



MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS APRIL-MAY 2023

for BANK/SSC/RAILWAY Examination

SPECIAL ATTRACTION

- 10TH EDITION OF ANNUAL INDIAN NAVY - SRI LANKA NAVY BILATERAL MARITIME EXERCISE SLINEX-2023 COMMENCES AT COLOMBO
- NASA ANNOUNCES FOUR-MEMBER TEAM OF ASTRONAUTS FOR FIRST CREWED VOYAGE AROUND MOON IN FIFTY YEARS
- PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU TAKES MAIDEN SORTIE IN SUKHOI-30 AT TEZPUR IN ASSAM

OUR ACHIEVERS 2021-2022



ANIMESH
IBPS PO



ANJALI GRAG
IBPS PO



HIMANSHI
RRB PO



VEENA MANJUNATH
RRB PO



PRAMOD
SBI PO



PREETI
SSC GD



SAYED SHARZIL ALI
IBPS CLERK & SO



SACHIN PAL
CDS

Many more...

FOREWORD

Dear Aspirants,

As we all know, the Civil Services Exam (CSE) is becoming more and more challenging due to the day by day increase in unpredictability. We at PLUTUS Academy developed this magazine keeping in mind the unpredictable nature of the Civil Services Exam. The development of the magazine is in such a chronological order that it gives conceptual clarity to aspirants at first glance. Each and every topic contains relevant sources and articles, an aspirant should first go through the original article and try to get conceptual grasp and make notes from them. After that they should read the topics from magazines. An aspirant should also try to make note of the keywords relevant for mains preparation. In this way an aspirant will move towards the unending ocean of civil services preparation with clarity and confidence.

Our PLUTUS Academy team wishes you All the Best for your career. Do hard work and be consistent in your journey, it will definitely give results. May you all crack the Civil Services Examination with flying colours.

Team
PLUTUS Academy

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NATIONAL NEWS

CRICKET: MUMBAI INDIANS LIFT INAUGURAL WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE TROPHY BEATING DELHI CAPITALS



- In Cricket, Mumbai Indians have won the inaugural Women's Premier League.
- They defeated Delhi Capitals by seven wickets in the Summit Clash at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai last evening.
- Chasing a target of 132 runs, Mumbai Indians overhauled the score, posting 134 for 3 in 19.3 overs.
- For Mumbai, Nat Sciver-Brunt was the highest scorer who remained not out at 60.
- Earlier, opting to bat first, Delhi scored 131 for 9 in stipulated 20 overs. Delhi Skipper Meg Lanning was the top scorer with 35 runs followed by Radha Yadav who contributed 27 runs.

MT VASUDEVAN NAIR IS FIRST RECIPIENT OF KERALA JYOTHI, STATE'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD



- The highest civilian honor in Kerala, the "Kerala Jyothi," was awarded to the writer M T Vasudevan Nair.
- The second-highest award, "Kerala Prabha," was shared by actor Mammooty, former civil service officer T Madhava Menon, and writer Omchery NN Pillai.
- Arif Muhammad Khan, the Governor of Kerala, has presented the inaugural edition of the "Kerala Puraskarngal" awards, which recognize individuals who have made notable contributions to various aspects of social life.
- The awards were presented in three categories – "Kerala Jyothi," "Kerala Prabha," and "Kerala Shri."
- The Kerala Puraskarngal is a civilian award instituted by the government of Kerala in 2021.
- It is modeled after the prestigious Padma awards conferred by the Government of India.
- The awards are presented to individuals who have made exceptional contributions in various

fields such as literature, art, culture, science, social work, and sports.

FIRST CITIZENS TO ACQUIRE SILICON VALLEY BANK



- First-Citizens Bank and Trust Company, based in Raleigh, North Carolina, has entered a purchase and assumption agreement with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) to acquire all loans and deposits of the recently failed Silicon Valley Bridge Bank in the United States.
- The FDIC established Silicon Valley Bridge Bank, National Association after the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation closed down Silicon Valley Bank.
- The bridge bank received all assets, including substantially all Qualified Financial Contracts, and both insured and uninsured deposits from Silicon Valley Bank.
- The 17 former branches of Silicon Valley Bank will operate under the name First-Citizens Bank and Trust Company.
- Customers of Silicon Valley Bridge Bank, National Association, are advised to continue using their existing branch until they are notified by First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company that system conversions have been finalized, allowing for full-service banking at all branch locations.

PURPLE DAY OF EPILEPSY 2023.



- Purple Day of Epilepsy is an international day of awareness dedicated to raising understanding and reducing the social stigma associated with epilepsy, a neurological condition.
- It is celebrated annually on March 26 with the goal of educating people about epilepsy, recognizing the signs of a seizure, and offering support to those who are impacted by it.
- The primary aim of Purple Day is to promote greater knowledge and empathy towards epilepsy and those living with it, with the ultimate aim of creating a more inclusive society.
- As with every year, Purple Day of Epilepsy in 2023 is significant as it aims to raise awareness about epilepsy and reduce the social stigma attached to it.
- It is an opportunity for individuals, organizations, and communities to come together to learn more about this neurological disorder, understand its impact on people's lives, and show support

for those affected by it.

- Purple Day of Epilepsy was founded in 2008 by Cassidy Megan, a young girl from Nova Scotia, Canada, who wanted to raise awareness about epilepsy after her own struggles with the disorder.
- She chose the color purple as a symbol of epilepsy because it is the color of lavender, which represents solitude and reflection, two emotions commonly associated with people living with epilepsy.

NEW SPECIES OF MORAY EEL DISCOVERED OFF CUDDALORE COAST NAMED AFTER TAMIL NADU



- A team of scientists from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has discovered a new species of Moray Eel fish from the Cuddalore coast in Tamil Nadu.
- The new species has been named “Gymnothorax Tamilnaduensis” after Tamil Nadu and has been given the common name of “Tamil Nadu brown moray eel”.
- A team of scientists from the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) have discovered a new species of moray eel fish in the Cuddalore coast, which has been named Gymnothorax Tamilnaduensis or Tamil Nadu brown moray eel.
- After conducting an extensive exploration survey and analysis of the fish’s morphology, skeleton radiography and molecular markers, the researchers concluded that it is a distinct species of the genus Gymnothorax.
- This discovery increases the number of Gymnothorax species in Indian waters from 28 to 29, and is the first to be found in the south-eastern coast of India in the Bay of Bengal.
- The holotype of the new species is registered at the National Fish Museum and Repository of ICAR-NBFGR Lucknow, and the species name is registered in the Zoobank, the online registration system for the international commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN).

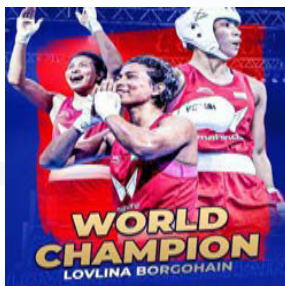
ENVIRONMENT MINISTER BHUPENDER YADAV LAUNCHES ARAVALLI GREEN WALL PROJECT IN GURUGRAM



- Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said today, the Aravallis will be revived through various initiatives including a single-use plastic ban, water conservation efforts and natural resources protection.

- Launching the Aravalli Green Wall Project in Gurugram, Mr Yadav expressed confidence that the project will increase the green cover and biodiversity of the Aravalli through afforestation, reforestation and restoration of water bodies.
- He said that it will also improve the soil fertility, water availability and climate resilience of the region.
- The Minister underlined that the project will benefit the local communities by providing them with employment opportunities, income generation and ecosystem services.

INDIA BAG 4 GOLD IN WORLD WOMEN'S BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP



- India wrapped up the Women's World Boxing Championships in New Delhi with four gold medals.
- Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain added fourth gold to India's tally by defeating Caitlin Parker of Australia in the final of the middleweight 75 kilogram category last evening at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in New Delhi.
- This is Lovlina's maiden gold medal at the World Championships.
- Earlier, Indian pugilist Nikhat Zareen defeated Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Tam in 50 kg light fly weight category to clinch third gold for India at the tournament.
- The 26 year old created history by becoming World Champion for the second successive time.
- She has become only the second Indian woman boxer after Mary Kom to bag more than one world titles.
- On Saturday, Indian pugilists Nitu Ghanghas and Saweety Boora brought two gold medals for the country at the Championships.

IRONMAN' IPS OFFICER KRISHNA PRAKASH SWAM AGAINST THE WAVES, FROM GATEWAY OF INDIA TO ELEPHANTA CAVES



- As part of the 'Drowning Prevention Awareness' campaign, Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Krishna Prakash swam from Gateway of India to Elephanta Caves, Mumbai.
- He completed the expedition of 16.20 kms in just 5 hours 26 minutes and became the first person in history to do so.

- This is far from the first time the IPS officer broke records in sporting competitions.
- In 2017, he completed the Ironman Triathlon, one of the most challenging sports events in the world.
- This is a three-day event that requires the participants to complete a 3.8-kilometre swim, a 180.2-kilometer bicycle ride, and a 42.2 km run in 16–17 hours.
- This achievement earned Prakash the 'Iron Man' title and a mention in the World Book of Records.
- He was the first Indian Government Servant, Civil Servant, and Uniformed Services Officer, including Armed Forces and Paramilitary Forces, to earn this title

PAKISTANI-ORIGIN HUMZA YOUSAF DECLARED LEADER OF SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY



- Humza Yousaf, a Pakistani-origin politician, has won the Scottish National Party (SNP) leadership contest and is set to become Scotland's First Minister, replacing Nicola Sturgeon.
- Yousaf, who is the son of Asian immigrants, is poised to become the first person of colour to serve as Scotland's first minister.
- He defeated Kate Forbes, the country's finance minister, and Ash Regan, who resigned from the government in opposition to proposed changes to gender recognition.
- Humza Yousaf won the Scottish National Party leadership contest with 52% of the final votes, and his campaign focused on achieving Scottish independence and addressing the cost-of-living crisis.
- This follows Rishi Sunak's recent appointment as the first British Prime Minister of Indian origin.
- Yousaf will now take over as the leader of the SNP, succeeding Nicola Sturgeon who resigned last month after serving as the party leader for eight years.

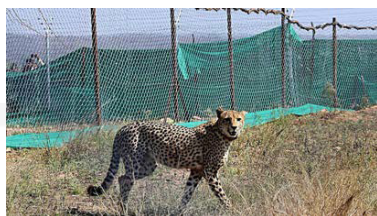
IDFC FIRST BANK PARTNERS WITH CRUNCHFISH TO DEMONSTRATE OFFLINE RETAIL PAYMENTS



- IDFC First Bank has announced its collaboration with the Swedish company Crunchfish to launch a pilot project to demonstrate offline retail payments.
- The bank is going to participate in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) pilot project that aims to enable offline payments.
- The project aims to provide digital payment services to customers and merchants even in areas without network connectivity.

- This project will provide support for offline retail payments based on a Digital Cash platform to the payment ecosystem of India.
- IDFC FIRST Bank will be one of the first few banks to be a part of this pilot project by HDFC Bank.
- Crunchfish has developed a distinct digital payment solution for merchants and customers under the RBI's Regulatory Sandbox Program, which was approved by the RBI to demonstrate offline payments between two banks. IDFC First Bank has signed a non-commercial Development and Demonstration Agreement to access the Digital Cash SDK.
- The terms of deployment will be regulated in a Software License Agreement.

CHEETAH SASHA DIES DUE TO KIDNEY AILMENT IN MADHYA PRADESH'S KUNO NATIONAL PARK



- A Namibian Cheetah passed away at Kuno National Park in MP, India.
- The cheetah, named Sasha, was reportedly in good health when it was moved to India on September 17th 2022, but it was discovered that it had a kidney infection.
- This event was a setback for the project aimed at rejuvenating the cheetah population in the country.
- The cheetah had been brought from Namibia on September 17th, 2022, as part of India's initiative to reintroduce cheetahs into the wild after their extinction in the country over 70 years ago.
- The initiative was launched in 2018, and the government had planned to release 50 cheetahs into the wild in the next few years.
- Kuno National Park is situated in the Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh, which is in central India near the Vindhyan Hills.
- The park spans an area of 748 square kilometers and is located within the larger Kuno Wildlife Division.
- Initially, it was established as a wildlife sanctuary, but its status was changed to a national park in 2018.
- The park is named after the Kuno River, which is one of the primary tributaries of the Chambal River, and runs through the region, which is predominantly grassland.

AMIT SHAH UNVEILS THE STATUES OF LORD BASAVESHWARA AND NADAPRABHU KEMPEGOWDA IN BENGALURU



- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah unveiled the statues of Lord Basaveshwara ji and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda ji at the State Assembly premises in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Lord Basaveshwara and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda are two prominent historical figures from Karnataka, a state in southern India.
- These statues will continue to give Basavanna ji and Kempegowda ji's message of social justice, democracy, good governance and development to those who get elected in the assembly.
- Lord Basaveshwara was a philosopher and social reformer who lived in the 12th century.
- He is considered the founder of the Lingayat religion, which is a major religious group in Karnataka. Basaveshwara worked to promote social justice and equality, particularly for women and lower castes.
- He emphasized the importance of individual devotion over caste-based rituals and was an early advocate for a democratic society.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF MODERN ART TO ORGANIZE SPRING FIESTA 2023 TO CELEBRATE 69 YEARS OF MUSEUM TODAY



- The National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi will organize Spring Fiesta 2023 today, March 29, for the first time to celebrate 69 years of the museum.
- The Union Culture Ministry said, more than 50 stalls will be set up for display and sales at the museum lawns, such as handicrafts, ceramics, indigenous art, and fashion.
- Food stalls will also be available. The education and research department of the National Gallery of Modern Art is constantly working on ideas and projects to provide an interactive experience for visitors so that they can connect more with the museum.

CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA INAUGURATES DIRECT FLIGHT BETWEEN AHMEDABAD AND GATWICK



- Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Tuesday virtually inaugurated direct flight between Ahmedabad and Gatwick in England.
- The non-stop flight between Ahmedabad and Gatwick will be operated by Air India.

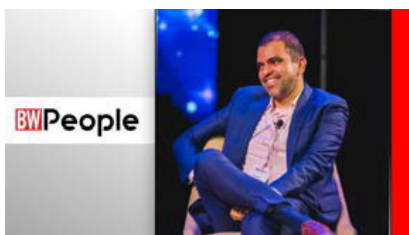
- Speaking on the occasion, Mr Scindia said that this new air connectivity will bring in new opportunities for trade and commerce and help Indian students studying in the UK.
- Mr Scindia said, the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad currently has the capacity to handle 50 lakh domestic and 25 lakh international passengers.
- He said the government aims to increase the passenger capacity of Ahmedabad to one crore 60 lakh.
- The Minister said, in 2013-14, Ahmedabad was connected to only 20 destinations.
- He said, in the last nine years, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the connectivity has increased to 57 destinations.

LOK SABHA PASSES COMPETITION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2022



- The Lok Sabha today, March 29, passed the Competition (Amendment) Bill 2022 without discussion.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman moved the Bill in the House amid the din.
- The Bill seeks to amend the Competition Act, 2002 to regulate mergers and acquisitions based on the value of transactions.
- The Bill stipulates that deals with a transaction value of more than two thousand crore rupees will require the Competition Commission of India's approval.
- The Bill also proposes to reduce the timeline for the CCI to pass an order on such transactions from 210 days to 150 days.
- The Bill provides a framework for settlement and commitment for faster resolution of investigations of anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominant position.
- It also decriminalises certain offences under the Act by changing the nature of punishment from the imposition of fine to civil penalties.
- These offences include failure to comply with orders of the CCI and directions of the Director General related to anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominant position.
- The Competition (Amendment) Bill 2022 was introduced in the Lok Sabha in August 2022 and referred to the Standing Committee in the same month.
- The Standing Committee submitted its report in December last year.

AXIS SECURITIES APPOINTS PRANAV HARIDASAN AS MD AND CEO



- Pranav Haridasan has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Axis Securities for the next three years.
- B Gopkumar, who is currently the MD & CEO of Axis Securities, has been transferred to Axis Asset Management Company as MD & CEO.
- Pranav Haridasan has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Axis Securities for the next three years.
- He is currently serving as Managing Director and Co-Head of Equities at Axis Capital, and has over 20 years of experience in financial markets, having worked with Citigroup Global Markets as Director and Head of India/ ASEAN Execution Services before joining Axis Capital.
- Amitabh Chaudhry, the MD & CEO of Axis Bank, expressed confidence in the newly appointed Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Axis Securities, Pranav Haridasan, saying that his extensive experience and expertise in technology would be instrumental in propelling the company's growth and expansion plans, as well as creating a stronger and more distinctive brand.

NASA IS TRAINING HUMANS FOR A LIFE ON MARS



- This summer, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is preparing four individuals to live on Mars.
- The four “Martians” will be a part of NASA's human exploration trip on Mars, even though the American space agency has long sought to send humans to the neighboring planet.
- Also, NASA has sending satellites, the InSight lander, a rover mission with the Perseverance rover, the Ingenuity small robotic helicopter, and related delivery systems, all of which are intended to provide the Red Planet with its first comprehensive examination.
- The four volunteers are a part of a 12-month project to get people ready for visiting Mars. When humans eventually land on Mars, they will do so in a habitat that replicates the circumstances there.

SAUDI JOINS SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION AS TIES WITH CHINA GROW



- The Saudi Arabian government has taken a significant step towards joining the Shanghai

Cooperation Organization (SCO), a regional alliance dominated by China and Russia.

- During a cabinet meeting presided over by King Salman bin Abdulaziz, a memorandum was approved to initiate dialogue with the SCO.
- The decision to pursue membership was reportedly raised during a visit to Saudi Arabia by Chinese President Xi Jinping in December of last year.
- According to sources, the decision to pursue dialogue partner status with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is seen as the first step towards eventual full membership for Saudi Arabia.
- This decision was made after Saudi Aramco's announcement of increased investment in China, including a joint venture in northeast China and acquiring a stake in a privately owned petrochemical group.
- The growing relationship between Riyadh and Beijing has caused concern in Washington, which sees Chinese influence as a threat to U.S. interests.
- However, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states have expressed worries about the United States' perceived disengagement from the region and are seeking to expand their partnerships.
- The U.S. has stated its intention to remain an active player in the Middle East despite these concerns.

MARBURG DISEASE OUTBREAK: SYMPTOMS AND WARNING SIGNS YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF



- The northwestern Kagera region of Tanzania has been declared an epidemic zone by the country's leaders after five people died and three others were diagnosed with Marburg viral disease (MVD) at a local hospital.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified 161 individuals who are at risk of contracting the virus through contact tracing.
- The government has deployed an emergency response team to the affected area, and neighboring countries have increased their surveillance efforts. Thus far, no cases have been reported outside of Kagera.
- The discovery of Marburg viral disease (MVD) dates back to 1967 in Germany and Serbia. This highly fatal disease, with mortality rates ranging from 24% to 88%, causes severe hemorrhagic fever and is part of the same virus family as Ebola.
- Fruit bats are the carriers of the virus, which is then transmitted to humans through contaminated items or bodily fluids. Members of the family and healthcare providers are at a higher risk of contracting the disease.

SHAKIB SURPASSES SOUTHEE TO BECOME THE TOP T20I WICKET-TAKER



- Shakib Al Hasan has surpassed Tim Southee to become the leading wicket-taker in T20I cricket during the second T20I match against Ireland in Chattogram.
- With 136 wickets in T20I at an average of 20.67 and an economy rate of 6.8, Shakib is considered as one of the best all-rounders in T20 cricket.
- He has also scored 2339 runs at a strike rate of 122.33 in T20I.
- Shakib made his debut in T20I against Zimbabwe in 2006 and has played 114 matches since then, featuring in all seven editions of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

PREMIER LEAGUE HALL OF FAME: ARSENE WENGER AND SIR ALEX FERGUSON BECOME FIRST MANAGERS TO BE INDUCTED



- On March 29, the Premier League inducted former Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson and ex-Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger into its Hall of Fame.
- This is the first time that managers have been included in this prestigious list.
- The two managers had a fierce rivalry during the 1990s, with a combined 16 English top-flight titles to their names.
- Ferguson led Manchester United to 13 Premier League titles during his 26-year reign, while Wenger won three Premier League titles and seven FA Cups with Arsenal during his 22-year tenure.
- The Premier League Hall of Fame was launched in 2021 to honor players who have made an exceptional contribution to the league.
- Sir Alex Ferguson is the most successful manager in Premier League history, having won 13 titles with Manchester United.
- He managed United for more than 26 years and won the inaugural Premier League title in 1992/93, which was the team's first league success since 1967.
- Six players managed by Ferguson have already been inducted into the Premier League Hall of Fame, including David Beckham, Eric Cantona, Roy Keane, Wayne Rooney, Peter Schmeichel, and Paul Scholes.
- Wenger, on the other hand, won the competition three times with Arsenal, including going

unbeaten in the 2003/04 season.

IIT MADRAS DEVELOPS CHEAP AND PORTABLE DEVICE TO CHECK MILK ADULTERATION IN 30 SECONDS



- In just 30 seconds, a cost-effective and portable 3D paper-based device developed by researchers at IIT Madras can detect milk adulteration.
- This device is unlike traditional laboratory-based methods and can be used at home with just one millilitre of the liquid sample needed for testing.
- The device is capable of identifying various commonly used adulterating agents, including but not limited to detergents, soap, hydrogen peroxide, urea, starch, salt, and sodium-hydrogen-carbonate.
- Dr. Pallab Sinha Mahapatra, an Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at IIT Madras, along with Research Scholars Mr. Subhashis Patari and Dr. Priyankan Datta, led this research.
- The 3D paper-based microfluidic device comprises a middle layer with a sandwich structure, a top cover, and a bottom cover.
- This 3D design facilitates the consistent transportation of denser liquids at a steady pace.
- To prepare the device, the paper is treated with reagents and allowed to dry.

NAVEEN JINDAL GETS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS



- Naveen Jindal has been awarded a lifetime achievement award by the University of Texas at Dallas for his accomplishments in industry, politics, and education.
- Jindal, who graduated from the University in 1992, received the award in a ceremony.
- This award is the highest recognition given to an alumnus by the University of Texas, Dallas and is presented to those whose contributions have positively impacted society.
- Aziz Sancar, a Nobel Laureate, was the first person to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Texas at Dallas.

- Naveen Jindal, a former Member of Parliament and a graduate of the University of Texas at Dallas, was recognized for his achievements as a student leader and was awarded the Student Leader of the Year Award during his time at the university.
- He later received the Distinguished Alumni award in 2010. In 2011, the university rechristened its School of Management as the Naveen Jindal School of Management in recognition of his enormous success as one of their most distinguished alumni.

BCCI ANNOUNCES HERBALIFE AS OFFICIAL PARTNER FOR TATA IPL 2023



- Herbalife, a leading global nutrition company, has teamed up with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to become an official partner of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) for the 2023 season.
- This partnership brings together two strong brands that share a passion for sports.
- The IPL is a beloved cricket tournament for fans in India and around the world, while Herbalife is known for providing high-quality, science-based nutrition products that help athletes perform at their best.
- The TATA IPL 2023 is set to take place in India from March 31 to May 28, 2023.
- Herbalife is a proud sponsor of over 150 world-class athletes, teams, and events across the globe.
- This includes some of the most well-known names in sports such as Virat Kohli, Mary Kom, Manika Batra, and Lakshya Sen, as well as recent additions to their roster, Smriti Mandhana and Palak Kohli.

KERALA SANGEETHA NATAKA ACADEMY AWARDS DECLARED



- The Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi has announced the fellowships, awards, and Gurupuja Puraskaram of the year 2022. Theatre person Gopinath Kozhikode, music director P.S. Vidyadharan, and Chenda/Edakka artist Kalamandalam Unnikrishnan have been selected for the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi fellowships for their contribution to the respective fields.

INDIA FALLS 6 SPOTS TO RANK 144 IN PASSPORT INDEX 2023



- According to the latest update from the Passport Index, India's Mobility Scores have decreased, resulting in the country experiencing the largest global drop on the Index this year.
- Prior to the pandemic in 2019, India had a mobility score of 71, which increased to 73 in 2022 as the post-pandemic wave of increasing mobility took effect.
- However, as of March 2023, its mobility score has dropped to 70.
- This decline has occurred despite record increases in mobility as the global and national economies re-opened after the pandemic.
- India's ranking has fallen by six places in 2023, resulting in an individual ranking of 144 compared to 138 in 2022.

INDIAN TO MAKE 1000 CITIES 3-STAR GARBAGE FREE BY OCT 2024: HARDEEP PURI



- During the International Zero Waste Day 2023 in New Delhi, Sh. Hardeep S. Puri, The Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, announced that 1000 cities are targeted to achieve a 3-Star Garbage Free rating by October 2024.
- The GFC-Star rating protocol, launched in January 2018 to promote a competitive and mission-driven approach among ULBs, has seen a significant increase in certification since its inception.
- The Minister commended the 'Swachhta Doots' from all over the country, praising them for being agents of change and leaders in their communities, as well as for their ability to turn challenges into opportunities for livelihood.
- Swachhotsav is a government initiative to promote cleanliness and hygiene in India.
- Launched in 2019, it aims to raise awareness about the importance of cleanliness, encourage citizen participation, and recognize those who contribute to the cleanliness drive.
- The initiative involves school children, youth, and technology to make the cleanliness drive more efficient.
- Its goal is to make 1000 cities 3-Star Garbage Free by October 2024 and create a cleaner and healthier India.

HERO MOTOCORP BOARD APPOINTS HARLEY DAVIDSON DEALMAKER NIRANJAN GUPTA AS CEO



- The Board of Hero MotoCorp announced the appointment of Niranjana Gupta as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company, effective from May 1.
- Gupta, who currently serves as the CFO and Head of Strategy and M&A, will be elevated to the new role.
- Meanwhile, Pawan Munjal will remain the Executive Chairman and Whole-time Director on the Board.
- Niranjana Gupta has been instrumental in ensuring the financial stability of Hero MotoCorp amidst a highly competitive and ever-changing business landscape.
- His efforts have also helped the company form crucial partnerships with global brands like Harley Davidson and Zero Motorcycles.
- Gupta brings over 25 years of leadership experience in various sectors such as consumer goods, metals and mining, and automobiles, with expertise in finance, M&A, supply chain, and strategy.
- Apart from his role in Hero MotoCorp, he also serves as a board member for Ather Energy, HMC MM Auto Private Limited, and HMCL Colombia.
- Prior to joining Hero MotoCorp, Gupta spent 20 years at Unilever in various global roles and three years at Vedanta Limited.

SHEIKH MANSOUR APPOINTED AS UAE VICE PRESIDENT



- The UAE President, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has appointed his brother, Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, as the Vice President of the country.
- The appointment was endorsed by the UAE Federal Supreme Council.
- Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the current Vice President, will continue to hold the same position.
- Additionally, Sheikh Mohamed, who is also the Ruler of Abu Dhabi, has designated Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed and Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed as the Deputy Rulers of Abu Dhabi.
- The UAE Federal Supreme Council has given its approval for the appointment of Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who is currently the Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and the Minister of

Presidential Court, as the Vice President of the UAE.

- This appointment will be in addition to the current Vice President, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who also holds the positions of Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.
- After the death of Sheikh Khalifa in May last year, Sheikh Mohamed was elected by the Rulers of the UAE.
- Sheikh Mansour, who has previously held important positions in Abu Dhabi's wealth funds and business, is currently serving as the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court.

TATA POWER RE-APPOINTS PRAVEER SINHA AS CEO AND MD



- Tata Power has re-appointed Praveer Sinha as the company's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director.
- His reappointment to the top post is for a period of four years from May 1, 2023, to April 30, 2027, subject to the approval of members of the company, Tata Power said in a regulatory filing.
- His present tenure as CEO and MD is scheduled to conclude on April 30, 2023.
- Under his leadership, Tata Power is at the forefront of transforming itself from a century-old power utility company into a new-age sustainable, technology-oriented and customer-centric green energy solutions company.
- A PhD from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, Sinha is a visiting Research Associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Boston, USA.

IN A FIRST, PUNJAB AND HARYANA HC TURNS TO CHATGPT FOR VIEW ON BAIL IN MURDER CASE



- The Punjab and Haryana Court recently utilized the assistance of an AI chatbot called ChatGPT to make a decision regarding a bail application in a criminal case, marking the first time an Indian

court has done so.

- The bench, led by Justice Anoop Chitkara, requested feedback from ChatGPT during the hearing of the bail petition filed by an individual who was taken into custody in June 2020 for charges of criminal conspiracy, murder, rioting, and criminal intimidation.
- In a murder case, Justice Anoop Chitkara employed ChatGPT to evaluate the global perspective on bail.
- Justice Anoop Chitkara queried the AI tool ChatGPT with the question, “What is the legal precedent regarding bail in cases where attackers have committed brutal acts?”
- ChatGPT provided a thorough response comprising three paragraphs on the legal principles regarding bail in scenarios where attackers have committed brutal acts.
- Following this, the court rejected the bail application and dismissed the petition.
- The court explicitly stated that any mention of ChatGPT or comments made in relation to it did not constitute an expression of opinion on the case’s merits.

STAR SPORTS SIGNED BOLLYWOOD ACTOR RANVEER SINGH AS ITS BRAND AMBASSADOR.



- Star Sports, which is owned by The Walt Disney Company India, has appointed Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh as its brand ambassador.
- This is a significant step for the brand as it seeks to tap into Singh’s immense popularity and love for sports to reach a wider and more diverse audience that may not have previously engaged deeply with sports.
- Singh will act as the “sutradhaar” or narrator for the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League (IPL), which the company is branding as the “Incredible League”.
- He will also participate in creating content for the IPL, which is scheduled to begin on March 31st.
- In addition to his role as the brand ambassador for Star Sports, Ranveer Singh will also be involved in campaigns for other sporting events that will be broadcast on the network.
- These events include the World Test Championship Final, Premier League, Pro Kabaddi, Asia Cup, and ICC Cricket World Cup.
- Recently, Singh was named the most valuable celebrity for endorsements in 2022, according to a report by Kroll, a corporate investigation and risk consulting firm. This puts him ahead of Indian cricket player Virat Kohli, who held the title in previous years.
- Singh’s brand value has increased to \$181.7 million, while Kohli’s has fallen to \$179.6 million.
- Kohli’s brand value has declined for two years in a row, especially after he resigned from his position as captain of the Indian men’s cricket team.

INDIA'S FIRST QUANTUM COMPUTING-BASED TELECOM NETWORK LINK NOW OPERATIONAL: ASHWINI VAISHNAW



- India's first quantum computing-based telecom network link has been made operational between Sanchar Bhawan and National Informatics Centre office in New Delhi.
- Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced prize money of Rs 10 lakh for ethical hackers who can break the encryption of the system and also launched a hackathon challenge for anyone who can break the system developed by C-DoT, with a reward of Rs 10 lakh per break.
- A quantum computing-based telecom network uses the principles of quantum physics to transmit information, providing a more secure method than traditional networks.
- Quantum communication relies on quantum mechanics properties, making it hard to intercept or hack the communication.
- This technology has the potential to revolutionize the telecom industry by enabling faster, more efficient, and secure communication.

FORMER INDIAN CRICKETER SALIM DURANI PASSES AWAY IN GUJARAT; PRIME MINISTER MODI CONDOLES HIS DEMISE



- Former Indian cricketer, 88-year old Salim Aziz Durani passed away in Jamnagar today morning. He was suffering from illness for a brief period of time.
- The former Indian cricketer featured in 29 Test matches for team India and scored 1,202 runs with an average of 25.04.
- He was an all-rounder and had a unique ability to finish off the game either with the bat or with the ball.
- He was a part of India's successful victory against England in 1961-62. Durani capped off an impressive display by picking up eight wickets against the English.
- In a career that lasted for more than 10 years, Durani not only gave beautiful moments on the cricket field but also on the big screen.
- He made his debut in the Bollywood industry in 'Ek Masoom' which was released in 1969. He was also seen on the big screen alongside Parveen Babi in Charitra movie in 1973.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed deep grief over the demise of Indian Cricketer Salim Durani.
- The Prime Minister said that Salim Durani was a cricketing legend and an institution in himself. He made a key contribution to India's rise in the world of cricket.
- On and off the field, he was known for his style. The Prime Minister said, Cricketer Durani had a very old and strong association with Gujarat. He played for Saurashtra and Gujarat for a few years
- PM Modi said, he had the opportunity to interact with him and was deeply impressed by his multifaceted persona.

10TH EDITION OF ANNUAL INDIAN NAVY - SRI LANKA NAVY BILATERAL MARITIME EXERCISE SLINEX-2023 COMMENCES AT COLOMBO



- The 10th Edition of annual Indian Navy - Sri Lanka Navy bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-2023 commenced at Colombo today.
- The exercise is being conducted in two phases of three days each, the Harbour Phase followed by the Sea Phase. The Indian Naval Ships INS Kiltan and INS Saavitri arrived today to participate in the bilateral exercise.
- In addition, Indian Navy's Chetak helicopter and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft along with Sri Lankan Air Force Dornier and BEL 412 helicopters would also participate.
- Both Indian Naval ships were kept open for visitors during the harbor phase which had a footfall of 500 visitors including school children.
- A Coordinated Indian Navy-Sri Lanka Navy Band Performance in collaboration with Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre was also organized at Dutch Hospital in Colombo.
- The previous edition of SLINEX was conducted in Visakhapatnam from 7th to 12th of March last year.
- Commander of Sri Lanka Navy, Vice Admiral Priyantha Perera, and Deputy High Commissioner of India, Vinod K. Jacob, took part in the opening of SLINEX-2023.
- High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Gopal Baglay is scheduled to host the State Minister of Defence, Premitha Bandara Tennakoon onboard the Indian Naval ships tomorrow.
- SLINEX-2023 will aim to enhance inter-operability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices and procedures in multi-faceted Maritime operations between both Navies.
- The Harbour Phase would include sports fixtures, yoga sessions and cultural events which would provide an opportunity for personnel from both navies to learn from each other, and re-enforce

shared values as well as build bonds of friendship and camaraderie.

MALAYSIA'S PARLIAMENT VOTE TO REMOVE MANDATORY DEATH PENALTY FOR SERIOUS CRIMES



- Malaysia's parliament has voted to remove the country's mandatory death penalty, potentially sparing more than 1,300 prisoners on death row.
- The country has had a moratorium on executions since 2018.
- But the abolition now removes the death penalty as the mandatory sentence for 11 serious crimes, including murder and terrorism.
- Judges have retained discretion to impose capital punishment in exceptional cases.
- Lawmakers said, but for the most serious crimes, the courts will now favour life imprisonment sentences of up to 40 years or corporal punishment such as caning.
- Speaking in parliament on Monday, Malaysia's deputy law minister Ramkarpal Singh said capital punishment has not brought the results it was intended to bring.
- The reform still needs to clear the country's upper house but it is widely expected to pass.
- The new laws will apply retrospectively, allowing those on death row 90 days to seek a review of their sentences. There are currently 1,341 such prisoners in the country.

FORTY FOUR PERCENT WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN NEWLY GRADUATING CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



- The Institute of Chartered Accountants India (ICAI) Dubai Chapter marked its 41st anniversary celebrations with an event themed "Bridging the Gap - Health & Wealth", today in Dubai.
- The event featured expert speakers who discussed innovative approaches to address systemic inequalities that contribute to poor health and financial struggles, while promoting equitable and supportive environments for all.
- The event was graced by Dr. Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, United Arab Emirates, Indian Ambassador to UAE Shri Sunjay Sudhir, and actor Vivek Oberoi.

- In his speech, Ambassador Sunjay Sudhir highlighted the circular nature of the Indian economy and the strides it has achieved since gaining independence, along with the achievements of the current government in uplifting the masses through a dynamic and mission-focused approach.
- He also mentioned India's presidency at the G20 summit, which gives voice to the Global South, and the changing dynamics of the Middle East, including India-UAE relations, the UAE's observer status at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and the establishment of the I2u2 India-UAE MoU on CBDC, and negotiations on the Rupee Dirham trade.
- The newly elected Chairman of ICAI Dubai Chapter, Shri HariKishan Ranawat, highlighted that 44 percent of newly graduating Chartered Accountants are women, showcasing women's empowerment. He also unveiled the chapter's new logo.

NASA ANNOUNCES FOUR-MEMBER TEAM OF ASTRONAUTS FOR FIRST CREWED VOYAGE AROUND MOON IN FIFTY YEARS



- NASA has announced a team of four astronauts who will fly around the Moon next year for a 10-day mission.
- The team was announced during an event in Houston, Texas, that was streamed live yesterday.
- The team has three American and one Canadian astronaut, including a woman and an African American ever assigned as astronauts to a lunar mission.
- Reid Wiseman be the commander while Victor Glover will pilot the mission, Christina Koch and Canada's Jeremy Hansen will serve as mission specialists.
- Ms Koch and Mr Glover will set history as the first woman and first black person, to go to the vicinity of the Moon. Mr Hansen will be the first non-American to fly to the Moon.

MAHAVIR JAYANTI MARKING BIRTH OF JAIN TIRTHANKARA LORD MAHAVIR IS BEING CELEBRATED TODAY



- Mahavir Jayanti is being celebrated across the country today. It is one of the most important religious festivals of the Jain community.
- Also known as Mahavir Janma Kalyanak, the day celebrates the birth of Lord Mahavir, the twen-

ty-fourth and the last Tirthankara of the present Avasarpini.

- President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the people on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti.
- In a tweet, President Murmu heartily congratulated all the countrymen, especially the Jain community, on Mahavir Jayanti. She said Lord Mahavir showed the path to humanity by teaching truth, non-violence and non-violence.
- The President said all countrymen should practice non-violence, take a pledge to have compassion for animals and protect nature.
- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has greeted people on the occasion.
- In his message, Mr Dhankhar said, Bhagwan Mahavir's teachings inspire everyone to lead a life of purity, kindness and righteousness.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi also in a tweet said that today is a special day, when people recall the noble teachings of Bhagwan Mahavir. He added that Mahavir showed the way to build a peaceful, harmonious and prosperous society.
- Mr Modi said he was inspired by him, and exuded confidence that the people always serve others and also bring a positive difference in the lives of the poor and downtrodden.

MADRID SPAIN MASTERS BADMINTON 2023: PV SINDHU LOSES TO GREGORIA MARISKA TUNJUNG IN FINAL



- Gregoria Mariska Tunjung, an Indonesian badminton player, emerged victorious in the Women's singles category at the Madrid Spain Masters 2023 finals.
- She defeated PV Sindhu from India, marking her first BWF World Tour title and her first win over PV Sindhu in eight matches.
- The tournament took place at Centro Deportivo Municipal Gallur in Madrid, Spain from March 28th to April 2nd, 2023, as part of the Spain Masters championship.
- The 2023 Spain Masters was the eighth event of the 2023 BWF World Tour.
- The Madrid Spain Masters 2023 is a globally recognized badminton competition classified as a Super 300 event.
- The prize money for the tournament amounted to USD 210,000, making it a highly lucrative event.
- The Spanish Badminton Federation organized the tournament with the approval and regulation of the Badminton World Federation (BWF).

LADAKH'S WOOD CARVING GETS GI TAG



- Ladakh is known for its pristine glory as a secluded tourist attraction.
- It is, however, not just the location of this place that makes it unique, but also its art, culture, and craftsmanship that confers this place a unique identity.
- Among the arts and crafts of Ladakh, one such sublime art is woodcarving, which has been there for centuries and is passed down to generations as a means of invaluable cultural inheritance.
- It is the importance, uniqueness, and unparalleled craftsmanship of this art that earned it recognition by being the first local art to be granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- AIR correspondent reports, Wood carving, which is known as Shingkos in Ladakh, is a traditional form of art in the handicraft field and is part of the five major fields of knowledge in the traditional education system of Ladakh.
- The traditional knowledge system in Ladakh is classified into ten fields of knowledge, which are further divided into major and minor fields of study.
- The craft of woodcarving is an integral part of the social and religious spheres of life.
- From the architecture of buildings to the enhancement of the aesthetic value of places of worship like monasteries, mosques, and churches to home decor, wood carving holds immense importance in the aesthetics of the region.

VP DHANKHAR TO INAUGURATE SCIENTIFIC CONVENTION ON OCCASION OF WORLD HOMOEOPATHY



- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will inaugurate the scientific convention on the occasion of World Homoeopathy Day tomorrow in New Delhi.
- The Convention is being organised by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- The MoUs will be exchanged between CCRH and various homoeopathic colleges and also between CCRH & Directorate of Homoeopathy, Government of Kerala.

- On this occasion, one documentary, one portal and eight books of CCRH will also be released.
- Union Minister of Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal, and Minister of State for Ayush Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai will grace the occasion.
- The AYUSH Ministry said that several delegates from across the country will attend the convention including homoeopathic researchers, scientists from interdisciplinary streams, practitioners, students, industrialists as well as representatives of various homoeopathic associations.
- It said that during the convention, various sessions on policy aspects, advancement in Homoeopathy, research evidence and clinical experiences in Homoeopathy will be conducted.
- The Ministry said, this flag-off event will be followed by the zonal World Homoeopathy Day events in five locations in India.
- This scientific convention will give insights into a future roadmap to Homoeopathic integration in research, education and integrative care through deliberations of various key stakeholders.

PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU TAKES MAIDEN SORTIE IN SUKHOI-30 AT TEZPUR IN ASSAM



- President Droupadi Murmu took a historic sortie in a Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter aircraft at the Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam.
- The President, who is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces, flew for nearly 30 minutes covering Brahmaputra and Tezpur valley with a view of Himalayas before returning to the Air Force Station.
- The aircraft was flown by Group Captain Naveen Kumar, Commanding Officer of the 106 Squadron.
- The aircraft flew at a height of about two kilometres above sea level and at a speed of about 800 kilometres per hour.
- President Murmu is the third President and second woman President to undertake such a sortie.
- Later in the visitor's book, the President expressed her feelings by writing a brief note in which she said that, it was an exhilarating experience for her to fly in the mighty Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force.
- She said it is a matter of pride that India's defence capabilities have expanded immensely to cover all the frontiers of land, air and sea.
- President congratulated the Indian Air Force and the entire team of Air Force Station Tezpur

for organising this sortie.

- The President was also briefed on the operational capabilities of the aircraft and the Indian Air Force (IAF). She expressed satisfaction with the operational preparedness of the IAF.
- The President's sortie in the Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter aircraft is a part of her efforts to engage with the armed forces, as the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces.

WORLD HEALTH DAY: 7TH APRIL



- Today is World Health Day. The theme this year is Health for All. Every year this day is organised on 7th April to coincide with the setting up of the World Health Organisation, WHO in 1948.
- This year the world health body is observing its 75th anniversary.
- In a message, the World Health Organization said the idea is to make the global community aware of the strides in public health that have helped improve the quality of life over the past 7 decades.
- It is also a call for action to tackle health challenges.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the government will continue working to augment health infrastructure and ensure quality healthcare to the people.
- The Prime Minister made these remarks on 'World Health day', which is being observed around the world today.
- In a tweet, Mr Modi said that country expressed gratitude to all those who work to make the planet healthier.
- April 7th is marked as World Health Day, to commemorate the foundation of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948.
- The theme for World Health Day 2023 is 'Health For All'.

INS VIKRANT RECEIVES HISTORIC BELL OF FIRST WARSHIP FROM FORMER NAVY VICE CHIEF



- The INS Vikrant, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, was presented with a special gift in the form of its original bell from the first carrier of the same name commissioned in 1961.
- The bell was given by Vice Admiral SN Ghormade, who recently retired as the Vice Chief of Navy Staff, to the commanding officer of INS Vikrant on March 22.
- The INS Vikrant is expected to exhibit the original bell at the carrier to motivate current and future officers and sailors about the warship's significant history.
- In 1961, the bell was installed on the first INS Vikrant carrier after India acquired a British aircraft carrier, HMS Hercules, and renamed it.
- The original bell was then transferred from the decommissioned carrier, INS Vikrant, to the designated residence of Indian Navy Vice Chief located at Motilal Nehru Marg.
- According to Navy officials, bells have traditionally played an important role on warships as they help indicate time to sailors and officers during different duties and emergencies.
- The previous vice chief decided to return the original bell to INS Vikrant as it would serve a better purpose there, inspiring future sailors and officers about the rich history of the Indian Navy.

BHARAT BIOTECH WINS AWARD AT WORLD VACCINE CONGRESS



- At the World Vaccine Congress 2023 held in Washington, USA from April 3-6, Bharat Biotech was awarded the Best Production/Process Development award as a part of the Vaccine Industry Excellence (ViE) awards.
- Bharat Biotech, headquartered in Hyderabad, was the sole Indian company among the nominees for the ViE awards in multiple categories such as the best clinical trial company, best clinical trial network, best central/specialty laboratory, best contract research organization, and best production/process development, among others.
- Bharat Biotech is known for developing the world's first intranasal Covid-19 vaccine, iNcovacc, and its intramuscular vaccine, Covaxin, which is used in India's public vaccination programme and has also been exported.
- The World Vaccine Congress is a major international conference focused on vaccines, covering the entire vaccine value chain from basic research to commercial manufacturing.
- It brings together experts from all over the world to share their knowledge and expertise in vaccine development.
- The conference has been particularly important in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and has been a platform for sharing groundbreaking discoveries and insights.

PM NARENDRA MODI TO FLAG OFF RAJASTHAN'S 1ST VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS TRAIN TOMORROW



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off Rajasthan's first Vande Bharat Express train tomorrow morning via video conferencing.
- The inaugural train will run between Jaipur and Delhi Cantt railway station.
- The regular service of the train will start on 13th April between Ajmer and Delhi Cantt., with stops at Jaipur, Alwar and Gurgaon.
- The new Vande Bharat Express will cover the distance between Delhi Cantt and Ajmer in 5 hours 15 minutes.
- The fastest train in the same route, Shatabdi Express, takes 6 hours 15 minutes from Delhi Cantt. to Ajmer.
- Thus, the new Vande Bharat Express will be faster by 60 minutes as compared to the present fastest train running on the same route.

196TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF JYOTIRAO GOVINDRAO PHULE.



- Jyotirao Phule Jayanti is an annual observance in India, celebrated on April 11th every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Jyotirao Phule.
- Jyotirao Phule was a prominent social reformer, philosopher, and writer who played a crucial role in women's education and the upliftment of the oppressed castes in India during the British rule.
- He was born on April 11, 1827, in Maharashtra, and his contributions to the Indian society and culture are celebrated on this day.
- Jyotirao Phule founded the Satyashodhak Samaj, which advocated for the education of women and the lower castes and fought against the oppressive caste system prevalent in India.
- On Jyotirao Phule Jayanti, various events and programs are organized across India to celebrate his life and achievements, including seminars, cultural programs, and speeches on his life and legacy.

- Satyashodhak Samaj is a social reform movement that was founded by Mahatma Jyotirao Phule in 1873.
- The name of the movement translates to “Society of Seekers of Truth.”
- The Satyashodhak Samaj aimed to fight against casteism and other oppressive social practices prevalent in Indian society at the time.
- The movement also sought to promote education and equal rights for women and other marginalized communities.

WORLD CHESS ARMAGEDDON ASIA AND OCEANIA: INDIAN GRANDMASTER D GUKESH SEALS TITLE IN BERLIN



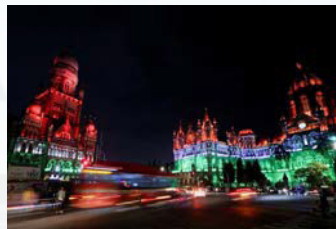
- In the World Chess Armageddon Asia & Oceania event, Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh, who is a teenager, pulled off a major upset by defeating former world rapid champion Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in the final.
- Gukesh emerged as the winner in a thrilling summit clash that was full of ups and downs.
- The first game of the match ended in a draw after Gukesh employed a perpetual check strategy.
- However, he managed to win the following game, securing the championship.
- Both Gukesh and Abdusattorov have qualified for Armageddon’s Grand Finale in September.
- The 16-year-old Indian won in a field that included former world classical champion Vladimir Kramnik, Daniil Dubov, Yangyi Yu (China), Vidit Gujrathi and Karthikeyan Murali (both India) and Param Maghsoodloo (Iran), apart from Abdusattorov.
- An Armageddon game is a variant of blitz chess to determine a winner after a series of a drawn games.
- A drawn game in Armageddon is counted as a win for Black.

DAVID WARNER BECAME THE FASTEST TO SCORE 6000 RUNS IN IPL.



- During a match against Rajasthan Royals at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati, Delhi Capitals' captain David Warner became the fastest batsman to reach 6000 runs in the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- He is now the third player to achieve this feat after Virat Kohli from Royal Challengers Bangalore and Shikhar Dhawan, captain of Punjab Kings.
- It took Warner 165 innings to reach this milestone, while Kohli and Dhawan achieved it in 188 and 199 innings respectively.
- David Warner, who has been the recipient of the Orange Cap three times in IPL 2015, 2017 and 2019, reached the milestone of 6000 runs with a boundary during a match against Rajasthan Royals at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati.
- He achieved this feat by pulling a short ball from Trent Boult behind square for four. Warner completed his half-century off 44 balls with a four off Ravichandran Ashwin.
- This was Warner's 57th fifty in the IPL, and he has also scored four centuries in the tournament.

MUMBAI ENTERS LIST OF BEST CITIES FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT



- Berlin in Germany has been named the city with the most exceptional public transport system globally, according to a survey conducted by Time Out, a London-based media outlet that specializes in the hospitality industry and identifies itself as a global brand committed to urban life.
- Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, came in second place.
- Mumbai, the top-ranked Indian city, secured the 19th spot in the rankings.
- Meanwhile, Mumbai boasts a grand suburban railway network that is a boon for the metropolitan region with a population of about 12.5 million.
- "81 percent of locals say it's easy to cross Mumbai by public transport, and the system certainly keeps the metropolis moving, with millions using the city's buses, rickshaws, metro and taxis on a daily basis.
- A survey conducted by Time Out, which polled 20,000 respondents across 50 cities worldwide to measure public opinion on their local transportation systems, revealed that Berlin has the most dependable, secure, and comfortable public transport network, with 97% of its residents commending the system.
- Among the top 10 cities ranked in the survey, five were in Asia, with Tokyo topping the list at number three.

- Berlin's U-Bahn, which includes nine easily accessible lines and a total of 175 stations, received particular praise from respondents for its efficiency.

ELECTION COMMISSION GRANTS NATIONAL PARTY STATUS TO AAP; WITHDRAWS NATIONAL TAG OF TRINAMOOL CONGRESS, CPI, NCP



- In a significant development, the Election Commission has granted national party status to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).
- The party's recognition as a national party is based on its electoral performance in four states- Delhi, Goa, Punjab, and Gujarat.
- With this recognition, the AAP joins the list of national parties in India such as the Bharatiya Janata Party, Congress, Bahujan Samaj Party, and Communist Party of India (Marxist).
- The recognition also means that the party can contest elections in all states and union territories of India.
- On the other hand, the national party status of the All India Trinamool Congress, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), and Communist Party of India (CPI) has been withdrawn by the Election Commission.
- Additionally, the state party status of RLD in Uttar Pradesh, BRS in Andhra Pradesh, PDA in Manipur, PMK in Puducherry, RSP in West Bengal, and MPC in Mizoram has been revoked.

MAHARASHTRA: SAVARKAR'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY TO BE CELEBRATED AS 'SWATANTRYA VEER GAURAV DIN'.



- The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Eknath Shinde, has declared that May 28, the birth anniversary of freedom fighter Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, will be celebrated as 'Swatantrya Veer Gaurav Din', and several events will be organized to promote the ideas of Swatantra Veer Savarkar on this day.
- The state government will commemorate the occasion by conducting various programs to spread the message of Swatantra Veer Savarkar.

- The announcement was made by the Chief Minister, who stated that the state will celebrate the birth anniversary of Swatantrya Veer Savarkar as 'Swatantrya Veer Gaurav Din' and conduct a range of events to promote his ideology.
- "Swatantra Veer Savarkar has made a great contribution for the country's independence and national development. Industries Minister Uday Samant had demanded to celebrate 'Swatantryaveer Gaurav Din' to salute his patriotism, courage and progressive thoughts.
- Veer Savarkar, also known as Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, was an Indian independence activist, writer, and politician who played a significant role in the Indian freedom struggle.
- He was born on May 28, 1883, in Bhagur, a village in the Nashik district of Maharashtra.
- He founded the concept of Hindutva, which sought to create a Hindu nationalist identity for India

GREEK-INDIAN AIR FORCES TO CONDUCT MASSIVE JOINT EXERCISE OVER MEDITERRANEAN SEA



- The Greek and Indian Air Forces will collaborate on a joint training exercise with Su-30, F-16, and Rafale fighter jets for ten days over Greece and the Mediterranean Sea.
- The exercise will be conducted as part of the annual Greek exercise Iniochos 23, led by the Greek Air Force and the Greek Air Tactics Center of the Ministry of Defense.
- The training is scheduled to begin on April 18th and will conclude on April 28th.
- The defense cooperation between India and Greece is strengthening, as both countries aim to improve their joint operational capability.
- As a part of the annual Greek exercise Iniochos 23, the Indian Air Force will dispatch five Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets to participate in the training exercises.
- These fighter jets will perform complex missions alongside the air forces of Greece and the Mediterranean, with the aim of enhancing their operational skills.
- During the joint training exercise between the Indian and Greek Air Forces, Greece will utilize its F-16 and Rafale fighter jets, which are the core of its Air Force, to provide support to the land and sea forces that will be participating in the exercise.
- Iniochos 23 is an annual Greek study.
- It includes live flying. During these flights, the participating aircraft go through the full range of missions in complex operational and congested environments.

IIT-KANPUR PARTNERS WITH DEFENSE PSU TO FOCUS ON INNOVATION.



- The Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) at IIT Kanpur has entered into a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) agreement with Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited.
- Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited is one of the seven new Defence Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) that were created by converting the Ordnance Factory Board into fully government-owned enterprises.
- The agreement was signed in the presence of dignitaries from IIT Kanpur, SIIC, and Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AW&EIL) at the Ordnance Factory Kanpur.
- The SIIC and AW&EIL have joined hands with the aim of providing financial assistance to the startup ecosystem and supporting the incubation of new technology and innovation-based startups at IIT Kanpur, in line with the CSR Policy of AW&EIL.
- The expected result of this partnership is the overall advancement and growth of the country, as the startups that emerge from this collaboration are expected to make a significant contribution to the economy and society as a whole.

INDIA'S OLDEST BILLIONAIRE KESHUB MAHINDRA PASSES AWAY AT 99.



- Keshub Mahindra, the Chairman Emeritus of Mahindra & Mahindra and India's oldest billionaire, passed away at the age of 99.
- He had a net worth of \$1.2 billion as per Forbes.
- He retired as the Chairman of Mahindra Group on August 9, 2012, and passed on his responsibilities to his nephew, Anand Mahindra.
- Under his 48-year long tenure as Chairman, the Mahindra Group diversified from being solely an automobile manufacturer to expanding into other sectors such as IT, real estate, financial services, and hospitality.
- Keshub Mahindra played a crucial role in establishing strategic partnerships with global giants like Willys Corporation, Mitsubishi, International Harvester, United Technologies, British Telecom, among others.

HIMACHAL PRADESH LAUNCHED SANJEEVANI PROJECT



- The economy of Himachal Pradesh is predominantly reliant on agriculture and animal husbandry.
- The rural households in the state consider livestock care as a crucial aspect, given the livestock population of approximately 4.41 million.
- The state government has initiated a project named Sanjeevani to uplift the livelihood of small dairy farmers and livestock owners.
- The project aims to enhance the lives of farmers by providing them with convenient and high-quality livestock care services at their doorstep, utilizing telemedicine and technology.
- This will aid in reducing the turnaround time for services and potentially prevent outbreaks.
- The Animal Husbandry Department of Himachal Pradesh has collaborated with Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd. (BFIL), a subsidiary of IndusInd Bank, for the National Animal Disease Control Programme-Mobile Veterinary Van (NADCP-AHD-MVU) project.
- The collaboration aims to provide doorstep livestock care through a toll-free telephone number that will be operational soon.
- The project intends to ensure the timely delivery of quality treatment to livestock, saving farmers the additional expenses of traveling for availing veterinary services like artificial insemination, medicines, vaccination, surgery, and infertility testing.

FOOD CONCLAVE-2023 IN HYDERABAD



- The Telangana government has scheduled the Food Conclave-2023 on April 28 and 29, which is a yearly gathering of 100 experts in the agri-food industry to discuss and exchange ideas.
- The main aim of the event is to recognize the primary obstacles and prospects for the Indian agri-food sector's expansion in the current decade.
- The event will encompass five theme-based sessions that will delve into different facets of the agri-food industry.

- The focal points will revolve around agriculture (green), edible oils (yellow), dairy (white), meat and poultry (pink), and aquaculture (blue).
- The Telangana government is partnering with various organizations to orchestrate this event.
- These organizations include the World Economic Forum-India, Indian Vegetable Oil Producers Association,
- Indian Dairy Association, Heifer International, and Society of Aquaculture Professionals.

EAMS JAISHANKAR LAUNCHES 'TULSI GHAT RESTORATION PROJECT' IN UGANDA.



- During his three-day visit to Uganda's Kampala, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar launched the 'Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project' in Varanasi.
- He commended the Overseas Friends of BJP-Uganda for their efforts to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the oldest inhabited city in the world.
- Uganda has been selected to chair the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) for the period of 2022 to 2025 on behalf of Africa.
- The chairmanship of the movement rotates every three years during summit conferences and is assisted by both the previous and incoming chairs, representing the movement's past, present, and future.
- During his visit to Uganda, S. Jaishankar will hold delegation-level discussions with his Ugandan counterpart to explore opportunities for strengthening bilateral relations between the two nations.
- Additionally, he is expected to meet with other Ministers and call on the country's leadership.
- Jaishankar will be in Mozambique from April 13 to 15.
- "This will be the first visit by an Indian External Affairs Minister to the Republic of Mozambique," according to the MEA announcement.
- During his visit, he will meet with Mozambique's top officials and co-chair the Joint Commission Meeting's 5th Session alongside Mozambican Foreign Minister Veronica Macamo.
- The EAM is anticipated to meet with numerous other Ministers and Assembly representatives from Mozambique.

INDIA RANKS 5TH IN COUNTRIES WITH MOST AI INVESTMENT.



- Stanford University's AI Index report states that India is ranked fifth in terms of investments received by startups offering AI-based products and services in 2022.
- AI startups in India received a total investment of \$3.24 billion, surpassing countries such as South Korea, Germany, Canada, and Australia.
- However, India is still behind the US, China, the UK, and Israel in terms of AI investments received.
- According to the same report, AI startups in India received a cumulative funding of \$7.73 billion from 2013 to 2022, which places it sixth among the countries with the highest AI investments during that period.
- However, nearly 40% of this funding was received in the year 2022 alone.
- The AI Index report by Stanford University revealed that 54% of the researchers working on Large Language Models (LLMs) are from American institutions.
- Nonetheless, for the first time, researchers from Canada, Germany, and India contributed to the development of LLMs last year.

JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE 104TH ANNIVERSARY.



- April 13, 1919, the Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place in Amritsar, Punjab, which is remembered as a tragic event and a symbol of the atrocities committed against the Indian people during the British colonial era.
- The massacre played a significant role in India's fight for independence, as it increased the nation's determination to achieve self-rule and break free from British subjugation.
- Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Day 2023 marks 104 years since the tragic incident that is seen as a turning point in Indian History.
- It was this that led to Gandhi's full commitment to the cause of Indian nationalism and independence from Britain.

- The British military officer, General Dyer, on April 13, 1919 entered the Jallianwala Bagh (Amritsar) with his troops, where people had gathered to peacefully protest against the arrest of the two nationalist leaders, Satya Pal and Dr Saifuddin Kitchlew. Without so much as a warning to the people to disperse, he ordered his troops to fire at the unarmed crowd.
- The onslaught lasted ten minutes till their ammunition was exhausted, after which the British soldiers left.
- A total of 1,650 rounds were fired, and more than 500 people were killed and murdered. The exact number of casualties remains unknown

SOLAR ENERGY CORPORATION OF INDIA GETS 'MINIRATNA CATEGORY-I' STATUS



- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has granted Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) status to the state-owned Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI), according to a statement. SECI, which was established in 2011, is the primary implementing agency for renewable energy schemes/projects of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy aimed at fulfilling India's international commitments.
- SECI has played a Central role in the rapid increase of RE generation capacity in the country and has contributed towards the nation's climate commitments, carbon emission reduction strategies and sustainable energy transition.
- SECI has awarded more than 56 GW of Renewable Energy (RE) project capacities to date.
- It also plays an active role in establishing projects through its own investments and as a Project Management Consultant (PMC) for other public sector entities.
- SECI has received a top credit rating of AAA from the domestic rating agency ICRA.

INDIA'S FIRST SEMI-HIGH SPEED REGIONAL RAIL SERVICE NAMED 'RAPIDX'.



- The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has named India's first semi-high-speed regional rail services as 'RAPIDX'.
- These trains will operate on the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors, which are being constructed to link important urban nodes across the National Capital Region (NCR).
- The name 'RAPIDX' has been selected because it is simple to read and pronounce in different languages.
- The brand's logo features a green leaf symbol that represents the brand's objective of decarbonization. The brand intends to reduce the number of vehicles on the road, thereby decongesting the National Capital Region (NCR).
- Furthermore, the brand aims to incorporate green energy into its operations by installing solar panels at stations and depots and gradually increasing the use of blended power in traction.
- The NCRTC is a joint venture company between the Union government and the states of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- According to the NCRTC, 'RAPIDX' will connect the people who choose to live in their hometowns in NCR, with the national capital through a modern, sustainable, convenient, fast, safe, and comfortable means of travel.

INDIA'S FIRST 3D-PRINTED POST OFFICE TO COME UP IN BENGALURU.



- According to recent news reports, a 3D-printed post office is being built in Bengaluru, India, which will be the first of its kind in the country.
- Residents of Cambridge Layout are reportedly pleased with this development.
- The cost of constructing this post office is estimated to be 30 to 40 percent lower than that of a traditional building, and it is expected to be completed within 30 days.
- The 1100 square feet post office will cost around Rs 23 lakh to construct.
- The use of 3D printing technology can significantly reduce construction costs and expedite the building process, which would otherwise take several months.
- The proposed three-storied post office in Bengaluru has received clearance from the Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and IIT-Madras for its 3D printing. This will be India's first 3D-printed post office building.

CHINA RECORDS WORLD'S FIRST HUMAN DEATH FROM H3N8 BIRD FLU.



- The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that a woman from Guangdong, a southern province of China, has died from a rare strain of bird flu that is not commonly found in humans.
- Although three people have been confirmed to have been infected with the H3N8 subtype of avian influenza, this strain does not seem to transmit from person to person. The deceased woman was 56 years old.
- H3N8 is a subtype of the influenza A virus.
- It primarily affects birds, particularly wild waterfowl and shorebirds.
- It is not commonly found in humans, but rare cases of human infections have been reported.
- Symptoms in humans are similar to other types of flu, including fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, and fatigue.
- Human infections are usually linked to exposure to infected birds or contaminated environments.
- There is no evidence of human-to-human transmission of H3N8 bird flu.
- Genetic mutations could potentially increase the virus's transmissibility or virulence.

UP'S SUHELWA SANCTUARY RECORDS FIRST PHOTOGRAPHIC PROOF OF TIGERS



- According to a recent census report on tigers in the country, Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary has been identified as a new area where photographic evidence of tigers has been captured for the first time.
- The sanctuary was established in 1988 and is located in Shravasti, Balrampur, and Gonda districts of Uttar Pradesh. It spans across 452 sq km and is positioned on the border of India and Nepal.
- It is renowned for its natural resources and named after King Soheldev, with the Shivalik ranges of the Himalayas located nearby.

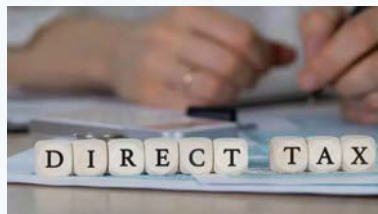
- Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary is a significant area within the Bhabar-Terai ecosystem region, which is renowned for its diverse range of flora and fauna.

NEPAL BECOMES FOUNDING MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL BIG CATS ALLIANCE.



- Nepal has become a founding member of the International Big Cats Alliance.
- During the launch of the alliance under India's initiative, Minister for Energy Shakti Bahadur Basnet handed over the letter mentioning Nepal will be associated with the alliance as a founding member to Indian Minister for Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the alliance aimed at the conservation of seven big cats namely tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma.
- India has assured support over five years with guaranteed funding of \$100 million for the alliance.
- The tiger population in Nepal reached 335 in 2022 from 121 in 2010 as a result of the government working in partnership with local communities, security agencies and conservation partners.
- Nepal successfully achieved its goal of doubling the tiger population by 2022 as per its commitment made during the first tiger summit in 2010 in St Petersburg.

NET DIRECT TAX COLLECTIONS AT RS 16.6 LAKH CRORE IN 2022-23, UP 160% FROM 2013-14.



- The Finance Ministry has released time series data indicating a significant increase in net direct tax collections, which rose by 160% to reach Rs 16,61,428 crore in 2022-23 from Rs 6,38,596 crore in 2013-14.
- Gross direct tax collections also saw a massive increase of 173% to Rs 19,68,780 crore in 2022-23 from Rs 7,21,604 crore in 2013-14.
- According to the same time series data released by the Finance Ministry, the Gross Direct Tax Collections have shown a significant increase of 172.83% in the fiscal year 2022-23, reaching

a provisional figure of Rs 19,68,780 crore from the Gross Direct Tax Collections of Rs 7,21,604 crore in the fiscal year 2013-14.

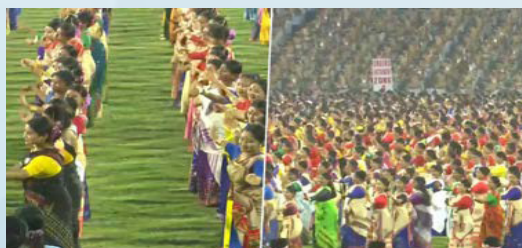
- This highlights a substantial increase in tax revenue over the years, indicating a positive trend for the economy.

MRF EMERGES AS ‘SECOND STRONGEST TYRE BRAND IN THE WORLD’.



- According to a recent report by Brand Finance, a U.K.-based brand valuation consultancy, MRF Ltd. has been ranked as the second-strongest tyre brand in the world.
- The report evaluated various parameters, and MRF scored high on most of them, including being the second fastest-growing tyre brand globally.
- With a score of 83.2 out of 100, MRF received a AAA- brand rating.
- The report also mentioned MRF as the most valuable Indian tyre brand and the only Indian tyre manufacturer in the top 10.
- Furthermore, MRF performed well in the Sustainability Perception Value category
- The 2023 report by Brand Finance assesses the value of brands in the automobile, auto component, tyre, and mobility industries.
- The report evaluates the net economic benefit that a brand owner would receive by licensing it in the open market as brand value.
- The report evaluates a brand's strength by considering various factors, including marketing investment, stakeholder equity, and business performance.
- This scorecard is then used to determine the proportion of a business's revenue that is contributed by the brand.

BIHU PERFORMANCE IN GUWAHATI CREATES GUINNESS WORLD RECORD



- Assam made a historic achievement by entering the Guinness Book of World Records with over 11,000 dancers and drummers performing the traditional 'Bihu' dance and playing the 'dhol' at a single venue.
- The performers, comprising both dancers and drummers, participated in the event at Sarusajai Stadium in Guwahati as part of the State Government's initiative to set a new world record in the Guinness Book
- More than 11,000 dancers and drummers performed the traditional Bihu dance, accompanied by various traditional musical instruments, including Taal, Dhol, Gogona, Pepa, Toka, and Xutuli, to mark Assam's entry into the Guinness Book of World Records.
- To ensure that the best performers were selected for the event, training sessions were conducted throughout the state.
- The main objective of the event was to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Assam to the world.
- As a reward for their participation, all performers, including master trainers and dancers, will receive a grant of INR 25,000.

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY'S JUICE MISSION LAUNCHES TO SEARCH FOR LIFE ON JUPITER'S MOONS.



- The European Space Agency (ESA) launched the Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer mission (Juice) on Friday, 14 April, at 8:14 a.m. ET using an Ariane 5 rocket from Europe's spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.
- Juice aims to explore Jupiter and three of its largest moons. Following a successful separation from the Ariane 5 rocket, the ESA received a signal from Juice about an hour after launch, confirming that communication between the vehicle and Earth-based mission control is established.
- Juice will spend the next 17 days deploying its solar arrays, antennas, and other instruments before conducting three months of instrument testing and preparation.
- The spacecraft's ultimate destination is Jupiter, and it will take eight years for Juice to reach the planet, which is the largest in our solar system.
- During its long journey, the spacecraft will use gravitational slingshots by flying past Earth, our moon, and Venus to help propel it forward.

S JAISHANKAR INAUGURATES BUZI BRIDGE IN MOZAMBIQUE.



- Dr Jaishankar inaugurated the Buzi Bridge virtually, which is a part of the 132 km Tica-Buzi-Nova-Sofala Road project. The bridge has been constructed by India and is a symbol of the solidarity and friendship between India and Mozambique.
- According to the Indian High Commission in Mozambique, the bridge will make a difference to the lives of many people in Mozambique.
- The Buzi Bridge is an essential project that demonstrates India's commitment to the development of Mozambique's infrastructure.
- India has been a reliable partner in Mozambique's growth journey, and this bridge is another instance of India's contribution to the country's progress.
- During his visit to Mozambique, Dr Jaishankar, along with Mr Magala, took a ride on a train made in India from Maputo to Machava, accompanied by CMD of Rail India Technical and Economic Service RITES Rahul Mithal.
- This journey highlights the significance of India's contribution to the development of Mozambique's rail infrastructure. Dr Jaishankar also met with President of Assembly Esperança Bias and discussed the historic cooperation between India and Mozambique, with a focus on counter-terrorism and disaster resilience.

WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY 2023 OBSERVED ON 17TH APRIL.



- World Hemophilia Day is celebrated every year on April 17th to honor the birth anniversary of Frank Schnabel, who established the World Federation of Hemophilia.
- The purpose of this day is to raise awareness and provide information about hemophilia and other bleeding disorders.
- Hemophilia is a rare medical condition where the blood fails to clot correctly due to the lack of specific clotting factors.
- This leads to prolonged bleeding, which can be hazardous and life-threatening in some situations.
- The theme for World Hemophilia Day in 2023 is "Access for All: Partnership, Policy, Progress –

Engaging Governments to Integrate Inherited Bleeding Disorders into National Policy”.

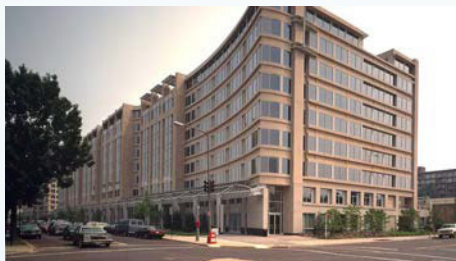
- This theme highlights the importance of partnership and collaboration between various stakeholders, including governments, in ensuring access to appropriate care and treatment for individuals with hemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders.
- The theme also emphasizes the need to integrate these conditions into national policies to improve diagnosis, treatment, and management of these disorders.

DRDO INDUSTRY ACADEMIA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE INAUGURATED AT IIT HYDERABAD.



- The inauguration of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Industry Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) took place at the Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad, making it the largest facility of its kind in the country.
- DRDO Chairman, Dr Samir V Kamat, inaugurated the facility at the IIT-Hyderabad campus in Telangana, and stated that the centre will take on futuristic projects for long-term research needed by DRDO.
- He also highlighted that the DIA-CoE IITH is the largest among all 15 CoEs in the country, and the DRDO team will collaborate with IIT-H to identify target projects in each domain and execute them within a period of 3-5 years.
- Three years ago, DRDO and IITH started a research cell that has now been converted into a Centre of Excellence. This CoE will focus on seven technology projects and will operate at DIA-CoE located at IITH.
- Professor B S Murty, the director of IITH, stated that the establishment of this center is a significant move towards achieving self-reliance in the defense sector, which is a crucial aspect of Atmabibhar Bharat.

IIT-I COLLABORATES WITH NASA TO DEVELOP LOW COST CAMERA SETU.



- IIT Indore, in partnership with NASA-Caltech and the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, has designed an inexpensive camera setup that can capture multispectral images of four chemical species in a flame using a single DSLR camera.
- Previously, capturing such images required a complicated system with four cameras, but this new setup can simultaneously capture multiple spectral three-dimensional images of four chemical species in a flame using only one DSLR camera.
- After almost three years of research, a team of five researchers collaborated with the University of Gothenburg in Sweden and NASA-Caltech in the USA to create the 'CL-Flam', a low-cost DSLR camera device.
- The device was developed at a cost of approximately Rs 50,000.
- Deshmukh has explained that through the analysis of images obtained by the device, it is possible to study the elements that are released during the combustion of fuel in industrial burners and engines.
- This includes engines in various vehicles ranging from ordinary automobiles to airplanes and spacecraft.
- By studying these elements, improvements can be made in engines and burners to ensure optimal and eco-friendly use of fuels during combustion.
- As a result, the efficiency of engines and burners can be increased, which would lead to a decrease in the consumption of petroleum fuels and a reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide.

INDIA OPENS ITS 16TH VISA APPLICATION CENTER IN KUSHTIA.



- The 16th Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) in Bangladesh was inaugurated by High Commissioner Pranya Verma in Kushtia town.
- The opening ceremony was attended by Mahbubul Alam Hanif, a Member of Parliament from Kushtia-3.
- The IVAC is expected to provide more convenience and accessibility to the residents of Kushtia and nearby areas who need to apply for visas to travel to India.
- According to a press release by the High Commission of India in Bangladesh, the newly inaugurated IVAC center is expected to enhance tourism, trade, and people-to-people exchanges between India and Bangladesh.
- The center is aimed at promoting a peaceful and prosperous region where individuals can trav-

el, work together, and exchange ideas with ease and convenience.

- The Indian High Commission in Bangladesh operates the biggest visa operation centre in the world.
- A large number of foreign visitors to India, including those applying for medical, tourist, business, and student visas, come from Bangladesh. In the fiscal year 2019-20, more than 1.6 million visas were issued in Dhaka.

SYRIA BECOMES WORLD'S LARGEST 'NARCO-STATE': REPORT.



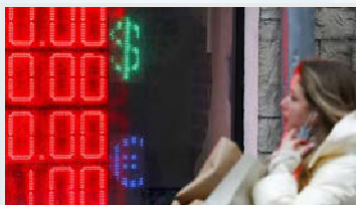
- According to reports, Syria has now become the world's largest narco-state, with the majority of its foreign currency earnings coming from the production and export of Captagon, a highly addictive amphetamine commonly referred to as "poor man's coke".
- In line with the definition provided by Collins Dictionary, Syria can be classified as a narco-state as the illegal trade of narcotics, specifically Captagon, forms a significant portion of its economy, accounting for over 90 percent of the country's foreign currency earnings
- The rapid growth in the production and use of illicit drugs, particularly Captagon, has raised concerns globally.
- In response, the US enacted the Captagon Act last year, which links the trade of the drug to the Assad regime in Syria and labels it a "transnational security threat."
- Captagon is a popular recreational drug among the youth in Gulf states, as well as being used by armed individuals who feel invincible while under its influence
- It is sometimes referred to as "Captain Courage" or "Jihadi magic potion"
- Additionally, Captagon is used by dieters, students studying for exams, and people who work double shifts, at night, or have multiple jobs to make ends meet
- The cost of manufacturing Captagon is as low as USD 1 per pill
- However, the need to pay bribes to smugglers, soldiers, secret police, warlords, and customs officials to pass various routes and checkpoints increases the price of the drug
- The price can go up to USD 14-20 per pill due to these additional costs

ARUNACHAL PRADESH CM INAUGURATES SHAR NYIMA TSHO SUM NAMYIG LHAKHANG.



- The Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Pema Khandu, inaugurated the newly renovated Shar Nyima Tsho Sum Namyig Lhakhang (Gonpa) at Gyangkhar, his native village in Tawang district.
- The Gonpa has great historical significance for the
- well-being of humans, particularly for the people of Shar Nyima Tsho Sum and all Buddhists in general.
- The 11-12th century Gonpa was on the verge of collapse, but it has now been renovated, and all the necessary rituals and blessings have been performed to restore it to its former glory.
- During a special public function for Buddhist followers held at Gyangkhar village after the inauguration, the Chief Minister felicitated top-ranked monks and dignitaries.
- The sacred site has been refurbished with a new structure and all the necessary items, and religious rituals and
- blessings have been performed for the benefit and improvement of all living beings.
- The temple has a significant historical and spiritual importance for the people of Shar Nyima Tsho Sum and all Buddhists in general.
- The temple was built in the 11th-12th century and was recently renovated and restored to its present form.

CBIC LIKELY TO INTRODUCE NEW SYSTEM OF PUBLISHING DAILY CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES



- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) is reportedly set to replace the existing fortnightly notification system for currency exchange rates with a daily publishing system on the integrated customs portal.
- The move is expected to capture daily fluctuations in exchange rates, enabling importers and exporters to calculate customs duties with greater precision.
- The current system requires the CBIC to manually notify exchange rates of 22 currencies every

fortnight, based on rates from the State Bank of India.

- The exchange rate data will now be automatically forwarded by SBI to ICEGATE, adjusted to the nearest five paise, and integrated with the Indian Customs EDI System before being published on the ICEGATE portal by 6:00 pm each day.
- This new daily publishing system is expected to provide greater accuracy, time efficiency, and a contingency plan in case of technical snags.

UAE INDIA'S SECOND LARGEST EXPORT DESTINATION AND THIRD LARGEST SOURCE OF IMPORTS.



- According to recent figures released by the Indian Ministry of Commerce, the UAE remains the second most significant export destination for India.
- The US and UAE held onto their first and second positions, respectively, during the financial year 2022-23.
- The ministry's figures, released two weeks into the new fiscal year, indicate a six percent increase in India's overall exports of goods and services during the financial year that concluded last month.
- The US and the UAE retained their first and second positions as India's top export destinations
- India's total exports of goods and services grew by six percent during this period
- The Netherlands replaced China to secure the third spot in India's overall export ranking due to higher imports of refined petroleum products via the maritime nation
- Among the GCC countries, only Saudi Arabia made it to the list of India's top export destinations and import sources, ranking eighth and fifth, respectively

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- The recipient of the award will receive a citation and a cash prize of ₹2 lakh at a ceremony to be held in Chennai, the date of which will be announced by the Trust soon.
- In 2022, the award was presented to the Indian economist, Prabhat Patnaik.
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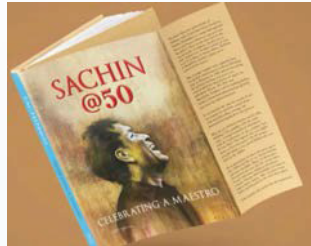
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UNION MINISTER DR. JITENDRA SINGH LAUNCHES 'YUVA PORTAL'



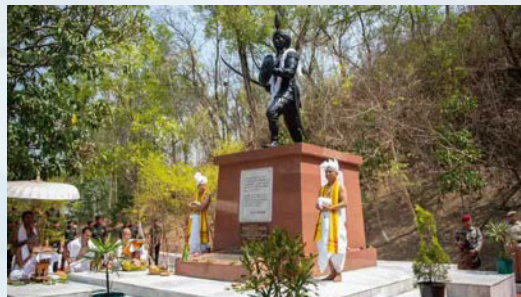
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- He highlighted India's global excellence in technology, innovation, and Start-Ups, stating that each of the 37 CSIR Labs is dedicated to a unique area of work.
- The One Week – One Lab programme will provide an opportunity for these labs to showcase their work and enable others to benefit from it.

2023 LOCKED SHIELDS CYBER-DEFENSE EXERCISE HELD IN TALLINN BY NATO



- Over 3000 participants from 38 countries – including, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Allies and partners – participated in the 2023 edition of the annual exercise “Locked Shields,” hosted by the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence in Tallinn (Estonia).
- “Locked Shields” is the world’s largest cyber defence exercise.
- It started on 18 April 2023 and involved protecting computer systems from real-time attacks and simulating tactical and strategic decisions in critical situations.
- The exercise simulates the complexities of a large-scale cyber incident and will test the teams’ ability to execute strategic decisions and solve forensic, legal, and media challenges.
- With the latest technologies and relevant attack methods incorporated, Locked Shields 2023 will push the boundaries of cyber defence and reveal the best teams and strategies for protecting against modern-day threats.

KHONGJOM DAY IN MANIPUR IN 2023.



- Khongjom Day was commemorated at Khongjom in Thoubal district of Manipur to honour the soldiers who fought in the 1891 Anglo-Manipuri War.
- Manipur’s Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and Governor Ms. Anusuiya Uikey were among those who paid their respects to the heroes at the event, held at Kheba Ching in Khongjom.
- During his address, the Chief Minister emphasized that the youth have a responsibility to preserve and defend the dignity, freedom, and sovereignty of the country.
- He also asserted that independence should not be interpreted solely in the context of separatism and regionalism
- Khongjom Day is a significant event in the history of Manipur that commemorates the bravery of

the state's soldiers who fought in the 1891 Anglo-Manipuri War. The battle took place at Khongjom in Thoubal district of Manipur and marked the beginning of colonial rule in the region.

- Every year, on this day, Manipur pays tribute to the courageous soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the war.
- The event is typically held at Kheba Ching in Khongjom, where Manipur's Chief Minister and Governor, along with other dignitaries, pay their respects to the fallen heroes.
- The observance of Khongjom Day serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by the people of Manipur in their fight for freedom and independence

KENYA'S KIPTUM WINS LONDON MARATHON IN 2ND FASTEST TIME.



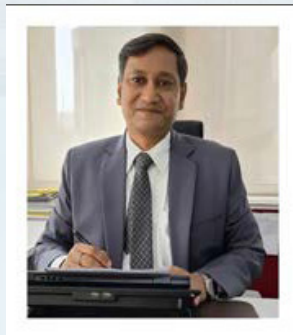
- Kelvin Kiptum, a 23-year-old Kenyan athlete, collapsed to the ground after achieving victory in the London Marathon and posting the second-best time in history for the distance.
- Kiptum broke the course record with an impressive time of 2 hours, 1 minute, and 25 seconds, falling short of Eliud Kipchoge's world record by only 16 seconds.
- Amos Kipruto, Tamirat Tola, and Mo Farah, the legendary long-distance runner, were among the elite men's field that Kelvin Kiptum left behind in what was Farah's final marathon.
- Farah, at the age of 40, finished in ninth place with a time of 2 hours, 10 minutes, and 28 seconds.
- In the women's elite race, Sifan Hassan emerged victorious in a thrilling race featuring possibly the strongest field ever.
- Despite falling off the pace and experiencing hip discomfort around the 15-mile mark, the 30-year-old Olympic champion in the 5,000 and 10,000-meter events caught up to the leaders with three miles to go.

NHAI TO DEVELOP 10,000 KM OF OPTIC FIBRE CABLES ACROSS INDIA BY FY 2025.



- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has announced plans to develop an integrated network of around 10,000 kilometers of optic fiber cables (OFC) infrastructure across India by the fiscal year 2025.
- The project will be implemented by NHAI's special purpose vehicle, National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML), which will create utility corridors along the national highways to develop the OFC infrastructure.
- The OFC network will provide internet connectivity to remote regions in India and facilitate the country's transition to modern telecommunication technologies such as 5G and 6G.
- Pilot tracks for the development of digital highways have already been identified by NHAI, with the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and Hyderabad-Bangalore corridor included in the plan.
- The OFC infrastructure development project is already underway, with a goal to complete it within a year.
- The OFC network will be leased out on a fixed-rate allocation system on an open-for-all basis through a web portal to eligible users.
- An official OFC allotment policy is being finalised in consultation with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
- The development of digital highways in India is expected to expedite the country's digital transformation and have a catalytic effect on its growth and development.

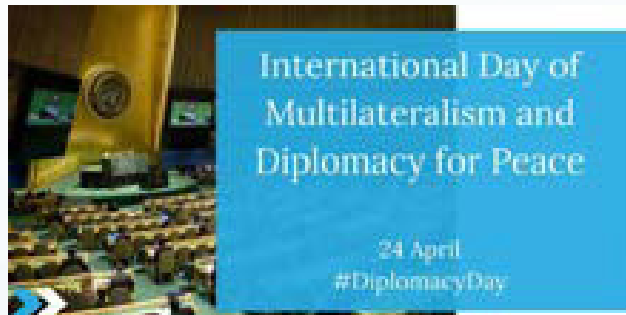
SHANTANU ROY TO BECOME NEW CMD OF BEML LIMITED.



- Shantanu Roy has been recommended as the next Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of BEML Limited, a Miniratna PSU under the Ministry of Defence.
- The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel selected him for the position from a list of three candidates, all of whom were from BEML Limited.
- Roy is presently serving as Director (Mining & Construction Business) in the same organization and has over 30 years of extensive experience in capital goods sectors for defense, mining & construction, transportation, transmission, renewable, and large power projects.
- Roy holds a graduate degree in electrical engineering from NIT-Raipur and an MBA in Financial Management.

- He has served as Executive Director of BEML Limited, responsible for the international business division, strategy & new initiatives, coordination, and northern region operations, before assuming his current position in February 2023.
- As a six sigma black belt certified professional, he is well-versed in various models of project financing, mechanisms and processes for financial closure of large projects, international laws, arbitration rules, international legal & arbitration cases, and statutory & legal compliances.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MULTILATERALISM AND DIPLOMACY FOR PEACE 2023 OBSERVED ON 24 APRIL.



- The International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace is celebrated annually on 24 April.
- The Day acknowledges the use of multilateral decision making and diplomacy in achieving peaceful resolutions to conflicts among nations.
- This day aims to promote the principles of multilateralism and diplomacy in resolving global challenges and conflicts.
- The observance also serves as a reminder of the importance of the United Nations and other multilateral organizations in facilitating cooperation and collective action among nations.
- Multilateralism is a philosophy or approach to international relations that emphasizes the need for cooperation and coordination among multiple countries and international organizations to address global issues and achieve common goals.
- It involves the idea that no single country can solve complex global problems such as climate change, international trade, or terrorism on its own, and that collective action and shared responsibility are necessary.
- Multilateralism is based on the principles of equality, mutual respect, and diplomacy, and it seeks to foster a more inclusive and transparent global governance system that allows for broad-based participation and consensus-building.
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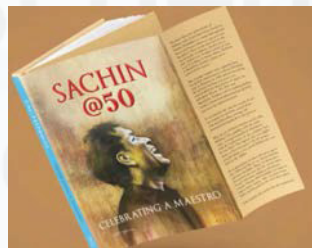
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from the industry, for the sustainable growth of Start-Ups.

- He highlighted India's global excellence in technology, innovation, and Start-Ups, stating that each of the 37 CSIR Labs is dedicated to a unique area of work.
- The One Week – One Lab programme will provide an opportunity for these labs to showcase their work and enable others to benefit from it.

SHREEKANT BHANDIWAD NAMED AS CHAIRMAN OF KVGB.



- Shreekant M Bhandiwad has become the new Chairman of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB), taking over the position from his predecessor.
- Prior to his appointment, Bhandiwad served as the head of the Patna circle of Canara Bank, and also gained experience working in the CMD's Secretariat at the bank's head office.
- With a postgraduate degree in agriculture, Bhandiwad began his career as an Agricultural Extension Officer at Canara Bank's rural branches. He also served as a consultant in the Agricultural Consultancy Services of Canara Bank's Head Office.
- Having worked in Canara Bank for 29 years, Bhandiwad has gained experience working in different states such as Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, and Karnataka, holding various positions including branch in-charge, regional head, and circle head.
- In addition, he worked as the Deputy Managing Director of Canfin Homes Ltd for three years.
- Bhandiwad, a native of Dharwad, brings his wealth of experience to his new role as the Chairman of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank.

SHAHABUDDIN CHUPPU TAKES OATH AS BANGLADESH'S 22ND PRESIDENT.



- Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu has become the 22nd president of Bangladesh, taking over from Abdul Hamid, in a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, politicians, judges, and senior officials.

- The event was held at the historic Durbar Hall of Bangabhaban, where Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury administered the oath to Shahabuddin.
- He was elected unopposed in February this year as the candidate of the ruling party, and after the ceremony, he signed the documents for the office of the president.
- There are growing disputes between the ruling Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) regarding the electoral system as Bangladesh prepares for general elections.
- The elections are scheduled for December or January next year.

JAPAN'S HEALTH MINISTRY APPROVES FIRST ABORTION PILL IN ITS HISTORY.



- A panel in Japan's health ministry has approved the country's first abortion pill, in a major step for reproductive rights decades after other countries made abortion medication widely available.
- The ministry's pharmaceutical board granted approval to the Meego Pack, an abortion pill manufactured by British pharmaceutical Linepharma, according to a spokesperson from the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.
- The medication consists of two types of pill, and can be used within nine weeks of pregnancy, according to Japanese public broadcaster NHK.
- In a clinical trial in Japan, 93% of participants had a complete abortion within 24 hours.
- The medication combines mifepristone and misoprostol, which the World Health Organization has included in its Essential Medicines List, described as safe and effective for pregnant people.
- It would provide an alternative to a surgical procedure amid calls for progress in women's reproductive rights and gender equality. In Japan, abortions have been usually performed with metal instruments. As this procedure is invasive, medical experts and others are calling for introduction of abortion pills in Japan.
- Under Japan's existing laws, women can only receive an abortion if a pregnancy "may significantly damage the person's physical health due to bodily or economic reasons" or if they became pregnant due to rape.

IIT MADRAS TO SET UP ITS FIRST INTERNATIONAL CAMPUS IN TANZANIA.



- IIT Madras is set to establish the first Indian Institute of Technology in Africa in Tanzania, with classes scheduled to begin in October.
- The new campus will be located in Zanzibar, and marks IIT Madras' first international campus.
- V Kamakoti, the institute's director, announced the plans during his address at IIT Madras' 64th Institute Day.
- A team of five IIT Madras professors visited Tanzania in February to hold discussions with officials about setting up the new campus.
- Strengthening India-Africa relations: The establishment of IIT in Tanzania marks a significant step in strengthening the ties between India and Africa. It reflects India's growing interest in the African continent and its commitment to promoting education and human resource development in Africa.
- Promoting technical education: IITs are renowned for their quality technical education, and the establishment of IIT in Tanzania will provide African students with access to world-class technical education, which will help them build their careers and contribute to the development of their countries.
- Bridging the skill gap: There is a significant skill gap in Africa, and the establishment of IIT in Tanzania will help bridge this gap by providing African students with the technical skills and knowledge required to meet the demands of the industry.
- Encouraging innovation and research: IITs are known for their research and innovation, and the establishment of IIT in Tanzania will encourage research and innovation in the African continent, which will help drive economic growth and development.

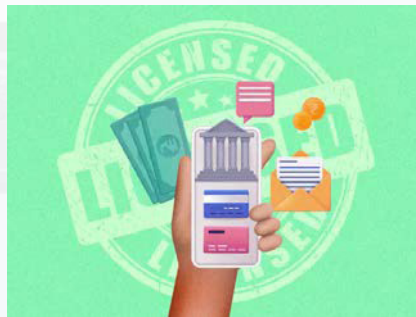
BELGIUM FIRM TO LAUNCH BIODIESEL PROJECT IN AYODHYA SOON.



- The city of Ayodhya has been chosen for a two-year pilot project aimed at producing biodiesel from waste.

- Belgium-based company Vito is expected to launch the project in Ayodhya soon.
- The company, which focuses on clean technology and sustainable development, has already started working on the project, according to officials.
- Belgium-based company Vito is set to launch a two-year pilot project aimed at producing biodiesel from waste in Ayodhya, India.
- The project will initially use one tonne of plastic waste to generate biodiesel.
- Vito officials have held meetings with Ayodhya administration officials and organised a workshop for the Ayodhya Municipal Corporation officials.
- The company will use the corporation's material recovery facility for waste segregation before setting up its own facility.
- Ayodhya was selected for the pilot project due to the expected increase in waste generated by the surge in devotees' footfall after the opening of the Ram temple in January 2022.
- The Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirath Kshetra Trust has estimated a turnout of several lakhs of devotees every month, which will generate more waste and create a major garbage disposal issue for the corporation.

NEOBANK JUPITER SECURES NBFC LICENSE.



- Jupiter, a neobanking startup, has obtained a non-banking finance company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), enabling the company to provide credit from its own resources.
- According to Jitendra Gupta, the founder of Amica Financial Technologies Ltd., which operates Jupiter, the company will appoint a professional chief executive officer to manage the NBFC operations.
- This is a significant development for Jupiter as the company has been expanding its lending operations through partnerships with NBFCs.
- With the NBFC license, Jupiter will have more control over its lending operations and will be able to offer credit directly from its own books, providing greater flexibility and control over the lending process.
- Jupiter is a neobank, a type of digital bank that operates entirely online without any physical branches. It was founded in 2019 by Jitendra Gupta, who previously co-founded Citrus Pay, a payment gateway company that was acquired by PayU in 2016.

BREAST SURGEON DR RAGHU RAM HONORED WITH TELUGU ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AWARD.



- Dr Raghu Ram Pillarisetti, a renowned surgeon, has been awarded the lifetime achievement award by the Telugu Association of London.
- He is the founding director of the AKIMS-Ushalakshmi Centre for Breast Diseases located in Hyderabad.
- Despite his relatively young age, Dr Raghuram has become one of the few people to receive the award.
- He is also the only Indian living outside the UK to be bestowed with this honor.
- During the celebration of Ugadi 2023, organized by the Telugu Association of London (TAL), Dr Raghu Ram Pillarisetti was awarded the lifetime achievement award.
- TAL is the biggest Telugu Charity Organisation in the UK and represents the Telugu speaking community of around 10,000 people in and around London.
- Dr Ramulu Dasoju, the founder chairman of TAL, and the current chairperson Bharathi Kandukuri, read out parts of the citation during the event.
- The Mayor of London Borough of Hounslow, Councillor Raghwinder Siddhu, also praised Dr Raghu Ram as an exemplary individual who bridges the gap between the UK and India, with a focus on best practices in his field and an emphasis on human values.

EX ODISHA MP AND 3 TIME MLA TRILOCHAN KANUNGO PASSES AWAY.



- Trilochan Kanungo, a prominent economist and a long-standing member of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) party, has died at the age of 82. Mr. Kanungo was previously the chairman of Cuttack Municipality and served as the chairperson of the state finance commission.
- He was born on November 24, 1940 in the village of Badamulei in Cuttack district and had been residing in the Sheikh Bazaar area of Cuttack city for the past few years.

- In 1999, he was elected to the Lok Sabha from Jagatsinghpur Parliamentary constituency. He was renowned for his erudition and had served as the chairperson of Cuttack municipality twice. He was the chairman of the second Odisha Finance Commission.
- In the 1960s, he was a student leader and had served as the president of Ravenshaw College and Utkal University.
- Panchanan Kanungo, who is Trilochan's younger brother, was a former finance minister and joined the Congress party in 2019.

ODISHA FC CLINCH HERO SUPER CUP 2023 WITH A 2-1 VICTORY OVER BENGALURU FC



- Odisha FC won the Hero Super Cup 2023 Final by defeating Bengaluru FC 2-1.
- Diego Mauricio scored both goals for Odisha FC, the first one from a free kick in the 23rd minute and the second one in the 37th minute.
- Despite Bengaluru FC's efforts, Odisha FC maintained their lead and did not face any major challenge.
- Bengaluru FC managed to score a goal through a penalty taken by Sunil Chetri in the 85th minute, but it was not enough to make a comeback in the game.
- Odisha FC, led by Indian Head Coach Clifford Miranda, secure their first-ever Men's category trophy since the team's inception in 2019.
- Following their win in the Hero Super Cup 2023 Final, Odisha FC will now face Gokulam Kerala FC in a qualifier on 29th April.
- The winner of the qualifier will represent India in the AFC Cup 2023-24

INDIA CLIMBS 6 SPOTS TO 38TH IN WORLD BANK'S LOGISTICS PERFORMANCE INDEX 2023



- According to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, India's rank in the 7th edition of the World

Bank's Logistics Performance Index 2023 has improved by 6 positions, and it now stands at 38th among 139 countries.

- The ministry further stated that India has shown significant progress in 4 out of 6 LPI indicators.
- The government claimed in an official statement that India's improved logistics infrastructure is evidence of the country's global standing.
- They attribute this development to their concentrated effort on reforming logistics infrastructure.
- The government also mentioned that the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, launched in October 2021, is responsible for this update.
- The plan aims to address the evolving requirements of logistics due to factors such as e-commerce, urbanization, energy preferences, and the need to establish sturdy supply chains.
- Additionally, the Ministry stated that India's ranking was improved due to the implementation of the National Logistics Policy (NLP), which provides guidance for States or UTs in developing logistics policies.
- The NLP focuses on promoting energy-efficient transportation modes and the use of greener fuels to minimize carbon emissions.
- Moreover, the Commerce Ministry mentioned that the government invested in trade-related infrastructure, including both soft and hard infrastructure, to connect port gateways on both coasts to economic zones in the hinterland.

RAIL VIKAS NIGAM LIMITED NOW A NAVRATANA.



- The state-owned railway company Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) was in focus as the Indian Government upgraded its status to a 'Navratna' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) from a 'Miniratna' category.
- The decision to upgrade RVNL was approved by the Finance Minister and is set to take effect from April 26, 2023.
- RVNL is a mid-cap company under the Ministry of Railways, with an annual turnover of Rs 19,381 crore and a net profit of Rs 1,087 crore for the year 2021-22.
- This makes it the 13th Navratna company among the CPSEs in India.
- Navratna is a status conferred upon a select group of CPSEs in India by the Government of India.
- The term 'Navratna' means 'Nine Jewels' and refers to the nine precious gemstones that were

considered to be of the highest value in ancient Indian mythology.

- Navratna CPSEs are companies that are well-established, profitable, and have a significant impact on the Indian economy.
- They are given more autonomy in decision-making and have greater financial powers than other CPSEs.

US STATE PENNSYLVANIA RECOGNIZES DIWALI AS AN OFFICIAL STATE HOLIDAY.



- Senator Nikil Saval tweeted that the state of Pennsylvania in the United States has declared Diwali, the Hindu festival, as a national holiday.
- The legislation to make Diwali an official state holiday was introduced by State Senators Greg Rothman and Nikil Saval in February of this year.
- The bill was passed unanimously by the Senate. According to My Twin Tiers, there are almost 200,000 South Asian residents in Pennsylvania, many of whom celebrate Diwali as a time for gathering and reflection.
- Senator Saval expressed gratitude to Senator Rothman for the opportunity to introduce this bill and welcomed all Pennsylvanians who celebrate Diwali.

PM TO INAUGURATE NATIONAL GAMES IN OCT: GOA CM



- Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the National Games in Goa in October 2023.
- The announcement was made after a meeting between Sawant, State Sports Minister Govind Gaude, and Indian Olympic Association chairperson PT Usha to review preparations for the event.
- According to Sawant, the inauguration ceremony is tentatively scheduled for October 23 or 24, depending on the Prime Minister's availability.
- The ceremony will be held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Fatorda, South Goa district.



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Cinema Delhi - 110009

17A/41, 1st Floor, WEA, (Near by Karol
Bagh Metro Station) karol Bagh, New Delhi
110005

Phone : +91-8123002808

Email : info@plutusacademy.com

Web : www.plutusacademy.com