

Addar Khobor
Khoborer Adda

Current Affairs

Important for all exams WBCS, Police, Miscellaneous,
WBPS Food SI, Clerkship, Rail, Bank, SSC



Bundelkhand Wheat
Variety Gets GI Tag

Rohit Sharma Achieves
Historic Milestone

RBI Monetary Policy, Repo Rate To
Remain Steady For Seventh Time

World Health Day 2024

Justice Aniruddha Bose Appointed
Director of National Judicial Academy

WORLD
HEALTH
DAY
7TH APRIL



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Monthly Current Affairs Magazine – April 2024

National News

Dr. Manmohan Singh to Retire from Rajya Sabha

Dr. Manmohan Singh, former Prime Minister of India, retire from the Rajya Sabha, marking the end of his three-decade-long tenure in the Upper House.

India Lifts Export Restrictions on Essential Goods for Maldives Amid Diplomatic Strain

India has removed export restrictions on essential commodities for the Maldives, including items like eggs, potatoes, onions, rice, wheat flour, sugar, and dal, for the fiscal year 2024-25. This move comes despite strained diplomatic relations between the two countries since November last year.

India Secures Second Overseas Port: Sittwe Agreement Approved by MEA

In a strategic move to bolster its maritime presence and enhance regional connectivity, India has gained operational control over the Sittwe Port in Myanmar, following approval from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The agreement allows India Ports Global (IPGL), a company fully owned by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, to manage the entire port on the Kaladan River, marking India's second overseas port acquisition after Chabahar in Iran.

President of India Inaugurates Homoeopathy Symposium on World Homoeopathy Day

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, inaugurated a two-day Homoeopathy Symposium organized by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy in New Delhi on World Homoeopathy Day (April 10, 2024). The theme of the symposium, "Empowering Research, Enhancing Proficiency," is highly relevant in the 21st century.

Indian Army Conducts Anti-Tank Guided Missile Training Exercise in Sikkim

In a significant training endeavor, the Trishakti Corps of the Indian Army executed a rigorous Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) exercise in Sikkim, operating at an altitude of 17,000 feet. The exercise involved Missile Firing Detachments from Mechanized and Infantry Units of the Eastern Command, emphasizing live firing scenarios against both moving and static targets, simulating battlefield conditions.

Gopi Thotakura: First Indian Pilot to Embark on Space Tourism with Blue Origin

Gopi Thotakura is making history as the first Indian pilot to venture into space as a tourist, joining Blue Origin's NS-25 mission. His selection highlights a significant milestone in India's space exploration journey, marking a new era for space tourism.

India Donates Ambulances and School Buses to Nepal

In a gesture of solidarity and support, India has donated 35 ambulances and 66 school buses to various organizations in Nepal, bolstering infrastructure in the crucial sectors of health and education. Indian Ambassador to Nepal, Naveen Srivastava, officiated the handover ceremony alongside Finance Minister Barshaman Pun.

India's Tree Cover Loss Since 2000: Insights from Global Forest Watch

The Global Forest Watch reveals that India has experienced significant tree cover loss since 2000, totaling 2.33 million hectares. This loss includes both natural disturbances and human-induced factors, impacting the country's carbon balance and climate change.

J&K High Court Upholds Rule of Law, Quashes Detention under Public Safety Act

In a significant ruling, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed the detention of Jaffar Ahmad Parray under the Public Safety Act. Justice Rahul Bharti emphasized that India operates under the rule of law, asserting that citizens cannot be detained without proper legal grounds. Parray had been held since May based on allegations of being associated with terrorist groups, but the court found the detention illegal and ordered his immediate release.

PEN Required for Students Starting Academic Year 2024-25

In a move to simplify and streamline the process of students' transition from one school to another, the School Education Department in the state has made the use of Permanent Education Number (PEN) mandatory from the academic year 2024-25. PEN is a unique identification number assigned to every student by the Union Ministry of Education, through the UDISE+ (Unified District Information System for Education Plus) portal, which covers more than 14.89 lakh schools, 95 lakh teachers, and 26.5 crore children.



PM Modi Graces 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav

On the auspicious occasion of Mahaveer Jayanti, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The event paid tribute to the 24th Tirthankar, Bhagwan Mahaveer, whose teachings of Ahimsa (Non-Violence), Satya (Truthfulness), Asteya (Non-Stealing), Brahmacharya (Chastity), and Aparigraha (Non-attachment) have illuminated the path of peaceful coexistence and universal brotherhood.

Satellite Insights: Expansion of Glacial Lakes in the Indian Himalayas

The Himalayan Mountains, known as the "Third Pole" for their vast glaciers, are experiencing significant changes due to global climate shifts. Glacial retreat leads to the formation and enlargement of lakes, posing risks like Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs). Monitoring these changes is challenging but essential for understanding environmental impacts and managing risks.

Indian Historical Records Commission Unveils New Logo and Motto

The Indian Historical Records Commission (IHRC) is an apex advisory body on archival matters in India. Established in 1919, the IHRC serves as a national forum for creators, custodians, and users of records, advising the Government of India on the management of records and their use for historical research. The IHRC is headed by the Union Minister of Culture.

India's First Multi-Purpose Green Hydrogen Pilot Project Inaugurated in Himachal Pradesh

India takes a significant step in renewable energy with the inauguration of its first multi-purpose green hydrogen pilot project at the 1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS) in Himachal Pradesh's Jhakri. Spearheaded by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN), the project aims to produce green hydrogen through renewable energy sources.

International News

UN Appoints Saudi Arabia to Lead Women's Rights Forum Despite Criticism

Saudi Arabia has been chosen to chair the **UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**, despite widespread criticism due to its poor record on **women's rights**. The appointment of **Saudi Ambassador Abdulaziz Alwasil** has sparked outrage from human rights groups, given the stark disparity between the kingdom's actions and the commission's mandate to promote gender equality.

Indian Engineering Exports Surge: UAE, Russia, and Saudi Arabia Lead the Way

India's engineering exports soared by **15.9% year over year in February 2024**, marking the third consecutive month of growth and reaching a **record high of \$9.94 billion for the fiscal year 2023-2024**. Notably, this growth surpassed December 2023 figures.

Congo Appoints First Female Prime Minister Amid Eastern Violence

The Democratic Republic of Congo has appointed **Judith Suminwa Tuluka** as the country's **first female Prime Minister**. This move by President Felix Tshisekedi fulfills a campaign promise and comes at a time of **worsening violence** in the mineral-rich **eastern region** bordering Rwanda.

Veteran Dealmaker Atul Mehra Joins Axis Capital as MD & CEO

Axis Capital has appointed **Atul Mehra** as the new **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**. His appointment is waiting for final approval. Mehra will be overseeing both the **investment banking** and **institutional equities** businesses at Axis Capital.

Atul Mehra is an experienced dealmaker with over **30 years** of experience in the industry. He was previously the Joint MD at **JM Financial**.

Sanjay Nayar Appointed as New ASSOCHAM President

The **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)**, a prominent **industry chamber**, has appointed **Sanjay Nayar** as its new **President**. Nayar has replaced **Ajay Singh**, the Co-Founder of **SpiceJet** airline, whose tenure has ended.

Lt Gen JS Sidana is New Director General of EME

Lieutenant General **JS Sidana** has taken over as the **33rd Director General of the Department of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (DGEME)** and **Senior Colonel Commandant of the EME Corps** on **April 1, 2024**.

Santosh Kumar Jha Appointed as New CMD of Konkan Railway Corporation

Santosh Kumar Jha, an **Indian Railway Traffic Services (IRTS)** officer of the 1992 batch, will assume the role of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL) on **April 1, 2024**.

IIT-Kanpur Alumnus Sandeep Jain Steps Into FISME Presidency

Sandeep Jain, an auto-component manufacturer and alumnus of **IIT-Kanpur**, has been unanimously elected as the President of the **Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME)** for the year 2024-25.

In line with FISME's tradition of holding **annual elections**, Jain's name was approved in a meeting of the **Central Executive Committee** held in New Delhi. FISME elects one-third of its CEC members annually, and the newly constituted body elects the President for the year.

Abdel Fattah al-Sisi Sworn in for Third Term as Egyptian President

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, 69, has commenced his third term as the leader of the nation, extending his tenure until 2030. Amidst battling economic challenges, **Sisi vows to prioritize national interests and fulfill the aspirations of the Egyptian people for a modern, democratic state.**

Zimbabwe Declares State Of Disaster Over Devastating Drought

Zimbabwe, along with Zambia and Malawi, has declared a state of disaster due to a severe drought sweeping across southern Africa. President Emmerson Mnangagwa cited an "El Nino-induced drought" causing below-normal rainfall, affecting over 80% of the country. This drought, exacerbated by climate change, has led to dire food shortages and humanitarian crises across the region.

UAE's Masdar to Host World Future Energy Summit

Masdar, the UAE's prominent clean energy company, is set to host the **World Future Energy Summit (WFES)** from April 16 to 18 at the **Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC)**. This summit serves as a pivotal global event focusing on future energy, clean technology, and sustainability, featuring various discussions, forums, and activations.

Peter Pellegrini Wins Slovakia Presidential Elections: Pro-Russia Stance Solidified

In Slovakia's recent presidential election, Peter Pellegrini emerged victorious, reinforcing the pro-Russian stance of Prime Minister Robert Fico's government. Pellegrini's win signals a continuity in Fico's policies, characterized by a tilt towards Russia, controversial reforms, and strained relations with the West.

India-Kazakhstan to Enhance Counter-Terror Cooperation in Response to Moscow Attacks

In the wake of the recent terrorist attack in Moscow, believed to be perpetrated by extremists from Central Asia potentially influenced by Pakistani seminaries, India and Kazakhstan convened in Astana to bolster their collaboration against terrorism.

UK's First Woman High Commissioner to India: Lindy Cameron

Lindy Cameron, a distinguished Oxford University alumna and former CEO of the UK's National Cyber Security Centre, has been appointed as the first woman high commissioner to India. Her appointment marks a significant milestone in UK-

India relations, coming 70 years after India appointed its first high commissioner to London.

Russia's Successful Angara-A5 Rocket Test Launch

Russia successfully tested its Angara-A5 space rocket for the first time on April 11, 2024. The test launch was conducted from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in the Far East of Russia. In fact, rocket test launches on April 9 and 10 were cancelled due to a malfunction in the pressurization system and a problem with the engine launch-control system.

Kuwait's New Prime Minister: Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

Kuwait's Emir has appointed Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as the new Prime Minister following the resignation of Sheikh Mohammed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. Sheikh Ahmad, born in 1952, brings extensive experience in finance and government, having held various ministerial positions.

Nigeria Becomes First Country to Roll Out New Meningitis Vaccine

In a groundbreaking move, Nigeria has become the inaugural nation to introduce the innovative Men5CV vaccine, recommended by the WHO, targeting five strains of meningococcal bacteria. This historic milestone holds immense promise in combating meningitis, a severe threat in Africa, particularly in Nigeria. The vaccine rollout, funded by Gavi, is a crucial step towards achieving the WHO's goal of eliminating meningitis by 2030.

Prabowo Subianto Declared Indonesia's President-Elect Amid Controversy

Indonesia's electoral commission has officially declared Prabowo Subianto as the president-elect after the country's highest court rejected challenges to his landslide victory lodged by two losing presidential candidates. Subianto, currently serving as the defense minister, secured 58.6% of the votes, amounting to more than 96 million ballots, which is more than twice the number received by either of his rivals.

State News

The 34th Seng Kihlang Festival Concludes in Wahiajer, Meghalaya

The 34th Seng Kihlang festival, a revered event for adherents of the Khasi Indigenous Faith, recently concluded in Wahiajer, Meghalaya. Spanning from April 19, 2024, the festival celebrated the unity and traditions of the indigenous community. At the heart of this annual gathering lies the symbolic exchange of the Monolith, a cherished ritual that represents the enduring spirit of unity among believers. This year, the esteemed Monolith was received in Wahiajer from Seng Khasi Shaid Shaid, located in the West Khasi Hills.

Economy News

India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) Report: March 2024

March 2024 witnessed a positive inflation rate of 0.53% in India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) compared to March 2023. This inflation was primarily attributed to increased prices in food articles, electricity, crude petroleum & natural gas, machinery & equipment, and other manufacturing sectors.

Rankings & Reports News

India Ranks Second in Hepatitis B and C Cases Worldwide

The World Health Organisation's (WHO) 2024 Global Hepatitis Report reveals that India is second only to China in the number of Hepatitis B and C infections, with 3.5 crore cases. Hepatitis, characterized by liver inflammation, poses significant health risks and can be fatal. The report highlights that 254 million people are affected by Hepatitis B and 50 million by Hepatitis C globally.

India Overtakes China in Digital Services Exports: Key Findings from WTO Report

In 2023, India emerged as a frontrunner in digital services exports, surpassing China, as outlined in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) report. The report highlights significant growth in digitally delivered services globally, with India's exports reaching \$257 billion, marking a 17 percent increase from the previous year. This growth outpaced that of Germany and China, which registered only 4 percent each.

Alia Bhatt Named to TIME's 100 Most Influential People of 2024 List: A Testament to Global Impact

Alia Bhatt's inclusion in TIME Magazine's '100 Most Influential People of 2024' underscores her remarkable ascent as a global icon. Renowned director Tom Harper, lauding her as a "truly international star," highlights her multifaceted talent and magnetic presence both on and off-screen.

Top Indian Banks in Asia-Pacific Region

According to a recent report by S&P Global, three Indian banks—State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank—have secured positions among the top 50 banks in the Asia-Pacific region based on their assets.

UNFPA Report Highlights on India's Population

In its recent report titled "Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope," the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) sheds light on India's demographic landscape. With a current estimated population of 1.44 billion, India maintains its status as the most populous country globally. Notably, 24% of this vast populace falls within the age bracket of 0-14 years, indicating a significant youth demographic.

Gems & Jewellery Export Trends in FY23-24: A Detailed Overview

In the fiscal year 2023-24, India experienced a significant decline in its gems and jewellery exports by 14.94%, amounting to US\$32.02 billion compared to US\$37.6 billion in the previous year. The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) released provisional data highlighting this downturn.

Business News

India to Build First Commercial Crude Oil Strategic Storage

India aims to bolster its strategic petroleum reserves (SPRs) by constructing its first privately managed storage facility in partnership with a private company by 2029-30.

Adani Green Energy Builds World's Largest Renewable Energy Park in Khavda, Gujarat

Adani Green Energy Limited, an Adani Group company, is building the world's largest renewable energy park in Khavda, Kutch district of Gujarat. The park is spread over 538 square kilometers, which is about five times larger than the total size of the French capital, Paris.

Agreement News

Air India Expands Partnership with Japan's ANA

Air India has entered into a codeshare partnership with All Nippon Airways (ANA), Japan's largest airline. This agreement, effective from May 23, 2024, will allow passengers of both airlines to combine flights between India and Japan using a single ticket.

Appointment News

Moushumi Basu Takes Over as New President of JNU Teachers Association

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers Association (JNUTA) has appointed a new team of office-bearers for the term of 2024-2025, according to a statement released. Moushumi Basu, a professor at the School of International Studies, has been appointed as the next JNUTA president.

Joishree Das Verma Becomes New President of FICCI Ladies Organisation

Joishree Das Verma has taken over as the 41st National President of the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) for the year 2024-25. FLO is the oldest women-led and women-centric business chamber of South East Asia.

Tata International Appoints Rajeev Singhal as MD

Tata Group's global trading and distribution arm, **Tata International**, has announced the **appointment of Rajeev Singhal** as its new **Managing Director (MD)**. Singhal's appointment to the **new position** is **effective from April 1, 2024**. He **succeeds Anand Sen**, who **superannuated (retired)** on **March 31, 2024**, as per a statement by Tata International.

Rakesh Mohan Appointed to World Bank Economic Advisory Panel

The World Bank Group has appointed former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor Rakesh Mohan as a member of its Economic Advisory Panel. This panel will be chaired by Lord Nicholas Stern, the IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government at the London School of Economics. World Bank Group Chief Economist Indermit Gill will co-chair the panel.

Meenesh Shah Elected as Chairman of NCDFI

The National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd. (NCDFI), the national-level apex dairy cooperative, has elected its new Board of Directors. In the elections held, Dr. **Meenesh Shah** was unanimously chosen as the new Chairman of the organization.

Wipro Appoints New CEO: Srinivas Pallia

Wipro, the IT giant, has announced the resignation of its CEO, **Thierry Delaporte**. In his place, the company's Board of Directors has appointed **Srinivas Pallia** as the new Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, effective April 7, 2024.

IPS Officer Love Kumar Appointed as IG in Special Protection Group

Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Love Kumar has been appointed as the Inspector General (IG) in the Special Protection Group (SPG) for a period of two years, according to an official notification issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved this proposal from the Office of the Secretary (Security), Cabinet Secretariat.

Centre Appoints Manoj Panda as New Finance Commission Member

The appointment of Manoj Panda fills a vacancy in the **Sixteenth Finance Commission**, allowing it to commence its duties. Panda, an esteemed economist and former director of the Institute of Economic Growth, joins as a full-time member.

Sushil Sharma Appointed CMD of SJVN Limited

The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel has recommended Sushil Sharma for the position of Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of SJVN Limited. This decision was made during the panel's meeting on April 8th. Sharma, currently serving as Director (Projects) within the organization, emerged as the frontrunner from a pool of nine candidates interviewed by the PESB selection panel.

Sachidananda Mohanty Appointed as Member, University Grants Commission (UGC)

Sachidananda Mohanty has been appointed as a Member of the University Grants Commission (UGC) for a period of three years with immediate effect. The appointment was made by the Ministry of Higher Education, Government of India, as per a gazette notification.

Senior IPS Officer Anurag Kumar Appointed as Joint Director of CBI

In a significant development in India's law enforcement landscape, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of senior IPS officer Anurag Kumar as the Joint Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). This move, which comes into effect immediately, underscores the government's confidence in Kumar's leadership and expertise to serve in this crucial role.

Senior Bureaucrat Vandita Kaul Appointed as Secretary, Department of Posts

In a significant development, Senior Bureaucrat Vandita Kaul, a seasoned professional with a wealth of experience in financial services and banking, has been appointed as the Secretary of the Department of Posts. Kaul, a 1989-batch Indian Postal Service officer, currently serves as Member (Banking & Direct Benefit Transfer) of the Postal Services Board. She will succeed Vineet Pandey upon his superannuation.

Justice Aniruddha Bose Appointed Director of National Judicial Academy

Supreme Court Justice Aniruddha Bose has been named the new director of the National Judicial Academy (NJA) in Bhopal, as announced by Supreme Court Chief Justice DY Chandrachud during a ceremonial bench held on April 10. The NJA, established in 1993, operates under the guidance of the Supreme Court and aims to enhance the skills of judges and facilitate court administration.

Kristalina Georgieva Re-appointed as IMF Managing Director

Kristalina Georgieva has been re-appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a new 5-year term starting on 1 October 2024. She was the sole candidate nominated for the position this year, and her appointment was made by the IMF executive board.

BharatPe Appoints Nalin Negi as Chief Executive Officer

BharatPe, the fintech company that has been making waves in the Indian payments landscape, has officially elevated Nalin Negi as its chief executive officer. This move comes 15 months after Negi took charge as the company's interim CEO and chief financial officer, during a period of significant upheaval and transition.

SPACE India named Sanjana Sanghi as its Brand Ambassador

Since its inception in 2001, SPACE India has been on a mission to integrate Astronomy and Space Science into school curricula nationwide, inspiring over 1.5 million students across 1,000 schools. The organization has been instrumental in demystifying rocket science and making space education accessible to all.

Saurabh Garg Appointed as Secretary of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

In a significant move, the Central Government has entrusted IAS officer Saurabh Garg with the additional charge of Secretary of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). This decision, communicated through an order issued by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), underscores Garg's extensive experience and expertise in the realm of public administration.

Nalin Prabhat Appointed as Director-General of NSG

In a significant move, the appointments committee of the Cabinet has approved two key appointments in India's premier security agencies. Nalin Prabhat, a 1992 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the Director-General of the National Security Guard (NSG), while Sapna Tewari, a 1992 batch IPS officer of the Odisha cadre, has been appointed as the Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau (IB).

Santosh Viswanathan Appointed India Region Head of Intel

In a strategic move to capitalize on the rapid economic growth in India and fortify its presence in the Asia-Pacific region, Intel Corporation has announced the appointment of new executives for its Sales, Marketing, and Communications Group (SMG). This reorganization is part of the company's ongoing transformation initiatives.

Citroen India Ropes in MS Dhoni as Brand Ambassador

In a strategic move to enhance its brand presence and awareness in the Indian market, French carmaker Citroen has engaged cricketing legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador. The Stellantis Group company, which is a relatively new entrant in the competitive Indian passenger vehicle market, aims to find a firm footing and strengthen its brand identity through this association.

India's Gita Sabharwal Appointed as UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia

The United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, has appointed Gita Sabharwal of India as the new UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia. Sabharwal assumed her post on Monday, bringing with her nearly three decades of experience in development, supporting climate transition, sustainable peace, governance, and social policy, while leveraging digital

technology and data to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Naima Khatoun Breaks Glass Ceiling, Becomes First Woman Vice-Chancellor of AMU

In a historic move, President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Professor Naima Khatoun as the first woman Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), breaking a century-old glass ceiling. The appointment, seen as part of the BJP government's outreach to Muslim women, comes days ahead of the second phase of the Lok Sabha election.

Narsingh Yadav Elected Chairman of WFI Athletes Commission

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has completed the process mandated by the United World Wrestling (UWW), the global governing body for the sport. As a condition for lifting the suspension of WFI, UWW had instructed the federation to establish an Athletes Commission to address the grievances of wrestlers.

Axis Bank Re-appoints Amitabh Chaudhry as MD & CEO for Three More Years

Axis Bank's board has approved the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as Managing Director & CEO for another three years, effective January 2025, subject to RBI approval. Alongside Chaudhry, Independent Directors Meena Ganesh and Gopalaraman Padmanabhan have also been re-appointed for four years each.

Rabi Sankar Re-appointed RBI Deputy Governor: Government Grants One-Year Extension

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the re-appointment of T. Rabi Sankar as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a one-year term, effective from May 3, 2024. Sankar, a seasoned central banker with a career spanning over three decades at the RBI, was initially appointed as Deputy Governor on May 3, 2021, for a three-year period.

Arun Alagappan Appointed Executive Chairman of Coromandel International

Coromandel International Ltd. (CIL), a leading provider of agri-solutions, has announced a significant leadership transition. Arun Alagappan, the former Executive Vice Chairman, has been appointed and re-designated as the Executive Chairman of the company.

Banking News**RBI Monetary Policy, Repo Rate To Remain Steady For Seventh Time**

RBI Monetary Policy Committee has decided by majority 5:1 to keep policy rates unchanged, Governor Shaktikanta Das announced on April 5. He also that core inflation has declined steadily. It is the first bi-monthly monetary policy of 2024-25.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor also announced MSF & Bank rates to continue to be at 6.75%. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor has kept the policy rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent.

RBI Approves Ajith Kumar KK as Dhanlaxmi Bank's MD & CEO Amid Capital Raise

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) greenlights Ajith Kumar KK's appointment as Managing Director & CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank, marking a pivotal moment amidst the bank's preparations for a ₹300 crore rights issue. The leadership transition follows a series of senior management exits amid internal conflicts.

RuPay Launches 'Link it, Forget it' Campaign at IPL 2024 to Promote Credit Card on UPI

RuPay, in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), introduces the 'Link it, Forget it' campaign during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024. This initiative aims to showcase the seamless integration of RuPay credit cards with UPI, emphasizing the convenience of leaving physical wallets behind.

CRED Secures In-Principle Approval for Payment Aggregator License

CRED, the Bengaluru-based fintech start-up, has recently obtained in-principle approval for a payment aggregator license, as reported by the Economic Times. This significant development allows CRED to broaden its services beyond its focus on reward-based credit card payments. With the new license, CRED can now facilitate merchant payments directly, enhancing its role in the digital payments ecosystem.

Airtel Payments Bank Launches NCMC-enabled Debit and Prepaid Cards

Airtel Payments Bank has introduced NCMC-aligned debit and prepaid cards in collaboration with NPCI, powered by RuPay. These cards are designed to support India's One Nation, One Card initiative. Savings account holders can avail NCMC-enabled debit cards, while wallet users can opt for prepaid cards. Crafted from eco-friendly e-PVC material, these cards offer versatility in payment options, including offline transit transactions, online shopping, and enhanced security with EMV Chip protection.

Razorpay and Airtel Payments Bank Introduce UPI Switch: Revolutionizing Payment Infrastructure

In a groundbreaking collaboration, Razorpay and Airtel Payments Bank have unveiled the UPI Switch, a cutting-edge cloud-based infrastructure designed to revolutionize the landscape of digital payments. This innovative product promises to enhance success rates by 4-5% and handle an impressive 10,000 transactions per second (TPS), offering businesses unprecedented efficiency and scalability.

BharatPe Introduces BharatPe One: Revolutionizing Payment Solutions

In a significant move, BharatPe has unveiled BharatPe One, an innovative all-in-one payment device set to redefine digital transactions. This cutting-edge product integrates POS, QR, and speaker functionalities into a single device, promising unparalleled convenience for merchants and customers alike.

PayU Receives RBI's In-Principle Approval as Payment Aggregator

In a significant development, PayU, the digital financial services provider, has obtained the coveted in-principle authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function as a Payments Aggregator (PA) under the Payment Settlements Act, 2007. This approval, after a year-long process, marks a pivotal moment for PayU's operations in India.

SEBI Approval for CRISIL's ESG Ratings Unit

SEBI has granted approval to CRISIL ESG Ratings & Analytics as a Category 1 provider of ESG ratings, marking a significant development in the realm of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) assessments in India. This accreditation underscores the growing importance of independent ESG ratings in financial markets, particularly in guiding decision-making for issuers and investors towards sustainable practices.

NABARD-RBI Innovation Hub Partnership Accelerates Digital Agri Lending

In a strategic collaboration, NABARD has joined forces with the RBI Innovation Hub to revolutionize agricultural lending through digitalization. The partnership aims to streamline loan processing and enhance accessibility for farmers across India.

SBI Card MILES Launches Three Travel-Focused Credit Card Variants

SBI Card has introduced three variants of its travel-centric credit card, SBI Card MILES, catering to diverse travel needs. The variants—SBI Card MILES ELITE, SBI Card MILES PRIME, and SBI Card MILES—are designed to offer curated benefits to travelers, from frequent flyers to enthusiasts.

Science & Technology News

WHO Launches CoViNet: A Global Network for Coronaviruses

The World Health Organization (WHO) has introduced CoViNet, a global initiative aimed at enhancing the detection, monitoring, and assessment of coronaviruses worldwide. CoViNet expands upon the existing WHO COVID-19 reference laboratory network to encompass a broader spectrum of coronaviruses, including SARS-CoV-2, MERS-CoV, and potential novel strains of public health concern.

TASL Launches India's First Privately-Built Sub-Metre Resolution Surveillance Satellite

Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL), in collaboration with Satellogic, has successfully launched India's inaugural private sector-built sub-metre resolution earth observation satellite, TSAT-1A. This significant milestone marks a new era in India's space endeavors, offering enhanced surveillance capabilities to the country.

Chandrayaan-4: ISRO Chief Somanath Shares Plans for Next Moon Mission in 2040

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief S Somanath has revealed that the upcoming phase of the Chandrayaan project is in progress, aiming to advance India's lunar exploration efforts. He indicated that Chandrayaan-4 marks the initial stride towards India's aspiration of landing an astronaut on the moon by 2040.

Clouded Tiger Cat: A New Species Discovered in Brazil's Rainforests

In a remarkable discovery, scientists have identified a new species of wild cat thriving in the dense rainforests of Brazil. Dubbed the clouded tiger cat (*Leopardus pardinoides*), this feline marvel has captivated the hearts of animal enthusiasts and conservationists alike, sparking renewed efforts to safeguard the region's rich biodiversity.

Indian Students Shine at NASA's Human Exploration Rover Challenge

Two Indian student teams have brought laurels to the country by winning prestigious awards at the NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge (HERC). The KIET Group of Institutions from Delhi-NCR bagged the "Crash and Burn" award, while the Kanakia International School from Mumbai received the "Rookie of the Year" award.

Schemes and Committees**NTPC Limited to Launch New Edition of Girl Child Empowerment Mission (GEM)**

NTPC Limited, India's largest power company, is set to unveil a new version of its flagship corporate social responsibility initiative, the Girl Child Empowerment Mission (GEM). This program aligns with the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child) campaign launched by the Government of India.

Central Government Committee on LGBTQ+ Community Welfare

In the landmark *Supriyo Chakraborty vs. Union Of India* Case 2023, the Special Marriage Act of 1954 was challenged for its exclusion of same-sex marriages, citing a violation of Article 14 of the fundamental rights. Despite the Act allowing marriages between individuals of different religions, it did not extend this provision to same-sex couples. The Supreme Court

upheld this exclusion, prompting the government to establish a committee to address the concerns of the LGBTQ+ community without legally recognizing their relationships as marriages.

Awards & Honors News**REC Wins SKOCH ESG Award 2024 in Renewable Energy Financing Category**

REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been bestowed with the **SKOCH ESG Award 2024** in the 'Renewable Energy Financing' category. The award underscores REC's dedication to sustainable financing, paving the way for a greener future and accelerating the transition to renewable energy. Executive Director of REC Limited, Shri T.S.C. Bosh, received the award in New Delhi.

Dr. Karthik Kommuri Honoured at National Fame Awards 2024

Dr. Karthik Kommuri is renowned for his exceptional patient care and commitment to contemporary practice in orthodontics and dentistry. He is known for his unwavering dedication to patient well-being, pursuit of excellence, and creating brighter smiles.

In recognition of his efforts, Dr. Kommuri was felicitated with the Distinguished Overseas Dental Specialist (Orthodontics and Orofacial Pain) title at the **National Fame Awards 2024**, held at The Club in Mumbai. The chief guest of the ceremony was Dia Mirza.

SJVN Awarded for Outstanding Corporate Social Responsibility

SJVN Limited, a leading public sector undertaking, has been honored with two prestigious awards at the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2024. The awards were given by the Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC) in recognition of SJVN's remarkable contributions to corporate social responsibility (CSR).



Aleksei Navalny and Yulia Navalnaya Honoured with Freedom Prize

The late Russian dissident **Aleksei Navalny and his wife, Yulia Navalnaya**, will receive the Freedom Prize of the Media from a leading German forum, the Ludwig Erhard Summit. The award is presented annually to public figures who have made significant contributions to freedom of expression, dialogue, and democracy.

Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital Wins 'Best Scientific Poster Award' 2024

Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital's research team has been honoured with the prestigious 'Best Scientific Poster Award' at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS). The award-winning study focused on 'The efficacy of RevitalVision vision-training software in improving best-corrected vision in stable keratoconus patients post Crosslinking surgery.'

Kannada Poet Mamta G. Sagar Honored with Prestigious World Literary Prize

Mamta G. Sagar, a renowned Kannada poet, writer, academic, and activist based in Bengaluru, has added another feather to her cap by winning the prestigious World Literary Prize from the World Organization of Writers (WOW). This prestigious accolade recognizes Sagar's exceptional contributions to the world of literature, solidifying her status as a trailblazing literary icon.

World Economic Forum names Nykaa's Adwaita Nayar as a 2024 Young Global Leader

The World Economic Forum has named Adwaita Nayar, the co-founder of Nykaa and CEO of Nykaa Fashion, as a '2024 Young Global Leader'. This prestigious recognition highlights Nayar's remarkable achievements as a change-maker and entrepreneur, solidifying her place among the most influential young leaders in the world.

Deepika Soreng Honoured with Asunta Lakra Award

Deepika Soreng, the promising forward of the India Women's Hockey Team, has been honoured with the prestigious Hockey India Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player of the Year during the Hockey India 6th Annual Awards 2023. The award recognizes her outstanding performance and immense potential as a rising star in the sport.

Kaushik Rajashekara Honored with International Fellowship by the Engineering Academy of Japan

Kaushik Rajashekara, a distinguished professor at the University of Houston's Cullen College of Engineering, has been elected as an International Fellow of the prestigious Engineering Academy of Japan. This honour recognizes his outstanding contributions to the field of power conversion and the electrification of transportation.

Pavuluri Subba Rao Honoured with Aryabhata Award for Astronautics Contribution

Pavuluri Subba Rao, the Founder, CEO, and Chairman of Ananth Technologies, has been conferred with the prestigious 'Aryabhata Award' by the Aeronautical Society of India (ASI). This honour recognizes Rao's "tremendous lifetime contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India."

Mohammed Salem's Award-Winning Photograph at World Press Photo 2024

Mohammed Salem is a Palestinian photographer who works for the news agency Reuters. In 2024, he won a very important award called the World Press Photo of the Year award. The World Press Photo award is a prestigious international competition for photojournalists (photographers who capture news events).

The Laureus World Sports Awards 2024 Announced Important

The prestigious 2024 Laureus Sports Awards ceremony, held in Madrid, was a grand celebration of the world's best athletes and their remarkable achievements. The event honoured several sporting icons who have left an indelible mark on their respective disciplines. Novak Djokovic, the world's top-ranked tennis player, etched his name in the annals of Laureus history by becoming the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year for the fifth time.

Randeep Hooda Honoured with Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award

In a prestigious ceremony held at Mumbai's Dinanath Mangeshkar Natyagrih, actor Randeep Hooda was bestowed with the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award. This honor recognizes his remarkable contributions to Indian cinema and his recent film "Swatantrya Veer Savarkar."

Important Dates News**RBI Celebrates 90 Years of Service on Foundation Day 2024**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, the nation's **central banking institution**, is entering its **90th year on April 1st, 2024**. To mark this significant occasion, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is attending the event at Mumbai's **National Centre for the Performing Arts**.

World Autism Awareness Day 2024

World Autism Awareness Day is on April 2nd every year. It aims to raise awareness and support for people with autism. The **theme** for 2024 is "Empowering Autistic Voices." A report says around **18 million** people in India have autism. Between 1-1.5% of children aged 2-9 years old are diagnosed with autism. **Boys** are more commonly affected than girls.

United Nations Observes International Mine Awareness Day on 4th April

The United Nations Observes **International Mine Awareness Day** on 4th April. International Mine Awareness Day is a **day dedicated to raising awareness** about the **serious impact of landmines** and other **explosive remnants of war** on civilians. It also aims to promote the **protection of persons with disabilities** in conflict and peacebuilding settings.

National Maritime Day 2024

National Maritime Day is observed annually on April 5 in India. It is a day dedicated to recognizing the importance of the maritime sector in the country's international trade and economic growth. The date marks a significant milestone in India's maritime history. On April 5, 1919, the first Indian commercial ship, SS Loyalty, embarked on a journey to the United Kingdom, breaking the British monopoly on sea routes. This event was a crucial step in the development of India's shipping industry.

International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 2024

Every year on **April 6th**, the world celebrates the **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP)**. This day is dedicated to recognizing the positive impact that sports and physical activity can have on people's lives and communities around the globe.

National Library Day 2024

National Library Day is celebrated every year on **April 6th**. On this day, people come together to celebrate the important role that libraries and librarians play in our society. It's a day to reflect on the importance of reading and making books accessible and affordable for everyone.

World Health Day 2024: Celebrating the Right to Health

World Health Day is celebrated every year on April 7th, the founding date of the World Health Organization (WHO). In 2024, the theme for World Health Day is "My Health, My Right", focusing on the fundamental human right to access quality healthcare, education, and information.

World Chagas Disease Day 2024

The World Health Organization (WHO) observes World Chagas Disease Day every April 14th to raise awareness about the neglected tropical disease that affects millions of people, especially in Latin America. The 72nd World Health Assembly dedicated this day to the disease in 2019.

World Hemophilia Day 2024

World Hemophilia Day is an annual observance held on April 17th to raise awareness about hemophilia, a rare and inherited bleeding disorder. This year, the theme for World Hemophilia Day 2024 is "Equitable access for all: recognizing all bleeding disorders." This article will explore the history, significance, and importance of this important health observance.

World Heritage Day 2024

World Heritage Day, also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites, is observed annually on April 18. This year, the special day falls on Thursday, April 18, 2024. The observance of this day aims to raise awareness about the diversity and importance of the world's cultural heritage, and the need to protect and preserve it for future generations.

National Civil Service Day 2024

National Civil Service Day is celebrated annually on April 21st in India. This year, the theme for National Civil Service Day 2024 is yet to be announced, but it is likely to focus on a current challenge or opportunity facing the Indian civil service. The first ever National Civil Services Day in India was celebrated on April 21, 2006. It was recognized to commemorate the first Home Minister of India – Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

International Mother Earth Day 2024, Date, History, Theme and Significance

On April 22nd, the world will unite to commemorate the 54th International Mother Earth Day. This annual event serves as a poignant reminder of the critical need to address the mounting environmental challenges threatening our planet, including rapidly rising pollution levels, deforestation, and global warming. This year's theme, "Planet vs. Plastics," aims to shed light on the detrimental effects of plastic pollution on human and environmental health.

World Book and Copyright Day 2024, Date, History and Importance

World Book and Copyright Day is a special day celebrated every year on April 23rd. The main purpose of this day is to promote reading, books, and copyright. On this day, events and activities happening all around the world to honour books and the people who create them – authors. It is a way to encourage everyone to read books and understand why it is important to protect the rights of writers and publishers.

National Panchayati Raj Day Observed on April 24th every year

National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated annually on April 24th to commemorate the establishment of the Panchayati Raj system in India. This decentralized form of governance, introduced by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act in 1993, aimed to empower local self-governing bodies, known as Gram Panchayats, at the village level.

Khongjom Day: Remembering the Valiant Fighters of Anglo-Manipuri War

In Manipur, Khongjom Day is observed on April 25 to pay homage to the brave souls who fought against the British in the Khongjom Battle during the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891. This day holds great significance in the history of Manipur, as it commemorates the valor and sacrifice of those who laid down their lives to protect their homeland.

World Immunization Week 2024 Observed on April 24 To 30

Every year, from April 24 to 30, the world celebrates World Immunization Week. This global campaign aims to raise awareness about the importance of vaccination and its role in protecting individuals, communities, and populations against preventable diseases. Vaccination campaigns have been instrumental in eradicating smallpox and nearly defeating polio, showcasing humanity's remarkable achievements in the field of immunization.

World Malaria Day 2024 Observed on 25th April Annually

Every year on April 25, World Malaria Day is observed to raise awareness about the prevention, treatment, and control of malaria, a life-threatening disease caused by mosquito bites. Malaria is prevalent in tropical and subtropical regions, but it is preventable with proper precautions and measures. This annual observance serves as a reminder of the global efforts needed to eradicate this disease and ensure a healthier world.

International Girls in ICT Day 2024 Observed on April 25

Every year on the fourth Thursday of April, the world celebrates International Girls in ICT Day. This important occasion aims to highlight the significance of girls and young women in the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and encourage them to pursue education and careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). This year, International Girls in ICT Day falls on April 25.

International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day 2024 Observed on April 26th

Every year, on April 26th, we observe the International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day. This day is dedicated to remembering the victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and raising awareness about this catastrophic event. On April 26, 1986, the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine (formerly part of the Soviet Union) exploded, releasing a massive radioactive cloud into the atmosphere. This disaster exposed approximately 8.4 million people to harmful nuclear radiation.

World Intellectual Property Day 2024 Celebrates on 26th April

World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated annually on April 26th by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). This day is dedicated to promoting the role of intellectual property (IP) in stimulating innovation and creativity. The official theme for World Intellectual Property Day 2024 is 'IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity'. The theme highlights the importance of IP in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and creating a better future for all.

World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2024 Observed on 27th April

The World Day for Safety and Health at Work is an annual international campaign observed on April 28th to promote safe and healthy working conditions for all workers. This day aims to raise awareness of the importance of occupational safety and health and to honour those who have suffered injuries, illnesses, or lost their lives due to work-related accidents or diseases. This year, World Veterinary Day will be celebrated on Saturday, April 27, 2024. The theme for 2024 is "Veterinarians are Essential Health Workers".

World Veterinary Day 2024 Observed on 27th April

The World Veterinary Day (WVD) is an annual global celebration that honours the invaluable contributions of veterinarians to society. Observed on the last Saturday of April, this day aims to raise awareness about the crucial role veterinarians play in maintaining the health and welfare of animals and humans alike.

Sports News**Hardik Singh and Salima Tete Honoured at Hockey India Awards 2023**

Hardik Singh and **Salima Tete** were named the **Players of the Year** for 2023 in the men's and women's categories, respectively, at the sixth annual **Hockey India Awards**.

During the event, Hockey India announced the **revival of the Hockey India League (HIL)**, which will return in **January 2025** after a hiatus since 2017. The revived league will feature **eight men's teams** and **six women's teams**, with auctions likely to be held after the **Paris Olympics**.

Maharashtra Men's and Women National Kho Kho Champion

The **Maharashtra team** emerged as the undisputed champion at the **56th National Kho Kho Championship 2023-24**, clinching both the **men's and women's titles**. The championship was held at Delhi's **Karnail Singh Stadium** and the **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium**.

Bindyarani Devi Wins Bronze, Mirabai Chanu Qualifies for Paris Olympics 2024 at IWF World Cup

The IWF World Cup 2024 was held in Phuket, Thailand from March 31 to April 11, 2024. The event was organized by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), the world governing body for men's and women's weightlifting. 25-year-old Indian weightlifter Bindyarani Devi competed in the women's 55kg category and won a bronze medal.

Bilquis Mir: The First Indian Woman on the Paris Olympics Jury

Bilquis Mir, a canoeist from Jammu and Kashmir, is set to make history as the first woman from India to represent the country as a jury member at the upcoming Summer Olympics in Paris. This prestigious appointment was officially conveyed through a letter from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to the J&K administration.

Harendra Singh Appointed as Coach of Indian Women's Hockey Team Until 2028 Olympics

Former Indian hockey player and Dronacharya awardee Harendra Singh has been selected by Hockey India as the coach of the senior national women's hockey team. He will replace Janneke Schopman, a former Dutch hockey player, who resigned last month as the coach of the national women's team after the Indian team failed to qualify for the Paris Olympics 2024.

Asian Wrestling Championship: Udit Bags Silver, Abhimanyu and Vicky Claim Bronze Each

India's 19-year-old Udit won the silver medal in the men's 57kg category at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2024 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Abhimanyu (men's 70kg) and Vicky (men's 97kg) also won the bronze medals in their respective weight divisions to take India's tally to three medals after the opening day of the competition.

Rashmi Kumari Wins National Women's Carrom Title For The 12th time

In a display of unparalleled skill and consistency, Rashmi Kumari has etched her name deeper into the annals of Indian carrom history by claiming her 12th National Carrom Championship title. The three-time World Champion overcame a tough challenge from K Nagajothi in the women's final, emerging victorious with a scoreline of 25-8, 14-20, 25-20.

Stefanos Tsitsipas Triumphs at the Monte Carlo Masters for the Third Time in Four Years

Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece swept aside his opponent, Casper Ruud of Norway, with a convincing 6-1, 6-4 victory to win the prestigious clay-court Monte Carlo Masters for the third time in four years. The emotional triumph was marked by Tsitsipas' tears of joy as he sat in his chair, reflecting on his hard-fought journey to this momentous achievement.

Rohit Sharma Achieves Historic Milestone, Becomes First Indian to Hit 500 T20 Sixes

In a remarkable display of power-hitting, India and Mumbai Indians star batter Rohit Sharma has become the first Indian cricketer to smash 500 sixes in the T20 format. This historic achievement was reached during Rohit's stellar performance in the Indian Premier League (IPL) match against Chennai Super Kings at the Wankhede Stadium.

Pat Cummins and Sciver-Brunt Named Wisden's Top Cricketers

In the 2024 edition of the prestigious Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, two exceptional talents have been crowned as the Wisden Leading Cricketers in the World, Australian captain Pat Cummins and England all-rounder Nat Sciver-Brunt.

Rohit Sharma becomes 2nd player after MS Dhoni to play 250 matches in IPL

Rohit Sharma, the former captain of the Mumbai Indians, etched his name in the annals of Indian Premier League (IPL) history by becoming only the second player to feature in 250 IPL matches. This remarkable milestone was achieved during a match against the Punjab Kings in Mullanpur, Chandigarh, further solidifying Rohit's status as an IPL legend.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen Claims Maiden Chinese Grand Prix Victory

In a display of sheer dominance, Max Verstappen of Red Bull Racing claimed a resounding victory at the long-awaited Chinese Grand Prix, extending his lead in the 2024 World Championship. The Dutchman's triumph marked the first Formula One race in China in five years, and he left no room for doubt, leading from start to finish.

Gukesh Etches Name in Chess History as Youngest Challenger

In a remarkable achievement, Indian chess prodigy Dommaraju Gukesh, aged just 17, has made history by winning the FIDE Candidates tournament, becoming the youngest-ever challenger in the history of the World Chess Championship. Not only that, but Gukesh is also the first teenager to win the prestigious tournament.

Nandini's Sponsorship of Ireland and Scotland Cricket Teams Sparks Debate

In a move to strengthen its international presence, 'Nandini', the dairy brand of the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), has announced its decision to sponsor the cricket teams of Scotland and Ireland for the upcoming 2024 T20 World Cup. According to KMF's managing director, MK Jagadish, the teams will prominently display the 'Nandini' brand during the matches.

Casper Ruud wins Barcelona Open, Rybakina clinches Stuttgart Open

In a remarkable achievement, World No. 6 Casper Ruud of Norway defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece, clinching the ATP Barcelona Open 500 singles title. The final scoreline of 7-5, 6-3 marked a significant milestone for Ruud, as he secured the biggest trophy of his professional career.

Chahal to Bumrah: Top 10 Highest Wicket-Takers in IPL History

The Indian Premier League (IPL) has been a stage for numerous bowling exploits, and several bowlers have etched their names in the record books with their outstanding performances. As the 2024 edition of the IPL unfolds, let's take a look at the top 10 highest wicket-takers in the history of the tournament. Yuzvendra Chahal, the wily leg-spinner from Rajasthan Royals, stands tall as the highest wicket-taker in IPL history.

Saurav Ghosal Bids Farewell to Professional Squash

Indian squash Player, Saurav Ghosal, the nation's premier player, has announced his retirement from professional squash. The 37-year-old's decision marks the end of an illustrious career that spanned over two decades, during which he achieved numerous milestones and brought glory to the country.

T20 World Cup ambassador Usain Bolt predicts big things for cricket in USA

Legendary sprinter Usain Bolt has been named the official ambassador for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup, co-hosted by the West Indies and the United States from June 1 to 29. The Jamaican icon, known as the fastest man alive, brings his passion for cricket and global appeal to ignite the tournament and propel the sport into new territories.

Yuvraj Singh Named ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the appointment of Indian cricket legend Yuvraj Singh as an ambassador for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. The announcement comes with just 36 days remaining until the highly anticipated global event for T20 cricket commences.

Sana Mir Named Ambassador of ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the appointment of Pakistan cricket legend Sana Mir as the ambassador for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier. Mir, who represented Pakistan in 226 international games, with 137 of them as captain, will bring her invaluable experience to the event.

Obituaries News

Veteran Actress Barbara Rush Passes Away at 97

Barbara Rush, a **Golden Globe-winning actress**, embarked on her journey in the entertainment industry in the 1950s. Her breakthrough role came in 1954 with the science-fiction film **"It Came from Outer Space,"** which earned her the **Golden Globe Award for Most Promising Newcomer.**

World's Oldest Man, Juan Vicente Pérez, Dies at 114

Juan Vicente Pérez was a man from Venezuela who lived a very, very long life. He was born on **May 27, 1909**, in a town called El Cobre. This means he was alive for 114 years. Now that Pérez has passed away, the title of "world's oldest man" is expected to go to a 112-year-old man from Japan named Gisaburo Sonobe. But this needs to be confirmed by Sonobe's family first.

Tamil Actor Visheshwara Rao Passes Away at 64

Veteran Tamil actor Visheshwara Rao passed away on April 2 at the age of 64. He died due to complications from cancer, which he had been battling for the last few years. Rao was

undergoing treatment for the disease at a private hospital in Chennai when he breathed his last.

Legendary Cinematographer Gangu Ramsay Passes Away at 83

Gangu Ramsay, the second-eldest son of FU Ramsay, passed away in Mumbai. He was 83 years old. Gangu Ramsay was a renowned cinematographer and filmmaker who was part of the iconic Ramsay Brothers banner. He contributed to over 50 iconic films under their production house.

British physicist Peter Higgs Passes Away at the age of 94

British physicist Peter Higgs died at the age of 94. Peter Higgs gained fame for the discovery of 'Higgs-Boson Particle' i.e. 'God Particle'. Peter Higgs was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2013 for this groundbreaking discovery, which helped explain how the universe was created after the Big Bang. Higgs showed how bosons hold the universe together, a crucial understanding in the field of physics.

Former NFL Star O.J. Simpson Dies of Cancer at Age 76

O.J. Simpson, the former NFL star who was acquitted of murdering his ex-wife and her friend in a televised trial that gripped the nation, has died of cancer, according to his family. He was 76.

Former Cricket Australia (CA) chair, Jack Clarke Passes Away at 70

The Australian cricketing community has lost a true icon with the passing of former Cricket Australia (CA) chair, Jack Clarke, at the age of 70 in Adelaide. Clarke's contributions to the sport spanned decades, and his tenure as the CA chair from 2008 to 2011 was marked by significant milestones that reshaped the landscape of Australian cricket.

Legendary English Cricketer Derek Underwood Passes Away at 78

The cricket world is in mourning as it bids farewell to one of its most revered figures, Derek Underwood, who has passed away at the age of 78. Underwood, a legendary spinner who represented England for over 15 years, was a true icon of the game, leaving an indelible mark on the sport with his exceptional skill and unwavering dedication.

Renowned Carnatic Musician K.G. Jayan Passes Away at 90

K.G. Jayan, a towering figure in Carnatic music and Malayalam cinema, passed away, at his residence in Thripunitura, Kerala. He was 90 years old. The legendary musician had been battling various age-related ailments.

Sudhir Kakar, the "Father of Indian Psychology", Passes Away

The world lost Sudhir Kakar, a renowned writer, cultural critic, and the "Father of Indian Psychology," who passed away at the age of 85. Kakar's life and work bridged the gap between Western and Eastern thought, leaving an indelible mark on the field of psychoanalysis in India.

Yakshagana Exponent Subrahmanya Dhareshwar Passes Away

The world of Yakshagana, a traditional theatre form of Karnataka, has lost a towering figure. Subrahmanya Dhareshwar, a senior and well-known Yakshagana 'bhagavatha' (background singer), passed away in Bengaluru. He was 66 years old.

Defence News

DRDO successfully conducted a flight test of the new generation ballistic missile called 'Agni-Prime'

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and India's Strategic Forces Command (SFC) have successfully conducted a flight test of the new generation ballistic missile called 'Agni-Prime'. The test occurred at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, off Odisha's coast. The data was captured by several range sensors placed at different locations, including two downrange ships placed at the terminal point. The launch was witnessed by the Chief of Defence Staff, Chief of Strategic Forces Command, and other senior officials from DRDO and the Indian Army.

Tri-Service Planning Conference: Parivartan Chintan

The inaugural Tri-Service Planning Conference, dubbed 'Parivartan Chintan,' convened in New Delhi on April 8, 2024, orchestrated by the Ministry of Defence. This landmark event aimed to foster jointness and integration among the Indian Armed Forces, especially in light of ongoing efforts to establish unified theatre commands.

Indian Navy Conducts 'Poorvi Leher' Mega Exercise to Test Maritime Preparedness

The Indian Navy conducted a mega exercise, 'Poorvi Leher,' along the East Coast to validate its procedures and assess its preparedness to meet maritime security challenges in the region. The extensive drill witnessed the participation of ships, submarines, aircraft, and special naval forces.



Honouring the Valiant: Brighton's Tribute to Indian Soldiers

In a move to honour the courageous Indian soldiers who fought valiantly in the First and Second World Wars, the Brighton and Hove City Council in England has taken a commendable step. They have decided to hold an annual multi-faith event at the town's India Gate memorial this October, recognizing the pivotal role played by these warriors from the undivided Indian subcontinent.

IAF Conducts Successful Test of Air-Launched Ballistic Missile

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has achieved a significant milestone by successfully testing a new version of an air-launched medium-range ballistic missile. The missile, codenamed ROCKS or Crystal Maze 2, was test-fired from a Su-30 MKI fighter jet in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Books & Authors News

A book titled 'Heavenly Islands of Goa' released by Goa Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai

In a remarkable literary odyssey, P.S. Sreedharan Pillai, the Governor of Goa, has embarked on a mission to unveil the state's rich natural heritage through a series of captivating books. His latest offering, "Heavenly Islands of Goa," is a testament to his dedication to preserving and promoting the state's lesser-known facets.

EAM Jaishankar Receives Book 'India's Nuclear Titans'

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar received a copy of the book 'India's Nuclear Titans,' edited by Soumya Awasthi and Shrabana Barua. The book traces the evolution of India into a nuclear state while highlighting the pivotal roles played by renowned figures like Homi Bhabha, Vikram Sarabhai, Abdul Kalam, and K. Subrahmanyam, among others.

Miscellaneous News

Bundelkhand Wheat Variety Gets GI Tag

In a significant milestone for agricultural recognition, the **indigenous wheat variety** from the Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh, locally known as **Kathiya Gehu**, has been granted the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**. This is the **first farm produce** from Uttar Pradesh to receive this honor.

Miraj's Sitar and Tanpuras Awarded Geographical Indication Tags

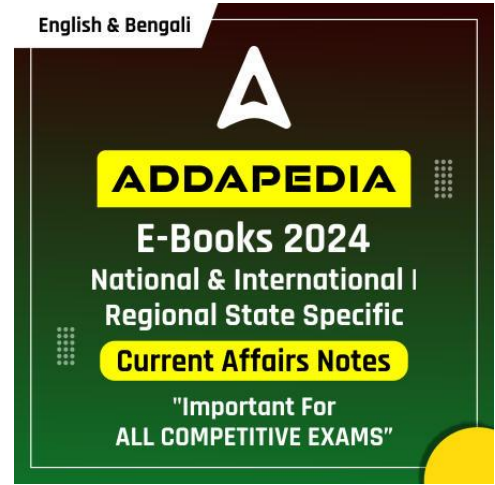
The small town of Miraj in Maharashtra's Sangli district is known for its craftsmanship in making musical instruments, particularly sitars and tanpuras. These instruments have now been awarded the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tags, recognizing their unique origin and quality.

Shompen Tribe Casts Historic Votes in Andaman and Nicobar Elections

On a momentous occasion, members of the Shompen tribe, one of India's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), exercised their democratic right for the first time by casting votes in the Andaman and Nicobar Lok Sabha constituency elections. This significant event marks a milestone for the indigenous community residing in the dense tropical rainforests of the Great Nicobar island.



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