

## **MAY 2023 Current Affairs Compendium**

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### World No Tobacco Day

The World No Tobacco Day is celebrated every year on May 31. This day is observed as an initiative led by the World Health Organization (WHO) to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and to have policies to reduce tobacco consumption.

**History** - World No Tobacco Day was established by the member states of the World Health Organization in 1987 with an aim to draw global attention to the “tobacco epidemic and the preventable death and diseases it causes”. A resolution was passed by the World Health Assembly in 1987 following which the WHO announced that May 31 be observed as World No Tobacco Day annually.

**Theme** - The theme for this year's No Tobacco Day is “We need food, not tobacco”. The global campaign is geared towards promoting alternative crop production and marketing opportunities among tobacco farmers. It aims to encourage those involved in the production of tobacco to grow sustainable and nutritious crops. The campaign is also an attempt to “expose the tobacco industry's efforts to interfere with attempts to substitute tobacco growing with sustainable crops, thereby contributing to the global food crisis”.

### US and Papua New Guinea signed a defense pact

The United States and Papua New Guinea have signed a new bilateral defense cooperation agreement – a move that has sparked controversy in the Pacific Island nation and comes as Washington and China jostle for influence in the region.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Papua New Guinea (PNG) Prime Minister James Marape signed the pact and a maritime security agreement during Blinken's visit to the capital Port Moresby.

Advance text of the agreements were not released by either side, but the new defense cooperation was expected to expand US access to military and other facilities in PNG, bolstering Washington's security ties in the South Pacific.

**About: Papua New Guinea** - Papua New Guinea is an island country that lies in the south-western Pacific. It includes the eastern half of New Guinea and many small offshore islands.

### Ireland to label alcoholic drinks with detailed health warnings

Ireland says it will become the world's first country to label alcoholic drinks with comprehensive health warnings. These health warnings, which include information about risks like cancer, have received support from the World Health Organization and have been approved by both the European Union and the World Trade Organization. The new policy, which will be implemented starting from May 22, 2026. This three-year period aims to allow businesses enough time to adjust to the new public health guidelines.

Ireland made progress in implementing the health warning labels after overcoming two major obstacles at the European Union and the World Trade Organization.

Although the alcohol industry has made significant efforts to hinder the introduction of health warning labels on alcohol products due to their reluctance to disclose the dangers associated with their products to the public. For instance , key members of the European Commissioner for Agriculture's cabinet met with the alcohol giant Diageo shortly after the proposal for health warnings was submitted to the EU.

### **Bangladesh-US joint naval exercise begins in Chattogram**

The Joint Bangladesh-US Naval drill Exercise 'Tiger Shark 40' started at BNS Nirvik in Chattogram, The objective of the exercise is to increase strategic capabilities of both the countries and to acquire mutual technical and procedural knowledge. It is being undertaken to improve the existing good relations between the armed forces of the two countries,

Special Forces of Bangladesh Army and Navy and US Special Forces participated in this training exercise held under the management of Commodore Swords Command.

### **Prime Minister unveils Mahatma Gandhi Bust in Hiroshima**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled the bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Hiroshima, Japan. The Mahatma Gandhi bust has been gifted by the Government of India to the city of Hiroshima as a symbol of friendship and goodwill between India and Japan, on the occasion of the visit of the Prime Minister for the G-7 summit from 19-21 May 2023.

The 42 inches tall bronze bust has been sculpted by Padma Bhushan awardee Shri Ram Vanji Sutar. The bust site, adjacent to the Motoyasu River, is close to iconic A-Bomb Dome that is visited by thousands of people - locals and tourists alike - every day. The location has been chosen as a mark of solidarity for peace and non-violence. Mahatma Gandhi dedicated his life to peace and non-violence. The location truly resonates with the principles and life of Gandhiji, which continue to inspire the world and its leaders.

### **Charles III crowned as King of UK at historic ceremony in London**

King Charles has been crowned at his Coronation in London on Saturday May 6 . Charles III has taken his oath and been crowned King in a ceremony witnessed by over two thousand guests and dignitaries in Westminster Abbey.

The Archbishop of Canterbury placed the St Edward's Crown on the King's head during a ceremony at Westminster Abbey. After the King was crowned, his wife Camilla as crowned Queen.

Gun salutes were made at 13 locations across the UK, including in London, Edinburgh and Hillsborough, at the moment King Charles was crowned, while the bells of Westminster Abbey rang for two minutes.

### **UK 'knitted satellite 'CarbSar' will see Earth day or night**

Named CarbSar (Satellite ) the mission will launch next year, and could help fill a gap in Britain's spying capacity. The satellite will use radar technology to see through cloud and will even work at night.

The Ukraine conflict has shown the value of such systems, which have been used to monitor Russian positions. The Britain is the only permanent member of the UN Security Council without its own system.

The two UK companies - Surrey Satellite Technology Limited and Oxford Space Systems - believe they can provide a similar, home-grown capability. They will start building their spacecraft this year - with government support - and with a launch on an American rocket already booked.

SSTL has a long-established reputation for aerospace manufacturing; the real novelty is in the OSS radar antenna. SSTL and OSS hope their CarbSar pathfinder will put them in a strong position to win future contracts to supply operational spacecraft to the UK government for both civil and military applications.

### Mark Nicholas to become next president of MCC

Former England cricketer and veteran commentator Mark Nicholas has been elected as the next president of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)

Nicholas will replace current president Stephen Fry and will assume responsibilities in October this year. His appointment was announced at the Club's Annual General Meeting.

Nicholas, who was elected as a Member of MCC in 1981, is one of the most recognisable figures in televised cricket, leading coverage at the very top of the game across the world.

Mark scored over 25,000 runs - including an unbeaten hundred for MCC at Lord's against the 1985 Australians - and took 173 wickets in a professional career spanning over two decades. He also captained Hampshire to four major trophies, three of which came in finals at Lord's.

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### **Michael Douglas to be honoured with Palme d'Or at Cannes Film Festival 2023**

Oscar-winning actor Michael Douglas is set to receive the highest honorary award, the Palme d'Or, at this year's 76th Cannes Film Festival. The veteran actor will be felicitated for his contribution to cinema and successful career that spanned over five decades.

He is a 78-year-old actor well known for films like Fatal Attraction (1987), Wall Street (1987), Basic Instinct (1992), etc.

In a statement, the organisers said that the festival will pay a special tribute to the 78-year-old during the opening ceremony, scheduled for May 16. As part of the tribute, a previously unreleased documentary, titled 'Michael Douglas, The Prodigal Son', will be shown on the festival site for two days - from May 14 to May 16.

### **The World's top 10 Highest-Paid Athletes list 2023 by Forbes**

International soccer stars Cristiano Ronaldo with \$136 million, Lionel Messi with \$130 million and Kylian Mbappe with \$120 million are the top three highest-paid athletes.

Ronaldo tops the list with an estimated pay of \$136 million, including \$46 million from his playing salary and bonuses and \$90 million from endorsements, appearances, licensing income and other business endeavors.

The world's ten highest-paid athletes collectively made \$1.11 billion before taxes and agents' fees over the last 12 months, which is the highest total ever.

Forbes calculates on-field earnings based on prize money, salaries and bonuses, while off-field earnings are an estimate of sponsorship deals, appearance fees and memorabilia and licensing income. It also includes cash returns from businesses that are operated by the athlete.

### **Luca Brecel beats Mark Selby to become snooker world champion for the first time**

Luca Brecel has won his first ever world title after beating Mark Selby 18-15 in an enthralling World Championship finale at the Crucible.

Brecel, 28, was made to wait for his crowning moment, with Selby staging a superb fightback after his opponent moved to within two frames of victory. Selby won the final

two frames of the first mini-session, including a century break adding to the 147 he rattled in on Sunday.

He rallied to pull the scores back to 16 -15 after the final interval. But the Belgian, who won 11 successive frames to complete a rousing fightback against Si Jiahui in the semi-finals, finished the job to claim world honours for the first time in his career.

Brecel's victory has established him as one of the rising stars of the snooker world. His talent, flair and determination have won him many admirers, and he has been tipped to achieve even greater things in the future. His victory at the Crucible is a testament to his hard work and dedication, and he will no doubt be looking to build on this success in the years to come.

### **Vanessa Hudson, Qantas Airways' first female CEO**

Australia's flagship carrier, Qantas Airways Ltd, named finance chief Vanessa Hudson as its next chief executive officer, making her the first woman to lead the century-old airline.

Hudson will in November take over from Alan Joyce, whose 15 years in the job has made him the longest-serving current CEO of a major Australian company, and a towering figure in the global aviation industry.

Hudson's appointment makes her one of the few female executives leading a major company in Australia, although rival carrier Virgin Australia also has a woman CEO, Jayne Hrdlicka.

Qantas Chairman Richard Goyder said Hudson's handling of the finance and treasury portfolio during the COVID crisis was outstanding, putting her ahead of almost 40 candidates globally that the airline had short-listed for the job.

### **AI 'godfather' Geoffrey Hinton warns of dangers as he quits Google**

Geoffrey Hinton, a computer scientist who played a significant role in developing the technology that powers popular chatbots such as ChatGPT and Bing, resigned from Google to speak up about the potential dangers of artificial intelligence. Hinton, who is 75 years old, had created the foundational technology for AI in collaboration with two of his graduate students at the University of Toronto back in 2012. He believes that AI is the next big thing for the tech industry, but also wants to highlight the risks associated with it.

About: Geoffrey Hinton - Geoffrey Hinton, also known as the "Godfather of AI," Geoffrey Hinton was an artificial intelligence pioneer. In 2012, Dr. Hinton and two of his graduate students at the University of Toronto created technology that became the intellectual foundation for the A.I. systems that the tech industry's biggest companies believe is a key to their future

NOTE - Geoffrey Hinton, has won the 'Nobel Prize of computing' for his work on neural networks.

### **Sergio Pérez wins Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2023**

Red Bull's Sergio Perez won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix, the fourth round of the 2023 Formula 1 World Championship, in Baku. Sergio Pérez took advantage of a fortunately

timed safety car to beat his teammate Max Verstappen to the victory in the Azerbaijan Grand Prix,

Verstappen started second behind Ferrari's Charles Leclerc but swept past him on the long start-finish straight at the end of lap 3, the first lap on which drivers were allowed to use the DRS overtake assist system on the rear wing. Fernando Alonso finished in fourth place, showing strong pace for Aston Martin after issues in qualifying.

About: Sergio Pérez - Sergio Michel "Checo" Pérez Mendoza is a Mexican racing driver who races in Formula One for Red Bull Racing, having previously driven for Sauber, McLaren, Force India, and Racing Point.

### Ding Liren becomes China's first world chess champion

Paris: Ding Liren became China's first world chess champion on Sunday after a rapid-play tie-break victory over Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi in Kazakhstan.

Ding, 30, takes over as winner of the World Chess Championship from Norway's Magnus Carlsen, who chose not to defend his title after a 10-year reign.

He and Nepomniachtchi had finished on seven points each after the 14 first-stage games played in the Kazakh capital Astana. Each won three, while the other eight ended in a draw.

For the tie-break stage of the match, also in Astana,. The contenders then played a tie-break round, in which they had only 25 minutes to make their moves, plus an additional 10 seconds for each move played.

Ding is rated higher than Nepomniachtchi in the faster formats of the game but had played very little such chess in official competitions since January 2020.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Cabinet approves CITIIS 2.0 from 2023 to 2027 with a focus on circular economy

The Union Cabinet has approved the City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0), a program conceived by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the European Union (EU) and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA). The program will run for a period of four years, starting from 2023 till 2027

**Funding** - The funding for CITIIS 2.0 would include a loan of Rs.1760 crore (EUR 200 million) from AFD and KfW (EUR 100 million each) and a technical assistance grant of Rs.106 crore (EUR 12 million) from the EU. CITIIS 2.0 aims to leverage and scale up the learnings and successes of CITIIS 1.0, which was launched jointly in 2018 by MoHUA, AFD, EU, and NIUA, with a total outlay of ₹933 crore (EUR 106 million).

This ambitious program envisages to support competitively selected projects promoting circular economy with focus on integrated waste management at the city level, climate-oriented reform actions at the State level, besides institutional strengthening and knowledge dissemination at the national level.

### Siddaramaiah sworn in as CM of Karnataka, D.K. Shivakumar takes oath as Deputy CM

Congress Legislative Party leader Siddaramaiah was sworn in as Chief Minister of Karnataka, along with the Karnataka Congress president D.K Shivakumar as the Deputy

Chief Minister. The Oath of office was administered by Karnataka Governor Thawarchand Gehlot at Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru.

Congress MLAs Dr G Parameshwara, KH Muniyappa, KJ George, MB Patil, Satish Jarkiholi, Priyank Kharge, Ramalinga Reddy and BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan took oath as the ministers in the state cabinet.

### **India's Operation Karuna provides humanitarian aid to Cyclone Mocha victims in Myanmar**

In keeping with its tradition of Vasudaiva Kutumbakam, India as the first responder to natural disasters in the region started Operation Karuna to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) materials for the people of Myanmar affected by Cyclone Mocha,

Three ships INS Shivalik, INS Kamorta and INS Savitri brought around 40 tonnes of materials, and The fourth ship INS Gharial brought additional materials, mostly medicines and medical items,

The relief materials carried by the 4 ships have 14 pallets of essential items of use (edible and non-edible) and 16 medical pallets. INS Gharial also contains portable medical container facility with the capacity for 120 bedded hospital. The medical pallets contain first aid items, antibiotics, anti-histamines, analgesics, intravenous fluids for commonly spread infections and diseases.

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### **Indian Navy's sixth and final Kalvari Class Submarine, Vaghsheer commences sea trials**

The Indian Navy's sixth and final Kalvari class submarine, Vaghsheer, has begun its sea trials. Vaghsheer is scheduled for delivery to the Indian Navy in early 2024 after completion of these trial. The submarine was launched on 20th April 2022 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).

About Submarine Vagsheer - Vagsheer is named after the sand fish, a deep sea predator of the Indian Ocean. Vagsheer is a diesel attack submarine, designed to perform sea denial as well as access denial warfare against the adversary. It is enabled with a C303 anti-torpedo countermeasure system. It can carry up to 18 torpedoes or Exocet anti-ship missiles, or 30 mines in place of torpedoes. Its superior stealth features include advanced acoustic absorption techniques, low radiated noise levels, hydro-dynamically optimized shape, and it can launch a crippling attack using precision guided weapons, underwater or on surface.

### **Uber partners with GeM portal to offer taxi services to govt offices, agencies, PSUs at fixed price**

Soon personnel from the government ministries, departments, agencies and public sector units will be able to book taxis for official purposes from cab aggregator Uber as the company has partnered with public procurement portal GeM to provide the service. It will be a kind of corporate service. At present, we have started the service on a pilot basis and gradually it will be available for all the government ministers, departments, agencies and public sector units (PSUs).

he company would provide the service at a fixed price with zero cancellation charges and no surge pricing, The company has registered at the portal of government e-marketplace (GeM), which was launched in 2016 by the commerce ministry for buying goods and services by central ministries and departments with a view to bringing transparency in government procurement.

### **PM Modi Flags Off Maiden Vande Bharat For the North East Region in Assam**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, (29 May) virtually flagged off the maiden Vande Bharat Express train for the northeast in Assam that will run from Guwahati to West Bengal's New Jalpaiguri Station. The latest Vande Bharat Express will cover the journey in about five-and-a-half hours, while the current fastest train takes around six-and-a-half hours to cover the same distance.

Prime Minister also dedicated 182 Route Kms of newly electrified sections. This will help provide pollution free transportation with trains running at higher speed and reduced running time of trains. It will also open the doors for trains running on electric traction to enter Meghalaya.

He also inaugurated a newly constructed DEMU/MEMU shed at Lumding in Assam. This new facility will be helpful for maintaining DEMU rakes operating in this region, leading to better operational feasibility.

### **Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni arrives in New Delhi on a three-day visit to India**

King of Cambodia, Norodom Sihamoni arrived in New Delhi this afternoon on a three-day visit to India from May 29 – 31. Joined by a 27-member high-level official delegation, the Cambodian King arrived here in New Delhi on a three-day official visit and was received by MoS MEA Rajkumar Ranjan Singh.

The King will have bilateral meetings with President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi tomorrow. He will be accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the morning following which he will pay floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Ghat.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar will call on the King. President Murmu will host a State Banquet in honour of the visiting dignitary in the evening.

### **Sudarshan Shakti Exercise 2023**

Recently, The Sapta Shakti Command of the Indian Army conducted exercise 'Sudarshan Shakti 2023' along the western borders in Rajasthan and Punjab, It aimed at starting the transformation of the forces into a modern, lean, and agile fighting combination capable of leveraging new-age technologies.

The exercise was designed to validate operational plans in a network-centric environment with elements of combat power, combat support and logistic support. These elements were exercised in a synergised application under all domains of enemy threat including Grey Zone Warfare as part of high tempo operations. This exercise also facilitated in meeting the stated objectives of five pillars of transformation enunciated by COAS General Manoj Pande in January 2023.

**Scope and objectives** - Integrated use of force multipliers like special forces and niche technologies covering drones, tethered drones, loiter ammunition as well as key aspects of electronic warfare made it a unique event.

### PM Narendra Modi inaugurates new Parliament building

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Parliament building, seeking blessings from high priests of various 'adheenams' in Tamil Nadu with the holy sceptre in hand. He also installed the historic Sengol in the Lok Sabha chamber. Dressed in a traditional attire, Mr. Modi walked into the Parliament premises from its Gate No. 1 and was welcomed by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

**About: The New Parliament building** - The new Parliament building, with a seating capacity of 1,272, is not only more spacious than the existing complex but is also equipped with state-of-the-art measures and cutting-edge technology.

Some of the high-tech features in the new Parliament building include multimedia display units in front of each MP's seat, biometrics for ease of voting, a digital language translation system and programmable microphone.

**About: The Sengol** - Made of silver and gold, the five-feet long sceptre was handed over by Lord Mountbatten to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on August 14, 1947, as a symbol of the transfer of power, according to the government. The Sengol, a symbol of governance in Tamil kingdoms of yore, was then kept for display in The Allahabad Museum.

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### Indian Navy and ISRO Release Gaganyaan Recovery Training Plan

The Indian Navy and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have released the Gaganyaan Recovery Training Plan at INS Garuda in Kochi. The document outlines the training plan for recovery of the crew module of the Gaganyaan mission.

The training document was jointly released by Vice Admiral Atul Anand, Director General of Naval Operations; Unnikrishnan Nair, Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, (VSSC) and Umamaheshwaran R, Director, Human Space Flight Centre of ISRO. The document defines overall requirements with respect to training of various teams participating in recovery operations including divers, MARCOs (marine commandos), medical specialists, communicators, technicians and naval aviators.

The recovery training is planned in incremental phases starting from unmanned recovery to manned recovery training in harbour and open sea conditions. The recovery operations are being led by the Indian Navy in co-ordination with other government agencies.

### Centre signs agreement with 6 states to start digital crop survey

The Center government has signed an agreement with six states of Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to start digital crop survey. The Digital Crop Survey is part of the government's Agristack or India Digital Ecosystem for Agriculture (IDEA). It was launched in 2020. The agreement was signed at a workshop organized by the Union Ministry of Agriculture to discuss the implementation

plan of digital crop survey with the state governments. On the occasion, web portal and mobile application manual for digital crop survey was unveiled.

The workshop discussed the implementation plan of Digital Crop Survey, benefits to various stakeholders, responsibilities of Central Government. The workshop also emphasized on the expectations from the states and support from the Center for effective and successful implementation of Digital Crop Survey.

### **Govt to issue special commemorative coin of ₹75 to mark the inauguration of new Parliament building**

The government will issue a commemorative coin with the denomination of ₹75 to mark the opening of the new Parliament Building. Though commemorative coins are considered legal tender, they are not released for general circulation. One can source them from the specified agencies.

**Appearance** - The face of the coin will bear the lion capital of Ashoka Pillar in the centre with the legend 'Satyamev Jayate' inscribed below, flanked on the left periphery with the word 'Bharat' in Devnagri script and on the right periphery with the word 'India' in English.

It shall also bear the Rupee symbol '₹' and denominational value '75' in the international numerals below the lion capital. On the reverse face, the coin shall bear the image of Parliament complex.

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### **Amit Shah lays the foundation stone of Guwahati campus of National Forensic Science University (NFSU) in Assam**

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of Guwahati campus of National Forensic Science University (NFSU) in Assam. Along with this, Shri Amit Shah also launched the web portal 'Assam Police Seva Setu' to make the services of the Assam Police more accessible and transparent for the people. A book written by Dr. J.M Vyas on the use of forensic science in judiciary was also released. Several dignitaries including the Chief Minister of Assam Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma were present on the occasion.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government of India is establishing a network of National Forensic Science University across the country, the goal of the country in the direction of criminal justice is very clear that the conviction rate is to be taken ahead of the rate of developed countries, It is the world's 11th and the country's 10th NFSU centre, NFSU- Guwahati will benefit North-East India as well as many countries along the eastern border like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Indonesia.

### **Arunachal Pradesh government to set up Institute for Transforming Arunachal with NITI Aayog**

Arunachal Pradesh government will set up Institute for Transforming Arunachal (ITA) with the help of NITI Aayog to take the development of the state to the next level. This was disclosed by Chief Minister Pema Khandu in a social media post. Mr Khandu held a meeting in Itanagar yesterday to discuss the formation of the ITA in presence of Deputy

Chief Minister Chowna Mein. Mr Khandu said that the Institute for Transforming Arunachal would act as transformation leader for the state, provide assistance to various departments to advance their development strategies and unlock their potential.

This will further boost the ease of living for the people and will have hassle-free access to various services. He said that leakages and spillovers will also be checked by bringing in more transparency and accountability in the system and service delivery mechanism.

### **MoCA launches UDAN 5.1, designed for helicopter routes**

Following four successful rounds of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) and with the version 5.0 of the fifth round underway, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched UDAN 5.1 to further enhance the connectivity to remote areas of the country and achieve last mile connectivity through helicopters. In a first for RCS-UDAN, this round specifically focuses on helicopter routes, offering new opportunities for operators to expand their operations. One notable change is that routes will now be permitted even if only one of the origin or destination locations is in a priority area, compared to the previous requirement of both points being in priority areas.

To make helicopter travel more affordable, airfare caps have been reduced by up to 25 percent for passengers. Additionally, Viability Gap Funding (VGF) caps for operators of both single and twin-engine helicopters have been significantly increased, aiming to enhance the financial viability of operating the awarded routes.

### **CM Pinarayi Vijayan declares Kerala as total e-governance state**

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared the state as a total e-governance state. The chief minister made the declaration at an event organised by the Kerala IT Mission held in Thiruvananthapuram. district, Kerala has achieved this milestone through a series of policy initiatives aimed at transforming the state into a digitally -empowered society. With a focus on a knowledge-based economy and 100% digital literacy, the government has digitized the delivery of vital services across various domains, ensuring transparency, inclusivity, and accessibility for all citizens.

Under the comprehensive e-governance framework, Kerala has successfully digitized the delivery of all vital services. Key domains such as health, education, land revenue, documentation of properties, public distribution system, and social security payouts have been integrated into the digital ecosystem.

Kerala's total e-governance initiative emphasizes the inclusion of all sections of society, including the less privileged and marginalized. By digitizing service delivery, the government has made it easier for citizens, regardless of their socio-economic background, to access essential services.

### **P M Narendra Modi flags off Uttarakhand's first Vande Bharat Express train**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the inaugural run of Vande Bharat Express train from Dehradun to Delhi through video conferencing. This will be the first Vande

Bharat to be introduced in Uttarakhand. The Prime Minister will also dedicate the newly electrified rail line sections in Uttarakhand. The state will have its entire rail route 100 percent electrified with this. Trains run by electric traction on the electrified sections will result in increase in speed of trains and enhance haulage capacity.

The 'Kavach' -Automatic Train Protection System, an indigenous Indian automatic train protection system, is installed in every Vande Bharat train, which boosts the train's overall security parameter. Further, the trains are environment friendly in various ways.

### **President Droupadi Murmu inaugurates new building of Jharkhand High Court**

President Droupadi Murmu is on a three-day visit to Jharkhand starting on 24th May 2023. Inaugurated the new building of the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi, Ranchi is the capital of the Indian state of Jharkhand. And also was the centre of the Jharkhand movement,

On 25th May, Thursday, President Murmu will grace a conference of more than 500 Women Self Help Groups organized by Tribal Affairs Ministry at Khunti.

She will also preside the 2nd convocation of Indian Institute of Information Technology in Ranchi. The President will also attend a civic reception to be hosted in her honour.

### **UP government inaugurates online education program 'Pahal' for rural children**

Chief secretary Durga Shankar Mishra inaugurated an online rural education programme 'Pahal' at Government UP Sainik Inter College, Sarojini Nagar, Lucknow, This programme has been prepared by the department of secondary education in collaboration with IIT Kanpur

The initiative aims to provide educational opportunities to rural children who have limited access to quality education. Pahal' is designed to bridge the education gap between rural and urban areas. Under this program, in the initial phase, free online education will be provided in 10 government secondary schools of the state. Through these classes, students of rural areas will be able to get the latest information related to science and mathematics. The Chief Secretary said that the online rural education initiative is a new and good beginning.

About UP - Uttar Pradesh is a state located in the northern part of India, It is the most populous state in India as well as the most populous subdivision in the world, The state was officially established in 1950.

### **Shri Amit Shah inaugurates Janganana Bhavan in New Delhi**

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah inaugurated Janganana Bhavan in New Delhi, Shri Amit Shah also launched the web-portal for birth and death registration, the upgraded SRS mobile application for geofencing, and the web-portal for online sale of census publications. Many dignitaries including Union Ministers of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai and Shri Ajay Kumar Mishra, and Union Home Secretary were present on the occasion.

Census data is helpful in making the basic plan of development and providing basic amenities to the underprivileged and exploited, All-round and all-inclusive

development of the country can be done only through data-based planning and for such data we have no other means except census.

Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, will now conduct the census electronically, in which every person will have the right to fill the data, it will be verified and audited and it will include more than 35 parameters of socio-economic status.

The government is going to make such arrangements that as soon as a person turns 18, the Election Commission will take information from him and make his voter card, in case of death of someone, the census registrar will send the information to the Election Commission and his name will be removed from the voter's list

### **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates and lay foundation stone of projects worth 2 thousand 50 crores rupees in Rajasthan**

Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of six National Highway projects and 7 ROBs in Rajasthan. Mr. Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of these projects in a program held in Omprakash Jyani Stadium at Pakka Saharan in Hanumangarh district. These projects cost about 2 thousand 50 crores rupees.

Gadkari inaugurated Bikaner to Suratgarh, Nagaur to Bikaner, and Fatehpur to Jhunjhunu two-lane paved shoulder highways. The total length of these highways is 275 kilometers and Rs 987 crore has been spent on them.

Union Minister also laid the foundation stone of two-lane highway works from Hanumangarh to Kenchia, Fatehpur Bypass, Mandawa Bypass and Jhunjhunu Bypass, and Rajgarh, Pilani Bypass. Rs 1 thousand 76 crores will be spent on these projects.

With these projects, access to the international border will be easy which has a strategic importance. Also, travel between Rajasthan and Punjab will be easy and traffic between Hanumangarh and Bikaner will be smooth. Along with this, tourism will get a boost in the northwest region of the state.

### **Indian Railways hands over 20 Broad Gauge Locomotives to Bangladesh**

In order to further strengthen bilateral relationship, 20 Broad Gauge (BG) locomotives were virtually flagged off to Bangladesh in a handing over ceremony held at Rail Bhavan New Delhi, by Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways. From the Bangladesh end, Minister of Railway, Md. Nurul Islam Sujan also joined in virtually. The event was attended by Shri A.K.Lahoti, Chairman & CEO, Railway Board, Board Members, senior officials of Railway Board and delegates of Bangladesh.

The handing over of these diesel locomotives, under grant assistance from the Government of India, fulfills an important commitment made during the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina to India, in October, 2019. In keeping with the requirements of Bangladesh Railway, the locomotives have been suitably modified by the Indian side. These locomotives will help handle the increasing volume of passenger and freight train operations in Bangladesh.

### **INS TARKASH and INS SUBHADRA Arrive in Saudi Arabia, Kickstarting AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2023 Naval Exercise**

Marking a significant milestone in the growing defense cooperation between India and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the INS TARKASH, the flagship frigate of the Indian Western Naval Fleet, along with the INS SUBHADRA, an offshore patrol vessel, arrived at Port Al-Jubail today. The visit of these ships signifies the beginning of the harbor phase of the second edition of the naval exercise between the two nations, known as 'AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2023.' This year, the naval exercise also includes the participation of a maritime patrol aircraft. The inaugural edition of the exercise was successfully conducted in 2021.

Commissioned on November 9, 2012, INS TARKASH is a state-of-the-art stealth frigate of the Talwar class. Equipped with advanced weapon-sensor technology, the vessel possesses the capability to address threats in all dimensions. Its design incorporates stealth technologies and a specialized hull for reduced radar cross-section. Accompanying INS TARKASH is the INS SUBHADRA, a patrol vessel of the Sukanya class. This vessel has served as a test bed for the Dhanush ship-launched ballistic missile, as well as associated stabilization and launch platforms.

### **Bhupender Yadav Inaugurates Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management in Dehradun**

The Prime Minister of India during the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on 9th September 2019, announced the establishment of Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management (CoE-SLM) at the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education.

Aim - The CoE-SLM, located at the ICFRE in Dehradun, aims to restore degraded land by providing technical support, capacity building, and knowledge sharing at the national and sub-national levels. By collaborating with developing countries that are party to the UNCCD, the CoE-SLM seeks to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets, promote south-south cooperation, and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined by international conventions.

### **Ministry Of Education And World Bank Host Unique Workshop On School-To-Work Transition For STARS Program**

Ministry of Education and World Bank organised a one of its kind workshop on School- to-Work Transition under the STARS Program in Mumbai. The workshop was co -chaired by Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, School Education and Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. The workshop was also attended by the Secretaries of Education and Skill Department of the six STARS states i.e. Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh along with the State Project Directors of Samagra Shiksha, respective officers, and representatives from the World Bank.

One of the key components of STARS program is strengthening of Vocational Education and School-to-Work Transition. The workshop focused on discussion on a Skill Gap

analysis of the six STARS States and Uttar Pradesh along with convergence of vocational and skill.

### **Madhya Pradesh becomes first state to provide free air travel to pilgrims**

Madhya Pradesh has become the first state to provide free air travel facilities to senior citizens for yatra (holy pilgrimage), as 32 people flew from Bhopal to Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh. The 32 elderly people, comprising 24 men and eight women are going as part of the state's Mukhyamantri Tirth-Darshan Yojana, which was introduced in 2012, and elderly persons were sent on free pilgrimages by special trains. CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan flags off the first batch to Prayagraj.

As recently Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that air travel facility will also be included in this scheme and launched the programme on Sunday morning at Bhopal's Raja Bhoj Airport.

Shawls and coconuts were also presented as a token of honour to those pilgrims. It is noteworthy, that both the lodging and travel expenses for this trip are covered by the state government.

### **V.P Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurates Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Kerala Legislative Assembly building**

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar today inaugurated the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Kerala Legislative Assembly building in Thiruvananthapuram. While addressing the event, the Vice President said that Kerala is known for its forward-thinking, and the Legislative Assembly of Kerala has credit for many progressive legislations. He urged the legislators to protect this legacy by addressing the contemporary needs of society. Mr. Dhankhar also released a souvenir of the Kerala Legislature International Book Festival and laid the foundation stone of various developmental projects on the legislative assembly premises. This is Jagdeep Dhankhar's first visit to the state as the Vice President of India. The Vice President also visited Kannur to meet his teacher, Ms. Rathna Nair, at her residence in Thalassery.

### **India's First Commercial Flight Powered By Indigenous Sustainable Aviation Fuel Flies From Pune To Delhi**

India's first commercial passenger flight using indigenously produced Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) blend was successfully flies From Pune To Delhi.

Flight I5767 flew from Pune to Delhi powered by SAF blended aviation turbine fuel (ATF) supplied by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) in partnership with Praj Industries, which provided the technology for the blend.

Praj Industries has developed the fuel in partnership with the US-based biofuels company Gevo Inc., which has developed a breakthrough alcohol-to-jet (ATJ) technology for the production of SAF using sugarcane molasses as feedstock. The SAF samples produced at Praj Industries' research & development facility underwent detailed testing at IOCL laboratories before being cleared for the special flight. Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) - SAF is a biofuel used to power aircraft that has similar properties to conventional jet fuel but with a smaller carbon footprint. Depending on

the feedstock and technologies used to produce it, SAF can reduce life cycle GHG emissions dramatically compared to conventional jet fuel.

### **HM Amit Shah to inaugurate and lay foundation stone of various civic projects worth Rs 360 crore in Ahmedabad**

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah commissioned 320 buses of the State Road Transport Corporation in Ahmedabad, He also inaugurated and lay the foundation stone of various civic projects worth 360 crore rupees,

Among the projects inaugurated include a gymnasium and library in the Naranpura ward of the city and a redeveloped lake at Chharodi village in Ahmedabad.

Apart from this, the Minister also inaugurated a modern organic testing laboratory for Amul-fed Dairy in Gandhinagar. Mr. Shah also inaugurated a national convention of the Modi community in Ahmedabad.

### **Telangana Home Minister launches 'SAHAS' an initiative towards making workplaces safer for women**

In Telangana, SAHAS, an initiative towards making workplaces safer for women has been launched. The Home Minister Mohamood Ali formally launched the initiative. SAHAS, which means Courage, is a programme that aims at strengthening the support ecosystem for women who face workplace sexual harassment.

Under the initiative, the SAHAS Microsite, SAHAS Sathi Chatbot, SAHAS Whatsapp Number, Forum and online support facilities were launched in Hyderabad.

DGP Women Safety Wing, Shikha Goel, who conceptualised the SAHAS initiative, stated that the State has the largest percentage of working women in the country, and this could only be possible due to the positive atmosphere prevailing in Telangana. She also stated that **"SAHAS, is the first of its kind initiative in the country, involving a collaboration.**

### **Bhopal becomes 1st city to measure Sustainable Development Goals progress**

Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, has become the first city in India to measure its progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The city has adopted a Voluntary Local Review (VLR) process, which is a tool that helps cities to assess their progress on the SDGs and identify areas where they need to improve.

About: Voluntary Local Review - The VLR process in Bhopal was developed in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and a number of other local stakeholders. It involved a comprehensive assessment of the city's performance on the SDGs, including a review of data, interviews with stakeholders, and public consultations.

The VLR process in Bhopal is a valuable tool that can help other cities in India to measure their progress on the SDGs and identify areas where they need to improve. It is a step in the right direction for the city and for India as a whole.

### **IIT - Madras partners with Israel to establish 'India - Israel Center of Water Technology'**

The Government of Israel is partnering with India through the - Indian Institute of Technology Madras(IIT Madras) to establish an 'India - Israel Center of Water Technology' (CoWT) in Water Resources Management and Water Technologies at IIT Madras,

A letter of Intent was signed at New Delhi by Mr. Manoj Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras and Mr. NaorGilon, Ambassador of Israel to India, in presence of Shri. S. Jaishankar and Mr. Eli Cohen, Hon'ble External Affairs Ministers of India and Israel, respectively, in the presence of Prof. T. Pradeep, Institute Professor, IIT Madras. Israel, a strategic partner to India, is a global leader in Integrated Water Resources Management. The MoHUA will collaborate with MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, to establish this new centre, which will be located at IIT Madras.

### **Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches State Dashboard**

Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik rolled out the State Dashboard, a data and analytics-powered platform which will streamline performance monitoring of government schemes, aiding data-driven decision making.

The State Dashboard consists of three critical components – CM Dashboard, Department Dashboard and Administrative Action Monitoring Portal. The application appraises the performance of different administrative departments on 5T parameters. The CM dashboard shares huge data with the public and is a landmark initiative for transparency.

The standout features of this dashboard include Key Performance Indicators based on performance monitoring and a visual display of progress for timely decision-making. It showcases 30 different dashboards from 16 departments currently, with a plan to add more departments subsequently. It leverages the power of visualization and advanced analytics to appraise the performance of departments and their schemes.

### **Tamil Nadu's CM M.K. Stalin Inaugurates India's Biggest Skywalk Bridge**

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated one of India's biggest Skywalk bridges. The 570-metre long and 4.2-meter wide skywalk bridge connects the Mambalam railway station and T Nagar bus terminus.

Considered one of the longest skywalks in the country, it is equipped with escalator and lift facilities and also ensures public safety with CCTV cameras installed, and a connection to the police control room. Additionally, it offers restrooms and trash cans. To aid the public, lights have been installed throughout the bridge.

The skywalk, built by the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) at a cost of Rs 28.45 crore under the Smart City funds, aims to decongest the traffic at Ranganathan Street, Madley Road, Market Street. It is expected to be used by around one lakh people on a daily basis.

### **PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the International Museum Expo 2023 in New Delhi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the International Museum Expo 2023 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi today 18th May, The International Museum Expo is being organised as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate the 47th International Museum Day.

During the programme, Mr Modi inaugurated a virtual walkthrough of the upcoming National Museum at the North and South Blocks. The Museum is a comprehensive effort to highlight and showcase historical events, personalities, ideas and achievements related to India's past that has contributed to the making of India's present.

The Prime Minister also unveiled the Mascot of the International Museum Expo, the Graphic Novel – A Day at the Museum, the Directory of Indian Museums, the Pocket Map of Kartavya Path, and Museum Cards.

### **PM Modi launches railway projects worth over 8,000 crore rupees in Odisha; Flags off Vande Bharat Express train between Puri and Howrah**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicate several railway projects worth over 8,000 crore rupees in Odisha via video conferencing. During the event, Mr. Modi flagged off the Vande Bharat Express between Puri and Howrah. The train will cover 500 kms distance and pass through Khordha, Cuttack, Jajpur, Bhadrak, and Balasore districts in Odisha and Paschim Medinipur, Purba Medinipur districts in West Bengal. The train will provide a faster, comfortable and convenient travel experience to the rail users, boost tourism and promote economic development in the region.

**Howrah-Puri-Howrah Vande Bharat Express** - The regular run of the Howrah-Puri-Howrah Vande Bharat Express will commence from May 20. The train will run six days a week. The train will depart Howrah at 6.10 am and reach Puri at 12.35 pm and in the return direction, it will depart Puri at 1.50 pm and arrive at Howrah at 8.30 pm. Mr Modi also dedicated 100% electrification of the rail network in Odisha. He also dedicated the doubling of the Sambalpur-Titlagarh rail line; a new broad gauge rail line between Angul-Sukinda; the third line connecting Manoharpur-Rourkela-Jharsuguda-Jamga and a new broad-gauge line between Bichhupali-Jhartarbha.

### **Exercise Jal Rahat was conducted by Indian Army, in Assam**

Gajraj Corps of the Indian Army conducted a Joint Flood Relief 'Exercise Jal Rahat' at Hagrama Bridge on Manas River, Assam to validate joint drills and coordinate preparedness by multi-agency flood relief columns.

Apart from Indian Army- SSB, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and police representatives took part. The event included coordination and rehearsals for rescue mission of people from inundated areas by joint efforts of specialist teams from Army, NDRF and SDRF.

Practice on use of innovative expedients by the flood relief columns was also organised in which teams of Army and SSB demonstrated use of local resources during such calamity.

### **Government launches Sanchar Saathi Portal: Enables tracking and blocking of stolen / lost mobile phones**

Sanchar Saathi Portal, central government's ground-breaking move in enhancing the safety and security of users in the digital ecosystem. On May 16, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the Sanchar Saathi Portal and said, "Various frauds such as identity theft, forged KYC, and banking frauds can take place by misusing mobile phones. This portal has been developed to prevent such frauds."

The portal enables mobile users to track and block their stolen/lost mobile phones. It also allows the user to know the mobile connections issued in their names and to get the connections not required by them disconnected.

Centralised Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) - In case any mobile device is stolen or lost, a user can submit the IMEI numbers on the portal, Information submitted by the user along with a copy of the police complaint is then verified, The system is integrated with the Telecom Service Providers and Law Enforcement Agencies, Once the information is verified, the system blocks the stolen mobile phones from being used on Indian networks, In case anyone tries to use the stolen device, the system allows Law Enforcement Agencies to trace the device when the stolen device is recovered, the user can unlock the device on the portal.

### **Uttar Pradesh Emerges as the Second State in India with a High Number of GI-Tagged Products**

Uttar Pradesh now ranks second in the country in terms of the number of Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged commodities. The state has received GI tags for three more One District One Product (ODOP) crafts, taking the total number of GI-tagged products in the state to 48,

**Mainpuri tarkashi, Mahoba Gaura stone craft, and Sambhal horn craft** are the three new ODOP crafts. The Geographical Indication (GI) label is a major asset for the state of Uttar Pradesh. It helps to promote the state's traditional crafts and products, and also helps to boost the local economy. The GI tag also helps to create awareness about the state's rich cultural heritage.

Geographical Indication GI tag - A Geographical Indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.

### **In A First, Kerala Launches Welfare Fund For Workers Under Employment Guarantee Scheme**

In a first in the country, the Kerala government launched a welfare fund for Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers in the State, 27 lakh people in the State depend on the MGNREGS and the Left government intends to make

use of the scheme for the social development of Kerala. In a Facebook post, Vijayan said the workers need to pay a nominal monthly amount of Rs 50 as contribution to the fund and the government will also contribute an equal amount. He said for those who have paid the contributions for ten or more years, their families will get the benefits in case of beneficiary's death.

Launching the initiative, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the workers who have completed the age of 60 will be entitled for pension under the fund which will also provide financial assistance for medical treatment, education, marriage, among other benefits.

### **Union Minister Narendra Tomar Inaugurates Integrated Biological Control Laboratory in Hyderabad**

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Government of India, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the Integrated Biological Control Laboratory at National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM) Hyderabad, Telangana. The new laboratory has state-of-the-art facilities for giving hands-on experience on production methodologies for biopesticides, biocontrol agents like predators and parasitoids, entomopathogenic fungi, biofertilisers, NPV, pheromone and botanicals. Deploying them will help in reducing the use of chemical pesticides and fertilisers, reduce the adverse effects on the environment and human health and contribute to improved soil and plant health. The laboratory will also have an insect museum, weed museum, exhibition hall, natural farming cell etc. to showcase the specimens of agriculturally important insects and weeds in the best preserved or live forms.

### **CM, Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the National Homoeopathic Convention 'Homocon 2023'**

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the National Homoeopathic Convention 'Homeocon 2023' at Doon University, Dehradun and launched a documentary on Homeopathy.

The commitment of the state government to establish Uttarakhand as a major AYUSH region is due to the economic and effective nature of homeopathy.

Homeopathy has been recognized as the second most practiced system of medicine in the world and its importance has been demonstrated during the COVID -19 pandemic. AYUSH - AYUSH is the abbreviation of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Society and aims to promote education and research in the field of medicine. It is a government ministry of India established in 2014. responsible for the development, promotion and regulation of traditional systems of medicine.

### **AIIMS Delhi partners with WHO, Duke-NUS on patient safety and quality control**

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi (AIIMS) has collaborated with World Health Organization (WHO-SEARO) to ensure patient safety and quality control. According to WHO, the current challenge in global public health is patient harm, which is a leading cause of avoidable mortality and morbidity.

In this regard, a core committee for Patient Safety and Quality at AIIMS is being constituted for implementation of advanced patient safety and quality initiatives across various departments. AIIMS will follow the learning curriculum proposed by WHO in collaboration with the Duke-NUS (Institute of Patient Safety & Quality -IPSQ). AIIMS sees footfall of more than 25,000 patients every day for wide range of medical ailments will get from the aid from this new initiative. The WHO will organize onsite visits of experts or study tour of AIIMS staff as and when required.

### **India-Indonesia Bilateral exercise SAMUDRA SHAKTI – 23 from 14-19 May**

INS Kavaratti, indigenously designed & built ASW Corvette, arrived at Batam, Indonesia to participate in the 4th edition of India-Indonesia Bilateral exercise Samudra Shakti-23 from 14-19 May 23. An Indian Navy Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft and Chetak helicopter is also participating. The Indonesian Navy will be represented by KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda, CN 235 Maritime Patrol Aircraft and AS565 Panther Helicopter. Exercise Samudra Shakti is aimed at enhancing interoperability, jointness and mutual cooperation between both the navies. The Harbour phase will comprise Cross deck visits, professional Interactions, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges, and sports fixtures. And During the Sea Phase, weapon firing, Helicopter Operations, Anti-submarine warfare & air defence exercises and boarding operations are planned. Samudra Shakti - 23 will showcase the high level of interoperability between the two navies and their shared commitment towards peace and stability in the region.

### **Indian Navy successfully test fired a BrahMos supersonic cruise missile**

Using its frontline guided missile destroyer INS Mormugao, the Indian Navy successfully test fired a BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, The official also lauded INS Mormugao for hitting "bulls eye" with her maiden BrahMos supersonic cruise missile firing. It is the latest guided-missile destroyer to be used by the Indian Navy.

BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd is an India-Russian joint venture, responsible for producing supersonic cruise missiles that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms, India also exports the BrahMos missiles, that fly at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound,

### **GMR Hyderabad International Airport becomes world's most punctual airport**

In a recently released report by the aviation analytical firm Cirium, GMR Hyderabad International Airport recorded 90.43 per cent On-Time Performance, for the month of March 2023.

Hyderabad airport is the only airport in the world to cross the 90 per cent mark. The airport was also ranked 4th in the 'Large Airports' category with an OTP of 88.44 per cent, in November 2022. The airport was selected based on the actual gate departure service which has 80 per cent or better coverage of the actual departure time and must serve at least three regions (inclusive of its own).

Since its inception, GMR Hyderabad International Airport has ushered in a number of first-of-its-kind technological innovations for the airport sector in the country, including the first- ever integrated and centralized Airport Operations Control Center

(AOCC) and an array of modern passenger information systems and technological initiatives.

#### **Four-day Shri Anna Mahotsav begins in Dehradun**

The four-day Shri Anna Mahotsav, Millets festival, has begun in Dehradun, Uttarakhand from Saturday. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated Shri Anna Mahotsav at Hathibarkala. Thousands of farmers from across the state are participating in the four - day event.

While addressing the gathering on the occasion of Shri Anna Mahotsav the Chief Minister said that such events would encourage the cultivation of coarse grains. The Chief Minister said that "Shri Anna" is becoming the medium of all-round development in India and now every citizen of the country is also getting associated with it. More than 100 stalls of coarse grains have been set up in the festival. On this occasion, Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi and many other dignitaries also participated in the program. It may be recalled that along with organic farming in the state, the implementation of the National Natural Agriculture Mission scheme is being started in 11 districts of the state from this year itself. For this, the Government of India has also approved the operation of an agricultural mission program of about 796 lakhs on 6 thousand 400 hectares of land.

#### **PM Modi launches development projects worth Rs 4400 crore in Gujarat**

PM Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated several projects to the nation worth around Rs 4400 crores in Gandhinagar, Gujarat today, 12th May. The projects that were inaugurated included development initiatives worth Rs. 2450 in Urban Development Department, Water Supply Department, Road and Transport Department and Mines and Minerals Department. Besides, PMAY projects (both rural and urban) worth Rs. 1950 crores, were also inaugurated. PM Modi also handed over keys to beneficiaries of the scheme for about 19,000 houses built under the Gruh Pravesh scheme, and interacted with them via video link.

**Details of the Projects-** The inaugurated projects include the expansion of multi-village drinking water supply schemes in Banaskantha district, the construction of a river overbridge in Ahmedabad, the establishment of a drainage collection network at Naroda GIDC, and sewage treatment plants in Mehsana and Ahmedabad, as well as an auditorium in Dahegam, among others.

The foundation stone will be laid for other projects such as bulk pipeline projects in Junagadh district, augmentation of water supply schemes in Gandhinagar district, the construction of flyover bridges, a new water distribution station, and various town planning roads, among others.

#### **Varanasi's LBSI airport becomes first in country to have a reading Lounge**

The Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport here has become the first in India to have a reading lounge. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's advisor Awanish Awasthi inaugurated the lounge, This lounge was set up with the help of the National Book Trust (NBT) an Indian publishing house and autonomous body under the ministry of

education of the Union government. The NBT will operate this lounge, created near the entrance point of the airport's main lobby.

The Airport Reading Lounge is a reflection of Kashi, for both traditionalists as well as the contemporary visitors and passengers, and for those who wish to seek further knowledge on the mystical heritage of this ancient city.

Apart from India's culture, history, traditional knowledge systems, health and wellness, literature in Hindi, French, Spanish, English and many other Indian languages, the reading lounge also celebrates literary icons of Varanasi through their works, iconic places and unknown facts and connections with the city.

The lounge also has a dedicated shelf of the budding authors displaying their recently published books under the Prime Minister's Mentorship Scheme for Young Writers (PM-YUVA Scheme).

The lounge also offers free access to downloaded portions of any book through a QR code. For the technology-driven generation, another QR code gives access to select Free Audio books, on the comfort of a mobile, laptop or tablet.

### **Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework Launched by Minister R Bindu**

Kerala Government has launched the Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework, KIRF. The new higher education framework was launched by the State Minister for Higher Education R Bindu. With KIRF, Kerala becomes the first state to implement its own ranking system for higher education.

Created on the lines of the National Institute of Ranking Framework, under KIRF, the government aims to introduce a more democratic and secular approach to the ranking system in the state.

The ranking framework has been implemented by the Kerala State Higher Education Council and KSHEC will be issuing rankings annually. By implementing the KIRF, Kerala becomes the first state to have its own ranking system for higher education institutions.

### **PM Modi lay foundation stone, dedicate to nation multiple scientific projects worth over Rs 5,800 cr in New Delhi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple scientific projects of over 5 thousand 800 crore rupees on the occasion of National Technology Day

During a function in New Delhi, Mr. Modi released a commemorative stamp and coin and also inaugurated the Expo showcasing scientific and technological advancements made in India in the recent past.

The projects whose foundation stones were laid by the Prime Minister include Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory – India (LIGO-India), Hingoli, Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Jatni in Odisha and Platinum Jubilee Block of Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai.

The LIGO-India will be one of the handful Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave observatories in the world. It will work in synchronisation with two such observatories operating in the United States.

During the function, the projects related to Fission Molybdenum-99 Production Facility in Mumbai, Rare Earth Permanent Magnet Plant and Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in Visakhapatnam, National Hadron Beam Therapy Facility and Women and Children Cancer Hospital Building in Navi Mumbai were dedicated to the nation.

### **Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launches 'Harit Sagar' the Green Port Guidelines 2023**

To meet the larger vision of achieving Zero Carbon Emission Goal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways has launched 'Harit Sagar' the Green Port Guidelines. The guidelines were launched by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways and AYUSH in the august presence of Shri Shripad Y. Naik, Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Tourism and other senior officials of the Ministry today in New Delhi.

Harit Sagar Guidelines - 2023 envisages ecosystem dynamics in port development, operation and maintenance while aligning with 'Working with Nature' concept and minimizing impact on biotic components of harbor ecosystem. It lays emphasis on use of Clean / Green energy in Port operation, developing Port capabilities for storage, handling and bunkering Greener Fuels viz. Green Hydrogen, Green Ammonia, Green Methanol / Ethanol etc.

These Guidelines provides a framework for the Major Ports for drawing out a comprehensive action plan for achieving targeted outcomes in terms of quantified reduction in carbon emission over defined timelines, through focused implementation and close monitoring of Green Initiatives and to achieve Sustainable Developmental Goals

### **PM lays foundation stone and dedicates to nation infrastructure projects worth over Rs. 5500 crores in Nathdwara, Rajasthan**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone, inaugurated and dedicated to the nation projects worth over Rs. 5500 crores in Nathdwara, Rajasthan. The development projects focus on bolstering infrastructure and connectivity in the region where the railway and road projects will facilitate the movement of goods and services, thereby boosting trade and commerce and improving the socio-economic conditions of the people in the region

#### **Projects –**

1. Lays foundation stone for redevelopment of Udaipur railway station and gauge conversion project
2. Lays foundation stone for road construction projects for upgradation to two-lane in Rajsamand and Udaipur.
3. Inaugurates three national highway projects

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister expressed gratitude for getting the opportunity to visit the glorious land of Mewar of Lord Shrinath. The Prime Minister recalled performing darshan and puja at the Shrinathji Temple in Nathdwara earlier in the day and wished for blessings to accomplish the goals of a Viksit Bharat in the Azaadi Ka Amrit Kaal.

### Telangana Robotics Framework: IT Minister KT Rama Rao Launches First-Of-Its-Kind Policy

IT and Industries Minister K.T. Rama Rao launched Telangana State Robotics Framework with an aim for creating a sustainable robotics ecosystem promote the robotics ecosystem and establishing the state as a leader in the field of robotics, The framework is a comprehensive roadmap that outlines the state's vision for the development of the robotics ecosystem in the state and contributing to the growth of the industry in the country,

**About Robotics Framework** - The State Robotics Framework is a detailed plan that outlines Telangana's vision for advancing the robotics ecosystem and promoting industry growth in India. The framework was created by the Emerging Technologies Wing of the ITE&C Department of Telangana, in collaboration with the All India Robotics Association and input from academic, industry experts and stakeholders.

### Punjab becomes first state to implement 'Right To Walk'

Punjab has become the first state to implement 'Right To Walk' by making it mandatory for all road-owning agencies, including the NHAI, to provide footpath and cycle tracks in all future expansion of roads and construction of new ones, This has come amid consistent rise in deaths of pedestrians and cyclists, Punjab has taken the lead among the states and UTs in India.

The state government has issued these directions following two court orders after PILs were filed at Punjab and Haryana HC and another in the Supreme Court. As per a communication from Punjab chief secretary Vijay Kumar Janjua to Punjab government's traffic adviser, Navdeep Asija, "in future all expansions of existing roads and construction of new roads, a mandatory provision of cycle tracks and footpaths should be made by all road owning departments and agencies".

### Telangana CM lays foundation for Hare Krishna Heritage Tower

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao laid the foundation for the Hare Krishna Heritage Tower in Hyderabad. The tower will stand at a towering height of 400 feet (120 meters) and will be constructed on six acres of land in Narsingi at a cost of Rs 200 crore.

The tower will house the temples of Sri Sri Radha Krishna and Sri Venkateswara Swamy and will be a cultural landmark for Hyderabad.

The Telangana government announced Rs 25 crore for the construction of the temple, showing their support for organizations that promote peace and spirituality. The tower will also provide accommodation for 1,500 devotees, and an Annadanam hall will be present where 500 visiting devotees can be served food at one time.

The temple complex will feature a library, Kalyanai Auditorium, IMAX open-air theaters, lecture halls, Q complex, and guest rooms. Advanced laser shows will also be arranged to help educate the youth on Lord Krishna's history and teachings. The temple structures will incorporate cutting-edge technology with the skill of the Kakatiyas to preserve Telangana's historical and cultural heritage.

### **Union Minister G Kishan Reddy inaugurates PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra in Secunderabad**

Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy has inaugurated a PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra at Warasiguda in Secunderabad. Mr Reddy said these Jan Aushadhi Kendras provide affordable healthcare and generate self-employment opportunities for youth. He said the Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi scheme has been launched to make quality generic medicines available to the common man at low cost.

**About: PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra Scheme** - Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India in November, 2008. It is a scheme launched by the Government of India to provide affordable and quality generic medicines to the general public.

Under this scheme, the government sets up Jan Aushadhi Kendras, which are stores that sell generic medicines at much lower prices than branded medicines. The medicines sold in these stores are approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and are of the same quality as branded medicines. These stores are run by individuals, self-help groups, NGOs, or private institutions that are registered under the PMJAK scheme.

### **Shantanu Thakur flags off vessel 'M.V. MSS Galena' from V.O. Chidambaranar Port**

Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Shantanu Thakur flagged off the vessel 'M.V. MSS Galena' from V.O. Chidambaranar Port, as the Direct Shipping Service between Tuticorin to Maldives.

During visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Maldives in June 2019, Prime Minister of India & President of Maldives dwelt on need to improve connectivity between India & Maldives through establishment of enabling infrastructure, which shall also give impetus to bilateral trade between two countries. To take this forward and to reaffirm the mutual understanding between the two Nations this service is being operated as a culmination of the Memorandum of Understanding signed for Establishment of Passenger and Cargo Services by Sea between Ministry of Port, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India, and Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, Government of Maldives on 08.06.2019, during the State Visit of Prime Minister of India to Maldives. This is also in line with 'Neighbourhood -First Policy' and the vision of Security and Growth for all in the Region.

**About: M.V. MSS Galena** - The vessel 'M.V. MSS Galena', a vessel with carrying capacity of 421 TEUs of containers & provision to carry bulk cargo, deployed by Shipping Corporation of India, arrived at PSA SICAL Container Terminal on 04.05.2023. It was loaded with 270 TEUs of containers at PSA SICAL Container Terminal. 'M.V. MSS Galena' will sail from Tuticorin to Male on 05.05.2023. It is scheduled to reach Male on 07.05.2023. The rotation of this shipping service is Tuticorin – Male – Tuticorin, and is scheduled to make 3 calls a month.

### **Uttar Pradesh to get its first Pharma Park**

The first Pharma Park of the state will be built in Bundelkhand, which is one of the backward areas of Uttar Pradesh. The state government has given green signal to the project of setting up a Pharma Park in Lalitpur district of Bundelkhand. For this, the state government will transfer 1500 hectares of land to the Animal Husbandry Department in Lalitpur district. The state government will spend Rs 1560 crore on development works and providing necessary facilities to the investors in Lalitpur Pharma Park.

The state government has made necessary amendments in its policy for the establishment of Pharma Park in Uttar Pradesh and to encourage the industries set up here. According to the revised policy, all the facilities and subsidies etc. will be given to the entrepreneurs setting up units in Pharma or Medical Device Park. Entrepreneurs setting up units in Pharma Park will be given 100 per cent exemption in stamp duty on land purchase, along with capital subsidy, housing construction for workers, employment generation, etc., will be given subsidy by the government

### **Rajnath Singh inaugurates country's first Indian Air Force Heritage Centre in Chandigarh**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a first-of-its-kind Indian Air Force (IAF) Heritage Centre in Chandigarh. The minister said it is a testament to the courage and dedication of all those who served in the force and a reminder of their invaluable contributions in protecting the nation

The centre has been set up under a memorandum of understanding between the Union Territory of Chandigarh and the IAF which was signed last year. Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator Banwarilal Purohit, The centre also depicts the role of the Indian Air Force during various wars including 1947, 1948, 1965, and 1971 besides the Kargil Conflict and the Balakot Air Strikes.

Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari, and Member of Parliament from Chandigarh Kirron Kher were present on the occasion.

On this occasion, Defence Minister Mr, Singh sat in one of the MiG-21 aircraft on display at the centre. He also sat in a flying simulator.

This wonderful initiative will help in preserving the rich heritage of the Indian Air Force and also inspire young minds to join the armed forces

### **BharatPe launches PAYBACK India in a new avatar, Rebrands it as 'Zillion'**

BharatPe Group, one of India's leading names in the fintech industry, announced that it will be rebranding PAYBACK India, the multi-brand loyalty program to 'Zillion'. This new brand identity is in line with the company's vision to make Zill ion ubiquitous to loyalty and rewards across the country.

Customers will have a variety of alternatives from Zillion to earn and redeem points at a variety of partners across the country, For their regular purchases, through the network of offline and online partners, including those in the grocery, fuel, entertainment, travel, clothing, and other industries customers will be able to collect "Zillion coins," which will provide them more joy in the moment. This is included into

the Zillion logo, which stands for having moments of inspiration and discovering 'aha' moments everywhere.

### **BMC to set up Asia's largest bio-gas plant in Mumbai, to treat 1,000 tonnes of wet waste daily**

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) are joining hands to set up Asia's largest bio-gas plant in Mumbai. The upcoming plant will have the capacity to treat 1,000 tonnes of wet waste every day the proposed plant will recycle damp, organic, and degradable waste, which accounts for 3,500 tonnes of the 6,000 tonnes of solid waste generated daily in Mumbai. The plant will be able to treat nearly one-third of the daily wet waste generated in the city. It is intended to repurpose the waste for a useful purpose.

The BMC will supply the segregated wet waste to the plant, which MGL will treat to produce gas and supply it back to the city. At present, the solid waste management (SWM) department of the BMC is operating five vehicles in each municipal ward to transport wet waste to scientific treatment centres.

### **PM Modi to attend France's Bastille Day Parade as guest of honour on July 14**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend this year's Bastille Day Parade in Paris as the guest of honour on July 14, An Indian armed forces' contingent will also participate in the parade along with their French counterparts, [www.fundamakers.com](http://www.fundamakers.com) On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership, Prime Minister Modi has accepted French President Emmanuel Macron's invitation to attend this year's Bastille Day Parade as the guest of honour.

Prime Minister Modi's visit is expected to herald the next phase of the India-France strategic partnership by setting new and ambitious goals for strategic, cultural, scientific, academic and economic cooperation, including in a wide range of industries, India and France have a shared vision on peace and security, especially in Europe and the Indo-Pacific, and uphold the objectives and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which are also the basis of their cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

### **India and Russia explore accepting RuPay and Mir cards for easy payments**

India and Russia have agreed to explore the possibility of accepting each other's payment cards, RuPay (India) and Mir (Russia), for hassle-free payments between the two countries. During the latest meeting of the Internal Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC -TEC), which was jointly chaired by External Affairs Minister of India S Jaishankar and Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov, the decision was made.

Mutual acceptance of RuPay and Mir cards will facilitate transactions in Indian rupees and Russian rubles, making it easier for citizens of both countries to carry out cross - border payments. In addition, the meeting also explored the possibility of interaction between India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Russia's Faster Payments System (FPS).

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## **Andhra Pradesh CM lays foundation stone of Vizag Tech Park**

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy laid the foundation stone for Rs 21,844 crore Vizag Tech Park in Visakhapatnam, a subsidiary of Adani Group company which will house 300 mega watt (MW) data centres. Adani Group managing director Rajesh Adani and Karan Adani among others were present at the venue.

Coming up on a 190-acre parcel of land, the IT park will house 200 MW integrated data centre at Madhurwada and another 100 MW one at Kapuluppada at an outlay of ₹ 14,634 crore and ₹ 7,210 crore respectively.

According to the Chief Minister, the tech park would provide direct employment to 39,815 people in a phased manner over seven years and indirect employment to 10,610 more.

IT business parks, skill development centres and recreation facilities will be part of the tech park, which will bolster internet speeds and improve connectivity, said Mr Reddy and added that it will contribute to the overall development of the area.

Further, the Chief Minister noted that the tech park will propel Vizag into a tier-1 city, which will also deploy renewable sources of energy to power it up.

### Logo, mascot of Khelo India University Games 2022 launched in Lucknow

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the Logo, jersey, mascot, torch and anthem of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2022 in Lucknow today. The 3rd edition of the Khelo India University Games will take place from May 23 to June 3. The opening ceremony is scheduled for May 25 at the Babu Banarasi Das University in Lucknow. Speaking on the occasion, Anurag Singh Thakur said that Uttar Pradesh is moving forward in every field today. He said, Prime Minister's idea of making India a sports superpower will be fulfilled and Uttar Pradesh will play major role in this. UP is organising the biggest Khelo India University games from May 23 to June 3. More than 4700 athletes from 200 universities across the country will participate in 21 sports disciplines in this event.

Mr, Yogi Adityanath said that Uttar Pradesh government is developing one stadium in every district and one mini stadium at block level. Work of developing sports ground and open gym in every ward and gram panchayat is also going on in the state.

### Nityanand Rai inaugurates Dawki land port in Meghalaya

Union Minister Nityanand Rai inaugurated the Dawki Land Port in Meghalaya's West Jaintia Hills district to promote trade and commerce between India and Bangladesh. The Dawki Land Port is located in West Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya, 55 km from the district headquarters, Jowai, and about 84 km from Meghalaya's capital Shillong. The corresponding Land Port in Bangladesh is Tamabil, located in the Sylhet district. The Dawki Land port will serve as a vital trade and transportation hub between India and Bangladesh and will facilitate the movement of goods, people, and vehicles across the border. It will also facilitate passenger movement across the border. The Union Minister of State also visited the Meghalaya Frontier of BSF and interacted with field commanders and troops on the ground.

BSG Inspector General Pradip Kumar briefed the minister about the area of responsibility of the Meghalaya frontier and discussed the various challenges on the Indo-Bangladesh international border and measures being taken to control trans-border crime.

### Karnataka ranked the most 'innovative' State by the National Manufacturing Innovation Survey

Recently, the National Manufacturing Innovation Survey 2021-22 was released by the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The survey found that Karnataka, overall, is the most "innovative" State, followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu (DNH&DD), Telangana, and Tamil Nadu.

Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu had the highest share of innovative firms at 46.18%, 39.10% and 31.90%, respectively, with Odisha, Bihar, and Jharkhand reporting the lowest share of such firms at 12.78%, 13.47% and 13.71%, respectively.

The National Manufacturing Innovation Survey 2021-22 was conducted jointly by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the United Nations Industrial

Development Organization (UNIDO) in India in order to evaluate the innovation performance of manufacturing firms.

### **World's highest Chenab rail bridge is ready clearing all tests**

Indian Railways has created history by building the world's highest Chenab Railway Bridge in Jammu and Kashmir. This bridge has been built between Bakkal and Kauri in Jammu and Kashmir, some 42 km from Reasi district, and on the middle line of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to Banihal. The bridge has passed all the mandatory tests. This bridge is higher than the Eiffel Tower. The height of Eiffel Tower is 324 meters, however the height of this bridge is 359 meters. Its length is 1,315 meters. This bridge will be able to withstand wind with a speed of 260 kilometers per hour and is capable of withstanding an earthquake of magnitude 8 on the Richter scale. Presently single track has been laid on it.

The arch bridge between Bakkal and Kauri in the Reasi district of Jammu, is 1,178 feet above the riverbed, forming a crucial link from Katra to Banihal. It is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL), a dream project worth Rs 35000 crore.

### **Buland Bharat: Army's surveillance, firepower training conducted in Arunachal**

An integrated surveillance and firepower training exercise 'Buland Bharat' was conducted in the recently operationalised longest high-altitude Artillery Ranges of the eastern theatre.

The exercise involved the synergised application of surveillance and firepower capabilities of the Artillery and the Infantry in close coordination with Special Forces, Aviation and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) deployed in West Kameng and Tawang districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

### **Yoga Mahotsav to mark 50 days countdown to International Day of Yoga begins in Jaipur**

In Rajasthan, a 50-day countdown to the International Day of Yoga began at Shri Bhawani Niketan College in Jaipur. The program was organized by the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga. Addressing the program, the Governor of Rajasthan Kalraj Mishra said that the basic foundation of Indian culture is yoga which is the biggest medium of self-development. More than 15,000 people take part in event

Union AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that to make life successful, one should move forward with yoga. He said that the whole world is adopting Yoga as a method of science. Mr. Sonowal said that this year's IDY will also witness many firsts, foremost being the demonstration of the Common Yoga Protocol in the Arctic and Antarctic region.

### **DRDO & Indian Navy conduct successful maiden test trial of indigenous Air Droppable Container**

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Navy conducted the successful maiden test trial of 'ADC-150' from IL 38SD aircraft off the coast of Goa.

'ADC-150' is an indigenously designed and developed Air Droppable Container with 150 kg payload capacity. The trial was conducted to enhance the naval operational logistics capabilities by providing quick response to meet the requirement of critical engineering stores to ships (under distress), which are deployed more than 2,000 kms from the coast. It reduces the requirement of ships to come close to the coast to collect spares and stores.

Three DRDO laboratories - Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam; Aerial Delivery Research & Development Establishment (ADRDE), Agra and Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru - have been involved in the development of ADC-150 container. The crucial flight clearance certification was given by Regional Center for Military Airworthiness (RCMA), Kanpur headed by Centre for Military Airworthiness & Certification (CEMILAC), Bengaluru.

### **ASEAN India Maritime Exercise, AIME-2023**

Indian Naval Ships Satpura and Delhi with RAdm Gurcharan Singh, the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet embarked onboard arrived at Singapore on 01 May 2023 to participate in the Inaugural ASEAN India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2023) scheduled from 02 to 08 May 2023.

The Harbour Phase of the exercise is scheduled to be held at Changi Naval Base from 02 to 04 May 2023 and the Sea Phase will be conducted from 07 to 08 May 2023 in the South China Sea. AIME 2023 will provide an opportunity for Indian Navy and ASEAN navies to work together closely and conduct seamless operations in the maritime domain.

INS Delhi, India's first indigenously-built guided missile destroyer and INS Satpura, an indigenously-built guided missile stealth frigate are a part of Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam and function under the operational command of the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command. These ships are fitted with state-of-the art weapons and sensors. The ships, during their port call at Singapore, will also participate in International Maritime Defence Exhibition (IMDEX-23) and International Maritime Security Conference (IMSC) being hosted by Singapore.

### **The Indian Air Force Participates in Exercise INIOCHOS-23**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in Exercise INIOCHOS-23, a multi-national air exercise hosted by the Hellenic Air Force - Grece. The exercise will be conducted at the Andravida Air Base in Greece from 24 Apr 2023 to 04 May 2023. The Indian Air Force will be participating with four Su-30 MKI and two C-17 aircraft.

Objective - The objective of the exercise is to enhance international cooperation, synergy and interoperability amongst the participating Air Forces. The exercise will be conducted in a realistic combat scenario involving multiple types of air and surface assets. It will also enable the participating contingents to engage in professional interactions, providing valuable insight into each other's best practices.

## SPORTS

### Malaysia Masters 2023 badminton: India's HS Prannoy wins maiden BWF World Tour title

Ranked No. 9 in the BWF rankings, HS Prannoy defeated Weng Hong Yang of the People's Republic of China 21-19, 13-21, 21-18 to win his maiden BWF World Tour title. It was also the 30-year-old HS Prannoy's first men's singles title in over six years. His last title came at the 2017 US Open, which, at the time, was part of the BWF Grand Prix - the predecessor to the BWF World Tour.

About: HS Prannoy - Prannoy Haseena Sunil Kumar, also known as H. S. Prannoy, is an Indian professional badminton player who currently trains at the Gopichand Badminton Academy in Hyderabad. Prannoy originally hails from Thiruvananthapuram and has a career-high world ranking of number 7, which he attained in May 2023

Meanwhile, India's women's singles campaign ended after two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu was ousted by runner-up Gregoria Mariska Tunjung of Indonesia in the women's singles semi-finals on Saturday.

### Uttar Pradesh wins the 13th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2023

Uttar Pradesh Hockey won the 13th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2023 on Sunday after defeating Hockey Association of Odisha in the Final at the iconic Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium. Meanwhile, Hockey Haryana beat Hockey Madhya Pradesh to finish third in the competition.

Uttar Pradesh Hockey won the tournament by defeating the Hockey Association of Odisha 7-1. Ujjwal Pal (6', 38', 47') converted three penalty corners, while Rahul Yadav (30'), Ketan Kushwaha (39'), Rahul Rajhbar (52'), and Team Captain Ajeet Yadav (54') each scored a goal to secure their victory. Deonath Nanwar (57') scored the only goal for the Hockey Association of Odisha.

The 3rd/4th place match saw Hockey Haryana claim a 4-2 comeback win over Hockey Madhya Pradesh. Tushar Parmar (14') and Subhan Abid (22') scored to give Hockey Madhya Pradesh a comfortable lead, but Hockey Haryana fought back with goals from Sunil (29', 51'), Happy (37'), and Neeraj (58') to secure their victory.

### India Women's volleyball team scripts history, win NSC CAVA Women's Volleyball Challenge Cup for first time

Indian Women's volleyball team scripted history by winning the NSC CAVA Women's Volleyball Challenge Cup -2023 for the first time. The India senior women's volleyball team became the champion of the tournament by beating Kazakhstan in Kathmandu of Nepal. India Women's volleyball team, which won the silver medal at AVC Women's Challenger Cup in Nakhon Pathom of Thailand last year, defeated Kazakhstan 3-0 with a score of 25-15, 25-22, 25-18. The Indian team had entered the final of the tournament after winning a crucial match against Uzbekistan. India attacked Uzbekistan at the net to capture the easy set 25-15, match and final berth.

### **Max Verstappen wins in Monaco to make it six out of six for Red Bull**

Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the 2023 Monaco Grand Prix, leading all 78 laps from pole position. The victory was Verstappen's fourth of the season and extended his lead in the Drivers' Championship to 39 points. The race was held in wet conditions, and Verstappen made the most of it, starting well and pulling away from the rest of the field. He never looked back, and cruised to victory. Fernando Alonso finished second, with Esteban Ocon in third. Charles Leclerc retired from the race after a collision with Carlos Sainz.

Fernando Alonso, the seasoned Spaniard representing Aston Martin, delivered an impressive performance, securing second place. However, he finished a substantial 27.9 seconds behind Verstappen at the chequered flag.

### **CSK win fifth IPL title beat Gujarat Titans by five wickets**

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) claimed a record-equalling fifth Indian Premier League (IPL) crown with a five-wicket win over Gujarat Titans (GT) in a rain-affected but exciting match in Ahmedabad district of Gujarat.

After being asked to bat first, Gujarat Titans posted 214 for four. B Sai Sudharsan hit 96 in 47 balls. However, after rain interrupted play, the target for CSK was reset to 171 in 15 overs.

IPL Purple Cap Winner 2023 - Mohammed Shami of Gujarat Titans won the Purple Cap in IPL 2023 with 28 wickets in 16 matches.

**IPL Orange Cap Winner 2023** - Gujarat Titans opener Shubman Gill won the Orange Cap in IPL 2023 with 890 runs in 17 matches.

### **Magnus Carlsen Won 2023 Superbet Rapid and Blitz Poland**

World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen won the 2023 Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland, the second leg of the Grand Chess Tour (GCT) at the Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

GM Magnus Carlsen and GM Jan-Krzysztof Duda fought a memorable and thrilling final round of the Superbet Poland Rapid & Blitz 2023, where the former held his nerve to hold a draw and win the event with a score of 24 points and pocket the top prize of \$40,000 and 13 Grand Chess Tour points. Duda finished second with 23 points for \$30,000 and 10 GCT points, while GM Wesley So and GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave tied for third and fourth places with 21.5 points to pocket \$22,500 and 7.5 GCT each.

Carlsen began the fifth and final day where he left off from the previous day, extending his winning streak to 7/7. At one point, he even scored a blistering 10.5 points from 11 games between the 14th to 24th rounds. He overtook the overnight leader Duda by the 20th round and extended his lead to two points by the 23rd round. However, Duda caught up to just a point below him at the end of the penultimate round, and Carlsen fended off a spirited challenge from Duda in the final round to draw the game and finish a point ahead of the rest of the field.

### **Sreeshankar wins gold, Jeswin takes silver at International Jumping Meeting in Greece**

Murali Sreeshankar and Jeswin Aldrin made it one-two for India in men's long jump at the International Jumping Meeting, a World Athletics Continental Tour bronze level event, in Kallithea, Greece,

Sreeshankar grabbed gold with a season-best of 8.18m (wind speed: +0.6m/s) in his final attempt. The 24-year-old, who won silver at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham last year, started with a jump of 7.94m before recording 8.17m, 8.11m, 8.04m and 8.01m in the following attempts. He had won the gold last year as well with a best jump of 8.31m.

Jeswin finished second and grabbed silver with 7.85m (wind speed: 0.5m/s). The 21-year-old, who is the national record-holder, started with 7.81m before achieving his best in the second attempt. His next three jumps read 7.74m, 7.74m and 7.79m while the last one resulted in a foul.

Jeswin set a new national record of 8.42m at the Indian Open Jumps Championships at the Inspire Institute of Sports, Bellary, early this year in March. With that jump, he also qualified for 2023 World Athletics Championships.

### **3rd Khelo India University games start in Gautam Budh Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh**

Third Khelo India University games started with the Kabaddi event on 23rd May 2023 evening in Gautam Budh Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh with over 4,000 athletes and officials from 207 universities across the country participating in 21 disciplines.

The official inauguration ceremony will be held today, 24th May in Lucknow in which the Prime Minister Narendra Modi took part virtually.

Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur and Chief minister Yogi Adityanath also took part in the inaugural function. Reviewing preparations for the Khelo India University Games, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath yesterday directed the officials to ensure that the event to be grand and create a unique image of Uttar Pradesh in the field of sports.

This edition of KIUG promises an exciting addition with the introduction of water sports. The serene Taal Lake in Ramgarh, Gorakhpur, will serve as the venue for a gripping rowing contest. This inclusion reflects the organizers' commitment to diversify and expand the range of sporting disciplines, offering athletes unique opportunities to showcase their talent and passion.

### **Neeraj Chopra creates history, becomes world number 1 in men's javelin throw rankings**

Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra on 22 May has claimed number one ranking in men's javelin for the first time, which is a major career milestone for him. Neeraj Chopra has topped the charts with 1455 points, 22 ahead of Grenada's Anderson Peters. On 30 August, 2022, the Indian javelin throw ace rose to World No. 2, but was stuck behind Peters, the reigning world champion, since then.

In 2022, Neeraj won the Diamond League 2022 finals in Zurich in September, which made him the first Indian athlete to do so, The Indian national record holder in men's

javelin throw, competed in the season-opening Doha Diamond League on May 5 and finished first with a throw of 88.67m. Anderson Peters finished third in Doha with a distance of 85.88m.

Neeraj will now compete at the FBK Games 2023 on June 4 in the Netherlands and confirmed his participation at the Paavo Nurmi Games 2023 in Turku, Finland, on June 13.

### **Sania Mirza roped in as Tennis Ambassador for Sony Sports Network**

Sony Sports Network has announced the exclusive onboarding Sania Mirza as the Tennis Ambassador for Sony Sports Network, who will be seen as an expert panellist on the network. Sony Sports Network is the home to three out of the four Grand Slams, the Australian Open, Roland-Garros, US Open, along with the Davis Cup, making it the Home of Tennis in India.

Sania will now also serve up expert insights off the court on Sony Sports Network's Extraa Serve. The Arjuna Award, Padma Shri, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award and Padma Bhushan recipient will be seen on the Sony Sports Network starting with the Roland-Garros on 28th May 2023.

Sony Sports Network has launched a special campaign called Home of Tennis. The campaign showcases Sania Mirza, Sony Sports Network, and the three Grand Slams as a match made in heaven and celebrates her journey as she dons the hat of an expert after retiring from playing tennis

[www.fundamakers.com](http://www.fundamakers.com)

### **Adidas named as the new India cricket team kit sponsor**

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that Adidas will be the new kit sponsor of the Indian team. Adidas replaced Kewal Kiran Clothing Ltd, maker of Killer Jeans, which came in as interim sponsor after the then-sponsor Mobile Premier League Sports (MPL Sports) pulled out of the deal midway.

About: Adidas - Adidas is a German multinational corporation that designs and manufactures athletic shoes, apparel, and equipment. The company is headquartered in Herzogenaurach, Germany, and is the largest sportswear manufacturer in the world. Adidas has been involved in cricket for many years, and is the current kit sponsor for the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA)

### **Italian Open: Daniil Medvedev beats Holger Rune to win first ATP clay-court title**

Daniil Medvedev claimed his first clay-court title and sixth ATP Masters 1000 crown with a victory over Holger Rune in the final of the Italian Open. The match, which was delayed by rain, saw Medvedev deliver a consistent and clean-hitting performance to defeat Denmark's Holger Rune 7-5 7-5 in a gripping men's Italian Open final.

About Daniil Medvedev - Daniil Sergeyevich Medvedev is a Russian professional tennis player. He is currently ranked as the world No. 3 in men's singles by the Association of Tennis Professionals, and was ranked as the world No. 1 for 16 total weeks. Medvedev has won 20 ATP Tour singles titles, including the 2021 US Open and 2020 ATP Finals.

### **Italian Open: Elena Rybakina clinches women's singles title**

In Italian Open Tennis, Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan won the title defeating Ukraine's Anhelina Kalinina 6-4, 1-0, last night. This was Rybakina's second title of the year. After rain backed up play for much of the day, 7th seed Rybakina took the trophy when 30th seed Kalinina was unable to continue after 65 minutes. Kalinina retired from the final due to a left thigh injury.

About: Elena Rybakina - Elena Andreyevna Rybakina is a Kazakhstani professional tennis player. She is the reigning champion at Wimbledon and the first Kazakhstani player to win a title at a major.

### **Barcelona win 27th La Liga title**

Barcelona secured their 27th La Liga title with a 4-2 triumph over rivals Espanyol, securing their first title since 2019. This win was accomplished with goals from Robert Lewandowski, Alex Balde, and Jules Kounde, and within just 53 minutes, Barcelona had taken a commanding 4-0 lead at the RCDE Stadium.

This was their first league title since Lionel Messi's highlighted exit at Camp Nou. Polish striker Robert Lewandowski scored twice to shine in Barcelona's title win at RCDE Stadium in Cornellà de Llobregat.

About: Barcelona FC - Futbol Club Barcelona, commonly referred to as Barcelona and colloquially known as Barça, is a professional football club based in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain, that competes in La Liga, the top flight of Spanish football.

### **Telangana's Prraneeth Vuppala becomes 82nd Grandmaster of India**

Telangana's Prraneeth Vuppala has become India's 82nd Grandmaster after he achieved the required 2,500 FIDE rating points during the Baku Open tournament.

1. Prraneeth, a 15-year-old chess player from Telangana, achieved the title of Grandmaster, becoming the sixth from the state and the 82nd in India.

The State chess player had already achieved three GM norms earlier and needed to cross 2,500 rating points. He got the required points after defeating GM Hans Niemann of the USA in the penultimate round of the Baku Open. Prraneeth is now the sixth Grandmaster from the State of Telangana.

India has produced a total of 81 grandmasters, making it the third-most in the world after Russia and China. The first Indian grandmaster was Viswanathan Anand, who won the title in 1988. Anand is a five-time world champion and is considered one of the greatest chess players of all time.

### **Indian shooters Hriday Hazarika and Nancy Mandhotra bag silver medals in 10-meter air rifle event at ISSF World Cup 2023**

Indian shooters Hriday Hazarika and Nancy Mandhotra have bagged silver medals in the men's and women's 10 meter air rifle events, at the ongoing ISSF World Cup 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

It was the first-ever ISSF World Cup medal for 21-year-old Hriday Hazarika as well as 19-year-old Nancy Mandhotra. Hazarika made it to the men's 10m air rifle final.

The Baku meet is the penultimate stage of the ISSF World Cup for rifle and pistol shooters.

The final stage will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil before the ISSF World Championships in November at Doha. India have sent a 34-member team to the ISSF World Cup Baku 2023. The event will end today.

### **Indian pair Divya TS and Sarabjot Singh win gold in 10m air pistol mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup 2023**

In the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup being held at Baku in Azerbaijan, Indian pair Divya TS and Sarabjot Singh won gold in the 10m air pistol mixed team event .

The Indian pair defeated the Serbian legends Damir Mikec and Zorana Arunovic in the final match pulling off a nerve-wracking 16-14 win. It was a second ISSF World Cup gold for Sarabjot who had won the individual air pistol in Bhopal in March this year. On the other hand, it was the first senior medal for Diya at the international level. Ismail Keles and Simal Yilmaz of Turkey won bronze.

### **Yashasvi Jaiswal smashes fastest fifty in the history of IPL**

Rajasthan Royal's left-handed batter Yashasvi Jaiswal created history by making the fastest 50 in the history of IPL, He reached the 50-run mark in just 13 balls to break the record jointly held by KL Rahul and Pat Cummins. Both had scored half-centuries in 14 balls. With RR chasing a 150-run target against KKR, The opener batsman struck 26 runs, with three fours and two sixes, in the very first over by KKR captain Nitish Rana. Jaiswal got emotional after the match-winning knocks and said that his dream is to play at 3 in ODI for India.

**About Yashasvi Jaiswal** - Yashasvi Bhupendra Kumar Jaiswal is an Indian professional cricketer who plays for Mumbai in domestic cricket and Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League. He is the youngest cricketer in the world to score a List A double century.

### **Yuzvendra Chahal creates history, becomes first Indian to take most wickets in IPL**

Yuzvendra Chahal, the spinner for both India and the Rajasthan Royals cricket team, made history on Sunday as he became the first Indian bowler to take 300 wickets in T20 cricket. Chahal's impressive performance against the Sunrisers Hyderabad saw him take four wickets for just 17 runs in four overs, ultimately leading his team to a 72 -run victory.

Chahal reached the milestone after dismissing Harry Brook with the last ball of the seventh over. He now has an impressive record of 303 wickets in 265 matches, having also taken down Mayank Agrawal, Adil Rashid, and Bhuvneshwar Kumar throughout the match.

### **Lionel Messi and Argentina WIN BIG at Laureus Awards 2023**

Lionel Messi has been named the Sportsman of the Year at the 2023 Laureus World Sports Awards ceremony in Paris. The Argentine football star won the prestigious

award for his remarkable achievements on the pitch in the past year, which included leading Argentina to victory in the FIFA World Cup. Messi was nominated alongside other star athletes such as Kylian Mbappe, Rafael Nadal, Stephen Curry, Mondo Duplantis, and Max Verstappen.

In addition to that, Messi accepted the World Team of the Year award on behalf of the Argentina men's football team, who won the championship in Qatar. Messi also became the first athlete to scoop both the World Sportsman of the Year Award and the World Team of the Year Award in the same year.

With the win, the Argentine becomes the only footballer ever to win Laureus Awards twice. Messi previously won the Sportsman of the Year award in 2020 in a ceremony that took place in Berlin.

### ICC Player of the Month d for April 2023

Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman has been honoured with the Men's Player of the Month title for April 2023 and Naruamol Chaiwai from Thailand has been named the Women's Player of the Month for April 2023. by the International Cricket Council (ICC). They have been given this prestigious honour for their achievements and great performances in the cricket matches.

Fakhar Zaman is a Pakistani cricketer who plays for the Pakistan national cricket team and for Lahore Qalandars in the Pakistan Super League. And Naruamol Chaiwai is a Thai cricketer. In April 2021, the Cricket Association of Thailand appointed her as the captain of the Thailand women's team, replacing Sornnarin Tippoch.

### Asian Weightlifting Championships 2023: Indian weightlifters finish with three silver medals

In Weightlifting, Indian weightlifters finished the Asian Weightlifting Championships 2023 in Jinju, South Korea, with three silver medals. Yesterday, Ajith Narayana and Achinta Sheuli were the only two Indian weightlifters competing in the men's 73kg category.

However, the duo failed to add to India's medals tally. Ajith Narayana, who was competing in his first international weightlifting event, topped Group B with a combined lift of 307kg.

Commonwealth Games 2022 gold medallist Achinta Sheuli, meanwhile, finished second in Group B with a total lift of 305kg.

However, after the final standings were announced following the completion of Group A, Ajith Narayana and Achinta Sheuli could only rank ninth and tenth, respectively.

Bindyarani Devi had opened India's medals account at the Jinju meet with a silver medal in the women's 55kg category on Saturday.

A total of six Indian weightlifters competed at the continental championships, which is second in the series of qualifying events for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The Asian Weightlifting Championships 2023 will run till May 13 but India doesn't have any representation in any of the remaining categories.

### **Max Verstappen of Red Bull won the F1 Miami Grand Prix 2023**

Dutch-Belgian racing driver Max Verstappen of Red Bull won the F1 Miami Grand Prix 2023 title, Two-time defending Formula One world champion Max Verstappen is one step closer to a third straight title.

World champion Max Verstappen powered from ninth on the grid to beat Red Bull team-mate Sergio Perez and win the Miami Grand Prix 2023. The victory extends Verstappen's lead at the top of the standings and follows his triumph in the inaugural Miami race last year. Aston Martin's Spanish veteran Fernando Alonso took third for his fourth podium in five races this season as he continues to enjoy his late career revival. Charles Leclerc, who crashed late in qualifying and started seventh on the grid, finished in seventh place with Frenchman Pierre Gasly of Alpine in eighth.

### **Spain's Carlos Alcaraz beats Jan-Lennard Struff to defend title of Madrid Open**

World number two Carlos Alcaraz continued his good work from the Barcelona Open and successfully defended his title at Madrid on Sunday, 7 May. Alcaraz beat lucky loser Jan-Lennard Struff 6-4 3-6 6-3 and win his fourth ATP Tour trophy of the year and his tenth overall.

The 20-year-old Spaniard had an injury-plagued start to the season but came back in top form last month to win the Barcelona Open for the second consecutive year.

About Madrid Open - The Madrid Open is a professional tennis tournament that takes place annually in Madrid, Spain. The tournament is part of the ATP Tour and the WTA Tour, which are the men's and women's professional tennis circuits, respectively. The Madrid Open is one of the most prestigious tennis events in the world, and it is held at the Caja Magica, which is a multi-purpose stadium with three clay courts.

### **India's Bindyarani Devi wins silver at Asian Championships**

Indian weightlifter Bindyarani Devi won the silver medal in the women's 55kg event at the Asian Championships. Bindyarani covered up her underwhelming snatch performance by lifting the second highest weight in clean and jerk to take home the silver in the section. She lifted 80kg and 83kg in her first two snatch attempts with relative ease but her 85kg try was deemed a no lift.

The 24-year-old switched back to her original 55kg weight division for this event due to an injury she had sustained ahead of the selection trials. Bindyarani had moved to the 59kg weight class that features in the Paris Olympics, during last year's World Championships, where she finished 25th.

### **Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra clinches Doha Diamond League title**

Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra began his Diamond League title defence with a comfortable win in the season-opening leg in Doha last night. The 25-year-old Chopra, who had pocketed the 2022 Diamond League Final trophy in Switzerland last September, beat a star-studded field with a best throw of 88.67m to begin his season in style. Chopra hit his straps in his first attempt itself with a world-leading throw of 88.67m, which was his fourth career-best effort, to position himself on the top of the pile. He maintained the lead till the end to win the event in his

second appearance at the Qatar Sports Club. Czech Republic's Vadlejch stood second, with Grenada's Peters finishing third. With this win, Neeraj has also bagged the world lead.

Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch, was able to reach 88.63m, and world champion Anderson Peters, best attempt was 85.88m. The Czech Republic thrower moved up to second place, overtaking Anderson Peters. Neeraj made a foul on his fourth attempt.

### **Pakistan's Babar Azam becomes fastest player to reach 5000 runs in ODIs, breaks Hashim Amla's record**

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam has become the fastest player to reach 5000 runs in the ODI format. He crossed the 5000 run-mark in 97 innings. Babar broke Hashim Amla's record of scoring 5000 runs in 101 innings.

Virat Kohli stands at number 4 who took 120 matches - 114 ) innings, and Shikhar Dhawan at number 9 taking 119 matches - 118 innings.

About: Babar Azam - Mohammad Babar Azam, is a Pakistani international cricketer and captain of the Pakistan national cricket team in all formats. Regarded as one of the finest batters in contemporary world cricket, he is the only cricketer in the world to be in the top five rankings across all formats.

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### **Fastest women's bowler Shabnim Ismail retires from international cricket**

South African fast bowler Shabnim Ismail, who is credited with sending down the quickest delivery in women's cricket, announced her retirement from the international cricket.

This is a significant blow to South Africa, who heavily relied on Ismail's pace and skill in their recent Twenty20 World Cup campaign, where they finished as runners-up. Ismail, who is 34 years old, played in 241 international matches across all formats, including one-day Internationals, Twenty20s, and tests. Her last appearance was in the World Cup final loss to Australia in February at Newlands. During the tournament, Ismail set a new record for the fastest ball ever recorded in women's cricket, with a speed of 128 kph (80 mph) in the semi-finals against England.

Shabnim Ismail has taken 317 wickets during her career. She is the highest wicket-taker for South Africa in both One Day Internationals (ODIs) and Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is). Ismail also holds the second-highest number of wickets in ODI cricket with a total of 191, behind only India's Jhulan Goswami who has taken 255 wickets in 204 matches for India.

[www.fundamakers.com](http://www.fundamakers.com)

### **India's Mairaj Ahmad, Ganemat Sekhon Win Skeet Mixed Team Gold: Shotgun World Cup**

Shooters Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Ganemat Sekhon won India its first medal in the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Shotgun World Cup, winning the gold medal by defeating Mexicans Luis Raul Gallardo Oliveros and Gabriela Rodriguez 6-0 in the skeet mixed team event on Sunday (April 30) in Egypt. It was a second gold medal win in mixed team event for young Indian shooter Ganemat Sekhon, also a fourth senior World Cup medal, while veteran shooter Mairaj secured his fifth senior ISSF medal after the gold medal win. Notably, Mairaj and Ganemat had drawn a blank in the individual skeet competitions.

The Indian pair shot a combined 143 out of 150 in the 30-team qualification round. Their opponents, the Mexicans too finished with a combined score of 143. In the decider, Mairaj made full use of his experience to attain perfect four hits as their opponents missed three birds, giving India an important 2-0 lead. Mairaj put Mexicans under pressure and India on top as he yet again hit a perfect four in the second series. Mexicans Luis Raul Gallardo Oliveros and Gabriela Rodriguez missed three as India pulled through 4-0. Things got a bit intense in the final series with Mairaj missing two targets and Ganemat one, but their opponents missed four in all as India finally clinched a historic gold with a dominating win.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Kaveri 2.0: Karnataka's web based portal for property registration

In a move that is expected to further simplify the property registration process in India's information technology capital, the Karnataka government is set to launch the all-new Kaveri 2.0 in Bangalore. The state launched Kaveri 2.0 on March 2, 2023.

According to Karnataka revenue minister R Ashok, the new software ensures registration of properties in just 10 minutes, and relieves public of the ordeal of waiting at the sub-registrar's offices for hours or depending on touts.

To avail of various property-related and other services, citizens in Karnataka can visit the Kaveri Online portal, a website that has been nationally recognised as a successful initiative in digitisation of land records.

### SpaceX rocket sends Arabsat communications satellite into orbit

SpaceX,, The space exploration technologies corporation launched a big telecommunication satellite named Arabsat BADR-8, for Arabsat, a multinational consortium providing TV and video broadcast services across the Middle East. The satellite weighs nearly five-ton.

SpaceX pushed back the launch time more than an hour to wait for winds to subside, then gave the go-ahead to fuel the Falcon 9 rocket for liftoff at 12:30 a.m. EDT (0430 UTC) Saturday.

The launch marked SpaceX's 36th flight of the year, and the 26th orbital launch attempt so far in 2023 from Florida's Space Coast.

The nearly 10,000 pound (4.5-metric ton) Badr 8 communications satellite was closed up inside the Falcon 9's nose cone for liftoff Saturday. Built by Airbus Defense and Space, the Badr 8 satellite, also known as Arabsat 7B, will provide C-band and Ku-band communications services to replace capacity currently offered by the aging 15-year-old Badr 6 satellite in geostationary orbit.

### ISRO successfully launches its next-generation navigational satellite – NVS-01

ISRO's GSLV f 12 rocket with NVS – 01 satellite was successfully launched at 10.42 from Sriharikota today – 29 May. The rocket lifted off from the second launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre and injected NVS -01 satellite in its geosynchronous orbit.

The satellite weighing 2232 kilograms is the first of the second-generation satellites envisaged for the Navigation with Indian Constellation series.

India will join three other nations in setting up not only a constellation series but also on the operationalisation of the rubidium clock made indigenously.

Scientists gathered at the Centre expressed happiness and satisfaction at the functioning of the satellite so far. The orbit-raising manoeuvres will be used for taking the satellite to the destined level in two days.

The data from the satellite will be used for individual and strategic purposes. The Chairman, ISRO, Somnath was jubilant in announcing the launch of Chandrayaan – 3 in July this year. ISRO looks forward to sending some more GSLV, PSLV missions and also projects with NASA.

### **AI Supercomputer 'AIRAWAT' puts India among top supercomputing league**

The AI Supercomputer 'AIRAWAT', installed at C-DAC, Pune has been ranked 75th in the world. It was declared so in the 61st edition of Top 500 Global Supercomputing List at the International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) in Germany. It puts India on top of AI Supercomputing nations worldwide. The system is installed under National Program on AI by Government of India.

The AIRAWAT PoC of 200 AI Petaflops integrated with PARAM Siddhi – AI of 210 AI Petaflops gives a total peak compute of 410 AI Petaflops Mixed Precision and sustained compute capacity of 8.5 Petaflops (Rmax) Double Precision. The peak compute capacity (Double Precision, Rpeak) is 13 Petaflops.”

### **ISRO likely to launch NVS-01 navigation satellite on May 29**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is likely to launch NVS -01, a navigation satellite on-board the Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle or GSLV Mk-II,

The launch of NVS-01 is scheduled around May 29. This will be a return flight mission for the GSLV launch vehicle, which will carry the next generation NavIC satellite. This satellite will replace the IRNSS-1G satellite launched in 2016,

IRNSS-1G was the seventh navigation satellite of the seven satellites constituting the IRNSS space segment. Its predecessors—IRNSS-1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E and 1F—were launched by PSLV-C22, PSLV-C24, PSLV-C26, PSLV-C27, PSLV-C31 and PSLV-C32 in July 2013, April 2014, October 2014, March 2015, January 2016 and March 2016, respectively.

### **IBM and NASA Collaborate to Convert Satellite Data into High-Resolution Maps Using AI**

IBM in collaboration with NASA unveiled a new geospatial foundation model designed to convert satellite data into high-resolution maps of floods, fires, and other landscape changes to reveal the planet's past and hint at its future.

The model watsonx.ai geospatial offering is an artificial intelligence (AI) technology developed by IBM.

The platform's potential applications include estimating climate-related risks to agriculture, infrastructure, and buildings, assessing forests for carbon-offset initiatives, and assisting businesses in developing strategies to address and adapt to climate change by employing predictive models.

The goal of the NASA and IBM collaboration is to provide an easier way for researchers to analyse and draw insights from large NASA datasets related to Earth processes.

This collaboration is part of NASA's Open-Source Science Initiative (OSSI), a commitment to building an inclusive, transparent, and collaborative open science community over the next decade.

### **MakeMyTrip collaborates with Microsoft, for voice assisted travel bookings**

Digital travel firm MakeMyTrip has collaborated with Microsoft to introduce voice assisted bookings in Indian languages to make travel planning more inclusive and accessible for its customers.

As per the company's statement, this new platform is powered by Microsoft Azure OpenAI and Azure Cognitive Services. The new service will enable user interactions and offer personalised travel recommendations based on their preferences. It will also help in curating and booking holiday packages based on variable inputs like occasion, budget, activity preferences, time of travel, hotel reviews, etc.

According to the announcement, this partnership will add more than 600 fresh travel itineraries to MakeMyTrip's current collection, which includes nearly 5,000 vacation packages.

The new update would elevate the user experience and make the platform more inclusive, accessible, and easy to navigate. The corporation aims to increase its franchise presence by more than 50% by 2023, allowing it to expand its influence into smaller towns and cities throughout India.

### OBITUARY

#### **Lone Congress MP from Maharashtra Suresh 'Balu' Dhanorkar passes away at 48**

Congress leader Suresh 'Balu' Dhanorkar breathed his last at a private hospital in Delhi-NCR. He was 48 years old. Dhanorkar is survived by his wife Pratibha, an MLA, and two sons.

A party spokesperson told news agency PTI that Dhanorkar was airlifted to Delhi from Nagpur on May 28 for medical treatment. He was shifted to the national capital in an air ambulance after he complained of stomach pain. The Congress parliamentarian had undergone treatment for kidney stones at a hospital in Nagpur on May 27. Dhanorkar was the lone Congress MP from Chandrapur Lok Sabha constituency in Maharashtra. He was earlier part of the Shiv Sena, winning the Warora-Bhadrawati Assembly seat in 2014. He quit the party in 2019 and joined the Congress before the Lok Sabha elections. He was fielded from Chandrapur parliamentary constituency where he defeated former union minister and BJP leader Hansraj Ahir.

#### **Writer and literary critic G H Nayak passes away**

Writer and literary critic Govindaraya H Nayak (88), popularly known as G H Nayak, passed away due to heart attack in Mysuru. He is survived by his wife Meera and daughter Keerthi.

A native of Surve village near Ankola, Uttara Kannada district of coastal Karnataka, Nayak served the University of Mysore as a Kannada professor. A writer and critic, Nayak won the Central Sahitya Akademi Award for his work Sanskrit Chintana in 2014.

He is also a recipient of the Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award and Pampa Award. After his high school diploma from Peoples Multi-purpose High School, Ankola, in 1951, he shifted to Mysuru and did MA in Kannada from the University of Mysore.

#### **Micky Jagtiani, founder of retail giant Landmark Group, passes away at 70**

Dubai-based billionaire businessman Micky Jagtiani, who founded retail giant Landmark Group, has passed away. The chairman and owner of the group was 70 years old. With a net worth of \$5.2 billion, he was ranked 511 on the Forbes' 37th annual world billionaires list earlier this year.

Jagtiani was originally from India and started the business in 1973 with one store in Bahrain. He then expanded the business across the west Asia, Africa and India. According to Forbes, Jagtiani drove a taxi in London before moving to Bahrain and starting a baby products shop.

Currently, his wife Renuka runs the Landmark Group as chairman and chief executive officer (CEO). His three children are directors in the group, overseeing different aspects of the business. The Landmark Group also entered India in 1999 and has a range of retail brands like Lifestyle and Max for clothes and Home Center for furniture and home furnishings.

### **Tina Turner 'Queen of rock 'n' roll' passes away**

Tina Turner, the pioneering rock'n'roll star who became a pop behemoth in the 1980s, passes away at the age of 83, She died peacefully after a long illness in her home in Küsnacht near Zurich, Switzerland, Turner began her career in the 1950s during the early years of rock 'n' roll and evolved into an MTV phenomenon.

**About: Tina Turner** - Tina Turner was an American-born Swiss singer. Known as the "Queen of Rock 'n' Roll", she rose to prominence as the lead singer of the Ike & Tina Turner Revue before launching a successful career as a solo performer. Turner began her career with Ike Turner's Kings of Rhythm in 1957. Turner also held a Guinness World Record for the largest paying audience (180,000 in 1988) for a solo performer. Turner won a total of 12 Grammy Awards. These awards include eight competitive Grammy Awards; she shares the record (with Pat Benatar) for most awards given for Best Female Rock Vocal Performance. Three of her recordings, "River Deep – Mountain High" (1999), "Proud Mary" (2003), and "What's Love Got to Do with It" (2012) are in the Grammy Hall of Fame.

### **TV actor Nitesh Pandey dies due to heart attack at the age of 51**

Television actor Nitesh Pandey, who gained popularity with Starplus show, Anupamaa, died due to a heart attack today. The 51-year-old actor suffered cardiac arrest in Igatpuri, Maharashtra,

In 1990, Nitesh Pandey started acting in plays. Nitesh Pandey has appeared in serials including 'Manzilein Apani Apani', 'Astitva...Ek Prem Kahani', 'Saaya', 'Justajoo', and 'Durgesh Nandini'. He also worked on the films like 'Om Shanti Om' and 'Badhaai Do'. The actor, who has been an established name on Indian television for the past 20 years, was most recently seen 'Anupamaa'. He played Dheeraj Kumar, the best friend of Gaurav Khanna, who played Anuj Kapadia.

Nitesh was born and raised in Almora, Uttarakhand. He got married to Arpita Pandey, an actress whom he had first met on the television show Justajoo. In 2003, the couple tied the knot. Nitesh was also previously married to actress Ashwini Kalsekar.

### **Renowned Telugu writer Kethu Viswanatha Reddy passes away**

Noted writer and novelist Kethu Viswanatha Reddy passed away. He was 84. According to reports, he suffered cardiac arrest on Monday morning and was rushed to a nearby

hospital. But doctors couldn't save his life and the writer breathed his last in the hospital.

Kethu Viswanatha Reddy hails from Rangasaipuram of Erraguntla mandal of YSR district in Andhra Pradesh was living in Kadapa for long. Started his career as a journalist, Viswanatha Reddy shifted to teaching profession and retired as Director of Ambedkar Universal University.

He has won several awards and honours for his literary works including the Kendra Sahitya Akademi award. His major works include Anaadivaallu, Kethu Viswanatha Reddy Kathalu, Verlu - Bodhi, Icchagni, Japtu, Drishti, Deepadaarulu, Parichayam, Patrikeyam, Sangamam and Mana Kodavatiganti.

### **Actor Sarath Babu passes away at 73 due to multiple organ failure**

Veteran actor Sarath Babu, who was last seen in Pawan Kalyan's Vakeel Saab, passed away at a private hospital in Hyderabad. Sarath Babu (73) was undergoing treatment for multi-organ failure and was on a ventilator.

Sarath Babu was unwell for a while and earlier this month his condition worsened and he was taken to the AIG Hospitals in Hyderabad. Sarath Babu contracted sepsis which impacted his kidneys, lungs, liver, and other organs, after which the actor was put on a ventilator.

**About: Sarath Babu** - Sarath Babu was born in Amadalavalasa, Andhra Pradesh in 1951 and his birth name was Satyanarayana Dixit. He changed his name to Sarath Babu after stepping into the film industry in 1973. Sarath Babu made his acting debut with his first Telugu movie called Rama Rajyam. Subsequently, after a span of four years, in 1977, he marked his entry into Tamil cinema with Pattina Pravesam, a film directed by K Balachander.

### **BJP MP Rattan Lal Kataria passes away At 71**

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Haryana's Ambala, Rattan Lal Kataria, passes away at the age of 71. The three-time BJP MP was admitted to PGI Chandigarh, where he breathed his last.

Rattan Lal Kataria became an MP from Ambala for the first time in 1999, He was also associated with the RSS for over five decades.

He served as the President of the BJP - Haryana Unit, from 2000 to 2003, In 2014 he got elected to the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha from Ambala as a candidate of BJP.

Rattan Lal Kataria became the Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Social Justice and Empowerment from 2019 to 2021.

### **SP Hinduja, chairman of Hinduja Group, passes away at 87**

Srichand Parmanand Hinduja, the eldest of the four Hinduja brothers and chairman of Hinduja Group, passes away in London at the age of 87. He was unwell for some time. Srichand Parmanand Hinduja was born in 1935 in Pakistan to a Hindu family. He moved to India with his family in 1947 after the partition of India, After completing his education in 1952, Srichand P Hinduja joined his father PD Hinduja, the founder of Hinduja Group, in the family business. SP Hinduja, a British national, is survived by

three brothers, namely Gopichand, Prakash and Ashok and two daughters, Shanu and Vinoo. SP Hinduja had suffered from a form of dementia. His wife Madhu died in January 2023.

The Hinduja family patriarch and his brothers, Gopichand and Prakash, were accused of receiving nearly SEK 81 million in illegal commissions to help Swedish gunmaker AB Bofors secure an Indian government contract. A court had however exonerated them.

### **Eminent singer Kalyani Kazi, passes away at 87**

Eminent singer and the youngest daughter-in-law of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Kalyani Kazi passes away at the age of 87, Kazi, 87, breathed her last at SSKM hospital where she was shifted from a nursing home in south Kolkata a few days back.

She had been suffering from leukaemia for quite some time and also had renal problems and died after multi-organ failure Kazi, the widow of Kazi Nazrul Islam's younger son Kazi Aniruddha, is survived by two sons and a daughter who lives in the US.

Kalyani Kazi was a member of Kazi Nazrul Islam Academy's advisory council. The musical maestro was also honoured with the Sangeet Mohashomman Award from West Bengal in 2015.

### **Famous corporate lawyer Rajiv Luthra passes away at 67**

Veteran corporate lawyer and founder of the law firm Luthra & Luthra, Rajiv Luthra passes away at the age of 67 due to a brief illness, The veteran lawyer is survived by his wife Gayatri and two daughters.

He started his career as a chartered accountant, pursued Law and was an alumnus of University of Delhi. In the year 1989, he established his own firm Luthra & Luthra Law offices at the age of 31. After setting up his firm, he opted for courses at the Harvard Law School for the period of seven years. He studied several spheres of law and it helped him in developing a niche in practicing acquisitions, mergers, finance with specialization in public private partnership and in project finance.

Luthra & Luthra Law Offices has over 350 lawyers and has branches in Mumbai and Bangalore.

### **Former AIFF vice-president AR Khaleel passes away**

The former All India Football Federation (AIFF) vice-president, treasurer and executive committee member AR Khaleel passed away after a brief illness. He was 91. Khaleel is survived by his wife and four daughters.

AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey condoled the demise of Khaleel, who was also the former president of the Karnataka State Football Association (KSFA).

A prominent face in the Indian football administration for nearly six decades, Khaleel was also active at the continental level, and on occasions was a member of Asian Football Confederation Standing Committees. A president of the KSFA for 28 years till 2018, Khaleel had worked for the game in various capacities. He was a footballer, who ran Jawahar Union FC, one of Bengaluru's traditional clubs, was an administrator par excellence, and served Karnataka football as an office bearer for many years.

He also donned managerial roles for the Indian national teams in various age groups. In Karnataka football, Khaleel will always be remembered for the exemplary work he did in acquiring land and building the Bangalore Football Stadium, owned by the KSFA.

### **Renowned Bengali author Samaresh Majumdar passes away at 79**

Sahitya Akademi Award Winning Bengali Author who is known for portraying the tumultuous Naxalite period of the 1970s, passes away at a private hospital in Kolkata, he was 79.

Samaresh Majumdar was suffering from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), and was undergoing treatment at the hospital for over a month.

Born on March 10, 1944, novelist Majumdar is best known for his 'Animesh' series. He was first published in the year 1967- a novel named 'Dour' (Run). One of his works was even adapted into the 2013 film 'Arjun-Kalimpong E Sitaharan'.

Majumdar is also known for 'Uttoradhikar', 'Kaalpurush', 'Satkahan', and 'Adventures of Detective Arjun'. The writer-poet has innumerable accolades under his belt, including Sahitya Akademi Award which he won for 'Kalbela' in 1984.

Apart from this, he has been conferred the Anand Award and Bankim Award. In 2018, the West Bengal government honoured him with the 'Banga Bibhushan' award.

### **Accenture names Ajay Vij as Country Managing Director India**

Accenture has announced new appointments to its leadership team in India, as the company appoints Ajay Vij as Country Managing Director, a newly created role, and Sandeep Dutta as the lead of its India Market Unit. As country managing director, Mr. Vij would expand his current responsibilities as the Corporate Services & Sustainability lead for India to provide overall leadership and drive coordinated decision-making for key company priorities. Rekha M. Menon, Senior Managing Director and Chairperson for Accenture in India, would retire as of June 30,

During her 20-year career at Accenture Rekha M. Menon has held various roles across Accenture's growth markets. As Chairperson, she played an active role in growing Accenture's business, strengthening the company's presence in its communities and building relationships with key stakeholders including industry, government, and clients. She pioneered the India corporate citizenship strategy and championed the company's inclusion and diversity agenda.

### **Mahatma Gandhi's grandson Arun Gandhi passes away at 89**

Arun Gandhi, the son of Sushila and Manilal Gandhi and the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, passed away at the age of 89, His son Tushar, daughter Archana, four grandsons, and five great-grandchildren survive him. The final rites of Arun Gandhi, who referred to himself as a "Peace Farmer," held in Kolhapur.

He penned books like 'Kasturba, The Forgotten Woman', 'Grandfather Gandhi, with Bethany Hegedus and illustrated by Evan Turk, 'The Gift of Anger: And other lessons from my grandfather Mahatma Gandhi', etc. Born on April 14, 1934, in Durban to Manilal Gandhi and Sushila Mashruwala, followed in his grandfather's footsteps as an activist.

## APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

### Gurdeep Singh appointed as new NEEPCO CMD

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited CMD Gurdeep Singh has been given additional charge of the CMD of NEEPCO.

According to a release issued by the Ministry of Power Mr, Singh will assume additional charge as CMD of NEEPCO for a period of three months with effect from June 1 or till the appointment of a regular incumbent to this post or until further orders, whichever is earliest.

The decision was taken following the approval of the Union Minister of Power and NRE, RK Singh, the order said, while adding that the proposal was forwarded to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) and the approval of DOPT is awaited. As per the order, the decision was taken for smooth functioning of the day-to-day activities of NEEPCO.

### CAG Girish Chandra Murmu re-elected External Auditor of WHO

Comptroller and Auditor General of India Girish Chandra Murmu has been reelected as the external auditor of the World Health Organization (WHO) for a four-year term from 2024 to 2027. CAG is already holding this position in WHO for a four-year term from 2019 to 2023.

The present election was held on May 29, 2023 in the 76th World Health Assembly in Geneva, where the CAG of India was reelected with an overwhelming majority (114 out of 156 votes) in the first round of voting itself,

CAG's appointment is a recognition of its standing among the international community as well as its professionalism, high standards, global audit experience and strong national credentials

**About: External Auditor of WHO** - The External Auditor of the World Health Organization (WHO) is an independent auditor who is appointed by the World Health Assembly (WHA) to audit the financial statements and operations of WHO. The External Auditor is responsible for providing an independent and objective opinion on the financial statements of WHO, and for reporting on any significant findings or recommendations. The External Auditor is also responsible for auditing WHO's compliance with its financial regulations and with the terms of its financial assistance agreements.

### Praveen Kumar Srivastava sworn in as Central Vigilance Commissioner

Vigilance Commissioner Praveen Kumar Srivastava was sworn in as the Central Vigilance Commissioner by President Droupadi Murmu, Mr. Srivastava was working as the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) since December last year after completion of Suresh N. Patel's tenure as the chief of the probity watchdog. He is a 1988 -batch retired Indian Administrative Service officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre.

### **Mukesh Ambani appointed as member of Advisory committee of COP28**

Reliance Industries' Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani has been appointed as a member of the Advisory Committee to the President of the 28th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Mukesh Ambani is the only Indian, other than Sunita Narain, Director General, Centre for Science and Environment, on the Advisory Committee to the President of COP28.

Reliance chief Ambani joined other important global leaders on the COP28 Advisory Council such as Larry Fink, Chairman and CEO of BlackRock, Olafur Grimsson, Chairman of Arctic Circle (Former President of Iceland), Laurent Fabius, President of COP21 / Paris Agreement, Former Prime Minister of France, Francesco La Camera, Director General, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Bob Dudley, Chair of the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative (OGCI), former CEO of BP.

The COP28 UAE Advisory Committee brings together the climate expertise of thought leaders from countries across six continents.

UAE will host the 28th session of the Conference of Parties (COP 28) to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) from November 30, 2023 to December 12, 2023. It is set to be held at Dubai Expo City.

**About COP** - COP or the Conference of Parties is the apex decision-making body of UNFCCC. UNFCCC was instituted to deal with the growing threat of climate change. It was signed in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development also known as Rio Summit or Earth Summit. The Secretariat of UNFCCC is located in Bonn, Germany.

### **Karnataka Bank appoints Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma as MD & CEO**

The Mangaluru-headquartered private sector Karnataka Bank has appointed Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma as the new managing director and chief executive officer of the bank.

The appointment, effective from the date of his assuming charge, will last for a period of three years,

Sarma has four decades of experience in commercial, retail and transactional banking, technology and payments. He has previously held key positions at HDFC Bank Ltd., Yes Bank Ltd. and Jio Payments Bank Ltd.

With this appointment, there would be 11 directors on the board of the bank, Of which, 8 are independent directors constituting 73 per cent of the board, including one woman independent director,

### **Justice Ramesh Devkinandan Dhanuka sworn in as Chief Justice of Bombay HC**

Justice Ramesh Devkinandan Dhanuka sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court. Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais administered the oath of office to Justice Dhanuka at a brief swearing-in ceremony held at Raj Bhavan, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Ambadas Danve, Guardian Minister of Mumbai Deepak Kesarkar, family members of Justice Dhanuka, judges of the Bombay High Court, Chairman of Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission Justice (retd) K K

Tated, Advocate General Birendra Saraf, Director General of Police Rajnish Seth and senior government officers were present.

**About: Justice Ramesh Devkinandan Dhanuka** - Born on the 31st of May 1961, Justice Ramesh Dhanuka did his schooling in Mumbai. He acquired a Bachelor's degree in Commerce and Law from the University of Mumbai. Started practice of Law at Bombay High Court in 1985 in the chamber of Shri. Justice D. R. Dhanuka (Retd.), till his elevation as High Court Judge of Bombay in 1990. He was on the Senior Counsel Panel of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai for the last several years and has appeared in a large number of matters representing the Municipal Corporation in Bombay High Court.

### **R Dinesh takes over as CII president for 2023-24**

The National Council of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) elected R Dinesh, executive vice-chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, as the president of CII for 2023-24. He takes over from Sanjiv Bajaj, chairman and managing director, Bajaj Finserv Limited. TNS

Dinesh is a fourth-generation member of the TVS family. He founded TVS Supply Chain Solutions (formerly known as TVS Logistics) in 1995 and steered the company into a billion-dollar organisation. Under his leadership, the company also expanded into more 50 countries.

As per a statement by CII, Sanjiv Puri, the Chairman and Managing Director of ITC Limited, will assume the role of President-Designate of CII for the year 2023-24.

Rajiv Memani, Chairman of the India region of Ernst & Young (EY), a global professional services organisation, has been appointed as the Vice President.

### **Harsh Jain, founder of start-up Dream11, elected IMAI chairperson**

Harsh Jain, co-founder, and CEO of Dream Sports, has been elected the chairman of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) for 2023-25. He replaces Sanjay Gupta, vice president and country manager of Google India.

IAMAI has also announced that Rajesh Magow, co-founder and group CEO of MakeMyTrip, and Satyan Ganjwani, vice chairman of Times Internet, have been elected the vice chairman and the treasurer of the association. The two will replace Shivnath Thukral, Meta's director and head of India public policy, and Harshil Mathur, CEO and co-founder Razorpay,

The new 24-member Governing Council and the new Executive Council of the IMAI will take charge from the present councils at the upcoming Annual General Meeting. The IMAI Governing Council election is held every two years. Eighty-three members of the IMAI contested the elections this year following the end of the two -year tenure of the previous council.

### **Justice S Vaidyanathan appointed as acting chief justice of Madras High Court**

President Droupadi Murmu appointed Justice S Vaidyanathan as the Acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court, with effect from May 25, The appointment comes after the retirement of present Acting Chief Justice T Raja.

S Vaidyanathan is expected to perform the duties of Chief Justice until the Centre decides on Supreme Court Collegium's recommendation to appoint a Chief Justice for Madras HC. The SC has recommended the appointment of Bombay High Court's Additional Chief Justice SV Gangapurwala as the Chief Justice of Madras High Court.

About: S Vaidyanathan – Justice S Vaidyanathan was born on August 17, 1962 in Coimbatore. He did his schooling at Singaram Pillai High School in Villivakkam. He received an economics degree from DG Vaishnav College in 1982 and got BL degree from Madras Law College (now known as Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College).

### **IDBI Bank appoints Jayakumar S. Pillai as Deputy Managing Director**

IDBI Bank approved Jayakumar S. Pillai as Deputy Managing Director on the Board of the bank, The company announced through an exchange filing. The bank's board of directors approved the appointment for a period of three years from the date of his taking charge as approved by the RBI.

Jayakumar S. Pillai has 32 years and 7 months of experience in Canara Bank. He has headed branches in various scales across different geographies and has rich experience in branch banking, mobilization of retail resources, Credit delivery in sectors like Retail, Agriculture, MSME and Recovery. He has also worked as Chief Executive of Canara Bank's UK operations for over 4 years and gained experience in International banking. he also worked as Wing Head in the Bank's mid corporate credit department in HO. Worked as Chairman of Bank's Credit Committee at HO as well as Chairman of General Manager's Credit approval committee-thus gained experience in RAM sectors, Corporate Credit, handling of stressed assets. He is presently working as Chief General Manager and Circle Head in Canara Bank, Mumbai.

### **Paytm Payments Bank gets RBI nod to re-appoint Vijay Shekhar as part-time chair for 1 year**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given its nod to Paytm Payments Bank for the re-appointment of Paytm CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma as part-time chairman for a year, according to a regulatory filing by the fintech firm to the stock exchanges.

About: Vijay Shekhar Sharma - Vijay Shekhar Sharma is an Indian technology entrepreneur and multimillionaire business magnate. He is the founder chairman, managing director of One97 Communications founded in 1997 and its consumer brand Paytm which he started in 2010.

One97 holds a 49 per cent stake in PPBL and Sharma holds the rest of the stake in the entity. Paytm's consolidated net loss narrowed to ₹168.4 crore in the fourth quarter of FY23, compared to a loss of ₹761.4 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

### **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit takes over as Deputy Chief of Air Staff**

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit took over as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff, Ashutosh Dixit, an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, was Commissioned in the fighter stream on December 6 in 1986.

Mr Dixit is a qualified flying instructor as well as an experimental test pilot, with over 3,300 hours of flying experience on fighter, trainer and transport aircraft. He participated in operations 'Safed Sagar' and 'Rakshak'. Air Marshal Dixit commanded a Mirage 2,000 Squadron, a frontline fighter base in the Western sector, as well as a premier fighter training base. He has earlier served as Principle Director of Air Staff Requirement, Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Projects) & Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Plans),

The Air Officer has also been the Air Defence Commander of Southern Air Command and was Senior Air Staff Officer, at South Western Air Command prior to taking over as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.

### **Government appoints Ravneet Kaur as CCI chief**

Ravneet Kaur, a 1988-batch Punjab-cadre IAS officer, has been appointed the new chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for a period of five years. Kaur is the first woman to head the country's chief national competition regulator, which has been operating without a full-time chairperson since October last year. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has chosen Kaur as CCI chairperson for a period of five years from the date of taking charge, or till the age of 65 years, or until further orders,

aur (60) is the second woman to serve in an 'economic regulator' role after Madhabi Puri Buch, who was appointed chairperson of the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) last year.

With over two decades of experience in government, Kaur has held several key positions including that of chairman of India Tourism Development Corporation (2017-2019), joint secretary in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (2015-2017).

Before she was appointed CCI chairperson, Kaur was serving as special chief secretary (apex scale) in the Punjab government's agriculture and cooperation departments in Chandigarh.

### **Government appoints Anil Kumar Jain as new PNGRB chairman**

The government has appointed seasoned bureaucrat and gas sector expert Anil Kumar Jain as the new chairman of the oil and gas sector regulatory body, PNGRB, The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Jain, who retired as coal secretary in October last year, as the new chairman of the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

The ACC has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, based on the recommendations of the Search Committee, for the appointment of Anil Kumar Jain.

Jain has been appointed as the Chairperson PNGRB "for a period of five years from the date assumption of charge of the post or till attaining the age of 65 years, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest, on a consolidated pay package of Rs 4.50 lakhs per month (without house and car) or as revised by the Ministry of Finance from time to time".

### **Paytm appoints Bhavesh Gupta as President and COO**

One 97 Communications Ltd – OCL, which owns Paytm, announced the appointment of Bhavesh Gupta as the president and chief operating officer (COO) of the firm.

Senior Vice President Bhavesh Gupta, in his new role as the president and COO of the company, “will be responsible to lead verticals of lending, insurance, payments – online and offline, consumer payments and drive key initiatives including user growth, operations risk, fraud risk and compliance”. He will be reporting to Vijay Shekhar Sharma, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Paytm.

Bhavesh Gupta is a financial services professional with over 25 years experience building businesses grounds up in payments, technology and analytics platforms, retail loans, digital lending, SME banking, retail banking, etc. Before joining Paytm in 2020, Gupta worked in multiple leadership roles including CEO of Clix Capital (formerly known as GE Capital), Head of SME & Business Banking at IDFC Bank and was also associated with ICICI bank in various roles.

### **Manoj Soni takes oath as Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) chairman**

Eminent educationist Manoj Soni took oath as the chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). He was administered the oath of office and secrecy as chairman, UPSC by Smita Nagaraj, senior most member in the Commission,

About UPSC - The UPSC was established on 1 October 1926 by the Government of India under the Government of India Act, 1919. The Commission is headquartered in New Delhi and has regional offices in Allahabad, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, and Patna. It is India's premier central recruitment agency for recruitment of all the Group 'A' officers under Government of India. It is responsible for appointments to and examinations for the Group 'A' posts of several central government establishments which also includes the central public sector undertakings and the central autonomous bodies. While Department of Personnel and Training is the central personnel agency in India.

### **Karnataka top cop Praveen Sood appointed new CBI Director for a period of 2 years**

Karnataka Director General of Police Praveen Sood has been appointed as the next Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director for the next two years. The top cop's name was finalised by a high-level committee comprising the prime minister, Chief Justice of India and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha.

A 1986-batch IPS officer from the Karnataka cadre, Praveen Sood will take over from current chief Subodh Kumar Jaiswal after the completion of his tenure. Sood's appointment comes after the high-level committee shortlisted three senior IPS officers for the post of CBI Director.

The CBI Director is selected by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, CJI and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha for a fixed tenure of two years. The tenure can be extended up to five years.

### **Geeta Rao Gupta appointed US Ambassador for Global Women's Issues**

The US Senate has confirmed the appointment of Indian-American Geeta Rao Gupta as the 'Ambassador at Large' for global issues related to women at the State Department. According to Geeta Rao Gupta, women across the world face many inequalities and stigma and this prevents them from participating fully in the economy.

Geeta Rao Gupta is a leader on gender, women's issues, She has served as the executive director of the UN Foundation's 3D Program for Girls and Women. She also advises the UNAIDS Global Coalition on Women and AIDS and is on the boards of the InterAction and Moria Fund. She has also held the position of Co-Chair of the United Nations Millennium Project Task Force on Education and Gender Equality.

### **Linda Yaccarino the new CEO of Twitter**

Elon Musk has confirmed that Linda Yaccarino is the new Twitter CEO who he has appointed. Musk further revealed that Yaccarino will primarily focus on business operations while Musk will focus more on product design and new technology.

Yaccarino will join as Twitter CEO officially in six weeks time,

**About Linda Yaccarino** - Linda Yaccarino is a notable figure in the media industry. Yaccarino has been with NBCUniversal for more than 20 years and has held a variety of leadership positions. Currently, she is responsible for all of NBCUniversal's global advertising and partnerships businesses.

As Musk previously confirmed that the new Twitter CEO will join in 6 weeks from now. It is also worth noting that Yaccarino is the first female Twitter CEO and also the first to come from a non-tech background. All ex-Twitter CEOs were from a tech background.

### **NIIF appoints Rajiv Dhar as interim CEO**

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), a quasi-sovereign wealth fund, board has appointed Rajiv Dhar as interim Managing Director and CEO.

The planned succession follows Sujoy Bose's request to relieve him from his current responsibilities as MD and CEO, Dhar, executive director and chief operating officer, has been part of NIIF since 2017.

The government had set up the Rs 40,000-crore NIIF in December 2016 as an investment vehicle for funding commercially viable greenfield, brownfield and stalled projects. It was envisioned as a mother fund with several sectoral feeder funds.

The corpus of NIIF is proposed to be Rs 40,000 crore wherein the government intends to invest 49 per cent. It will raise third-party capital for the remaining Rs 20,000 crore from long-term international investors, such as sovereign wealth funds, insurance and pension funds, and endowments.

### **Rabindra Jayanti**

Rabindra Jayanti 2023 is being celebrated on 9 May, His birth anniversary is on May 7 according to the English calendar, but Bengalis celebrate it on 'Pochishe Baisakh', which falls on May 9, this year

Rabindranath Thakur was born on May 7, 1861. He was a leading figure in the Bengali Renaissance and played a significant role in the modernization of Bengali art. His poetry, novels, short stories, and essays continue to be widely read around the world to this day. Various schools, colleges, and universities organise cultural programmes and events such as poetry recitations, dances, and drama competitions.

Rabindra Jayanti is observed annually to commemorate the birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. This year marks the 162nd birth anniversary of Tagore's birth.

Tagore left us for the heavenly abode on August 7, 1941, gifting us songs, stories and poems to cherish for generations to come. But, a man named Somanth Bhadra is seen along the streets of Kolkata, still giving passers-by a glimpse of Tagore. With his curly grey hair and long grey beard, this old man looks nothing less than the great Nobel Laureate himself.

### **Victory Day: Russia**

Russia celebrates the anniversary of its victory in World War II over Nazi Germany viz. Victory Day on 9<sup>th</sup> May, amidst the recent drone attacks on the Kremlin citadel. It is organising a parade in Red Square with beefed-up security as Russian President Vladimir Putin is set to deliver a speech there, where he will be joined by leaders of several ex-Soviet republics. Victory Day is one of the most important public holidays in Russia. On this day, people commemorate the sacrifices of the Soviet Union during the 'Great Patriotic War of 1941-45' which resulted in the deaths of 27 million citizens, reported news agency Reuters.

With Russia losing thousands of soldiers in the 15-month war with Ukraine, this anniversary becomes even more important and emotional.

Putin, his Defence minister, and other senior officials will review the parade at Red Square, which usually includes tanks, intercontinental missile launchers, and marching troops.

### **IAS Vineet Joshi appointed as new Chief Secretary in Manipur**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Sunday appointed Vineet Joshi, Additional Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education as the new Chief Secretary in Manipur. Vineet Joshi, a 1992 Manipur cadre IAS officer, replaced Dr Rajesh Kumar as the new Chief Secretary.

Vineet Joshi is currently the Director-General of National Testing Agency, which is responsible for conducting entrance examinations in India. He also served as the resident commissioner of Manipur Government

Earlier in February 2022, IAS Vineet Joshi, Additional Secretary, Department of Higher Education, was appointed as the new chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

### **Accenture names Ajay Vij as Country Managing Director India**

Accenture has announced new appointments to its leadership team in India, as the company appoints Ajay Vij as Country Managing Director, a newly created role, and

Sandeep Dutta as the lead of its India Market Unit. As country managing director, Mr. Vij would expand his current responsibilities as the Corporate Services & Sustainability lead for India to provide overall leadership and drive coordinated decision-making for key company priorities. Rekha M. Menon, Senior Managing Director and Chairperson for Accenture in India, would retire as of June 30, During her 20-year career at Accenture Rekha M. Menon has held various roles across Accenture's growth markets. As Chairperson, she played an active role in growing Accenture's business, strengthening the company's presence in its communities and building relationships with key stakeholders including industry, government, and clients. She pioneered the India corporate citizenship strategy and championed the company's inclusion and diversity agenda.

### **PM Prasad set to become next Coal India CMD**

After getting the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) nod, Polavarapu Mallikharjuna Prasad is set to be elevated as chairman and managing director of Coal India Limited. Prasad is currently posted as chairman cum managing director of Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL) based in Ranchi.

According to the Public Enterprises Selection Board, Prasad was among seven candidates shortlisted and interviewed for the post. Among the other candidates also included executives from various companies,

A mining engineer from Osmania university, Prasad took over as the CCL CMD on September 1, 2020, and has more than three decades of experience in the mining sector. He is credited for the diversion of Nallah at Hingula opencast area to unlock coal reserve of 26 million tonnes (MT) in FY15 and the commencement of a new railway siding at the Talcher Coalfields.

Prasad also took over as the CMD of Bharat Coking Coal (BCCL) in August 2019. Both CCL and BCCL are subsidiaries of CIL.

Prasad will take over the baton from serving CMD Pramod Agrawal, whose term ends on June 30, 2023. Agrawal is a Madhya Pradesh cadre IAS officer, who took over the charge of CMD of the mining behemoth from Anil Kumar Jha in January 2020. He is the third officer from the Indian Administrative Service to hold the top post at CIL.

### **Indian origin Ajay Banga set to be next President of World Bank**

Indian origin Ajay Banga was confirmed as the next President of the World Bank. The World Bank's 25-member executive board last night elected former Mastercard CEO to a five-year term as president.

The Indian-born finance and development expert was charged with revamping the lender to tackle climate change and other global crises.

Banga, 63, was nominated for the post by United States President Joe Biden in late February and was the sole contender to replace departing World Bank chief David Malpass, an economist and former US Treasury official who served in the Trump administration. He will start the new job on June 2.

Banga's election came after World Bank board members interviewed him for four hours on Monday. The decision came in a vote by 24 of the board's members, with Russia abstaining.

### **Air Marshal Saju Balakrishnan, AVSM, VM new Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command**

Air Marshal Saju Balakrishnan, AVSM, VM has taken over as the 17th Commander -in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) on 01 May 2023. The Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) is the only Joint-services Command in India and serves as a model for the country's planned theaterisation of Army, Navy, and Air Force capabilities.

Air Marshal Saju Balakrishnan is a distinguished alumnus of the National Defence Academy Khadakwasla, having been commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force (IAF) in 1986. With over 3200 accident-free fighter flying hours on various variants of MIG-21 and Kiran aircraft, he is an accomplished fighter combat leader. The Air Marshal has held various key positions throughout his illustrious career, including CO of a Bison Squadron, the first Commanding Officer of an AWACS Squadron, and Air Officer Commanding at the prestigious AF Station at Jodhpur. Before assuming Command of ANC he was the Senior Air Staff Officer at the IAF Training Command at Bengaluru.

### **Justice TS Sivagnanam Appointed As The Chief Justice Of Calcutta High Court**

The Central Government has notified the appointment of Justice T. S. Sivagnanam, the senior most judge of the Calcutta High Court, as the Chief Justice of the High Court. He is currently serving as the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court, The Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) on February 9 recommended Justice Sivagnanam's name for the appointment as Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court.

About: Calcutta High Court - The Calcutta High Court is one of the oldest and most prestigious high courts in India. It was established in 1862, under the Indian High Courts Act, and is located in Kolkata, West Bengal. The Calcutta High Court has jurisdiction over the state of West Bengal and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

### **Justice S.V. Bhatti appointed acting Chief Justice of Kerala**

The Central government has appointed Justice S.V. Bhatti as the acting Chief Justice of Kerala. Justice Bhatti succeeds Justice S. Manikumar who retired on Saturday.

Justice Bhatti, a native of Madanapalli in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, began his career as a lawyer in Hyderabad in 1987. He had served as the standing counsel for several public sector companies, including Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Hindustan Shipyard and National Maritime University. He had also served as a special government pleader in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh.

## **BARC Director A K Mohanty appointed as new Atomic Energy Commission chairman**

Renowned physicist and Director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) Ajit Kumar Mohanty has been appointed as the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and the secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy. Mohanty was appointed as the BARC director in March 2019.

Born in Odisha in 1959, Mohanty completed his graduation in 1979 with Honours in Physics from the MPC College in Baripada and post-graduation from Cuttack's Ravenshaw College.

In 1983, he joined the Nuclear Physics Division of the BARC after graduating from the 26th batch of the BARC Training School. He obtained his doctorate from the Mumbai University.

Mohanty worked in several areas of nuclear physics, covering collision energy from the sub-Coulomb barrier to the relativistic regime using the Pelletron accelerator at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), PHENIX and CMS experiments at the Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) in the United States and CERN, Geneva.

Mohanty held several honorary positions in various organisations. He served the Indian Physics Association (IPA) as its general secretary and later, as its president. He was the spokesperson for the India-CMS collaboration, director, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, and director, Physics Group, BARC. He has twice been the CERN Scientific Associate, first during 2002-2004 and again during 2010-2011.

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**World Multiple Sclerosis Day**

### IMPORTANT DAYS

World Multiple Sclerosis Day is observed annually on May 30th to raise awareness about Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and to provide support to those who are living with this disease. MS is an autoimmune disease that affects the central nervous system and causes a wide range of symptoms such as fatigue, muscle weakness, numbness, headaches, and difficulty with coordination and balance.

History - The history of World Multiple Sclerosis Day can be traced back to the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation (MSIF), which was founded in 1967 as a network of national MS societies. In 2009, the MSIF declared May 30th as World Multiple Sclerosis Day to raise awareness about the disease and promote solidarity among the global MS community

Theme - 'Connections' is the theme for World MS Day for 2020–2023. Building community connections, personal connections, and connections to high-quality care are the main focuses of MS Connections.

### Goa Statehood Day

The smallest state by area, Goa is famous for its beaches and the relics of its colonial past. It got its statehood on May 30, 1987. It was a Portuguese territory since Alfonso de Albuquerque conquered it in 1510 by defeating Adil Shah of Bijapur who was ruling the region. 400 years later, India took back Goa from the Portuguese.

Facts –

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1. Goa has historically been referred to as "Gomantak" in Sanskrit. Gove, Govapuri were the names of the port town in the state, situated near the mouth of the river Mandovi or Mhadei.
2. In December 1962, Shri Dayanand Bhandarkar became the first Chief Minister of Goa.
3. Goa received statehood on May 30, 1987.
4. Goa is the smallest state in India by area and is famous all over the world for its beautiful beaches and famous architecture.

Note: Goa statehood day is celebrated every year on May 30. It should not be confused with Goa Liberation Day observed in December.

### International Day of UN Peacekeepers

The General Assembly, in its resolution 57/129, designated 29 May as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. This is the date when in 1948 the first UN peacekeeping mission named the "United Nations Truce Supervision Organization", or UNTSO, began operations in Palestine.

On this day, we pay tribute to the professionalism, dedication and courage of all the men and women serving in UN peacekeeping operations, and honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace.

UN Peacekeeping operations use the Day to strengthen bonds with the local populations that they have been deployed to serve. For example by holding sporting events, school and orphanage visits, art and essay competitions, photo exhibits, neighbourhood clean ups, tree plantings, concerts, and conferences and workshops on peace issues.

**Theme** - The 2023 theme, "Peace begins with me", calls on each of us to join the global movement for peace, while recognizing the service and sacrifice of peacekeepers past and present, including the over 4200 peacekeepers who have given their lives under the UN flag.

### Jawaharlal Nehru Death Anniversary

The death anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is observed on 27 May every year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also paid tributes to the first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on his 59th death anniversary.

Jawaharlal Nehru had a prominent role in India's freedom struggle. He also went on to become India's first Prime Minister after independence in 1947.

In order to free India from British rule, Mr Nehru fought against the British and was among the key leaders of the Indian National Congress (INC). On May 27, 1964, the first Prime Minister of India took his last breath. He was the PM from 1947 to 1964 till he died at the age of 74. He had a great fondness for kids, and children use to call him Chacha Nehru.

Mr Nehru's birth anniversary on November 14 is also celebrated as Children's Day every year in India.

### World thyroid day

World thyroid day is celebrated every year on 25 May and it is an annual event for all countries since thyroid disease is a global health concern and we all need to stay aware of its consequences on our bodies. It is better to stay aware and have knowledge about a health concern than neglect the symptoms and put your life in danger.

25 May was chosen as the date of the world thyroid day celebration because the European Thyroid Association (ETA) was established on this day. ETA was the first to

celebrate World Thyroid Day and later the American Thyroid Association (ATA) declared its support for the day in the year 2010.

**Theme** - The theme for this year is 'Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer', to combat the low awareness rates worldwide.

About: Thyroid - Thyroid is a small, butterfly-shaped gland in the front of the neck. It makes hormones that control the way the body uses energy. These hormones affect nearly every organ in the body and control many of body's most important functions.

### World Turtle Day

Every year, World Turtle Day is marked on May 23 to help people understand the importance of turtles and tortoises. Turtles are vital to the marine environment. They control the population of jellyfish, and sponges, and maintain the length of the seagrass, which provides oxygen to the ocean. Their eggshells help enrich coastal vegetation. Turtle hatchlings are food for raccoons, birds and fish. On the other hand, tortoises live on land. They have bigger, heavier shells and are not able to swim. Turtle populations around the globe are gradually declining due to habitat destruction, artificial lighting, turtle trade, climate change and pollution.

History - World Turtle Day was founded by the American Tortoise Rescue (ATR), a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and welfare of turtles and tortoises. The event was first celebrated in 2000, making 2023 the 24th anniversary of the observance.

Theme - 23rd May 2023 marks the observance of the 23rd World Turtle Day. The theme of World Turtle Day 2023 is "I Love Turtles".

### International Day for Biological Diversity

The International Day for Biological Diversity, celebrated on May 22, is a global observance that highlights the importance of biodiversity and its crucial role in sustaining life on Earth. This day serves as a reminder of the incredible diversity of species, ecosystems, and genetic resources that make our planet unique. It is a time to reflect on the web of life and recognise the intricate connections between humans and the natural world.

History - In 2000, the UN General Assembly officially proclaimed May 22 to be the International Day for Biodiversity (IDB). The date was chosen to celebrate the adoption of the initial text of the CBD, on May 22, 1992. Thanks to its efforts, the Convention has participants from nearly all countries.

Theme - The theme for International Day for Biological Diversity 2023 is "From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity." This theme reflects the urgent need to

move beyond commitments and translate them into tangible actions to restore and protect biodiversity.

### International Tea Day – UN

International Tea Day is observed annually on May 21 to celebrate the cultural and economic significance of tea or chai where the day aims to promote and raise awareness about the diverse aspects of tea, including its history, production, consumption and health benefits.

**History** - The idea of observing an International Tea Day was proposed by India at the 2015 UN Food and Agriculture Organization's Intergovernmental Group on Tea meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The proposal was supported by several tea-producing countries, and on December 21, 2019, the United Nations declared May 21st as International Tea Day.

Tea has a long history and holds immense cultural and economic importance in various countries. It is one of the most widely consumed beverages globally and plays a significant role in many societies. International Tea Day serves as an opportunity to recognize and promote sustainable tea production, fair trade practices, and the livelihoods of millions of people involved in the tea industry, including farmers, workers, and tea traders.

Various campaigns and initiatives are undertaken to educate the public about the health benefits of tea, sustainable tea farming practices, and the positive impact of fair trade in the tea industry.

### World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development – by UN General Assembly

The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is observed across the globe annually on May 21. The day celebrates the richness of the world's cultures and highlights the important role of intercultural dialogue in achieving world peace and sustainable development.

The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development provides an opportunity for world leaders and the common people to promote culture and highlight the significance of its diversity to induce positive change and promote inclusion. The saying urges people to celebrate culture's manifold forms, from the tangible to the intangible.

**History** - The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development was established by the United Nations General Assembly in the year 2002, following UNESCO's adoption of the 2001 Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. Since parts of the world are witnessing conflicts due to cultural differences, the day marks an important event to initiate dialogue on the acceptance and protection of diversity in artistic expression.

### World Bee Day

World Bee Day is an annual observance held on May 20th to raise awareness about the importance of bees and other pollinators for the environment, agriculture, and human

well-being. Pollinators are crucial to the sustainable development of our planet, and the Day aims to raise awareness about their threat and importance.

World Bee Day promotes efforts to protect and conserve bees and highlights their importance. The campaign aims to educate people about pollinators and the challenges they face, such as habitat loss, climate change, pesticide use, and disease.

The United Nations introduced World Bee Day in 2017 to bring focus to the essential role played by bees and other pollinators in our ecosystems. May 20th was selected as the date to honor the birthday of Anton Janša, a Slovenian beekeeping pioneer and renowned bee expert

Theme - The United Nations introduced World Bee Day in 2017 to bring focus to the essential role played by bees and other pollinators in our ecosystems. May 20th was selected as the date to honor the birthday of Anton Janša, a Slovenian beekeeping pioneer and renowned bee expert

### Global Accessibility Awareness Day

Global Accessibility Awareness Day is celebrated on the third Thursday of May, every year. This day brings focus to designing contents and technologies especially for the persons with disabilities. It is widely considered that in this age of technology, unless technologies become more inclusive and accessible, the condition of estimatedly more than one billion people worldwide living with different kinds of disabilities and impairments, can't be transformed.

Hence, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) celebrates the Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) on 18th May. The effort of the government is clearly inspired by the vision to build an inclusive society in which equal opportunities are provided for the growth and development of Persons with Disabilities, so that they can also lead productive, safe and dignified lives.

### International Museum Day

International Museum Day is observed on May 18 every year since 1977. The day represents a unique moment for the international museum community. Different events and activities are planned on this day and go on through the entire week or the weekend. More than 37,000 museums from 158 countries and territories participated in an event organised last year.

History - To bring awareness about the importance of museums, the International Council of Museums (ICOM) created International Museum Day in 1977. The International Council of Museums is a global association of museums and museum professionals who promote public awareness, conservation, and education.

Theme - The theme of International Museum Day this year is "Museums, Sustainability and Well-being". Calling museums a key contributor to the well-being and to the sustainable development of our communities.

### World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is celebrated annually on 17 May. In order to recognise the International Telecommunication Union's

(ITU) establishment and to spread awareness of the value of telecommunications and the information society, the UN General Assembly officially declared it in 1969.

The International Telecommunication Union, a specialised agency of the UN, was founded in 1865 and has been instrumental in influencing international telecommunications standards and policy.

WTISD offers the chance to discuss the potential and problems posed by the developing information society as well as to showcase the developments made in the fields of telecommunication and information technology.

The significance of WTISD is to close the digital divide and encourage the widespread adoption of inclusive information and communication technologies (ICTs). It acknowledges the ability of ICTs to alter industries like education, healthcare, business, governance, and interpersonal relationships. The day also provides a forum for talks on new technologies, legislative measures, and other programmes that can encourage universal access to the advantages of the information society and digital connection.

### Sikkim celebrates its 48th State Day

Sikkim celebrates its 48th State Day today. It was on 16th May, 1975 that the erstwhile kingdom became part of India as its 22nd state. The state level celebration will be organised at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok in the presence of governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya and chief minister PS Tamang. The programme will include civilian awards, launch of a multimedia database management system by the IPR department and a public awareness video on mobile village clinics; and release of a book titled Skill Gap Assessment Study of Sikkim by the state skill development department, among other recognitions and initiatives.

Sikkim governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya and chief minister PS Tamang have wished citizens on the State Day. Mr Acharya said that Sikkim's journey since becoming part of the world's largest democracy has been remarkable and marked by unprecedented social, economic and cultural development.

### International Day of Light

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.

**History** - In 2015, the International Year of Light was followed by the International Day of Light. The day was proposed by the Russian Federation, Ghana, Mexico, New Zealand, and the Executive Board of UNESCO. In November 2017, the proposal received approval from the UNESCO General Conference. The International Day of Light was declared by the Executive Board of UNESCO during its 200th session (200 EX/Decision 27). In Document 39 C/40, the 39th General Conference endorsed this choice.

Later on May 16, 2018, the anniversary of the day in 1960 when physicist and engineer Theodore Maiman successfully shot the first laser, UNESCO organised the first International Day of Light event.

### International Day of Families

International Day of Families is celebrated on May 15 to raise awareness of the importance of families and their role in society. The day focuses on the important role that families play in our society while also highlighting the issues faced by them. The International Day of Families is a global observance that is celebrated by countries around the world. The occasion is celebrated by conducting various events and activities that bring families together to celebrate their diversity and strengthen their unique bond

**History** - The United Nations adopted a resolution in 1994 establishing the International Day of Families to celebrate the institution of family and to raise awareness regarding the issues faced by families.

**Theme** - International Day of Families has been observed annually, with a different theme each year. The theme of International Day of Families 2023 is 'Demographic Trends and Families'. The theme of last year's International Day of Families was 'Families and Urbanisation'.

### UN Global Road Safety Week 2023: 15-21 May

Road traffic injuries are a leading cause of death and disability worldwide, with around 1.3 million people killed and as many as 50 million people injured each year. For people aged 5-29 years, there is no greater threat to their lives. Globally, 1 of every 4 deaths occur among pedestrians and cyclists.

UN Global Road Safety Week is an annual event held in May to raise awareness about road safety and the importance of taking steps to prevent accidents. This year the UN Global Road Safety Week will take place from 15 -21 May 2023 . The week is organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN regional commissions, and it is supported by a wide range of partners, including governments, NGOs, businesses, and individuals. The week was first marked in 2007. It was no longer observed until 2013, and it had been recorded every two years since then until 2019. It is a special global road safety campaign hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) that aims to raise awareness about road safety and accident prevention.

**Theme** - The theme is sustainable transport, and specifically the need for governments to facilitate a shift to walking, cycling and using public transport.

### Mother's Day 2023

Mother's Day is celebrated every year on the second Sunday of May to honour motherhood and is observed in different forms throughout the world. This year, the Mother's Day celebration falls on May 14,

**History** - The modern Mother's Day was championed by Anna Jarvis, an American social activist. She held campaigns to establish a national holiday to honor mothers after her

own mother's death in 1905. She wanted to create a day for individuals to express their love, and gratitude to their mothers.

President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation declaring the second Sunday of every May as 'Mother's Day' in 1914. Since then, Mother's Day has been adopted by various countries around the world.

The purpose of Mother's Day is to express love, appreciation, and gratitude towards mothers and mother figures for their unconditional love, support, and sacrifices.

### International Day of Plant Health

The United Nations designated 12 May the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect biodiversity and the environment, and boost economic development. Plants provide 98 percent of the oxygen we breathe, 80 percent of food we consume, the fibres for our clothes and other lifestyle items. They give shelter to countless birds and other living beings. Yet, as per the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), around 40 percent food crops get damaged annually due to diseases and pests. Climate change is also having an adverse impact on plants. Rural agricultural communities are the most affected by this food security issue. Maintaining or ensuring good health of plants is vital for the survival of mankind and other life.

**Theme** - The theme of this year's celebration of International Day of Plant Health is "Plant Health for Environmental Protection," as mentioned on the IPPC website. The IPPC is a 1951 multilateral treaty overseen by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) which formulates action plans to prevent and control the introduction and spread of pests of plants and plant products.

### International Nurse Day

The International Council of Nurses has dedicated May 12 as International Nurse Day to honour the contribution of nurses to society and acknowledge the role they play in the overall healthcare system. Nurses play a crucial role in providing medical care and their role during COVID-19 has inspired humankind. The day marks the birthday of Florence Nightingale.

Florence Nightingale also known as "The Lady With the Lamp," was a British nurse, social reformer and statistician best known as the founder of modern nursing. She was the founder of St. Thomas's Hospital and the Nightingale Training School for Nurses in 1860.

The International Council of Nurses has dedicated May 12 as International Nurse Day to celebrate Florence Nightingale's birthday. The Council celebrated International Nurses Day for the first time in 1965. Every year, a different component of nursing or the healthcare system is highlighted through the theme of International Nurses Day. This year, the theme of International Nurses Day 2023 is "Our Nurses. Our Future."

### National Technology Day: India

National Technology Day is celebrated every year on May 11. This day commemorates India's successful nuclear tests that were conducted on May 11th, 1998, at Pokhran,

Rajasthan. It is a day to celebrate the achievements of Indian scientists and engineers who have contributed to the development of technology in various fields.

On this day, different government organisations, institutes, schools, and colleges hold programmes in honour of India's scientists and their achievements. India is one of the fastest developing nations in the world, and much of the credit goes to technological advancement.

Theme - Every year, the Technology Development Board (TDB) selects a theme for each year's event. This year the theme of the National Technology Day 2023 is 'School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate.'

National Technology Day is a reminder of the important role that technology plays in our lives, and the need for continued investment and innovation in this field to ensure progress and growth.

Note - This term was coined by former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to recognise the contributions of Indian scientists.

### International Day of Argania

Every year on May 10, the International Day of Argania or International Day of the Argan Tree is observed to promote awareness and understanding of the argan tree's environmental importance worldwide. This day was established by UNESCO. The United Nations will celebrate on 10 May 2023, the third International Day of Argania, since its proclamation by General Assembly Resolution A/RES/75/262 in 2021.

Theme: The theme of the International Day of Argania – 2023 is Socio-economic development & sustainability of the Argan ecosystem.

About: Argania - Argania is a genus of flowering plants containing the sole species Argania spinosa, known as argan, a tree endemic to the calcareous semi-desert Sous valley of southwestern Morocco and to the region of Tindouf in southwestern Algeria. Argan trees grow to 8–10 m high and live up to approximately 200 years.

### World Red Cross Day

World Red Cross Day, is observed on May 8 every year. It commemorates the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize.

History - In 1859, Henry Dunant witnessed the suffering of wounded soldiers on the battlefield of Solferino, Italy, during the Second Italian War of Independence. Shocked by the lack of medical care and support, he organized local civilians to provide assistance to the wounded, regardless of their nationality. . In 1863, his efforts led to the creation of the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded, later known as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The ICRC aimed to provide neutral and impartial humanitarian aid during armed conflicts. The idea of World Red Cross Day was proposed during the 1920s and gained momentum in subsequent years. It was officially established during the 20th International Conference of the Red Cross in Tokyo, Japan, in 1933.

The conference designated May 8th as the day to commemorate Henry Dunant's birth and honor the humanitarian work of the Red Cross movement. Since then, World Red Cross Day has been observed annually on May 8th.

### World Thalassemia Day

World Thalassemia Day is a global healthcare event commemorated every year on May 8th to raise awareness about the condition among the local public and policymakers, apart from supporting and strengthening the morale of the victims who have battled for years with this fatal disease.

On this day, many local and international organisations, patient associations, public authorities, and healthcare professionals gather together to promote the importance of prenatal screening, counselling, prevention, management, or treatment of thalassemia in a patient-centred manner.

**About: Thalassaemia** - Thalassaemia is an inherited (genetically transmitted) autosomal recessive disorder acquired from parents (either or both). It affects the red blood cells due to a genetic mutation, leading to the depletion of haemoglobin's alpha and/or beta-globin chains. This results in low production of red blood cells and a lack of oxygenated blood supply to the body parts.

**Theme** - This year, 2023, the World Thalassemia Day Theme is "Be Aware. Share. Care: Strengthening Education to Bridge the Thalassaemia Care Gap". This is a continuation of last year's "Be Aware. Share. Care" initiative.

### World Athletics Day

World Athletics Day is observed on May 7 to encourage sports activities throughout the world. The primary aim of this day is to inculcate athleticism in youngsters. World Athletics Day was first introduced as a social responsibility project titled 'Athletics for a better world' by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).

The importance of this day cannot be understated as it promotes fitness and health.

Many schools and colleges celebrate World Athletics Day by organising sports competitions. The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) is the primary body for organising and managing athletics in India. AFI conducts several major national and international sports events and also promotes sports across the country on this day.

World Athletics Day was established in 1996 by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) president and Italian sports official Primo Nebiolo. The IAAF was founded in Stockholm, Sweden, on July 17, 1912. The organization changed its name to World Athletics in 2019.

**Theme** - The theme for World Athletics Day 2023 is – 'Athletics for All – A New Beginning.' This theme focuses on making athletics more diverse and inclusive.

### Border Roads Organisation Raising Day: India

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) was founded on 7th May 1960 as a leading road construction agency under the Ministry of Defence with Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam (everything is achievable through hard work) as its motto.

On 7 May 2023 BRO is celebrating its 64th Raising Day (foundation day). To commemorate the sacrifices and contribution of its Karmyogis in nation building, Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is organising "Ekta Evam Shradhanjali Abhiyan", a multi modal expedition as a part of 64th BRO Day Celebrations. Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt will flag in the Expedition teams at Pune on 07 May 2023.

**About: BRO** - The Border Roads Organisation is a statutory body under the ownership of Ministry of Defence, Government of India. BRO develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas and friendly neighboring countries. Apart from road construction it also executes maintenance works along Northern and Western frontiers mainly to meet the strategic requirements of the Indian Army. It is responsible for over 53,000 Km of roads. Its work also involves Formation Cutting, Surfacing, Bridge construction and Resurfacing.

### World Laughter Day

World Laughter Day is an annual event celebrated on the first Sunday of May to raise awareness about laughter and its many healing benefits. This year, in 2023, the day falls on May 07. An innocent smile or slight giggle can completely change the mood and atmosphere around you. Laughter has the power to heal and renew.

World Laughter Day was created by Dr. Madan Kataria, founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement, Established in 1998 and the first celebration of World Laughter Day was on 10 May 1998, in Mumbai, India, arranged by Dr. Madan Kataria, himself.

The celebration of World Laughter Day is a positive manifestation of world peace and is intended to build up a global consciousness of brotherhood and friendship through laughter.

### Buddha Purnima

Buddha Purnima, also known as Vesak or Buddha Jayanti, is one of the most important festivals in the Buddhist calendar. It is celebrated on the full moon day of the month of Vaisakha, The day marks the birth of Lord Gautam Buddha, who was born as Prince Siddhartha Gautam in Lumbini (now in present-day Nepal) around 563 BC.

In Bihar, Buddha Purnima is being celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety. The main function has been organized at Mahabodhi temple in Bodhgaya where Lord Buddha attained enlightenment under the pious Bodhi tree. Buddhist monks and devotees of different countries including Japan, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia have come to Bodhgaya to celebrate Buddha Purnima. A special prayer was organized under the Bodhi tree this morning in which monks of various countries participated. They prayed for world peace.

### World Portuguese Language Day

The date of 5 May was officially established in 2009 by the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) - an intergovernmental organization that has been in official partnership with UNESCO since 2000, and which brings together peoples with the Portuguese language as one of the foundations of their specific identity - to celebrate

the Portuguese language and Lusophone cultures. In 2019, the 40th session of UNESCO's General Conference decided to proclaim 5 May of each year as "World Portuguese Language Day".

The Portuguese language is not only one of the most widespread languages in the world, with more than 265 million speakers spread through all continents, but it is also the most widely spoken language in the southern hemisphere. Portuguese remains, today, a major language of international communication and a language with a strong geographical projection, destined to increase.

With over 265 million speakers across the globe, the Portuguese language is among the most prevalent languages in the world. It is the most commonly spoken language in the southern hemisphere.

### Coal Miners Day

Coal Miners Day is observed every year on May 4th to recognize and honour the tireless efforts and significant contribution of coal miners in extracting coal, which is one of the most important fossil fuels used for various purposes, including power generation and industrial production. Demand for coal is also increasing for its use in cement and steel manufacturing.

Coal mining is a hazardous and strenuous task that involves digging, tunnelling, and extracting it from deep within the earth's crust, making it one of the most challenging occupations. On Coal Miners Day, all coal miners are acknowledged and celebrated for their hard work, dedication, and perseverance in extracting coal to fuel the nation's progress.

### International Firefighters Day

International Firefighters' Day is observed on May 4, It is a day to honour the courageous men and women who risk their lives daily to save others. This day is an opportunity to show appreciation to those who serve their communities with selflessness and bravery, putting themselves in harm's way to protect others.

Firefighters exemplify bravery, resilience, and selflessness, rushing into burning buildings and battling wildfires. Every year on May 4, the day recognises their dedication, sacrifice, their tireless efforts in keeping us safe.

International Firefighters Day was established in 1999 to honour the sacrifices and bravery of firefighters worldwide. The tragic loss of five Australian firefighters in a wildfire served as the inspiration for this annual commemoration. Jason Thomas, Chris Evans, Gary Vredeveltdt, Matthew Armstrong, and Stuart Davidson, all brave firefighters, lost their lives in the line of duty. Despite being sent for assistance, they perished while fighting the fire. As a result of this unfortunate incident, International Firefighter's Day was created.

### World Press Freedom Day

World Press Freedom Day is celebrated annually on May 3 to raise awareness about the importance of a free and independent press. This day highlights the need for free and independent journalism and promotes the principles of freedom of expression.

The idea of World Press Freedom Day was first proposed in 1991 by the UNESCO General Conference, which recognised the need to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom and to promote its defence. In 1993, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to declare May 3 as World Press Freedom Day. Since then, the day has been celebrated every year to raise awareness about the importance of press freedom and to remind governments of their obligation to respect and uphold the right to freedom of expression. It is also a day to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty and to support the safety and independence of journalists who work to bring information to the public.

**THEME** - This year's theme, 'Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for All Other Human Rights,' highlights the crucial role of freedom of expression in ensuring all other human rights are enjoyed and protected.

This year, World Press Freedom Day marks its 30th anniversary since the United Nations General Assembly's decision proclaiming an international day for press freedom. To commemorate this milestone, UNESCO organised a special anniversary event at the UN headquarters in New York. The anniversary edition of World Press Freedom Day included a full day of activities at the UN Headquarters on May 2. According to the 21st edition of the World Press Freedom Index 2023, India acquires 161st rank out of all 180 countries around the world, While Norway topped the index.

### World Asthma Day

World Asthma Day is an annual event organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma – GINA to improve asthma awareness and care around the world. World Asthma Day is held on the first Tuesday of May.

**ABOUT: Asthma** - Asthma is a chronic respiratory disease due to which a patient is not able to breathe properly. Nowadays, this disease is prevalent in children also. As asthma can not be cured, it is possible to manage asthma to reduce and prevent asthma attacks, which are also known as episodes or exacerbations.

**ABOUT: Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA)** - GINA is a World Health Organization collaborative organization founded in 1993.

**THEME** - GINA has chosen "Asthma care for All" as the theme for the 2023 World Asthma Day. The majority of the burden of asthma morbidity and mortality occurs in low and middle income countries. GINA strives to reduce this burden by encouraging health care leaders to ensure availability of and access to effective, quality -assured medications. The 'Asthma care for All' message promotes the development and implementation of effective asthma management programs in all resource countries.

### Maharashtra Day and Gujarat Day

May 1 is globally known as International Labour Day. But for the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat, the day holds historical importance and is celebrated as Maharashtra Day and Gujarat Day. The day is celebrated with enthusiasm as the foundation of the two states can be traced back to this day in 1960 following the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Bombay on linguistic grounds

The day is celebrated in the two states with multiple parades, events, and ceremonies across the two states. In Maharashtra, the main function is organised at Shivaji Park in Dadar. And in Gujarat, the main event is held at the Sabarmati Waterfalls. The events highlight the culture and the traditions of the two states. In Maharashtra, the day is declared a public holiday.

As part of the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative, states across the country will now celebrate each other's foundation day, with Raj Bhavans holding commemorative events. The foundation day of Maharashtra and Gujarat on May 1 will be celebrated in Raj Bhavans across the country as part of the initiative,

### International Labour Day / International Worker's Day

International Labour Day, popularly known as International Worker's Day or May Day is observed on May 01 every year. It is celebrated to highlight the importance of workers and their contribution to building society.

Workers' rights have always been a point of discussion. In many parts of the world, labours are underpaid and are forced to work under unsafe conditions. This day is a reminder to acknowledge the contribution of workers to society, from providing essential services to building infrastructure for the convenience of the general public. The root of Labours' Day can be traced back to 1886 when the Haymarket Riot erupted involving violent clashes between the labourers and police. Thousands of workers marched through the streets of Chicago demanding an 8-hour workday. In 1889, a worldwide organisation of socialist and labour parties, Second International, declared May 01 as International Workers' Day in the memory of Haymarket incident and to promote the rights of workers. Several reports suggest that Canada started celebrating Labour Day 10 years before the United States.

In India, the first May Day was celebrated by The Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan in Madras (now Chennai) in 1923.

## SUMMITS AND MOU'S

### PFC and RITES signs MoU for strategic partnership

Power Finance Corporation (PFC), a Mahatana CPSU and India's leading NBFC, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RITES Limited, a premier engineering consultancy company, to establish a strategic partnership for financing infrastructure and logistics sector projects in India and abroad.

PFC and RITES will explore avenues of mutual collaboration for undertaking Traffic Studies, Project Management Services, Audits & Inspections, DPR Review and other relevant services for carrying out the projects of mutual interest. The MoU will also enable both the companies to explore consultancy opportunities for various Government Bodies, Private Entities and Multilateral Funding Agencies. The collaboration will focus on identifying, evaluating, and funding projects in transportation, logistics, energy and allied infrastructure.

PFC's financial expertise with RITES engineering consultancy prowess together will accelerate the development of critical projects and drive sustainable growth in the

infrastructure and logistics sectors. The partnership will also facilitate knowledge sharing in developing infrastructure projects.

### **Tamil Nadu government signs six MoUs with Singapore**

Tamil Nadu government agencies and various organisations in Singapore signed six memoranda of understanding (MoUs) in the presence of Chief Minister M K Stalin and Singapore's Minister for Transport and Minister in-charge of Trade Relations, S Iswaran.

Guidance Tamil Nadu, the investment promotion agency of the State government, and Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries have signed an MoU for research and development (R&D) initiatives, collaboration between universities, government and private players, as well as assistance in exports from companies in Tamil Nadu.

One of the MoUs regarding a proposal to open an electronics spare parts unit was signed between Guidance Tamil Nadu and Hi-P International with an investment of Rs 312 crore. The unit will potentially generate employment opportunities for over 700 persons. Another MoU was signed with the Singapore University of Technology and Design for technology transfer.

The State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) signed an MoU with Singapore-India Partnership Office (SIPO) for cooperation between the two. Another MoU was signed between SIPO and FaMe TN (Facilitating MSMEs of Tamil Nadu) and Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (TANSIM) towards technical education and start-ups. Further, the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation signed an MoU with ITE Education Services for technology transfer and skill development.

### **Goa inks MoU with Uttarakhand to enhance Tourism Cooperation**

The governments of Goa and Uttarakhand have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance the tourism landscape of both the states. The signing of the MoU was held in the presence of Rohan Khaunte, Minister for Tourism, IT, E&C, Printing and Stationary, Government of Goa, and Pushkar Singh Dhami.

The MoU is aimed at promoting bilateral cooperation in the travel and tourism sector and facilitating travel between the states to increase the number of tourists visiting Goa and Uttarakhand respectively. The signing of this MoU between the officials of the two states marks a significant step towards promoting tourism in Goa and Uttarakhand and showcasing India's rich cultural diversity to the world, aligned with the 'Dekho Apna Desh' initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The initiative aims to encourage people to witness and experience the rich heritage and vivid culture of India.

### **Odisha government signs MoU with Infosys, Nasscom; to boost employability of students**

The Odisha Government's Higher Education Department has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Infosys Limited and Nasscom to enhance the skills and employability of students in Higher Education Institutions in Odisha. This

collaboration aims to provide learning and employment opportunities for students and promote equal access to education for passionate individuals, equipping them for the future,

Infosys, in line with its ESG Vision 2030, has set a goal to enable digital skills on a large scale and empower more than 10 million people across India from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds by 2025 through its programme called Infosys Springboard. As part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts.

### 2nd meeting of G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) begins in Mumbai

The second meeting of the G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) began in Mumbai today. The meeting aims to mitigate the impact of disasters on vulnerable communities by identifying opportunities and examining creative financing mechanisms. The three-day meeting will be attended by government officials, industry experts, private sector representatives, and stakeholders from over twenty countries. Akashvani correspondent reports that the National Disaster Management Authority in collaboration with various knowledge partners has organised a day-long side event titled 'Financing Disaster Risk Reduction' at the margins of the 2nd DRR Working Group meeting. The overall objective of the side event will be to deliberate on cross-country arrangements related to disaster risk financing, the existing policy and institutional frameworks, arrangements for alternate risk instruments and public-private partnerships and the role of social protection system in reducing the impact of disasters on the most vulnerable population groups.

### NGEL and HMEL sign MoU; HMEL to source 250 MW Renewable Energy from NGEL

NTPC Green Energy Ltd. (NGEL) and HPCL Mittal Energy Ltd. (HMEL) sign MoU; HMEL to source 250 MW Renewable Energy from NGEL .

In order to realize green energy and green hydrogen objectives and the GOI's efforts towards energy transition, NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) and HPCL Mittal Energy Limited (HMEL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi today. The MoU was signed by Shri V. V. Sivakumar, GM(NGEL) and Shri Girish Ghildiyal, GM(HMEL) in the presence of Shri Mohit Bhargava, CEO(NGEL) and Shri Harak Banthia, CFO (HMEL). The MoU envisages to collaborate in the field of Renewable Energy through sourcing of 250 MW RE-RTC (Round-The-Clock) power to meet the requirement of HMEL and also exploring opportunities in the Green Hydrogen business & its derivatives (Green Ammonia & Green Methanol).

**About NTPC** - NTPC is India's largest Power Utility with core business of power generation having a total installed capacity of 72 GW (including JVs and subsidiaries). As part of increasing its renewable energy portfolio, a fully owned subsidiary has been formed as "NTPC Green Energy Limited" (NGEL) which shall take up Renewable Energy Parks and Projects including business in the area of Green Hydrogen, Energy Storage Technologies, and Round the Clock RE Power.

### **PM Modi attends G7 Summit in Hiroshima, Japan; Holds bilateral meetings with top leaders of Japan, South Korea and Vietnam**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated at the G7 Summit in Hiroshima, Japan on Saturday 20th May. He was welcomed by Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

On the sidelines of the G7 Summit, Prime Minister Modi held bilateral talks with the Prime Minister of Japan, President of South Korea and Prime Minister of Vietnam.

During the meeting with Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida, both the leaders discussed ways to enhance India-Japan friendship across different sectors including trade, economy and culture, ways to synergise efforts of their respective G7 and G20 Presidencies, and the need to highlight the voice of Global South.

The broad terms of the G7 Summit preferences include nuclear disarmament, economic resilience and security, regional issues, climate and energy, food and health and development. There are other priorities also like digitisation and science and technology which will be highlighted during several sessions at the Summit. Japan has also invited Australia, Brazil, Comoros, Cook Islands, Indonesia, South Korea, and Vietnam and some of the international organisations including the UN.

### **MoU signed for ferry service on Brahmaputra to connect 7 religious sites**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to develop a 'Riverine Based Religious Tourism Circuit' between Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), Sagarmala Development Corporation Limited (SDCL), Assam Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC) and Department of Inland Waterways Transport (DIWT), Government of Assam.

The primary objective of the MoU is to establish a modern ferry service, operating on a 'Hop-On Hop-Off' mode, to connect seven historically significant temples situated on the banks of the Brahmaputra.

These sites include Kamakhya, Pandunath, Ashwaktanta, Douli Govinda, Umananda, Chakreshwar, and Aunittia Sattri. Passengers will be able to enjoy a seamless travel experience with ferry services departing every 30 minutes, providing a convenient means of exploring these spiritual landmarks. The circuit's route will commence from Hanuman Ghat, Uzan Bazar, which should reduce the overall travel time to under two hours for completing one full circuit.

The execution of this project will require an investment of Rs 45 crore and will be carried out through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). The funding for the project will be shared, with SDCL and IWAI jointly contributing 55 per cent of the costs, while ATDC will provide the remaining amount. Additionally, DIWT has offered the usage of Ghats near the temples, free of charge, to facilitate the initiative.

### **MoUs for two community development projects signed between India and Nepal**

The Embassy of India, Kathmandu and the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Government of Nepal has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoUs) for undertaking two High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) in Nepal.

The projects are implemented under a grant assistance of the Government of India - one each in health care and education sectors, at a total estimated cost of around Rs 80.33 million,

These two projects, namely, construction of Malagiri Shanti Yogashram, Ramechhap District and Kedar Jyotipunja Multiple Campus, Doti District of Nepal will be implemented through Ramechhap Municipality and Badikedar Rural Municipality, respectively.

### **3rd ETWG under India's G20 Presidency will begin in Mumbai**

The 3rd Energy Transitions Working Group Meeting (ETWG) under India's G20 Presidency will begin in Mumbai today. Over 100 delegates representing G20 member countries, special invitee countries and International Organisations such as International Energy Agency (IEA), World Bank and World Energy Council India will deliberate on Priority Areas during the three-day meeting.

Akashvani Correspondent reports, the six priority areas, outlined under India's Presidency, include Energy transition through addressing technology gaps, Low-cost financing for energy transition, Energy security and diversified supply chains, Energy efficiency, industrial low carbon transitions and responsible consumption, Fuels for Future and Universal access to clean energy and just, affordable, and inclusive energy transition pathway.

In the morning session, representatives of International Energy Agency, World Energy Council India, National Power Training Institute and other eminent organizations are going to present on topics related to the priority areas.

### **India Semiconductor Mission signs MoU with Purdue University in US**

The Indian Semiconductor Mission and Purdue University have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the purposes of capacity building, research and development, and industry participation, according to Union Minister of Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw, who is now in the US.

About: India Semiconductor Mission - India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) is a specialized and independent Business Division within the Digital India Corporation that aims to build a vibrant semiconductor and display ecosystem to enable India's emergence as a global hub for electronics manufacturing and design. Led by global experts of the Semiconductor and display ecosystem the mission aims to serve as a focal point for the comprehensive, coherent, efficient, and smooth deployment of the Program for Development of Semiconductor and Display Ecosystem in consultation with the Government ministries/departments/agencies, industry, and academia.

### **MoU signed between Telangana government and LSEG to set up tech centre in Hyderabad**

In a major boost to the banking, financial services and insurance sector in Telangana, the London Stock Exchange Group PLC (LSEG) has announced its decision to set up a Technology Centre of Excellence in Hyderabad, generating employment for about 1,000 people in a year.

The announcement was made after IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao, who is currently on a tour of the United Kingdom, met with Anthony McCarthy, Group CIO, LSEG,

Following the announcement, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Telangana government and LSEG. The MoU was signed by Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary (IT and Industries) and McCarthy.

About: LSEG - The London Stock Exchange Group is a leading global financial market infrastructure and data provider, operating in 70 countries worldwide and serving customers in 190 countries. With over 2,000 issuers across 100 countries and a benchmark of \$161 linked to FTSE Russell indexes, LSEG continues to be a major player in the global financial industry.

### **G7 Finance Ministers, Central Bank Governors meet in Japan to tackle global economic challenges**

The G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met in Niigata, Japan joined by the Heads of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank Group, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, and Financial Stability Board. The meeting took place from 11th-13th May.

During the meeting, many issues of global interest were discussed including the Russia - Ukraine war and debt vulnerabilities in developing countries.

Other issues included strengthening global economic resilience through climate action, global health architecture, economic security as well as financial digitalization and pursuing welfare enhancement by upgrading economic policies

The discussions held with Brazil, Comoros, India, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, and Singapore were given due importance in respective issues. G7 members and Finance Ministers of these countries exchanged views on recent global economic developments and major challenges.

### **Ministry of AYUSH and ICMR sign MoU for integrative health research**

In a significant development a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Ayush and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to promote and collaborate on integrative health research. This cooperation will focus on identified areas of national importance in healthcare for promoting high impact research to generate evidence utilizing modern scientific methods. This MoU will also strengthen research capacity through training of Ayush researchers.

MoU was signed by Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, secretary, Ministry of Ayush and Dr. Rajiv Bahl, Director General, ICMR & secretary, Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

This MoU will enable both parties to jointly establish Ayush-ICMR Centers for Advanced Research in Integrative Health at all AIIMS with co-funding. Further, they will explore possibility to work on public health research, take initiatives for addressing diseases of national importance and look at possibilities of conducting high-quality clinical trials jointly on identified areas/disease conditions of national importance with promising therapies of Ayush system to generate evidence for wider acceptance.

**MoHUA and MoR jointly ink MoU with JICA for Project SMART**

The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Ministry of Railways jointly signed an MoU with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for 'Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail' (Project-SMART). Project-SMART envisages to develop surrounding areas of Mumbai - Ahmedabad High Speed Railway (MAHSR) Stations to enhance accessibility and convenience of commuters & other stakeholders and to promote economic activities in the vicinity of station areas. The project would facilitate and enhance institutional capacity of State Governments, Municipal Corporations and Urban Development Authorities to plan, develop and manage surrounding areas of MAHSR stations.

**BEL signed MoU with Emjay for joint manufacture & business development of bollards**

Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has signed an MoU with Emjay Control Systems Pvt Ltd to jointly manufacture and develop business for state-of-the-art, electro-mechanical bollards for use in various Defence, Homeland Security, Paramilitary, and export projects.

The bollards are envisaged to safeguard vital installations by pre-empting unauthorized entry of heavy vehicles. They are built to withstand the impact of IED-laden vehicles weighing from 24,000-1,50,000 Kgs and coming in at alarming speeds from 80-100 Kmph. The bollards have been indigenously designed, in keeping with the Government's Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat policies.

About: Emjay Control Systems - Emjay Control Systems Pvt Ltd is a Bengaluru-based company having its manufacturing centre at Malur in Kolar district. Emjay is a leading manufacturer of Automatic Retractable Bollards with manual override, having Indian and US patents, with the brand name ISEQ (International Security Equipment).

About BEL- Navratna PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) was established in 1954 under the Ministry of Defence, GoI, with a farsighted vision to make the country self-reliant in Defence electronics. Today, BEL is a multi-product, multi-technology, multi-unit conglomerate which designs, manufactures and supplies state-of-the-art products and systems in a wide variety of fields including Radars, Missile Systems, Military Communications, Naval Systems, Electronic Warfare & Avionics, C4I Systems, Electro Optics, Tank Electronics & Gun/Weapon System Upgrades, and Electronic Fuzes in the Defence segment.

**Two-day meeting of Foreign Ministers of SCO to begin in Goa**

Goa is all set to welcome the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) grouping for the upcoming Foreign Ministers' meeting. The meeting will be held in Goa today 4th May and tomorrow.

Foreign Ministers of member countries including China and Pakistan are expected to be present at the meeting. External Affairs Minister of India Dr S Jaishankar has arrived in Goa to take part in the meeting. He will also hold bilateral talks with his Russian and Chinese counterparts.

The Foreign Ministers' meeting will give India and other member countries a platform to discuss multilateral cooperation and dispute issues.

**About SOC** - The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an eight-member multilateral organization, established on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai. Member states of SCO are India, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

### India, Israel sign MoU on Industrial Research and Development Cooperation

India and Israel has signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Industrial Research and Development Cooperation with focus on several key technology areas. These are aerospace, Electronics Instrumentation, Civil, Infrastructure and Engineering, Environment, Mining, Chemicals, and Petrochemicals and Agriculture. The Multi-Sectoral Agreement was signed between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR and Directorate of Defense Research and Development, Ministry of Defense of Israel in New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, Science and Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said, this agreement will open a new phase in India-Israel partnership in areas like Innovation, Technology, and StartUps. He said that 2023 is a very important year for the country as India is holding the G20 presidency. and it is also the year when India and Israel are celebrating 30 years of successful diplomatic relations.

### IA's MES inked MOU with IIT Kanpur to convert Army stations into carbon-neutral campuses

The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) and Military Engineer Services (MES) Jhansi have signed an MOU to convert Army stations into carbon-neutral campuses. The MoU comes in accordance with the Earth Day 2023 and perceives to contribute towards India's vision of achieving net zero emissions by 2070. The MOU aims to establish a demonstrable model through a real-world example of achieving carbon neutrality.

The MoU was signed between Col. Akhil Singh Charak, Commander Works Engineer (CWE) & IITK alumnus, and Major Sunny Attri, Garrison Engineer from MES Jhansi, and Prof. A.R. Harish, Dean of R&D, IIT Kanpur. The signing of the MoU took place in IITK in the presence of Prof. Ashish Garg, Prof. Rajeev Jindal, and Prof. Aakash C. Rai, from the Sustainable Energy Engineering Department. Under the MoU, five campuses under the MES Jhansi cantonment have been identified initially, which will be converted into NetZero Carbon, Net Zero Energy, Net Zero Water, and Net Zero Waste campuses/stations in a phased manner.

### Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs signs MoU with RITES as Technical Support

The introduction of Used Water Management (UWM) as a newly funded component for towns with less than 1 lakh population, has led to a paradigm shift in urban sanitation. Focusing on accelerating Solid Waste and Used Water Management, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RITES Limited, in the presence of Mr. Manoj Joshi, Secretary, MoHUA, Ms. Roopa

Mishra, JS, MoHUA, Mr. R K Dayal, Executive Director-Urban Infra and Mr. Rahul Mithal, CMD, RITES, for technical assistance for Solid Waste Management (SWM) & UWM under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.

The Technical Support Unit (TSU) of RITES will assist SBM-U for a period of 3 years. Under SWM, the areas of engagement will be process standardization and engineering design of waste management facilities, like Material Recovery Facility, legacy waste etc. Under UWM, RITES will provide technical support for standards & specification in the field of sewage and faecal sludge management and reuse, engineering design and process of waste water treatment units. RITES will further assist with preparation of model tender document and procurement in the field of sewage, wastewater management and Solid Waste Management.

### Science 20 Engagement Group meeting under India's G20 Presidency to begin in Lakshadweep

In Lakshadweep, the Science 20 Engagement Group meet on Universal Holistic Health under India's G20 Presidency will begin at the Bangaram Island today morning – May 1 2023.

The focus of the two-day event will be to work on improved agricultural practices, greater access to nutritious food, healthier eating habits and more opportunities for ecologically conscious and sustainable food products.

The meeting will also address the interconnectedness of physical, mental and emotional well-being, recognising that all aspects of health are equally important.

### AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

#### PM Modi honoured with the highest civilian award of Fiji and Papua New Guinea

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with the highest honours by Fiji and Papua New Guinea. PM Modi was conferred with the island nations' highest civilian awards during his recent visit to Papua New Guinea to attend the third India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) Summit.

PM Modi was conferred with the "The Companion of the Order of Fiji" by his Fijian counterpart Sitiveni Rabuka for his global leadership, in a rare honour for a non-Fijian. PM Modi was also conferred with the Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu (GCL). This is the highest civilian award of PNG - recipients of the award are titled "Chief".

On the occasion of the visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with the highest civilian honours by several nations, thus also reflecting India's growing ties with countries around the world.

#### N Chandrasekaran awarded France's highest civilian honour

Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran was conferred with France's highest civilian honour- "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur"- by French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna. The 59-year-old was conferred with the award for the role played by him in developing and fostering commercial links between India and France.

**About: Ordre national de la Légion d'** - France's highest civilian award is the National Order of the Legion of Honour (French: Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur). It was

established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802 and is awarded to French citizens and foreigners for their outstanding service to France in the fields of military, civil, and cultural affairs. The Legion of Honour is a symbol of France's national pride and is a testament to the country's commitment to excellence. It is an honor that is bestowed upon those who have made significant contributions to France and to the world.

### **Arinze Ifeakandu has been awarded with the Dylan Thomas Prize 2023**

Nigerian writer Arinze Ifeakandu has been awarded one of the world's largest literary prizes for young writers – the Swansea University Dylan Thomas Prize 2023 – for his 'exhilarating' debut *God's Children Are Little Broken Things*, a stunning short fiction collection, whose nine stories simmer with loneliness and love, and depict what it means to be gay in contemporary Nigeria

About: Swansea University Dylan Thomas Prize - The Swansea University Dylan Thomas Prize was launched in 2006 with the aim of celebrating and nurturing international literary excellence. It is named after the Swansea-born writer Dylan Thomas and is awarded for the best published literary work in the English language, written by an author aged 39 or under.

By winning the prize, Ifeakandu managed to beat the other shortlisted writers Warsan Shire for *Bless the Daughter Raised by a Voice in Her Head*, Robbie Arnott for *Limberlost*, Sara Baume for *Seven Steeples*, Sheena Patel for *I'm a Fan*, and Saba Sams for *Send Nudes*.

[www.fundamakers.com](http://www.fundamakers.com)

### **Jayant Narlikar awarded with the Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award**

Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar gets the first Astronomical Society of India Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award, President of the ASI, Prof. Dipankar Banerjee handed over the award announced earlier to Prof. Narlikar and felicitated him.

The most befitting recipient of the very first ASI Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement award is Prof. Jayant V. Narlikar, an astronomer par-excellence, the founding director of IUCAA, Pune and also a past President of the ASI. Though the award was announced earlier this year at the 41st meeting of the ASI held at IIT Indore, Prof. Narlikar was unable to travel to receive it.

Prof. Narlikar was amongst the first to initiate cosmology research in India. He came up with an idea of creating a dedicated center to nucleate and spread astronomy curriculum and research in the Indian Universities. His dream was fulfilled with his hard work by the formation of IUCAA. He has been a motivational figure for young aspiring minds for decades.

### **Cochin Port bags Sagar Shreshtha award**

Cochin Port has bagged Sagar Shreshtha Award of Ministry of Ports Shipping & Waterways for best performance among all Indian Major Ports for best turnaround time in non-container port category, during the year 2022-23.

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal has given the award to M. Beena, Chairperson, Cochin Port Authority at a function held in New Delhi.

The award is in recognition of the 'excellent performance of the Cochin Port in handling dry bulk and liquid bulk cargo vessels'.

The port recorded 48 hours in turning around vessels of an average parcel size of 43,800 MT that arrived at the Port. The TRT is a performance parameter which is calculated on the basis of the notice of readiness by the vessel till pilot disembark time after operations, of a vessel that arrives at the port. Union Minister for Ports, Shipping Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal given away the Award to Dr M Beena, Chairperson, Cochin Port Authority.

### **UP CM Yogi Adityanath honoured with Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar award**

Former president of India Ram Nath Kovind honoured Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on with the Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award for creating a fear-free Uttar Pradesh. The award ceremony was organized at Shri Shanmukhananda Auditorium in Mumbai where member of UP legislative council Dr. Lalji Prasad Nirmal received the award on behalf of Yogi Adityanath. Buddhanjali Research Foundation organized the award ceremony which was graced by Ramnath Kovind as the chief guest

About the Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award - The Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award is an annual award presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to society in the areas of education, social welfare, and economics, in the spirit of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

### **Pandit Ramkishan, a renowned socialist leader awarded the "Shatabdi Purush" title**

Pandit Ramkishan, a renowned socialist leader in India, has been awarded the "Shatabdi Purush" (Man of the Century) title in New Delhi for his contributions to the socialist movement. The event was held during the birth centenary celebrations of Madhu Limaye, a renowned socialist ideologue and parliamentarian. Ramkishan is considered the most senior and iconic figure in Indian socialism and has been recognized as the "Socialist Shatabdi Purush". The award ceremony was attended by several senior politicians, including former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik, CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechuri, INLD leader Abhay Singh Chautala, and JDU leader KC Tyagi.

#### **About: Pandit Ramkishan -**

- Pandit Ramkishan was a well-known socialist leader who played an active role in the movements led by other socialist leaders such as Jayaprakash Narayan and Lohia.
- He was imprisoned multiple times, including during the Emergency period. Ramkishan also served as a member of the Lok Sabha once, in 1977, and was elected four times to the Rajasthan Assembly in 1962, 1967, 1974, and 1990.
- Ramkishan was arrested several times while fighting for tribals, Dalits, and the poor.

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

### Dr Vijay Darda's new book 'RINGSIDE' to be released by Shashi Tharoor

"RINGSIDE – Up, Close and Personal on India and Beyond", a new book written by Chairman of the Editorial Board of Lokmat Media Group and former MP Dr Vijay Darda will be released by renowned author and Congress MP Dr Shashi Tharoor on May 30. The event will be held at the Speaker Hall of the Constitution Club of India on Rafi Marg in New Delhi

The book is a captivating compilation of Darda's weekly articles, which were published in the Lokmat Media Group newspapers and other prominent national and regional dailies of the country between 2011 and 2016. As a follow-up to his earlier book "Straight Thoughts", which encompassed articles from 2004 to 2011, this latest work delves into a diverse range of subjects beyond political developments and happenings.

### Assam Governor releases book 'Partitioned Freedom' authored by Ram Madhav

Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria released a book titled 'Partitioned Freedom' written by Ram Madhav at an event in Guwahati and said that India has always been looked upon as a land of wealth and wisdom.

The book 'Partitioned Freedom' offers profound insights into the events that took place during 1905 and the pre-independence era. It explores and answers the questions raised because India which defeated the British designs to partition one province failed when the whole country was being partitioned 4 decades later.

Ram Madhav is an Indian politician, author and thinker who served as the National General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

### The Golden Years – The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life, a book by Ruskin Bond

Ruskin Bond an Indian author, authored a new book Title "The Golden Years – The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life" published by Harper Collins India, which is scheduled to be released on 19th May 2023 (on the occasion of 89th Birthday of Ruskin Bond)

"The Golden Years"-- that's the name of my latest book. This time it isn't a children's book strictly speaking, nor is it novel or a collection of short stories with which my readers are familiar. I suppose you can call it a self-help book,"

Revealing details about the book, Bond further said, "It's called 'The Golden Years' because it is really about the last 20, 30 years of my life; my 60s, 70s and 80s. It is addressed to other people who are growing up and growing old, and sometimes worried about the future; whether old age will be a pleasant experience. I guess, it isn't always but it can be and should be. In my case, I think, I would say the 20 years have been the best professionally and personally in many ways. In this book, in 60 short chapters I have told my friends, my readers, what it's like to be growing old and the pleasant side of it."

## **Boria Majumdar released a new book titled 'Sachin@50 - Celebrating a Maestro'**

The book has been conceptually designed and curated by Majumdar, with a special back cover note penned by Gulzar. It was officially released on April 24, 2023, which is Tendulkar's 50th birthday.

The book traces Tendulkar's journey to success, starting from his teenage debut where he gained global recognition in 1989 following a bleeding nose incident in Pakistan. It also throws light on how he transcended the boundaries of the game to become the biggest batting sensation ever.

The book features original essays and excerpts from several notable personalities, including Tendulkar's wife, Anjali Tendulkar, his brother Ajit Tendulkar, cricket legends Sunil Gavaskar, Sourav Ganguly, and Rohit Sharma, and international cricketer David Warner.

The book also includes contributions from eminent personalities from other fields such as Abhinav Bindra, Farhan Akhtar, Prahlad Kakkar and Viswanathan Anand.

## **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launches a book 'Reflections' - by banker Narayanan Vaghul**

Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, has launched a book authored by eminent banker, Narayanan Vaghul, here. The book, titled 'Reflections', carries a vivid account of Vaghul's experiences spanning decades in India's financial landscape. Speaking after the launch on Friday, Ms Sitharaman commended Vaghul for his extensive experience in banking and his leadership qualities.

About: Narayanan Vaghul - Narayanan Vaghul is a Philanthropist and an ex banker professional from India. He was awarded Padma Bhushan in the Trade and Industry category in 2010 by the Government of India.

## **BANKING AND ECONOMY**

### **Equitas SFB Collaborates with IBM to Build a Digital Banking Platform**

Equitas Small Finance Bank has collaborated with IBM Consulting to design and build a digital banking platform that delivers a modern and highly secure experience to the bank's customers and partners. The collaboration aims to boost Equitas' digital products and services offerings as it evolves its business for a digital-first generation. Through this association, Equitas will embark on a high-speed path to leverage technology as a differentiator in its next phase of growth.

Launched in 2016, Equitas Small Finance Bank is one of the leading small finance banks in India. After having established its business as part of the initial growth phase, Equitas is now looking to capitalize on its position as a technology-forward industry leader. As part of the next growth phase, Equitas aims to commence its modernization journey with a cloud-native platform architecture that aligns with the bank's business strategy.

### **Yubi Forms Strategic Partnership with Indian Bank to Provide Digital Supply Chain Financing Solutions to SMEs**

Yubi, a renowned worldwide integrated credit platform, that powers the discovery, execution, and fulfillment of credit, has joined forces with Indian Bank, one of India's leading public sector banks, to extend digital supply chain financing solutions to small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) in India.

**Aim** - This strategic partnership aims to address the financing needs of SMEs and facilitate their growth and development. By leveraging Yubi's advanced technology and platform, Indian Bank aims to digitally enable and scale its SCF book through vendor and dealer financing, targeting large corporations whose counterparties are SMEs with limited access to credit.

Dealers and distributors of anchor companies integrated with Yubi will benefit from Indian Bank's digital supply chain solution. This partnership is expected to disburse Rs 1500 Crore within the first year, alleviating the cash crunch faced by SMEs and facilitating their operations and expansion.

### **YES Bank launches new logo, to roll out campaign 'Life Ko Banao Rich'**

Unveiling its fresh brand identity, private lender YES BANK on Tuesday (May 30) launched a new logo of the company and said it is set to roll out an integrated campaign with the tagline – 'Life Ko Banao Rich' - which represents the bank's core focus of being a complete solution provider.

**About: Yes Bank New Logo** - The tick has been transformed into a soaring bird, which represents the Bank's current position of 'soaring', said the company. Moreover, the smoothened-out corners and fluid shapes have replaced the angular edges of the old logo. The blue and red colours have got a makeover with an electric tone, representing high energy

McCann Worldgroup acted as the creative agency, with Conversation Films serving as the production house, responsible for creating the new logo.

### **RBI imposes Rs 85 lakh penalty on Central Bank of India for non-compliance**

The Reserve Bank of India - RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 84.50 lakh on Central Bank of India (the bank) for non-compliance with certain provisions of norms related to frauds classification and reporting.

The Reserve Bank had conducted statutory inspection for supervisory evaluation of the bank with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2021,

Examination of the reports revealed that the public sector lender had failed to report as fraud to RBI certain accounts within seven days of decision of Joint Lenders' Forum (JLF) to declare the accounts as fraud. It had recovered SMS alert charges from its customers on flat basis rather than on actual usage basis.

**About: Central Bank of India** - Central Bank of India is an Indian public sector bank based in Mumbai. Despite its name, it is not the central bank of India; The Indian central bank is the Reserve Bank of India.

### **RBI Approves Merger of Maratha Sahakari Bank With The Cosmos Co-operative Bank**

In a significant development, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted its approval for the voluntary amalgamation of Maratha Sahakari Bank, based in Mumbai, with The Cosmos Co-operative Bank Limited, located in Pune.

This approval comes under the authority vested in the RBI by Sub-Section (4) of Section 44A, in conjunction with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

The sanctioned scheme of amalgamation is set to take effect from May 29, 2023.

Following the merger, all the branches of Maratha Sahakari Bank Ltd., situated in Mumbai, will operate as branches of The Cosmos Co-operative Bank Limited, located in Pune, starting from the aforementioned date. Maratha Sahakari Bank was under RBI's restriction from August 31, 2016 with cap on deposit withdrawal.

### **India, ADB sign \$141.12 million loan for industrial corridor development in Andhra Pradesh**

The Indian government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday signed a \$141.12 million loan agreement aimed at supporting the development of high-quality internal infrastructure in three industrial clusters in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

The loan will be utilized to enhance road networks, water supply systems, and electricity distribution networks, fostering industrialization and job creation in the targeted areas.

The funds will be utilized to strengthen industrial infrastructure in the Visakhapatnam node, including the development of internal infrastructure in the Rambilli and Nakkapalli industrial clusters spanning 160 hectares and 441 hectares, respectively.

By adopting a multi-sectoral approach, the ADB financing aims to boost manufacturing, improve competitiveness, and increase the manufacturing sector's contribution to Andhra Pradesh's gross domestic product.

### **Axis Bank launches Sarathi platform for easy PoS onboarding of merchants**

Axis Bank launched 'Sarathi,' a first-of-its-kind digital onboarding journey for merchants to adopt Electronic Data Capture (EDC) or Point of Sale (PoS).

Unlike the time-consuming traditional onboarding process, which can take several days, Sarathi offers merchants a streamlined and hassle-free experience, the company, The system enables merchants to finish the onboarding process in four simple steps, which are as follows:

- Real-time database checks for speedier application processing.
- 2) Live video verification to authenticate merchant information at his/her convenience.
- 3) It removes the field verification procedure, allowing for quick decision - making.
- 4) PoS installation is completed immediately.

The paperless onboarding procedure eliminates the need for merchants to fill out documents or wait to have their PoS terminals installed, Sarathi's features include immediate status updates, eliminating the need for follow-up visits, and the ability to transact on the same day their application is processed.

### **RBI Announces Withdrawal of ₹2000 Banknotes from Circulation**

In a surprise move, the Reserve Bank announced withdrawal of ₹2,000 currency notes from circulation but gave public time till September 30 to either deposit such notes in accounts or exchange them at banks.

Unlike the November 2016 shock demonetisation when old ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes were invalidated overnight, the ₹2,000 notes will continue to be a legal tender till September 30.

**Why are ₹2,000 denomination banknotes being withdrawn** - The ₹2,000 denomination banknote was introduced in November 2016 under Section 24(1) of the RBI Act, 1934 primarily with the objective to meet the currency requirement of the economy in an expeditious manner after withdrawal of the legal tender status of all ₹500 and ₹1,000 banknotes in circulation at that time. With the fulfilment of that objective and the availability of banknotes in other denominations in adequate quantities, the printing of ₹2,000 banknotes was stopped in 2018-19.

### **SBI Funds Management gets RBI's nod to acquire 9.99% stake in HDFC Bank**

State Bank of India (SBI) Funds Management received the approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to acquire up to 9.99 per cent stake in HDFC Bank.

SBI Funds Management has been advised by the central bank to complete the said stake acquisition in the bank within a period of six months i.e. by November 15, 2023. Further, SBI Funds Management must ensure that the aggregate holding in the Bank remains below 10 per cent of the paid-up share capital or voting rights of the bank at all times, it added.

RBI's approval that has been granted to SBI Funds Management is subject to the conditions, including compliance with the relevant provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, RBI's Master Direction and Guidelines on Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies dated January 16, 2023, provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, provisions of the regulations issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), and any other guidelines, regulations, and statutes as applicable.

### **Zomato launches UPI service in partnership with ICICI Bank**

Zomato, a well-known online food delivery platform, has recently rolled out its own UPI (Unified Payments Interface) service. This real-time payment system has been launched in collaboration with ICICI Bank, and it will allow users to make direct payments to both individuals and merchants. With this new payment service, Zomato aims to offer a more streamlined and convenient payment experience to its users.

As a result of this development, Zomato users will have the convenience of paying for their purchases from a variety of merchants as well as sending money to other users in a peer-to-peer fashion. By logging into the Zomato application, customers can now generate their own UPI IDs, enabling them to make payments directly through the app. This feature provides a simplified payment experience for Zomato users, allowing them to handle transactions seamlessly within the application.

### **World Bank approves grant of Rs 51 crore to set up road safety enforcement system in Shimla and Nurbur**

The World Bank has approved a grant of Rs 51 crore to set up an integrated road safety enforcement system in Shimla and Nurbur police districts and develop the Palampur-Sheela chowk in Kangra as a "safe corridor",

The project envisages the establishment of a traffic enforcement control room in Shimla and the allocation of funds for interceptors and patrol vehicles, an intelligent traffic management system, artificial intelligence (AI) cameras and rescue equipment, For the first phase of the project, Shimla and Nurbur have been selected and a sum of Rs 42 crore will be spent on the twin police districts to strengthen their emergency response systems, 120 locations have been identified in Shimla district for installation of AI-powered cameras. These include Theog, Rampur, Rohru, Kumarsain, Kotkhai, Nerva, Jubbal, Chopal and Sunni, besides the capital city.

### **Kotak Bank's 'privy league' premium banking customers to get country's first LED debit cards**

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) has launched a premium banking programme, Privy League, aimed at high-net-worth individuals. The programme offers lifestyle privileges and bespoke financial solutions. According to a statement issued by the bank, the Privy League will be the bank's flagship premium banking program and is designed to celebrate its customers' achievements. One of the features of this account is the Premium Metal Debit Card, designed by artist Arunanshu Chowdhury for the Privy League black tier, lets customers enjoy luxury deals and complimentary airport lounge access, among many other benefits. The Signature LED Debit Card, designed for Privy League Platinum tier, is India's first LED card, which lights.

### **World Bank Approves USD 82 Mln for Zoonotic Disease Prevention in India**

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved an \$82 million loan towards the adoption of global best practices for animal health management to prevent, detect, and respond to endemic zoonotic, transboundary, and emerging infectious diseases. It will strengthen India's One Health approach, which recognises that people and animals are connected with their shared environment.

Animal disease outbreaks globally continue to pose risks to public health systems and have enormous economic costs. With India having the largest livestock population in the world, these risks are particularly high. For example, foot and mouth disease alone costs the country more than \$3.3 billion annually.

### **RBI imposes Rs 1.73 crore penalty on HSBC for incorrect credit information**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on May 8 imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.73 crore on the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd for contravention of Credit Information Companies Rules, 2006.

A notice was issued to the bank advising it to show cause as to why the penalty should not be imposed for contravention of the said provisions of CIC Rules, as stated therein.

After considering the bank's reply to the notice and oral submissions made during the personal hearing, the RBI came to the conclusion that the charge of contravention of the aforesaid CIC Rules was substantiated and warranted imposition of monetary penalty. This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

**About: HSBC** - HSBC's origins in India date back to 1853 when the Mercantile Bank of India was established in Mumbai. The bank has grown steadily and now offers products and services to corporate and commercial banking clients and retail customers. The Mercantile Bank was bought in 1959 by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited. Founded in 1865 to serve the needs of the merchants of the China coast and finance the growing trade between China, Europe and the US, HSBC has been an international bank from its earliest days.

HSBC in India has been active in the development of the Indian banking industry - even giving India its first ATM in 1987.

### **Federal Bank launches e-Bank Guarantees in partnership with NeSL**

Federal Bank has gone live with NeSL for the issuance of electronic Bank Guarantee facility. With this partnership, customers of Federal Bank can now avail of a complete digital experience while getting a Bank Guarantee. This will, in due course, replace the traditional paper-based process.

Electronic Bank Guarantee facilitates the issuance, invocation, amendment, and cancellation of Bank Guarantee in digital form and removes the need of printing any document/request thereof. It is safe, secure, and fast, facilitating the trade/business activities.

Individual, Sole Proprietor, Company, Partnership Firm, Govt. Agencies, Association of People, Body of Individuals are eligible to avail of this facility. This is currently available only in states where e-stamping is available. – As on Mar 2023

### **Capital Small Finance Bank partners with Max Life to offer life insurance solutions**

Capital Small Finance Bank Limited ("Capital SFB" / "bank") and Max Life Insurance Company Limited have announced their partnership to offer life insurance offerings to Capital SFB's customers. Through this tie-up, Capital SFB will offer its customers with a range of savings, protection, retirement, and group life insurance plans of Max Life. Capital Small Finance Bank Limited started operations as India's first Small Finance Bank in 2016. With an experience of over two decades in the banking industry and having operated as a local area bank before conversion, Capital SFB focuses on middle income group customer segment, with special focus on rural and semi-urban areas, via an optimum 'phygital' distribution of their products and services. Prior to Max Life, Capital Small Finance Bank has also partnered with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Limited and HDFC life insurance Limited to provide their life insurance products to its customers.

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**Cashfree Payments partners with YES Bank to offer international payment collection**

Cashfree Payments and YES Bank have partnered to offer 'Global Collections', an international collection service for exporters, who are account holders of YES Bank. Under this partnership, the bank's account holders will be able to collect payments in over 30 foreign currencies using the Global Collections service. The funds so received can then be converted into rupee and settled into their local bank account in India within one business day.

In addition to having dedicated facilities in four currencies (USD, GBP, EUR and CAD), the product also enables global collections in over 30 currencies up to the equivalent of \$10,000 in line with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) Online Payment Gateway Service Providers (OPGSP) guidelines.

Exporters will be able to share their payment collection details with their buyers over email, SMS or WhatsApp, and the buyers will be able to make payments using local rails like Automated Clearing House (ACH), Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA), etc.