

Weekly Current Affairs 6th May to 11th May 2024 - English**National News****The Hindu Triumphs at 6th International Newspaper Design**

In a remarkable feat, The Hindu secured three prestigious awards at the 6th International Newspaper Design Competition organized by newspaperdesign.in. The accolades were garnered for their exceptional explainer page titled "The science behind Neeraj's skills," shedding light on Neeraj Chopra's remarkable journey and success in athletics.

India's Toy Exports Slip to \$152.34 Million in 2023-24: GTRI Report

India's toy exports experienced a slight decline to USD 152.34 million in the fiscal year 2023-24, with limited benefits from quality control measures. Despite efforts to bolster the domestic industry and ensure product safety, exports did not see significant improvement.

International News**Ukraine Unveils AI-Powered Digital Spokesperson for Foreign Ministry**

In a groundbreaking move that combines cutting-edge technology with diplomacy, Ukraine has unveiled an AI-generated spokesperson, named Victoria Shi, to deliver official statements from its foreign ministry. This significant technological leap in diplomatic communication has captured global attention.

José Raúl Mulino Wins Panama's Presidential Election

In a significant political development, José Raúl Mulino has emerged victorious in Panama's presidential election, securing nearly 35% of the counted votes with over 92% of the ballots tallied. The 64-year-old former security minister has gained an unassailable 9% lead over his nearest rival, prompting three of his closest opponents to concede defeat.

Nepal's Population Trends and Demographic Indicators

Nepal's population growth rate has hit a historic low, standing at 0.92% per annum over the past decade, the slowest in the last eighty years, as reported by the National Statistics Office (NSO). The current population stands at approximately 29.2 million, with a growth of 2.7 million from mid-April 2011 to mid-April 2021.

Scientists Unveil World's Deepest Blue Hole in Mexico

In a groundbreaking discovery detailed in *Frontiers in Marine Science*, researchers have revealed the 'Taam Ja' Blue Hole in Mexico's Chetumal Bay as the deepest known blue hole on Earth, descending to a staggering depth of 1,380 feet.

Surpassing the previous record-holder, the Sansha Yongle Blue Hole, by 480 feet, this abyss presents a tantalizing opportunity for scientific exploration and the potential discovery of new marine life.

John Swinney, Scotland's New First Minister and Veteran SNP Leader

John Swinney, a veteran of the Scottish National Party (SNP), has been elected as the party's new leader, paving the way for him to succeed Humza Yousaf as Scotland's First Minister. Swinney emerged as the sole contender in the contest to pick a new premier, solidifying his position as a prominent figure in Scottish politics.

National Archives of India Acquires Invaluable Collection of Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai

The National Archives of India (NAI) has acquired a priceless collection of private papers and original correspondences belonging to the late Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, a prominent figure in India's freedom struggle and nation-building efforts. This acquisition ensures the preservation of a significant part of our nation's history and the legacy of a remarkable leader.

Understanding West Nile Fever: A Mosquito-Borne Viral Infection

West Nile fever is a viral infection caused by the West Nile virus (WNV), which is primarily transmitted through the bite of infected Culex mosquitoes. First detected in Uganda in 1937, this vector-borne disease has now spread globally, including in India, where it was first reported in Kerala in 2011.

Japan and Nagaland Inaugurate Kohima Peace Memorial and Eco Park

The Kohima Peace Memorial and Eco Park in Nagaland hold profound significance, celebrating the collaborative effort between the Government of Japan, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, and the Government of Nagaland. The inauguration of these projects represents not only historical importance but also serves as a symbol of peace, reconciliation, and educational value.

Putin Reappoints Mikhail Mishustin as Russian Prime Minister

In a widely anticipated move, Russian President Vladimir Putin has reappointed Mikhail Mishustin as the Prime Minister of Russia, subject to approval by the lower house of parliament, the State Duma. This decision comes as part of the legal procedure following Putin's inauguration for his fifth presidential term.

State News

Gurugram Administration Ropes in Yuzvendra Chahal to Boost Voter Turnout

As the Lok Sabha elections in Gurugram, scheduled for May 25, draw near, the district administration has taken a unique approach to encourage voter participation. In a bid to attract the attention of the electorate, particularly the youth, the authorities have roped in India cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal, as well as popular singers MD Desi Rockstar and Naveen Punia, as brand ambassadors.

Uttarakhand Launches 'Pirul Lao-Paise Pao' Campaign to Combat Forest Fires

The Uttarakhand government has launched the 'Pirul Lao-Paise Pao' campaign to contain the raging forest fires in the state. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the campaign in the Rudraprayag district on May 8, 2024. He urged the people to actively participate in the campaign and stated that cooperatives, Yuva Mangal Dal, and Van Panchayat would also take part.

Economy News

India Ratings Raises Sovereign GDP Growth Estimate for FY25 to 7.1%

India Ratings and Research have revised upward their GDP growth estimate for FY25 to 7.1%, citing strong government expenditure, improved corporate and banking sector balance sheets, and a budding private corporate capex cycle. However, they caution that growth could be constrained by factors such as uneven consumption demand and export challenges due to global economic sluggishness.

Business News

Infibeam's CCAvenue Expands Merchant Access Through Shivalik SFB Partnership

Infibeam Avenues' CCAvenue, a leading payments platform, has entered into a strategic partnership with Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SFB) to enhance merchant access. Through this collaboration, merchants registered with CCAvenue will gain access to Shivalik SFB's extensive customer base. The integration will enable account holders of the bank to make payments seamlessly on websites powered by CCAvenue, leveraging Shivalik SFB's internet banking service.

Bajaj Auto Set to Revolutionize Transportation with World's First CNG Motorcycle

Bajaj Auto, led by Managing Director Rajiv Bajaj, is all set to introduce a groundbreaking innovation in the world of motorcycles. Amidst soaring petrol prices, the company is gearing up to launch the world's first CNG-powered

motorcycle on June 18, 2024. This move aims to provide consumers with a cost-effective alternative for daily commuting, promising lower running costs compared to traditional petrol-powered bikes.

P-note Investments in Indian Markets Soar to Nearly 6-Year High

Investments through participatory notes (P-notes) in the Indian capital markets reached a staggering Rs 1.5 lakh crore at the end of February 2024, marking the highest level in nearly six years. This surge in P-note investments, encompassing Indian equity, debt, and hybrid securities, has been driven by the strong performance of the domestic economy.

Setu Unveils Sesame, India's First BFSI-Focused Large Language Model

Setu, a leading Indian fintech company and part of the Pine Labs Group, has unveiled Sesame, India's first Large Language Model (LLM) specifically designed for the banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) sector. Developed in collaboration with indigenous AI research firm Sarvam AI, this groundbreaking initiative marks a significant milestone in the adoption of advanced AI technologies in the financial services industry.

India Leads Global Remittances, Surpassing \$100 Billion Mark

India emerged as the global leader in remittances in 2022, receiving over \$111 billion, surpassing the \$100 billion mark for the first time. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) highlighted India, alongside Mexico, China, the Philippines, and France, as the top five remittance recipient countries.

NCLT Approval: Sapphire Media's Acquisition of Big 92.7 FM

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Mumbai has sanctioned Sapphire Media's acquisition plan for Reliance Broadcast Network's Big 92.7 FM. This approval follows a resolution process initiated in February 2023 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

Agreement News

India and Ghana Strengthen Financial Integration for Enhanced Trade

India and Ghana are poised to integrate their payment systems, UPI and GHIPSS, to facilitate instant and cost-effective fund transfers between the two nations. Within six months, NPCI's UPI is set to be operational on Ghana's GHIPSS platform, marking a significant step in financial collaboration.

Indian Coast Guard Inks MoU with Hindalco for Indigenous Marine-Grade Aluminium

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Hindalco Industries, a leading industry group, have joined forces to promote the manufacturing and supply of indigenous marine-grade aluminium for the construction of ships. The collaboration, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), aims to enhance India's self-reliance in the shipbuilding sector.

Appointment News**UNICEF India Welcomes Kareena as National Ambassador**

Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan has been appointed as the National Ambassador for UNICEF India. This prestigious role comes as a recognition of her long-standing association with the organization since 2014, where she has served as a Celebrity Advocate.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Names Sanjeev Nautiyal as MD & CEO

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has announced the appointment of Sanjeev Nautiyal as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) for a tenure of three years, effective from July 1, 2024. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved this appointment. Nautiyal will assume the role of President in the interim period before officially taking charge as MD & CEO. With over thirty years of experience in various banking domains, including retail, SME, financial inclusion, and international banking, Nautiyal brings a wealth of strategic expertise to his new role.

Visa Appoints Sujai Raina as India Country Manager

Visa, the global digital payments platform, has appointed Sujai Raina as the new Country Manager for India. In this role, Raina will be responsible for leading and executing Visa's strategic initiatives in the Indian market, partnering with clients and the broader payments ecosystem.

IRDAI Approves Appointment of Keki Mistry as Chairman of HDFC Life

Following Deepak Parekh's resignation from the post of Chairman, HDFC Life Insurance appointed Keki Mistry to fill the position. Subsequently, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) granted approval for Mistry's appointment.

L&T Elevates R Shankar Raman as President

R Shankar Raman, the current Whole-time Director and CFO of L&T, has been elevated to the position of President. Following this promotion, Raman will continue to hold his existing roles as the Whole-time Director and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the company.

SBI General Insurance Appoints Jaya Tripathi as Head of Key Relations Group

SBI General Insurance has announced the appointment of Jaya Tripathi as the Head – Key Relations Group. In her new role, Tripathi will lead the expansion of new business opportunities and partnerships, drive sales team growth, and deepen partner relationships to enhance profitability.

Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla Takes Helm as Chief of Personnel of Indian Navy

Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, AVSM, NM, a seasoned naval officer with over 35 years of distinguished service, has assumed the pivotal role of Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy on 10 May 2024. His extensive career has been marked by a series of challenging and fulfilling appointments, both at sea and ashore.

Banking News**GetVantage Secures NBFC License from RBI: Pioneering RBF Start-up**

In a groundbreaking move, GetVantage, a start-up specializing in revenue-based finance (RBF), has achieved a significant milestone by obtaining a non-banking financial company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This accomplishment marks a pivotal moment as GetVantage becomes the first RBF and alternative funding platform in India to receive such authorization.

RBI Revises Guidelines for Banks' Capital Market Exposure in T+1 Settlement

In response to the introduction of the T+1 settlement regime for stocks, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has updated the guidelines for custodian banks regarding the issuance of Irrevocable Payment Commitments (IPCs). Under these revised guidelines, custodian banks issuing IPCs will be subject to a maximum intraday risk, considered as capital market exposure (CME), capped at 30 percent of the settlement amount.

RBI Lowers Margin Funding Limits to 30% from 50%

Following the reduction in trade settlement time from T+2 to T+1 and T+0 for select equities by stock exchanges, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decreased the maximum risk for custodian banks issuing irrevocable payment commitments (IPCs) from 50% to 30%. This decision is based on the assumption of potential downward price movements of equities purchased by foreign institutional investors/mutual funds over two successive days from the trade date.

ICICI Bank Introduces UPI for NRIs Using International Mobile Numbers

ICICI Bank has unveiled a groundbreaking feature allowing non-resident Indian (NRI) customers to utilize Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in India through their international mobile numbers. This innovation aims to simplify daily payments for NRIs by eliminating the need to register an Indian mobile number with their NRE/NRO accounts, thereby enhancing convenience.

Science & Technology News**Sunita Williams: Indian-Origin Astronaut Set for Third Space Mission**

Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams, alongside colleague Butch Wilmore, is embarking on her third space mission to the International Space Station (ISS). This mission marks the inaugural crewed flight of the Starliner spacecraft, designed to test its systems from launch to landing.

Summits & Conference News**26th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting in New Delhi**

The 26th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting took place in New Delhi, co-chaired by Secretary (East) Jaideep Mazumdar and Permanent Secretary Albert Chua of Singapore. Discussions encompassed the three pillars of engagement—political-security, economic, and socio-cultural—reviewing ASEAN-India relations as outlined in the ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2021-2025). Key topics included the implementation of the Prime Ministers' 12-Point Proposal and preparations for the upcoming ASEAN-India Summit in Vientiane.

Awards & Honors News**2024 Pulitzer Prize Winners Announced**

The prestigious Pulitzer Prizes for 2024 were announced on May 7, 2024, by Columbia University in the United States of America. The awards, considered the most prestigious in the fields of journalism and arts, were conferred by Columbia University on the recommendation of the Pulitzer Prize Board. The winners will be formally recognized at a ceremony later, presided over by the president of Columbia University.

Oxford Bookstores Honours Excellence in Book Design and Visual Arts

Oxford Bookstores announced Bhavi Mehta as the winner of the 9th edition of the Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize. Mehta's winning entry was the book jacket for "The Book Beautiful" published by Hachette India and authored by Pradeep Sebastian.

Pawan Sindhi Honored with Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024

Pawan Sindhi was bestowed with the prestigious Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024 at an event attended by esteemed saints, Mahatmas, and sadhus. The occasion celebrated Mr. Sindhi's remarkable contributions to society and his dedication to serving humanity.

Important Dates News**World Asthma Day 2024 Observed on May 7, 2024**

Every year on the first Tuesday of May, we celebrate World Asthma Day. This year World Asthma Day is observed on May 7, 2024 is organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma, (GINA) with World Health Organization collaborative organization founded in 1993. This day is all about raising awareness about asthma, a long-term lung disease that affects millions of people around the world. This year, the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) has chosen the theme "Asthma Education Empowers" to highlight the importance of teaching people with asthma and healthcare workers about the condition.

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2024 Observed on May 8th

May 8th is observed as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, a global day to celebrate the uniqueness and unity of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This day is a time to recognize the spirit of humanitarianism and the individuals who make a difference in their communities. The theme of this year's World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, Keeping Humanity Alive, is a call to celebrate those who give their time, and sometimes their lives, to ease the suffering of others and protect their inherent human dignity.

World Thalassaemia Day 2024 Celebrates on 8th May

Observed annually on May 8th, World Thalassaemia Day aims to raise global awareness about this genetic disorder, support those affected and their caregivers, promote research for a cure, and dispel myths surrounding the disease. This year's theme is: "Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassaemia Treatment for All".

International Day of Argania 2024 Observed on 10th May

On May 10 every year, people around the world celebrate the International Day of Argania. This special day honours the Argan tree (*Argania spinosa*), an ancient species that has grown in Morocco for about 80 million years. These trees are not just old; they play a crucial role in the local economy and environment. The celebration aims to increase awareness about these unique trees, their benefits, and the challenges they face.

World Migratory Bird Day 2024: Celebrating the Importance of Insects

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is an annual global campaign that aims to raise awareness about the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. This year, WMBD will be celebrated on two dates: Saturday, 11 May 2024, and Saturday, 12 October 2024, to align with the cyclic patterns of bird migration in different hemispheres. The theme for World Migratory Bird Day 2024 is "Insects". This year's campaign will focus on highlighting the vital role that insects play in the lives of migratory birds.

National Technology Day 2024, Celebrating India's Technological Prowess

National Technology Day is celebrated annually in India on 11 May. This day is dedicated to recognizing the contributions of innovators, scientists, and engineers, and to promoting scientific and technological innovation in the country. The day was first established in 1998 to commemorate the successful nuclear test at Pokhran. This test was a significant milestone in India's technological advancement, and it paved the way for the country to acquire a leading position in the field of nuclear weapons technology.

Sports News**Japan Triumphs at the AFC U-23 Asian Cup, Secures Olympic Berth**

The Japanese men's under-23 football team etched their name in history by clinching the AFC U-23 Asian Cup for the second time, defeating Uzbekistan in a nail-biting final at the Jassim bin Hamad Stadium in Doha, Qatar. The solitary goal scored by substitute Yamada in injury time secured Japan's victory and qualification for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024: Bangladesh Gears Up for Cricketing Extravaganza

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has unveiled the fixtures for the highly anticipated ninth ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024, set to take place from 3 to 20 October in Bangladesh. Cricket enthusiasts worldwide are eagerly awaiting this prestigious tournament, which promises to be an action-packed spectacle of skill and sportsmanship.

Real Madrid Clinches 36th La Liga Title

The Spanish football giants, Real Madrid, have etched another remarkable achievement in their illustrious history by securing the La Liga 2023-24 season title. Los Blancos, as they are affectionately called by their supporters, sealed the championship after defeating Cadiz 3-0, while their closest rivals Barcelona suffered a 4-2 loss against Girona.

2024 Madrid Open, Iga Swiatek and Andrey Rublev Triumph

The 2024 Madrid Open, held in the Spanish capital from April 22 to May 5, witnessed two remarkable champions in the singles events. Iga Swiatek of Poland claimed her first Madrid Open title, while Andrey Rublev of Russia secured his second triumph in this prestigious tournament.

ISL 2023-24: Mumbai City FC Clinches Second Title

In a thrilling final match at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan Stadium in Kolkata, Mumbai City FC emerged victorious over Mohun Bagan Super Giant with a scoreline of 3-1, securing their second Indian Super League (ISL) title. This victory marked a historic moment for Mumbai City FC, who had previously clinched their inaugural title in the 2020-21 season, also against Mohun Bagan.

Yuzvendra Chahal Creates History to Become First Indian Bowler to 350 T20 Wickets

Yuzvendra Chahal, the wily leg-spinner from Rajasthan Royals, continues to etch his name in the annals of T20 cricket history. In the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL), Chahal achieved a remarkable feat by becoming the first Indian bowler to take 350 wickets in the shortest format of the game.

Amul Becomes 'Official Sponsor' of Sri Lanka Men's Cricket Team for T20 World Cup 2024

Sri Lanka Cricket has announced that the Indian milk producer Amul has been appointed as the 'Official Sponsor' of the Sri Lanka Men's Team for the duration of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

Bajrang Punia Provisionally Suspended by Wrestling Authorities

The United World Wrestling (UWW) has provisionally suspended Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia until December 31, 2024, following his suspension by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for his 'refusal' to provide a urine sample.

New Zealand's Colin Munro Announces Retirement from International Cricket

In a surprising move, Colin Munro, the hard-hitting New Zealand top-order batsman, has announced his retirement from international cricket after being overlooked for the upcoming T20 World Cup. The decision marks the end of an era for the explosive left-hander, who etched his name as one of the most destructive T20 batters in the world.

Obituaries News

Titanic, Lord of the Rings actor Bernard Hill Passes Away at 79

The entertainment industry mourns the loss of Bernard Hill, the esteemed British actor whose remarkable talent graced the silver screen in some of the most iconic films of our time. At the age of 79, the Manchester-born thespian has taken his final bow, leaving behind a legacy that will continue to inspire generations of actors.

Renowned Urdu Writer Salam Bin Razzaq Passes Away at 83

Shaikh Abdussalam Abdurrazzaq, the renowned Urdu litterateur and academician, popularly known by his pseudonym Salam Bin Razzaq, passed away on Tuesday at his residence in Navi Mumbai after a prolonged illness, as informed by a family friend.

Filmmaker Sangeeth Sivan Passes Away At 61

Renowned filmmaker from Kerala Sangeeth Sivan passed away at the age of 61. He had films like 'Vyooham,' 'Daddy,' 'Gandharvam,' and the 'Yodha'. Apart from this, he also made 10 Hindi movies like 'Kya Kool Hai Hum' and 'Apna Sapna Money Money'.

Defence News

Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor Assumes Command as AOC-in-C, Training Command

Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor has taken charge as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of the Training Command (TC) in the Indian Air Force. With over 34 hundred hours of flying experience, he was commissioned into the Fighter stream in December 1986.

Border Road Organisation Celebrates 65th Raising Day

The Border Road Organisation (BRO), a crucial defence infrastructure organization, celebrated its 65th Raising Day on May 7, 2024. A ceremony was organized in New Delhi to mark the occasion, presided over by the Union Defence Secretary, Giridhar Aramane. The defence secretary praised the BRO for its remarkable contribution to building infrastructure in inhospitable areas and challenging weather conditions.

Indian Army and IAF Conduct Joint Exercise in Punjab

The Indian Army's Kharga Corps, under the aegis of the Army's Western Command, successfully conducted a three-day joint exercise with the Indian Air Force (IAF) at multiple locations in Punjab. The exercise aimed to refine processes

and validate the employment of attack helicopters in support of mechanized operations in developed terrain. The exercise, titled "Gagan Strike-II," incorporated various force multipliers, including Apache and ALH-WSI helicopters, Unarmed Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), and special forces of the Indian Army.

IAF Conducts Bambi Bucket Operations to Combat Forest Fires in Uttarakhand

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has been actively assisting the state in combating the forest fires. In response to the raging fires in the Pauri Garhwal sector, the IAF provided much-needed relief by undertaking Bambi Bucket operations using its Mi17 V5 helicopters.

Miscellaneous News

Kutch Ajrakh, A Traditional Textile Craft Earns GI Tag

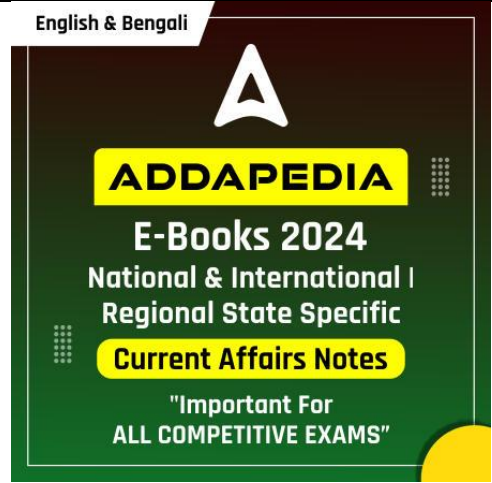
In a significant recognition of Gujarat's rich cultural heritage, the traditional artisans of 'Kutch Ajrakh' have been bestowed with the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) certificate by the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks (CGPDTM). This remarkable achievement celebrates the intricate textile craft that has been deeply rooted in the vibrant region of Kutch for centuries.

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