



PLUTUS ACADEMY

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS



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20/05/2024 TO 26/05/2024

Basement C-59 Noida, Opposite to Priyagold Building Gate, Sector-2, Pocket-1, Noida

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INSIDE THE PAGES

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TOPICS

INTERNATIONAL NEWS 1- 2

1. MOHAMMAD MOKHBER, IRAN'S ACTING PRESIDENT AND HIS JOURNEY
2. IRAN PRESIDENT'S DEATH: A SPARK IN TINDERBOX – GEOPOLITICAL IMPACT EXPLAINED
3. LAI CHING-TE SWORN IN AS NEW TAIWAN PRESIDENT, URGES CHINA TO HALT MILITARY INTIMIDATION
4. WORLD'S HIGHEST OBSERVATORY INAUGURATED IN CHILE BY UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO
5. WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM FOUNDER KLAUS SCHWAB TO STEP BACK FROM EXECUTIVE ROLE
6. EUROPEAN COUNTRIES RECOGNIZE PALESTINE, ISRAEL RECALLS ENVOYS
7. WORLD BANK REPORT: 'WATER FOR SHARED PROSPERITY'

NATIONAL NEWS 3 - 4

8. GOPI THOTAKURA MAKES HISTORY AS FIRST INDIAN SPACE TOURIST
9. STUDENT ENROLLMENT UNDER SC CATEGORY GROWS BY 44%
10. ARTARA'24 CELEBRATES INDIAN CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN DUBAI
11. DAHD & UNDP MOU ON DIGITALISATION OF ANIMAL VACCINE COLD CHAIN MANAGEMENT
12. CABINET APPROVES OVER RS 10,372 CRORE FOR INDIAAI MISSION
13. JYOTI RATRE BECOMES INDIA'S OLDEST WOMAN TO CONQUER MOUNT EVEREST

STATE NEWS 4

14. UTTAR PRADESH LEADS TRANSMISSION LINE ADDITIONS IN 2023-24
15. JAISALMER'S DESERT PARK SANCTUARY FOR THE MAJESTIC GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD

APPOINTMENTS NEWS 5

16. SANJIV PURI ELECTED CII PRESIDENT FOR 2024-25: A LEADERSHIP TRANSITION
17. BARC INDIA APPOINTS DR. BIKRAMJIT CHAUDHURI AS NEW CHIEF OF MEASUREMENT SCIENCE & ANALYTICS
18. JOHN SLAVEN APPOINTED VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL ALUMINIUM

BUSINESS NEWS 6 - 7

19. TATA MOTORS PARTNERS WITH BAJAJ FINANCE TO ENHANCE DEALER FINANCING OPTIONS
20. MAHINDRA FINANCE EXPANDS SERVICES WITH IRDAI APPROVAL
21. MALDIVES PLANS LAUNCH OF RUPAY TO ENHANCE BILATERAL TIES WITH INDIA
22. RBI IMPOSES RS 3.1 LAKH PENALTY ON HERO FINCORP FOR FAIR PRACTICES CODE VIOLATION
23. SMARTPHONES BECOME INDIA'S FOURTH LARGEST EXPORT ITEM WITH 42% GROWTH
24. MICROSOFT UNVEILS AI-ENHANCED 'COPILOT+' PCS WITH UNIQUE 'RECALL' FUNCTIONALITY

AWARDS NEWS 7 - 8

25. SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR RECEIVES FIRST STAMP COMMEMORATING 200 YEARS OF INDIAN ORIGIN TAMILS IN SRI LANKA
26. SCIENTIST SRINIVAS R. KULKARNI HONOURED WITH PRESTIGIOUS SHAW PRIZE IN ASTRONOMY
27. JENNY ERPENBECK'S 'KAIROS' WINS INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE
28. NHPC HONOURED WITH 'THE ECONOMIC TIMES HR WORLD FUTURE READY ORGANIZATION AWARD 2024-25'
29. CANNES: PAYAL KAPADIA WINS GRAND PRIX AWARD FOR 'ALL WE IMAGINE AS LIGHT

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS 9

30. NOISE ACQUIRES WOMEN'S WELLNESS PLATFORM SOCIALBOAT TO BOLSTER SMART RING INNOVATION

SPORTS NEWS 9 - 10

31. INDIAN PARA ATHLETE DEEPTHI JEEVANJI WINS GOLD AND SETS NEW WORLD RECORD
32. SATWIKSAIRAJ RANKIREDDY AND CHIRAG SHETTY TRIUMPH AT THAILAND OPEN 2024
33. ALEXANDER ZVEREV AND IGA SWIATEK REIGN SUPREME AT ITALIAN OPEN 2024
34. AUSTRALIA TO HOST AFC WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP 2026
35. IPL 2024 AWARD WINNERS, CHECK THE COMPLETE LIST

International News

MOHAMMAD MOKHBER, IRAN'S ACTING PRESIDENT AND HIS JOURNEY



Mohammad Mokhber, born on June 26, 1955, in Dezful, Iran, is a prominent figure in Iranian politics. He holds two doctoral degrees, one in international law and another in management, along with a master's degree in management.

IRAN PRESIDENT'S DEATH: A SPARK IN TINDERBOX – GEOPOLITICAL IMPACT EXPLAINED



Iran mourns its President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, and other officials who were killed in a helicopter crash in north-west Iran. This incident occurs amidst heightened tensions in West Asia, notably the ongoing conflict between Israel and Gaza and the broader geopolitical confrontations involving Iran, Israel, and the US.

LAI CHING-TE SWORN IN AS NEW TAIWAN PRESIDENT, URGES CHINA TO HALT MILITARY INTIMIDATION



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

WORLD'S HIGHEST OBSERVATORY INAUGURATED IN CHILE BY UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO



The University of Tokyo has inaugurated the Atacama Observatory (TAO), which has been awarded a Guinness World Record for being the highest observatory in the world. Situated at a staggering 5,640 meters above sea level on the summit of Cerro Chajnantor in the Antofagasta Region of Chile, TAO stands as a testament to human ingenuity and de-

termination.

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM FOUNDER KLAUS SCHWAB TO STEP BACK FROM EXECUTIVE ROLE



Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF), will transition from his current role to become chairman of the board of trustees by January next year, according to an emailed statement from the Geneva-based institution. This move is part of a planned “governance evolution” from a founder-managed organization to one where the president and the managing board assume full executive responsibility.

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES RECOGNIZE PALESTINE, ISRAEL RECALLS ENVOYS



Amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, Ireland, Norway, and Spain have formally recognized Palestine as a state. In response, Israel has recalled its ambassadors to Ireland and Norway, with warnings directed at Spain. This move adds to the diplomatic tensions amidst the escalating violence in Gaza.

WORLD BANK REPORT: ‘WATER FOR SHARED PROSPERITY’



The World Bank’s report, ‘Water For Shared Prosperity,’ unveiled at the 10th World Water Forum, delineates the critical role of water in fostering equitable societies amidst global water access disparities exacerbated by population growth, urbanization, and climate change. It highlights the urgency of comprehensive strategies to ensure inclusive water security worldwide.

National News

GOPI THOTAKURA MAKES HISTORY AS FIRST INDIAN SPACE TOURIST



In a groundbreaking moment for space tourism, Indian expatriate Gopi Thotakura joined the ranks of space explorers as the first Indian to embark on a journey beyond Earth's atmosphere. The NS-25 mission, part of Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin program, saw Thotakura and five other crew members lift off aboard the New Shepard spacecraft from a private ranch in West Texas.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT UNDER SC CATEGORY GROWS BY 44%



The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has reported significant increases in student enrollment under various categories from 2014-15 to 2021-22. According to data released on Saturday, enrollment of Scheduled Caste (SC) students rose by 44%, from 4.61 million to 6.62 million. SC female student enrollment increased by 51%. Additionally, Scheduled Tribe (ST) student enrollment grew by 65.2%, from 1.641 million to 2.71 million,

with female ST enrollment surging by 80%. Minority female student enrollment also saw a notable rise of 42.3%, growing from 1.07 million to 1.52 million.

ARTARA'24 CELEBRATES INDIAN CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN DUBAI



The Artara'24 Fine Arts Exhibition and Competition has made its mark in Dubai as a prestigious platform for discovering and nurturing emerging artistic talents from India. The event aimed to uncover hidden artistic gems, with a particular focus on the Indian talent residing in Dubai.

DAHD & UNDP MOU ON DIGITALISATION OF ANIMAL VACCINE COLD CHAIN MANAGEMENT



The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) under the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India to digitalize vaccine cold chain management, enhance communication planning, and build capacity.

CABINET APPROVES OVER RS 10,372 CRORE FOR INDIAAI MISSION



The Cabinet has greenlit an ambitious financial allocation of over Rs 10,372 crore for the IndiaAI Mission, aimed at fortifying India's AI innovation ecosystem. Spearheaded by a public-private partnership model, this significant investment over the next five years is poised to catalyze various strategic initiatives, including compute infrastructure expansion, startup empowerment, and ethical AI deployment.

JYOTI RATRE BECOMES INDIA'S OLDEST WOMAN TO CONQUER MOUNT EVEREST



Jyoti Ratre, an entrepreneur and fitness enthusiast from Madhya Pradesh, has etched her name in history by becoming the oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest. Ratre's triumphant ascent to the summit of the world's highest peak comes precisely six years after Sangeeta Bahl, at the age of 53, earned the title of 'India's oldest woman to climb Mount Everest' on May 19, 2018.

State News

UTTAR PRADESH LEADS TRANSMISSION LINE ADDITIONS IN 2023-24



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

JAISALMER'S DESERT PARK SANCTUARY FOR THE MAJESTIC GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD



In a heartening development, the annual waterhole census conducted in the National Desert Park, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, has revealed a significant presence of the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard. The survey, which employs the waterhole technique during the scorching summer months, counted a staggering 64 Great Indian Bustards within the park's boundaries. This marks a notable increase from the previous year's census in 2022, which recorded 42 birds using the same waterhole technique.

Appointments News

SANJIV PURI ELECTED CII PRESIDENT FOR 2024-25: A LEADERSHIP TRANSITION



In a significant leadership transition, Sanjiv Puri, the Chairman and Managing Director of ITC Ltd., has been elected as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the term 2024-25. Puri succeeds R Dinesh, Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, in this prestigious role. Alongside Puri, Rajiv Memani assumes the position of President-Designate, while R Mukundan takes on the role of Vice President for the same term.

BARC INDIA APPOINTS DR. BIKRAMJIT CHAUDHURI AS NEW CHIEF OF MEASUREMENT SCIENCE & ANALYTICS



The Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India, the world's largest television audience measurement organization, has appointed Dr. Bikramjit Chaudhuri as its new Chief of Measurement Science & Analytics. He will succeed Dr. Derrick Gray, a veteran in the field of audience measurement and advanced analytics, who has been an esteemed member of the BARC India team for six years.

JOHN SLAVEN APPOINTED VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL ALUMINIUM INSTITUTE



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

Business News

TATA MOTORS PARTNERS WITH BAJAJ FINANCE TO ENHANCE DEALER FINANCING OPTIONS



Tata Motors' subsidiaries, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV) and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TPEM), have teamed up with Bajaj Finance to offer an innovative financing programme for their authorised passenger and electric vehicle dealers. This partnership aims to streamline financing options and support the business operations of these dealers.

MAHINDRA FINANCE EXPANDS SERVICES WITH IRDAI APPROVAL



Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services, a prominent player in India's non-banking finance sector, has secured a corporate agency license from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). This license empowers Mahindra Finance to act as a 'corporate agent (composite)' under the Insurance Act, 1938, facilitating the distribution of insurance products.

MALDIVES PLANS LAUNCH OF RUPAY TO ENHANCE BILATERAL TIES WITH INDIA



In a move that reflects the strengthening ties between India and the Maldives, the island nation has announced its intention to launch India's RuPay service. This decision underscores the growing economic and financial cooperation between the two countries. While the specific launch date for the RuPay service has not yet been disclosed, the upcoming integration holds promise for enhanced financial inclusivity and cost-saving measures.

RBI IMPOSES RS 3.1 LAKH PENALTY ON HERO FINCORP FOR FAIR PRACTICES CODE VIOLATION



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 3.1 lakh on Hero FinCorp Limited due to non-compliance with certain provisions of the fair practices code. This penalty is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and does not affect the validity of any transactions or agreements the company has with its customers.

SMARTPHONES BECOME INDIA'S FOURTH LARGEST EXPORT ITEM WITH 42% GROWTH



Smartphones have become a major export success story for India, now ranking as the fourth largest export item with a 42% growth, reaching \$15.6 billion in FY24. This marks an improvement by one notch in the ranking from the preceding year. Data collection for smartphones as a separate category began in April 2022, highlighting the sector's rapid growth.

MICROSOFT UNVEILS AI-ENHANCED 'COPILOT+' PCs WITH UNIQUE 'RECALL' FUNCTIONALITY



Microsoft has introduced a new category of personal computers, 'Copilot+ PCs,' featuring advanced AI capabilities to compete with Alphabet and Apple. These devices, developed in collaboration with Acer and ASUSTeK Computer, aim to perform AI tasks locally without relying on cloud data centers. The launch event took place at Microsoft's Redmond, Washington campus on May 20, with sales starting on June 18 at a base price of \$1,000.

Awards News

SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR RECEIVES FIRST STAMP COMMEMORATING 200 YEARS OF INDIAN ORIGIN TAMILS IN SRI LANKA



Indian spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar received the first stamp released to commemorate the completion of 200 years of Indian Origin Tamils (IOT) in Sri Lanka. The stamp was presented by the Governor of the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka, Senthil Thondaman. The event aimed to recognize and honor the IOT community, which has faced decades of neglect.

Thondaman expressed gratitude to both the Indian and Sri Lankan governments for their support to the IOT community.

SCIENTIST SRINIVAS R. KULKARNI HONOURED WITH PRESTIGIOUS SHAW PRIZE IN ASTRONOMY



Srinivas R. Kulkarni, an Indian-origin U.S. scientist and brother of renowned author Sudha Murty, has been awarded the prestigious Shaw Prize in Astronomy for 2024. This prestigious recognition cele-

brates Kulkarni's groundbreaking discoveries in the field of astronomy, including his pioneering work on millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and other transient astronomical phenomena.

JENNY ERPENBECK'S 'KAIROS' WINS INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE



German author Jenny Erpenbeck and translator Michael Hofmann have won the prestigious International Booker Prize for their novel "Kairos." The book, which tells the story of a tangled love affair during the final years of East Germany's existence, beat out five other finalists from a pool of 149 submitted novels.

NHPC HONOURED WITH 'THE ECONOMIC TIMES HR WORLD FUTURE READY ORGANIZATION AWARD 2024-25'



NHPC, India's premier hydropower company, has been bestowed with the prestigious 'The Economic Times HR World Future Ready Organization Award 2024-25'. This coveted recognition highlights NHPC's unwavering commitment to fostering a future-ready workforce and its strategic approach to human resource management.

CANNES: PAYAL KAPADIA WINS GRAND PRIX AWARD FOR 'ALL WE IMAGINE AS LIGHT'



The 77th Cannes Film Festival witnessed a remarkable achievement for Indian cinema as Payal Kapadia's film 'All We Imagine as Light' won the prestigious Grand Prix award, the second-highest honour at the festival. This triumph marks a historic moment, as Kapadia becomes the first Indian filmmaker to receive this prestigious accolade.

Science and Technology News

NOISE ACQUIRES WOMEN'S WELLNESS PLATFORM SOCIALBOAT TO BOLSTER SMART RING INNOVATION

NOISE



Leading smartwatch and connected lifestyle brand, Noise, has announced the acquisition of the AI-powered women's wellness platform SocialBoat. This strategic move is part of Noise's broader strategy to advance innovation in smart rings, particularly its flagship wearable, the Luna Ring.

Sports News

INDIAN PARA ATHLETE DEEPTHI JEEVANJI WINS GOLD AND SETS NEW WORLD RECORD



Indian para-athlete Deepthi Jeevanji etched her name in history by winning the gold medal in the women's T20 400m event at the World Para Athletics Championships 2024. Her stunning performance on Monday not only secured India's first gold medal at the prestigious event but also set a new world record time of 55.07 seconds.

SATWIKSAIRAJ RANKIREDDY AND CHIRAG SHETTY TRIUMPH AT THAILAND OPEN 2024



The world's third-ranked Indian badminton pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty etched their names in glory by winning the coveted Thailand Open 2024 men's doubles title. In a thrilling final clash on May 19, 2024, the dynamic duo defeated the Chinese pair of Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi with a scoreline of 21-15, 21-15, in a match that lasted 46 minutes.

ALEXANDER ZVEREV AND IGA SWIATEK REIGN SUPREME AT ITALIAN OPEN 2024



German tennis star Alexander Zverev etched his name in history by winning the Italian Open singles title for the second time. The 25-year-old defeated the first-time Masters finalist, Nicolas Jarry of Chile, in straight sets, 6-4, 7-5, to claim his eighth overall Masters title

AUSTRALIA TO HOST AFC WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP 2026



The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has confirmed Australia as the hosts for the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026. The continental football governing body made this announcement after the AFC Executive Committee ratified the recommendations of the AFC Women's Football Committee at its meeting in Bangkok, Thailand.

IPL 2024 AWARD WINNERS, CHECK THE COMPLETE LIST



Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) won the IPL 2024 title, defeating Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the final. KKR's Sunil Narine was named the Most Valuable Player and Ultimate Fantasy Player of the Season. SRH's Nitish Kumar Reddy was the Emerging Player of the Season. Virat Kohli (RCB) won the Orange Cap for most runs, while Harshal Patel (PBKS) took the Purple Cap for most wickets. Other award winners included Abhishek Sharma (SRH) for Most Sixes, Travis Head (SRH) for Most Fours, and Jake Fraser-McGurk (DC) for Best Strike Rate. SRH received the Fair Play Award, while the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad.