



## CURRENT AFFAIRS 1st May 2023

### National News

#### 1. Anji Khad bridge, first cable stayed rail bridge in India.



- India's Union Railway Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, has shared a timelapse video showcasing the construction of the Anji Khad Bridge, the country's first cable-stayed rail bridge.
- With a total of 96 cables spanning a length of 653km, the bridge is part of the challenging Udampur-Srinagar-Baramulla-Rail Link (USBRL) Project in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The bridge connects Katra and Reasi and required detailed geological investigations from IIT Roorkee and IIT Delhi to navigate the complex and fragile terrain of the Himalayan mountain slopes.
- ● Due to space restrictions on the Katra end, a special hybrid foundation was developed to stabilize the foundation of the main span.

- ● On the Srinagar end, the majority of the Anji Khad Bridge works were completed, including the construction of the main pylon with a 40-meter-deep hybrid foundation, the central embankment, and the ancillary viaduct.
- ● To simplify construction and consider typical conditions, the 725.5-meter bridge was divided into four parts: the 120-meter-long ancillary viaduct on the Reasi side, a 38-meter-long approach bridge on the Katra end.

## 2. **Collective Spirit, Concrete Action'** - book by former Prasar Bharti CEO



- At the 100th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat', a book called 'Collective Spirit, Concrete Action' written by Shashi Shekhar Vempati, former CEO of Prasar Bharati (2017-2022) was launched.
- The book was released during a day-long National Conclave on Mann Ki Baat @100, held in the national capital on April 26.
- According to the author, 'Mann Ki Baat' is a combination of the power of radio and the vision of a nation's leader.
- Over the course of 15 chapters, the book special also offers insights and perspectives from grassroots change-makers and iconic personalities.
- 'Collective Spirit, Concrete Action' is a literary journey that not only documents one of the most popular radio programmes, 'Mann Ki Baat', but also depicts a dynamic discourse that traverses through India's present, draws lessons from its past, and shapes its future.
- The literary piece demonstrates the potential of community-driven social transformation, penetrating the

gloom of negativity and holding up the beacon of hope and optimism.

- More importantly, the book captures the fascinatingly encouraging tales of changemakers who, despite facing various roadblocks, manage to circumvent obstacles and bring about monumental improvements in the lives of people in their respective communities.
- It illustrates how these communities have united to spark a wave of beneficial transformations.

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



- Ding Liren has become 17th world chess champion – the first from China – defeating Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi in a tie-breaker.
- Ding defeated Nepo in the last of the four Rapid tiebreaks.
- Ding 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 had won three, with the other eight ending in draws. For the tie-break stage of the match, also in Astana, the contenders had only 25 minutes to make their moves, plus an additional 10 seconds for each move played.
- The 30-year-old won the rapid chess playoff by 2.5 points to 1.5, capitalizing on his opponent's mistakes, following the pair's 7-7 tie across 14 longer "classical" games.

#### 4. Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty end India's 52-year wait for men's doubles medal in Badminton Asia Championships.



- **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty made history on April 30, becoming the first Indian men's doubles pair to win a gold medal at the Badminton Asia Championships.**
- **The Indian pair defeated the Malaysian duo of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi in a thrilling three-game match that lasted for over an hour.**
- **The World No. 6 Indian pair had to fight hard for their victory. They lost the first game to their opponents but bounced back to win the next two games.**
- **In the second game, they were trailing 7-13 but managed to claw their way back and win 21-17.**
- **In the final game, they held their nerve to win 21-19 and clinch the gold medal.**

## 5. Renowned scientist Dr.N. Gopalakrishnan passes away at 68.



- **N. Gopalakrishnan, the creator of the Indian Institute of Scientific Heritage (IISH) and a former scientist at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has passed away at the age of 68.**
- **Gopalakrishnan held a Master of Science degree in Chemistry, a Master of Arts degree in Sociology, and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry.**
- **He was born in the city of Kochi in the Ernakulam district of Kerala, and his parents were Narayanan Embranthiri and Satyabhama.**

## 6. Indian Army Inducts First Women Officers into Regiment of Artillery.



- In a historic first, the Indian Army has inducted five women officers into its Regiment of Artillery.
- Lt Mehak Saini, Lt Sakshi Dubey, Lt Aditi Yadav, Lt Pious Mudgil, and Lt Akanksha have joined the Army's premier artillery units after successfully completing their training at the Officers Training Academy (OTA) in Chennai.
- Military sources have reported that three of the five women officers have been posted to frontline formations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, while the other two have been posted to "challenging locations" near the frontier with Pakistan.
- The Regiment of Artillery is a major combat support arm, and it has around 280 units that handle various gun systems, including Bofors howitzers, Dhanush, M-777 howitzers, and K-9 Vajra self-propelled guns.
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