary Poppins**”, “The Jungle Book” and “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang” as well as the most-played tune on Earth, “It’s a Small World” has died.

Key Points:


- Their accolades encompass **23 gold** and **platinum albums**, along with a star on the **Hollywood Walk of Fame**.
- Notably, they achieved the unique feat of being the sole Americans to clinch the top prize at **the Moscow Film Festival** for their work on “**Tom Sawyer**” in **1973**.
- Additionally, their contributions led to their induction into the **Songwriters' Hall of Fame** in 2005.



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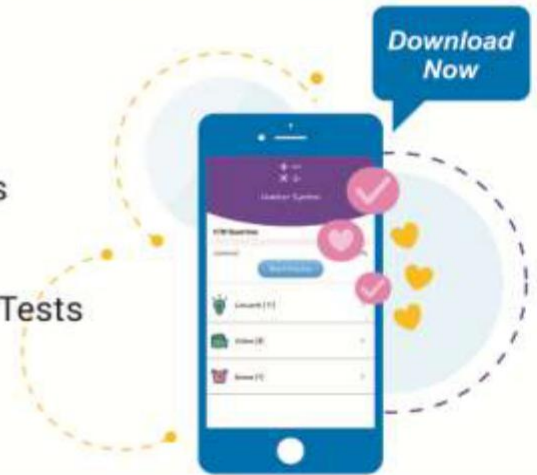
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