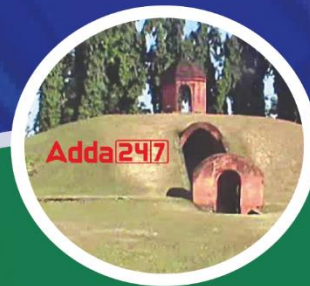


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IMPORTANT EXAM COVER
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HIGHLIGHTED POINTS

- Assam's Charaideo Maidam Nominated for UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Union Budget 2024-25
- Abhinav Bindra Awarded Prestigious Olympic Order by IOC
- Shah Rukh Khan, First Indian Actor, Honoured With Gold Coins
- Historic Bronze Win for Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh at the Paris Olympics

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National News

World Bank Approves \$1.5 Billion Loan To Support India's Green Hydrogen Push

The World Bank has approved a second round of \$1.5 billion in financing to help India accelerate its development of low-carbon energy. This funding aims to promote the market for green hydrogen, electrolyzers, and increased renewable energy penetration. The initiative aligns with India's National Green Hydrogen Mission and energy transition targets, including achieving 500 GW of installed renewable energy capacity by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2070.

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Check Complete Details

The three New Criminal Laws– Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023, will come into force July 1, 2024. The government of India has held regular meetings with States and Union Territories and they are fully geared up in terms of technology, capacity building and awareness generation to implement the new Criminal Laws.

India Becomes First Nation To Prepare Full List of Fauna

The Fauna of India Checklist Portal is the first comprehensive document on the faunal species reported from India. India has become the first country in the world to prepare a checklist of its entire fauna, covering 104,561 species. The 'Fauna of India Checklist Portal' was launched on the occasion of the 109th Foundation Day of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in Kolkata on Sunday by Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav.

China Builds New Presidential Palace in Vanuatu

China has constructed a new presidential palace in Vanuatu, symbolizing the strengthening relationship between the two nations. The Vanuatu Prime Minister, Charlot Salwai, inaugurated the new building, which is part of a broader project that includes a new finance ministry and renovations to the foreign affairs department.

Hungary Takes Over Rotating Presidency of EU Council

Hungary has assumed the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union for the next six months. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Hungary aims to prioritize EU competitiveness, defense policy, migration control, and agricultural reform. The presidency's motto, "Make Europe Great Again," reflects a stance emphasizing unity and proactive global engagement.

NITI Aayog Launches 'Sampoornata Abhiyan': A Drive Towards Holistic Development

In a significant move to accelerate the development of India's most challenging regions, NITI Aayog is set to launch the 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' on July 4, 2024. This ambitious 3-month campaign aims to achieve saturation in key indicators

across 112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks, marking a new chapter in India's journey towards inclusive growth.

India Hosts 46th UNESCO World Heritage Committee Session

In a landmark event for India's cultural diplomacy, the nation is set to host the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee from July 21-31, 2024. This prestigious gathering will take place at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, bringing together delegates from around the world to discuss and decide on matters of global cultural significance.

India Chairs 'Colombo Process' Meeting at Permanent Representative Level in Geneva

India chaired its first meeting as Chair of the 'Colombo Process' at the Permanent Representative Level Meeting in Geneva, marking a significant moment in regional migration cooperation. The Colombo Process, comprising 12 Asian member states, focuses on enhancing governance and opportunities for overseas employment. Under India's leadership, priorities include financial sustainability, membership expansion, and collaboration with regional bodies like the Abu Dhabi Dialogue.

Indian Government Reshuffles Cabinet Committees in July 2024

On July 3, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government reorganized eight important groups within the Union Cabinet. This happened after Modi was sworn in as Prime Minister for the third time in a row, which is a record.

IGNOU Launches MA Programme in Bhagavad Gita Studies

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has announced the launch of a new MA programme in Bhagavad Gita Studies for the academic session 2024-2025. The course will begin in July 2024 and will be offered through open and distance learning (ODL).

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Mission Batch
IBPS, SBI & LIC
Starts: 5 Aug, 2024

Women Entrepreneurship Platform and TransUnion CIBIL Partner to Launch SEHER Program

The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and TransUnion CIBIL have launched SEHER, a credit education program designed to empower women entrepreneurs in India. SEHER aims to provide financial literacy content and business skills, facilitating access to essential financial tools for growth and employment creation.

Judicial Commission Formed to Investigate Hathras Stampede

The Uttar Pradesh government has constituted a three-member judicial commission to investigate the stampede that occurred during a Satsang in Hathras on 3 July 2024, resulting in 121 fatalities. Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel issued the notification for this commission.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal Announces Concessions in Licensing Fees

In a significant move to boost entrepreneurship, Union Minister Piyush Goyal has announced an 80% reduction in licensing fees for women entrepreneurs and a 50% reduction for MSMEs under the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO). This initiative aims to encourage greater participation from women and MSMEs in the petroleum and explosives sectors, balancing industry compliance with public safety.

Government Mandates BIS Standards For Stainless Steel And Aluminium Utensils

The Government of India has mandated that all stainless steel and aluminium utensils conform to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). According to a press release by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, this directive, effective from March 14, 2024, under the Quality Control Order issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, makes the ISI mark compulsory for these utensils.

SEHER Credit Education Program Launched To Empower Women Entrepreneurs

SEHER, a credit education program launched on July 8, by the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and TransUnion CIBIL, will empower women entrepreneurs in India with financial literacy content and business skills. It helps them to access the financial tools they need to drive further growth and create employment in the country's economy.

Haj Committee Now Under Minority Affairs Ministry

The government has designated the Ministry of Minority Affairs as the nodal ministry for the Haj Committee, taking over from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). This change includes new rules and the nomination of officers from various ministries to the committee.

Sixteenth Finance Commission Constitutes Five-Member Advisory Council

The Sixteenth Finance Commission has constituted an advisory council with five members to advise the Commission on any of the Terms of Reference (ToR) or related subjects. The Finance Commission, as per the ToR, will also suggest measures to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of panchayats and municipalities.

India Leads Global Maritime Discourse at IMO Council Session in London

India, represented by a high-level delegation led by Shri T.K. Ramachandaran, Secretary of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, has taken a prominent role in shaping international maritime policies at the 132nd session of the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London. The session, which began on July 8, 2024, and continues until July 12, 2024, addresses critical issues and proposals for the future of global maritime operations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates INS Towers in Mumbai

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the INS Towers at the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) Secretariat in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex. This new facility is set to serve as a modern hub for the newspaper industry in Mumbai, addressing the evolving needs of INS members.

India's Population to Peak at 1.7 Billion by 2060s Before Declining: UN Report

India's population is projected to peak at 1.7 billion in the early 2060s before declining by 12%, as predicted by the United Nations' World Population Prospects 2024 report. Despite the decline, India will remain the world's most populous country throughout the 21st century.

Centre Empowers Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir

The Centre has strengthened the authority of the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir through amendments to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019. The amended rules, effective immediately upon publication in the Official Gazette, significantly enhance the LG's powers, particularly in matters related to transfers, postings of all-India service officers, police, and judicial appointments.

Amit Shah Inaugurates 'PM College Of Excellence

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah on July 14, inaugurated the Pradhan Mantri Colleges of Excellence in all 55 districts of the state from Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Many dignitaries, including the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mohan Yadav and Union Minister Smt. Savitri Thakur were present on the occasion.

All-India Institute of Ayurveda Successfully Hosts 'Saushrutam 2024'

The All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi successfully concluded its Second National Seminar SAUSHRUTAM Shalya Sangoshti on July 15, 2024, celebrating Sushruta Jayanti. The three-day event, beginning on July 13, honored Sushruta, the father of surgery, with a series of live surgical demonstrations and expert discussions.

BRIC-THSTI Hosts SYNCHN 2024 Industry Meet

Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), under the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC), hosted SYNCHN 2024 on July 14th, 2024. This event aimed to strengthen academia-industry collaborations in the NCR Biotech Cluster, focusing on advancing biomanufacturing and bio-innovation.

India Launches First National Toll-Free Anti-Narcotics Helpline

India is set to launch its first national toll-free anti-narcotics helpline, '1933', alongside an email service under the name MANAS (Madak Padarth Nisedh Asuchna Kendra). Scheduled for launch by Union Home Minister Amit Shah during the seventh Narco-Coordination Centre meeting on July 18, the helpline aims to provide a user-friendly platform for citizens to report drug-related crimes and seek assistance 24x7.

UGC's ASMITA Project: 22,000 Indian Language Books to Transform Higher Education

The Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission (UGC) unveiled an ambitious project aimed at enriching the landscape of Indian language literature in higher education. This groundbreaking initiative, known as ASMITA (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian Languages through Translation and Academic Writing), sets out to develop an impressive 22,000 books in Indian languages over the next five years.

Centre Reconstitutes NITI Aayog, Includes Union Ministers from NDA Allies

The Centre has reconstituted the NITI Aayog, the apex public policy think tank of the Union government, following changes in the council of ministers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains the chairperson, with economist Suman K Bery continuing as the vice-chairperson. The reconstituted NITI Aayog includes four full-time members and 15 Union Ministers, including those from BJP allies, serving as either ex-officio members or special invitees.

Thane to Borivali: India's Longest and Largest Urban Tunnel

On July 13, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest and largest urban tunnel project, the Thane Borivali Twin Tunnel, developed by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA). This

Rs. 16,600 crore project will reduce travel time between Thane and Borivali from over an hour to just 12 minutes, cutting the travel distance by 12 km. This initiative is part of broader infrastructure projects worth Rs. 29,000 crore aimed at enhancing connectivity in Mumbai.

INS Delhi Wins Best Ship of Eastern Fleet 2024

On July 14, 2024, Visakhapatnam hosted the prestigious Fleet Awards Function to honor the Eastern Fleet's exceptional operational achievements over the past year. INS Delhi was recognized as the Best Ship of the Eastern Fleet for its outstanding performance and operational prowess.

India Completes 4th ICCPR Human Rights Review

India has successfully completed its 4th periodic review by the Human Rights Committee under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in Geneva, showcasing its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights.

Atmanirbhar Bharat: India's Growing Coal Mining Capacity

Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, India has marked a significant achievement in the global coal mining sector. The Gevra and Kusunda coal mines, operated by South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), a subsidiary of Coal India, have secured prominent positions among the world's largest coal mines. These mines, located in Chhattisgarh's Korba district, have been recognized as the 2nd and 4th largest coal mines globally by WorldAtlas.com, producing over 100 million tons of coal annually and contributing about 10% to India's total coal production.

DoT's NTIPRIT, NICF And WMTDC Merged Into Single Entity

Three training institutes of DoT- National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT), the National Institute of Communication Finance (NICF) and Wireless Monitoring Training & Development Centre (WMTDC) have been merged into a single administrative entity, named 'National Communications Academy' (NCA) with immediate effect. The Minister of Communications (MoC) approved the merger of these entities on the recommendation of the Committee for Organisational Reforms.

PM Modi Inaugurates World Heritage Committee's 46th Session in New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, emphasizing India's commitment to global heritage preservation. PM Modi announced a \$1 million contribution to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for heritage conservation, particularly in the Global South. He highlighted India's efforts in conserving heritage sites in countries like Cambodia, Vietnam, and Myanmar.

AIM, WIPO Join Hands To Boost Innovation In Global South

The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) at NITI Aayog and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) on July 22, joined hands towards building joint innovation programmes in the Global South. Union Minister for Education and Skill Development Dharmendra Pradhan said that innovation is India's strength.

Assam's Charaideo Maidam Nominated for UNESCO World Heritage Site

Charaideo Maidam has been nominated to become North East India's first UNESCO World Heritage Site in the cultural category. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced this nomination at the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee held from July 21-31 in New Delhi. If accepted, Charaideo Maidam will be India's 43rd World Heritage Site, joining Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park, which are listed under the natural category.

PM Modi Announces \$1 Million Grant to UNESCO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced India's contribution of one million dollars to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to support heritage conservation globally, particularly in the Global South. This announcement was made during the inauguration of the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

21.71% Of Country's Area Under Forest Cover: MoS Kirti Vardhan Singh

Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover biennially. As per the latest India State of Forest Report (ISFR) published in 2021, the total forest cover of the country is 7,13,789 square kilometer which is 21.71% of the geographical area of the country. The State/UTs wise details of forest cover as per ISFR, since 2019 are given in Annexure.

Renaming of Rashtrapati Bhavan's Halls to Reflect Indian Values

President Droupadi Murmu has renamed two important halls in Rashtrapati Bhavan, formerly known as 'Durbar Hall' and 'Ashok Hall', to 'Ganatantra Mandap' and 'Ashok Mandap' respectively. This change is part of ongoing efforts to reflect Indian cultural values and ethos within the President's official residence.

Ashwini Vaishnaw Inaugurates India's 500th Community Radio Station in Aizawl

In a significant milestone for India's community radio landscape, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the country's 500th community radio station, Apna Radio 90.0 FM, at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) in Aizawl, Mizoram. This event underscores the government's commitment to the

Act East policy and marks a key development in enhancing local communication and information dissemination.

CRPF Foundation Day: Celebrating Valor and Service

On July 27, 1939, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was established as the Crown Representatives Police in response to political turmoil within princely states. It has since evolved into a key central paramilitary force of India, playing a critical role in maintaining internal security. The force was renamed the Central Reserve Police Force on December 28, 1949, following a legislative act, and now operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Commemorative Postage Stamp Released for 25th Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas

The Department of Posts has released a commemorative postage stamp at Dras, Kargil in Ladakh, marking the Silver Jubilee of Kargil Vijay Diwas. This special edition celebrates the 25th anniversary of India's victory in the Kargil War, acknowledging the exceptional bravery, determination, and sacrifice of the armed forces.

International News**Japan Introduces Holographic Technology in New Banknotes**

On July 3, Japan will introduce new banknotes featuring what it claims to be the world's pioneering use of advanced holography. This technology creates the illusion of historic figures' portraits rotating in 3D on the bills, serving as a key anti-counterfeit measure. This marks the first redesign of the banknotes in 20 years.

Ex-Spy Chief Sworn In as New Dutch PM with Mission to Curb Asylum

Former spy chief Dick Schoof is the new Dutch prime minister, leading a right-wing coalition with a focus on implementing the "strictest-ever" immigration policy. Schoof, 67, previously headed the Dutch Secret Service and takes over from Mark Rutte, who served 14 years in power.

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Starts: 20 Aug, 2024

Keir Starmer: The Next British Prime Minister

Keir Starmer, born in 1963 to a working-class family near London, is set to become Britain's next Prime Minister. With a background in human rights law and public prosecution, he entered politics relatively late, becoming an MP in 2015.

Masoud Pezeshkian Elected Iran President: Implications for India

Masoud Pezeshkian, a seasoned lawmaker and cardiac surgeon, has emerged victorious in Iran's presidential election, defeating hardliner Saeed Jalili. Known for his support of both domestic and international reforms, Pezeshkian's presidency signals a shift towards more pragmatic and reformist policies. However, the dynamics of Iranian politics, where hardliners still hold significant power and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei retains ultimate authority, will challenge Pezeshkian's ability to implement his vision. Despite this, his win reflects a public desire for change after dissatisfaction with previous hardline policies.

Rachel Reeves: Britain's First Woman Finance Chief

Rachel Reeves has become the first woman finance minister of UK. The 45-year-old is an economist and has pledged to grow the nation's economy. Rachel was appointed as the chancellor on June 5, after the Keir Starmer-led Labour Party won a majority in Thursday's general election. She is now in charge of the UK's Budget.

India Gears Up for Malabar Showdown with 'Quad' Allies Amid Rising China Tensions

India is gearing up to host the prestigious Malabar naval exercise alongside the United States, Japan, and Australia in the Bay of Bengal this October. This comes amidst escalating regional tensions fueled by China's assertive actions in the South China Sea and its expanding footprint across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The 28th edition of the exercise will focus on advanced anti-submarine warfare and aims to enhance military interoperability among the four countries.

India-Taiwan Mutual Recognition Agreement for Organic Products

The India-Taiwan Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for Organic Products, effective from July 8, 2024, aims to enhance trade by allowing certified organic products from each country to enter the other's market. India's Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Taiwan's Agriculture and Food Agency are the respective implementing agencies for this landmark agreement.

The First Woman Chief Justice of Lahore Takes Oath

Justice Aalia Neelum on July 11, took oath as the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC) of Pakistan (Lahore), making her the first woman to be elevated as the court's top judge. Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan administered the oath of office to her. Punjab province's first woman Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz was also present in the oath-taking ceremony.

Philippines Selected To Host The Board Of The Fund For Responding To Loss And Damage

The Philippines has been chosen to host the board of the "Loss and Damage" fund created by U.N. talks, marking another step towards providing financial help for countries to recover and rebuild from the impact of global warming. Last month, the World Bank's board approved a plan for the bank to act as interim host of the fund for four years.

Global Conference on Space Research in Busan, South Korea

A milestone event in space exploration, the 45th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) commenced in Busan, South Korea. Hosted for the first time by South Korea, the conference gathered 3,000 scientists and industry leaders from 60 nations.

Serum Institute Rolls Out New High Efficacy Malaria Vaccine In Africa

A new high-quality malaria vaccine developed by the Serum Institute of India and the University of Oxford is officially being rolled out in Africa. With this, Côte d'Ivoire has become the first country in West Africa to start administering R21/Matrix-M.

India Shines At 35th International Biology Olympiad 2024 In Kazakhstan

The Indian team, which participated at the 35th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2024 achieved remarkable success, with one student winning a GOLD medal and three students securing SILVER medals.

Missy Elliott's "The Rain" Sent to Venus by NASA

In a groundbreaking achievement, NASA has transmitted Missy Elliott's 1997 hit song "The Rain (Supa Dupa Fly)" to Venus, marking the first time a hip-hop song has been beamed into deep space. The transmission was made possible through NASA's Deep Space Network (DSN), from their Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California. Traveling at the speed of light, the song covered the vast distance of 158 million miles to Venus, taking approximately 14 minutes to reach its destination.

Elon Musk Says X, SpaceX Headquarters Will Relocate To Texas From California

Elon Musk said on July 16, said that he would move the headquarters of two of his businesses, the social media platform X and the rocket manufacturer SpaceX, to Texas, escalating an increasingly contentious fight with California.

Von der Leyen Re-elected as EU Commission President

On July 18, European Parliament lawmakers re-elected Ursula von der Leyen to a second five-year term as President of the European Union's executive commission. Von der Leyen secured a comfortable majority, preventing a potential leadership vacuum.

Ivory Coast Joins UN Water Convention as 10th African Nation

Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire) has recently become the 53rd Party to the 1992 UN Water Convention, officially known as the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. This accession marks Ivory Coast as the 10th African nation to join the treaty. The move highlights a growing trend among African nations to enhance cooperative water management amidst increasing water stress and climate change impacts.

OVL Hikes Stake in Azerbaijani Oilfield with \$60 Million Investment

ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), a subsidiary of ONGC, has acquired Norwegian firm Equinor's stake in Azerbaijan's offshore Azeri Chirag Gunashli (ACG) oil field and an associated oil pipeline for \$60 million. This increases OVL's stake in the oil field to 2.95% and in the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline to 3.097%.

China Unveils World's First Carbon Fiber High-Speed Train

China has built the world's first passenger train made from carbon fibre, a material that makes it much lighter and more energy-efficient than conventional trains. The metro train - known as Cetrovo 1.0 or the Carbon Star Rapid Transit - was unveiled in Qingdao, in the eastern province of Shandong, on July 17.

Azerbaijan's COP29 Climate Finance Action Fund

Azerbaijan, hosting COP29 from November 11 to 22 this year, has announced the creation of a Climate Finance Action Fund (CFAF). This fund will be raised from fossil fuel producers to support green projects in developing countries and help member nations meet the 1.5°C temperature target. The CFAF aims to mobilize both public and private sectors, with Azerbaijan as the founding contributor. It plans to attract \$1 billion and secure at least 10 contributing countries.

World's Most Powerful Passports 2024: Singapore Leads; India at 82nd

Singapore has reclaimed its title as the world's most powerful passport, offering visa-free access to a record 195 global destinations according to the Henley Passport Index. India ranks 82nd, allowing visa-free entry to 58 countries.

Ajinkya Naik Elected as the Youngest MCA President

Ajinkya Naik, at 37 years old, has been elected as the youngest president in the history of the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA). In a decisive victory, Naik defeated Sanjay Naik, a candidate supported by Mumbai BJP chief Ashish Shelar, by 107 votes in a one-sided election.

IOC Elects Salt Lake City-Utah 2034 As Olympic And Paralympic Winter Games Host

Salt Lake City in Utah state of the USA will host the Winter Olympics and Paralympics Games in 2034. The decision was taken by the IOC Members during the 142nd IOC Session in Paris here on July 24. Salt Lake City hosted the Winter Olympics for the first time in 2002. Out of 89 valid votes, Salt Lake City-Utah 2034 received 83 'yes' votes from the IOC Members. Six said 'no' while there were six abstentions.

State News

Arunachal Pradesh Yields New Species of Horned Frog

A team of researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has recorded a new species of forest-dwelling horned frog in Arunachal Pradesh. The new-to-science *Xenophrys apatani*, recorded from the Talle Wildlife Sanctuary in the Lower Subansiri district, has been named after the dominant Apatani community in recognition of their ingenuity in the conservation of wild flora and fauna.

Jharkhand's Mica Mines Declared Child Labour-Free by NCPCR

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) declared the mica mines of Jharkhand 'child labour-free' at an event in Koderma, Jharkhand. NCPCR chairperson Priyank Kanoongo announced this as the first-ever successful endeavor to cleanse a supply chain of child labour in mica mining.

Tata Power Launches 'Ghar Ghar Solar' Initiative in Uttar Pradesh

Tata Power Solar Systems Limited has launched the 'Ghar Ghar Solar' initiative in Uttar Pradesh, starting from Varanasi, aimed at providing every home with clean energy through rooftop solar solutions. This initiative promises substantial financial savings and environmental benefits for residents.

Uttar Pradesh Launches 'Mitra Van' Initiative Along Borders

The Uttar Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has unveiled a major environmental initiative called 'Mitra Van' (Friendship Forest) as part of the Vriksharopan Jan Abhiyan-2024. This ambitious project aims to enhance greenery along the borders of Uttar Pradesh, including its international border with Nepal.

BSF Organises "Grow with the Trees" Plantation Drive in Srinagar

The Border Security Force (BSF), in collaboration with the State Bank of India (SBI), organized the "Grow with the Trees" plantation drive at the BSF Headquarters in Srinagar. The initiative aimed to create a greener environment and promote the importance of tree plantation, involving BSF officials, jawans, SBI officials, and school children.

Sarus Crane Population Thrives in Uttar Pradesh

The Forest Department of Uttar Pradesh has released its latest summer census figures for the state bird, the Sarus Crane. The report, unveiled on July 10, 2024, reveals a promising trend in the conservation efforts of this majestic species. The total population of Sarus Cranes in Uttar Pradesh has reached 19,918, marking an increase of 396 individuals compared to the previous year. This growth underscores the success of ongoing conservation efforts in the state.

Nagaland Crowned Best State in Horticulture: Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024

In a significant recognition of its efforts in agricultural development, Nagaland has been awarded the title of best state in horticulture at the prestigious Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024. This accolade highlights the state's commitment to innovative agricultural practices and rural development.

Second Phase of Construction Begins on World's Largest Ramayan Temple in Bihar

The ambitious project to build the "world's largest Ramayan temple" has entered its second phase of construction in East Champaran district of Bihar. The Viraat Ramayan Mandir, as it is known, promises to be a monumental structure that will surpass the size of the recently constructed Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, drawing inspiration from various architectural marvels across Asia.

East India's First Disabled Varsity at Ranchi: Jharkhand

The Jharkhand government is working on a plan to open eastern India's first university for physically challenged students in Ranchi (Jharkhand) a minister said on June 11. The proposed university will offer education according to the needs of students with disabilities. Higher and technical education minister Champai Soren directed officials to prepare a proposal to open the university for physically challenged students in Ranchi.

Second Regional Event of 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' to be held in Prayagraj, UP

The second regional event of the 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' campaign, under the aegis of Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA), is scheduled to take place in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh on the 16th of July 2024. This event commemorates the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Indian Constitution and India becoming a Republic.

Uttarakhand Opens Its First-Ever Bird Gallery In Dehradun

The research wing of the Uttarakhand Forest Department established Uttarakhand's first bird gallery at the Nature Education Centre, Jolly Grant, in Dehradun on July 15. This gallery showcases high-resolution images of Uttarakhand's

birds, giving visitors an eye-catching display of the state's feathery inhabitants.

Uttarakhand's eSwasthya Dham Portal Integrates with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

In a significant stride towards enhancing digital healthcare infrastructure, the Uttarakhand government has successfully integrated its eSwasthya Dham portal with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). This integration marks a crucial step in improving health monitoring and management for pilgrims undertaking the revered Char Dham Yatra, while also aligning with India's broader digital health initiatives.

Asia's First Health Research "Pre-Clinical Network Facility" Inaugurated in Faridabad

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh recently inaugurated Asia's inaugural health research-related "Pre-clinical Network Facility" at Faridabad's Translational Health Science & Technology Institute (THSTI). This facility, selected by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), is notable as Asia's first and the 9th globally to handle BSL3 pathogens.

Madhya Pradesh Tops in PM SVANidhi Scheme as Best Performing State

Madhya Pradesh has been recognized as the 'Best Performing State' under the Prime Minister SVANidhi scheme, which supports urban street vendors with collateral-free loans up to ₹50,000. The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry announced this accolade, with Assam securing the second position in the 'Best Performing States - Innovation and Best Practices Award' category.

West Bengal News

Mamata Banerjee Reinstates Senior IPS Officer Rajeev Kumar As West Bengal DGP

The West Bengal government on July 15 reinstated senior IPS officer Rajeev Kumar as the Director General of Police (DGP) of West Bengal. Mr. Kumar will replace Sanjoy Mukherjee, who was appointed the State's DGP at the directions of the Election Commission of India during the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls.

Economy News

Private Sector Drives NPS Growth and Economic Activity

The National Pension System (NPS) witnessed a robust 40.1% year-on-year growth, reaching ₹2.47-lakh crore by June 29, fueled largely by buoyant equity markets and expanding private sector subscriptions. Overall NPS assets, including Atal Pension Yojana (APY), approached ₹12.5-lakh crore, marking a 28.64% increase, as per PFRDA data.

India's Economic Growth Highlights, June 2024

In June 2024, India's economic landscape witnessed significant growth driven by robust performance in both manufacturing and services sectors. The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for manufacturing soared, accompanied by strong hiring activity, marking a 19-year high. Concurrently, the Eight Core Industries Index expanded by 6.5% year-on-year in the initial months of FY25, led by sectors like coal and electricity.

India's Industrial Production Growth Hits 5.9% in May 2024

In May 2024, India's industrial output expanded by 5.9% year-over-year, marking the highest growth in seven months. This growth surpassed expectations, with notable contributions from electricity generation and consumer durables.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) numbers for June 2024, based on a base year of 2012=100

In June 2024, the All India Consumer Price Index (CPI) showed a year-on-year inflation rate of 5.08%. This rate varied across rural and urban areas, with rural inflation at 5.66% and urban inflation at 4.39%. Compared to May 2024, inflation for essential sub-groups like 'Eggs', 'Spices', 'Meat & fish', and 'Pulses & products' decreased. The CPI for General Indices and Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) also showed increases, with rural CFPI notably rising by 9.15%. These figures reflect varied price dynamics impacting different segments of the population across India.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in India for June 2024, based on the 2011-12 base year

In June 2024, India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) showed a provisional annual inflation rate of 3.36% compared to June 2023, driven by increased prices in food articles, manufactured food products, crude petroleum & natural gas, mineral oils, and other manufacturing sectors. The overall WPI for all commodities rose to 153.9 (base year 2011-12=100), marking a month-on-month increase of 0.39% from May 2024.

IMF Raises India's GDP Forecast to 7% for 2024-25

In its latest World Economic Outlook, the IMF has increased India's GDP growth forecast for the ongoing fiscal year to 7%, up by 20 basis points from earlier projections. This upward revision reflects improved consumption prospects, particularly in rural areas, supporting India's economic trajectory. However, the IMF retained a slower growth rate of 6.5% for the following fiscal year.

FICCI Projects 7% GDP Growth for India in 2024-25

FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey projects a robust 7% GDP growth for India in the fiscal year 2024-25. The survey, conducted in July 2024, reflects optimism among

participating economists about the country's economic prospects, though caution is advised due to global headwinds and inflationary pressures.

Adani Ports Gets A Rating Upgrade From ICRA

Ratings agency ICRA has upgraded the rating of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) to AAA/Stable from AA+/Stable. The company's long-term fund based/non-fund based facilities, non-convertible debentures (NCDs) and commercial papers have been upgraded to AAA/Stable. APSEZ announced the development after market hours and the Adani Ports shares on July 18 ended at Rs 1,491.95 on the NSE, down by Rs 7.10 or 0.47%.

Union Budget 2024-25

The Budget 2024-25 outlines a total expenditure of ₹48.21 lakh crore and receipts (excluding borrowings) of ₹32.07 lakh crore, with net tax receipts estimated at ₹25.83 lakh crore. The fiscal deficit is projected at 4.9% of GDP. Key initiatives under the "Viksit Bharat" theme include developing twelve industrial parks, providing internships for 1 crore youth in top companies, promoting rental housing with dormitory-type accommodations for industrial workers, and setting up Bharat Small Reactors for energy security. These efforts aim to boost economic opportunities, support youth employment, enhance housing, and secure clean energy sources.

Railway Budget 2024-25: Record Allocation and Key Highlights

The Indian Railways has been allocated a record capital expenditure (Capex) of Rs 2,62,200 crore for the fiscal year 2024-25, maintaining the same level as announced in the Interim Budget 2024. This allocation is part of the Union Budget 2024-25 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, with Gross Budgetary Support of Rs 2,52,200 crore for Railways, up from Rs 2,40,200 crore in 2023-24 and significantly higher than Rs 28,174 crore in 2013-14.

Rankings & Reports News

Tata Group Is India's Most Valuable Brand: Report

Tata Group has maintained its position as India's most valuable brand with a value of US\$ 28.6 billion, marking a 9% increase from last year. Infosys ranks second, and HDFC Group has surged to third place following its merger with HDFC Ltd. Tata Group is on the verge of becoming the first Indian brand to reach the US\$ 30 billion mark. Taj remains India's strongest brand, with a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 92.9 out of 100 and an AAA+ rating. The telecom sector experienced a 61% growth in brand value, driven by Jio, Airtel, and Vi, while the banking sector reported a 26% increase, with SBI as India's second most valuable bank.

India Targets \$500 Billion in Electronics Manufacturing by 2030: NITI Aayog

India should set an ambitious target of achieving \$500 billion in electronics manufacturing by 2030, as stated in a recent NITI Aayog report. This goal includes \$350 billion from finished goods manufacturing and \$150 billion from component manufacturing. Currently, India's electronics production totals \$101 billion, with \$86 billion from finished goods and \$15 billion from components.

Longevity Revolution 2024: Pioneering Advances in Regenerative Medicine

The International Association of Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine (IASRM) and the Anti-Ageing Foundation (India) hosted the 9th Annual World Congress - Longevity Revolution 2024 in New Delhi. The event featured advances in regenerative medicine, workshops, keynotes from renowned scientists, and discussions on aging, aesthetics, and health.

India Ranks Fifth in GenAI Innovations, China Leads

India ranks fifth in Generative AI (GenAI) innovations, trailing behind China, the US, Republic of Korea, and Japan. Despite India's position, the country has shown the highest annual growth rate in GenAI patent publications, with significant potential for economic impact.

NITI Aayog Releases SDG India Index 2023-24

The SDG India Index 2023-24 reveals significant national and subnational progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). India's composite score improved to 71, reflecting advancements across key sectors like poverty eradication, economic growth, climate action, and biodiversity conservation.

Business News

RBI Ups Financial Accommodation For States/UTs By 28% To ₹60,118 Crore

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the aggregate Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit for State governments and Union Territories (UTs) by 28%, from ₹47,010 crore to ₹60,118 crore, effective from July 1, 2024. This revision, based on recommendations by a Group of select State Finance Secretaries and considering recent expenditure data, aims to help States and UTs manage temporary mismatches in their cash flow.

Indiabulls Housing Finance Rebrands as Sammaan Capital Limited

Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd has undergone a transformation, rebranding itself to Sammaan Capital Ltd. This change reflects its shift from a promoter-led entity to a board-run, diversified financial institution. The rebranding,

effective upon receipt of regulatory approvals, marks a significant milestone in the company's 25-year journey since its inception as Indiabulls Financial Services Limited in 2000.

Bajaj Rolls Out World's First CNG Bike, Gadkari Hails It as 'Eco-friendly' and 'Sustainable'

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launched Bajaj Auto's new bike, Freedom, the world's first CNG motorcycle. He praised it as "eco-friendly" and "sustainable," highlighting the significant issues of air, sound, and water pollution, and the high cost of fossil fuel imports in India.

ADB and AHFL Partner to Expand Housing Loans for Low-Income Women

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has entered into a \$60 million financing agreement with Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) to provide housing loans to women in India. The initiative aims to address the shortage of financing in the low-income and affordable housing segment. Half of the funds will be deployed in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

ICICI Prudential Launches India's First Oil & Gas ETF

ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund has made a significant move in the Indian investment landscape by launching the ICICI Prudential Nifty Oil & Gas ETF. ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund has made a significant move in the Indian investment landscape by launching the ICICI Prudential Nifty Oil & Gas ETF. This pioneering product marks the introduction of India's first exchange-traded fund (ETF) specifically focused on the oil and gas sector. The fund is designed to track the performance of the Nifty Oil & Gas TRI, an index that serves as a barometer for the listed companies operating within this crucial economic sector.

Jio Financial Services Gets RBI Nod to Become Core Investment Company

Jio Financial Services has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to transition from a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) to a Core Investment Company (CIC). Following this announcement, the company's shares saw an increase of over 2% on the NSE.

Airbus and Tata to Debut India's First H125 Helicopter by 2026

Airbus and Tata are joining forces to manufacture India's first H125 helicopter, which is set to roll out by 2026. This partnership aligns with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and reflects Airbus's commitment to investing in the Indian aerospace market despite regulatory challenges.

NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd. To Set Up Green Charcoal Plant In Haryana

Municipal Corporations of Gurugram and Faridabad are all set to establish two waste-to-charcoal plants, also known as

green coal plants, in the two districts at a cost of ₹500 crore each. They added that these plants would convert 1,500 tonne of waste daily into charcoal using indigenous technology.

India's First Integrated Agri-Export Facility at Jawaharlal Nehru Port

The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) is set to develop India's first integrated agricultural export facility at Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai. The project, approved by the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, is valued at Rs. 284.19 crore and will cover an area of 67,422 square meters. This state-of-the-art facility aims to streamline logistics, reduce multiple handling, and extend the shelf life of agricultural products, thus enhancing the export capacity of Indian agricultural commodities.

All-India Consumer Price Index Numbers for Agricultural and Rural Labourers

The All-India Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) and Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) (Base: 1986-87=100) saw an increase of 11 points each in June 2024, reaching 1280 and 1292, respectively. The year-on-year inflation rates based on CPI-AL and CPI-RL were 7.02% and 7.04%, respectively, compared to 6.31% and 6.16% in June 2023. For May 2024, these rates were 7.00% for CPI-AL and 7.02% for CPI-RL.

Agreement News

SERA and Blue Origin Announce India as Partner Nation for Human Spaceflight Program

Space Exploration and Research Agency (SERA) and Blue Origin have designated India as a partner nation in their human spaceflight initiative, inviting Indian citizens to participate in a historic opportunity. The program offers six seats aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket, taking participants on an 11-minute journey beyond the Kármán line, the boundary of space.

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ICAI and MeitY Collaborate on AI Audit Tool for Corporate India

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has initiated talks with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to develop an AI Audit Tool aimed at overseeing corporate India and detecting frauds. ICAI President Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal has confirmed that a proposal has been sent to MeitY Secretary Krishnan.

India and Russia Aim for \$100 Billion Trade

India and Russia have set a target to increase bilateral trade to \$100 billion by 2030, emphasizing economic collaboration in energy, trade, manufacturing, and fertilizers. Discussions included balancing trade, reducing non-tariff barriers, and exploring an India-Eurasian Economic Union Free Trade Area.

Appointment News

Ravi Agrawal Appointed CBDT Chief, Succeeds Nitin Gupta

Ravi Agrawal, a 1988-batch IRS officer, has been appointed as the new chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). He succeeds Nitin Gupta, whose tenure ended on June 30, 2024. Agrawal's appointment extends till June 2025, with a reappointment on a contract basis to ensure continuity in CBDT's policy framework.

CS Setty Gets FSIB Approval to Head SBI As Next Chairman

Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB) has selected Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the next chairman of State Bank of India (SBI). Ashwini Tiwari and Vinay Tonse were two other contenders to the post. Setty will succeed the current chairman, Dinesh Khara, when he turns 63, the upper age limit for the position of SBI Chairman. His term is scheduled to end in August 2024.

New CGM and CMD Take Charge at PGCIL

Akhilesh Pathak has assumed office as the new Chief General Manager (CGM) of the Southern Region Transmission System-I (SRTS-I) of the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) on Monday, July 1, 2024. Pathak will oversee the transmission system, including sub-stations and projects in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and part of Karnataka. With over 31 years of experience in the transmission sector, he has expertise in operations and maintenance, asset management, and commercial operations.

Puma India, Roped Riyan Parag and Nitish Kumar Reddy as ambassadors

On July 1, 2024, marks an important day for sports fashion in India. On this day, Puma India, a leading sports brand, announced two new brand ambassadors: Riyan Parag and Nitish Kumar Reddy. This exciting news showcases Puma's commitment to supporting young talent and connecting with India's youth.

Dr. B.N. Gangadhar named as Chairperson of the National Medical Commission

In a significant move to bolster medical education and healthcare governance in India, the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has announced several high-profile appointments to the National Medical Commission (NMC). These appointments are expected to bring fresh perspectives and expertise to the country's apex medical education regulator.

Ex-R&AW Chief Rajinder Khanna Appointed New Additional NSA

The government has recently strengthened the National Security Council (NSC) by making several high-profile appointments. Former Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief Rajinder Khanna has been promoted to Additional National Security Adviser (NSA). T V Ravichandran and Pavan Kapoor have also been appointed as Deputy NSAs.

SBI General Insurance Names Naveen Chandra Jha as New MD & CEO

SBI General Insurance Company Ltd. has appointed Shri Naveen Chandra Jha as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. He succeeds Shri Kishore Kumar Poludasu, nominated by the parent company State Bank of India.

RBI Appoints Charulatha S Kar as Executive Director

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Smt. Charulatha S Kar as Executive Director (ED), effective from July 1, 2024. Previously serving as Chief General Manager-in-Charge in the Human Resource Management Department, she brings over three decades of experience in various roles including Payment and Settlement Systems, Information Technology, and Government Banking. Smt. Kar has represented the RBI in several international forums and committees.

Dhirendra Ojha Appointed Principal Spokesperson of Government

In a significant move to strengthen the government's communication strategy, senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officer Dhirendra K Ojha has been appointed as the principal spokesperson of the central government. This appointment marks an important day in the realm of government communications, as it brings fresh leadership to crucial information dissemination roles.

Smart Cities Mission in India Extended to 2025

The Government of India announced a significant extension to one of its flagship urban development initiatives. The Smart Cities Mission, originally set to conclude on June 30, 2024, will now continue until March 31, 2025. This extension marks a crucial phase in India's journey towards creating technologically advanced and livable urban spaces.

LIC Chairman Siddhartha Mohanty Re-Designated Managing Director & CEO

State-owned life insurer Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has redesignated its chairman Siddhartha Mohanty as chief executive officer and managing director with effect from 30 June 2024. It is not yet known if the life insurance company would appoint a new chairperson.

Elisa de Anda Madrazo Assumes FATF Presidency for 2024-2026

Elisa de Anda Madrazo of Mexico has assumed the presidency of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for a two-year term from July 2024 to June 2026. This transition marks a significant moment for the global financial watchdog, as Madrazo brings a fresh perspective aimed at strengthening efforts to combat financial crimes and terrorism financing.

Supreme Court Appoints Former CJI to Head VC Selection Committee in West Bengal

On July 9, 2024, a division bench of the Supreme Court, comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice K V Vishwanath, passed an order appointing former Chief Justice of India, Uday Umesh Lalit, as the chairman of the search and selection committee for appointing vice-chancellors in West Bengal's state-run universities.

Rajat Sharma Elected as NBDA President

In a significant development for the Indian media landscape, Rajat Sharma, the esteemed Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of India TV, has been unanimously elected as the President of the News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA). This landmark decision was made during the NBDA's board meeting held on July 9, 2024, marking a new chapter in the organization's history.

Olympian PV Sindhu Joins Wellness Brand Hoop as Investor, Brand Ambassador

Olympic medalist and badminton sensation PV Sindhu has made a significant move in the business world by joining Hoop, a Gurugram-based wellness brand, as both an investor and brand ambassador. This announcement marks a new milestone in Sindhu's career beyond the badminton court, showcasing her growing interest in entrepreneurship and brand building.

Lt Gen Shankar Narayan Takes Helm at Army Hospital (R & R)

The Armed Forces Medical Services witnessed a significant change in leadership as Lt Gen Shankar Narayan, NM, VSM, assumed the role of Commandant at the Army Hospital (Research & Referral), widely recognized as the apex hospital of the Indian Armed Forces. This appointment marks a new chapter in the hospital's illustrious history and promises to bring fresh perspectives to military healthcare.

Government Appoints Robert J Ravi as New CMD of BSNL

The Indian government has made a significant move in the telecommunications sector by appointing Robert Jerard Ravi as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). This appointment, effective from July 15, 2024, marks a new chapter for the state-run telecom operator.

Paytm Payments Bank Appoints Arun Bansal as New CEO

Paytm Payments Bank, an associate entity of One97 Communications (OCL), has appointed Arun Kumar Bansal as its new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Bansal, a former executive at IDBI Bank, resigned from his position as Executive Director and Head of Treasury at IDBI Bank following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval of his appointment. In his resignation letter, Bansal requested relief from his services at IDBI Bank on or before June 25, as the former MD and CEO of Paytm PB, Surinder Chawla, was set to retire on June 26.

Supreme Court Gets 2 New Judges, First From Manipur

The Supreme Court now has two more judges after President Droupadi Murmu cleared the appointments of Justice N Kotiswar Singh and Justice R Mahadevan. The appointments were announced by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal July 16.

HSBC Appoints Insider Georges Elhedery As CEO

HSBC Holdings Plc has appointed its Chief Financial Officer Georges Elhedery as its next CEO, the bank said on July 17, opting for continuity as it tries to kickstart growth.

The Business Advisory Committee For New Session

Lok Sabha Speaker sets up the Business Advisory Committee for the new session. The Committee includes members such as Sudip Bandhyopadhyay, Gaurav Gogoi, Dayanidhi Maran, PP Chaudhary, and Anurag Thakur, among others.

Latest FIFA Rankings Released, India remains 124th

India has maintained its 124th position in the latest FIFA men's rankings released. This comes as a small relief for the success-starved nation, which has been experiencing a downward trend in recent months.

Virat Kohli Tops Celebrity Brand Valuation In 2023

Cricketer Virat Kohli has reclaimed the top spot to become India's most valued celebrity, boasting a brand value of \$227.9 million in 2023. However, this value still falls short of his peak brand value of \$237.7 million in 2020, as reported by Kroll's Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2023.

Vinay Kwatra Appointed as India's New Ambassador to the U.S

Former Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to the United States, as confirmed by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Kwatra will assume his new role shortly, filling the position that has been vacant since Taranjit Sandhu's retirement in January 2024.

Shikhar Dhawan Becomes Brand Ambassador for MotoGP India

In a groundbreaking move that bridges the worlds of cricket and motorsports, Eurosport India has announced the appointment of renowned Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan as the brand ambassador for MotoGP™ in India. This strategic partnership marks a significant milestone in the promotion of motorcycle racing in a country traditionally dominated by cricket fandom.

Manolo Marquez Appointed Head Coach Of Indian Men's Football Team

Manolo Marquez was appointed as the new head coach of the Indian men's football team by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) on July 20. Marquez will take over as the full-time national team head coach after ISL 2024-25.

Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak Elected New President of ICAI

CMA Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak, a Fellow Member of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI) and a member of the Bhubaneswar Chapter, has been unanimously elected as the 67th President of ICAI for the 2024-2025 term. Nayak brings over 30 years of professional experience in finance and cost accountancy to the position. He is Odisha's third Cost Accountant to hold this esteemed role.

Nita Ambani Unanimously Re-Elected As IOCM: Paris Olympic, 2024

Paris 2024 Olympic Games: With the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympic Games scheduled to begin this weekend, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on July 24 announced that Nita Ambani, has been re-elected unanimously as the IOC from India at the 142nd session. Nita is the founder of Reliance Foundation and won unanimously with 100 per cent of the vote.

Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur Appointed IFFI Festival Director

Veteran filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, known for films such as "Mr India", "Bandit Queen" and "Elizabeth", has been appointed festival director for the International Film Festival of India (IFFI). Mr. Kapur will head the festival, held annually in Goa, for the 55th and 56th editions, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry said in a notification.

Banking News

ICICI Bank Launches Pre-Paid Sapphiro Forex Card for International Students

ICICI Bank announced the launch of its 'Student Sapphiro Forex Card', a premium forex prepaid card crafted specifically for students who are going abroad for higher education. The card, powered by Visa, provides exclusive benefits and convenience to students as well as their parents to manage education related expenses abroad such as admission fees, course-related fees and other day-to-day expenses including travel, dining and groceries, among others.

RBI Slaps ₹1.32 Crore Monetary Penalty on PNB

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on July 5 imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.32 crore on Punjab National Bank (PNB) for violations related to loans and advances and Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.

RBI Launches Quarterly Manufacturing Survey for Q2 2024

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced its quarterly “Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilisation Survey” (OBICUS) for the manufacturing sector, aimed at informing monetary policy decisions. Since 2008, this survey has provided crucial insights into key metrics such as new orders, inventory levels, and capacity utilisation across manufacturing companies.

SEBI Issues New Guidelines to Enhance Credit Rating Agency Operations

Markets regulator SEBI has issued new guidelines to streamline operations and enhance the ease of doing business for credit rating agencies. The circular introduces specific timelines for dealing with appeals made by companies regarding rating actions carried out during periodic surveillance of ratings.

RBI Approves Govind Singh's Re-Appointment as MD & CEO of Utkarsh SFB

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of Govind Singh as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank (Utkarsh SFB). His new term will commence on September 21, 2024, and will last for three years.

Financial Inclusion Index Rises with Growth Across All Segments

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index), which measures the extent of financial inclusion across the country, rose to 64.2 in March 2024 from 60.1 in March 2023. This improvement reflects growth across all sub-indices, indicating a deepening of financial inclusion.

RBI Eases LRS Norms for Investment via GIFT IFSC

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expanded the scope of remittances to International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS). This allows resident Indians to open fixed deposits in dollars at GIFT IFSC, facilitating various financial services and products as per the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019.

PNB Launches 'Safety Ring' to Enhance Internet and Mobile Banking Security

In response to rising cyber fraud incidents, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has introduced the 'Safety Ring' security feature. This optional mechanism provides an additional layer of

protection against unauthorized access, aimed at minimizing potential financial losses for users of its internet and mobile banking services.

LIC Enters Into Tie-Up With IDFC First Bank Under Corporate Agency Arrangement

Continuing with its endeavor to increase the contribution of bancassurance and its pursuit to provide life insurance coverage to all by 2047. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has tied-up with one of the best technologically advanced and promising banks in the country, IDFC First Bank Ltd, under Corporate Agency Arrangement.

SIDBI To Build \$1B Fund For Green Financing With \$215 M

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), which received approval of funding of \$ 215.6 m from the Green Climate Fund, will create a corpus of \$1 billion for 'financing mitigation and adaptation projects' (FMAP) of Medium and Small Enterprises (MSMEs). The board of the Green Climate Fund, which is an entity set up by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), approved a \$200 million loan and \$15.6 million grant for capacity building to SIDBI.

IndusInd Bank Launches 'Wrestle for Glory' CSR Initiative

IndusInd Bank has introduced the 'Wrestle for Glory' program, a significant CSR initiative developed in partnership with the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS). This initiative aims to support 50 promising female wrestling athletes from across India by providing them with fully-funded scholarships for coaching at IIS's premier facility in Vijayanagar, Bellary.

Science & Technology News

ISRO's Aditya-L1 Completes First Halo Orbit

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on June 2, announced that India's inaugural solar mission has completed its halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point on July 2. This significant breakthrough was achieved after a station keeper manoeuvre made its transition into the second halo orbit.

ISRO Selects 2 Gaganyaan Astronauts For International Space Station Mission Under Axiom-4

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has shortlisted two of its four trained Gaganyaan astronauts for a mission to the International Space Station (ISS) in collaboration with United States' NASA later this year, according to officials in the know of the matter. Only one of the shortlisted astronauts will go on the mission which is supposed to take place “no earlier than October 2024,” according to the information available on NASA website.

Europe's Ariane 6 Rocket Launched After 4-Year Delay

Europe's new Ariane 6 rocket successfully blasted off for the first time, restoring the continent's independent access to space after a series of setbacks. Initially delayed for an hour by a small problem, the rocket lifted off from Kourou, French Guiana, releasing satellites into orbit. This launch marked a significant milestone for European space efforts, which had suffered from delays and loss of independent launch capabilities.

WHO Introduces MeDeVIS Platform for Medical Device Information

The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched MeDeVIS (Medical Devices Information System), an online platform designed to be the first global open access clearing house for information on medical devices. It aims to support governments, regulators, and users in making informed decisions about the selection, procurement, and use of medical devices for diagnostics, testing, and treatment of various health conditions.

NASA's Historic Discovery: Six New Exoplanets

NASA has achieved a significant milestone with the discovery of six new exoplanets: HD 36384 b, TOI-198 b, TOI-2095 b, TOI-2095 c, TOI-4860 b, and MWC 758 c. This brings the total number of confirmed exoplanets outside our solar system to 5,502, marking a remarkable advancement in our understanding of the universe and the potential for extraterrestrial life.

What is Blue Screen of Death?

Mostly Windows 10 users around the world are facing massive outages owing to a new CrowdStrike update, which is leading to PCs getting stuck on the recovery screen. Reports suggest that the latest issue on Windows has led to massive outages across Airports, companies, banks and government offices across the world.

Discovery of Lithium Resources in Mandya and Yadgiri Districts, Karnataka by AMD

The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a unit of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), has identified lithium resources in the Mandya and Yadgiri districts of Karnataka. Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh announced the discovery of 1,600 tonnes (G3 stage) of lithium in the Marlagalla area of Mandya district. Preliminary surveys and limited subsurface exploration were also carried out in Yadgiri district.

Mankind Pharma Acquires Bharat Serums and Vaccines For Rs 13,600 Crore

Mankind Pharma has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire a 100 per cent stake in Bharat Serums and Vaccines (BSV) from Advent International. It is one of the world's

largest and most experienced private equity investors, for an enterprise value of Rs 13,630 crore, subject to closing related adjustments.

OpenAI Launches SearchGPT, A New Era in AI-Powered Search

In a bold move that could reshape the landscape of internet search, OpenAI, the company behind the revolutionary ChatGPT, has announced the development of an AI-powered search engine called SearchGPT. This initiative represents a significant challenge to Google's dominance in the \$200 billion search market and marks a new chapter in the ongoing AI revolution.

Schemes and Committees News**MoSPI Launches eSankhyiki Portal for Enhanced Data Access**

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has introduced the eSankhyiki portal to revolutionize data accessibility and user experience. This initiative aims to centralize and streamline access to key national statistical data, supporting planners, policymakers, researchers, and the public.

NTR Bharosa Pension Scheme Launch Day, A New Era of Social Security in Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu launched the NTR Bharosa pension scheme, fulfilling a key election promise and bringing hope to millions of beneficiaries across the state.

Ministry of Culture Initiates Project PARI for the 46th World Heritage Committee Meeting

India, a vibrant center of artistic expression, has a rich history of public art reflecting its cultural and spiritual diversity. Project PARI (Public Art of India), initiated by the Ministry of Culture and executed by Lalit Kala Akademi and the National Gallery of Modern Art, seeks to blend India's millennia-old artistic heritage with modern themes and techniques.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to Lead Indian Delegation to BRICS Parliamentary Forum

Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, will head a prominent Indian parliamentary delegation to the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia. The forum aims to explore the role of parliaments in advancing global development and security through multilateral cooperation.

Government to Launch 'Agri Fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises' (AgriSURE)

The Government of India is set to launch the 'Agri Fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises' (AgriSURE) to support start-ups and agripreneurs through investments in sector-specific,

sector-agnostic, and debt Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), as well as direct equity support to start-ups working in agriculture and allied sectors. This initiative aims to foster innovation and sustainability in India's agricultural sector through the establishment of a Rs 750 crore Category-II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF). The fund will offer both equity and debt support, specifically targeting high-risk, high-impact activities in the agriculture value chain.

ICAR To Launch 'One Scientist, One Product' Scheme

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is set to unveil a groundbreaking initiative that promises to revolutionize the landscape of agricultural and animal husbandry research in India. The 'One Scientist-One Product' programme, scheduled for launch on July 16, marks a significant milestone in the organization's commitment to advancing agricultural science and technology.

Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2024 Launch in Dhanbad

On July 25, 2024, Union Minister of Coal and Mines, Shri G. Kishan Reddy, launched the Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2024 at Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) in Dhanbad. This initiative, part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign, was simultaneously conducted across 300 locations in 47 districts within 11 coal/lignite-bearing states.

Government Launches Revised Model Skill Loan Scheme

The Centre has introduced a revised Model Skill Loan Scheme, designed to provide financial support for skill development courses to the nation's youth. Launched on July 25, by Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Education, the scheme aims to remove financial barriers to advanced skill education.

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Summits & Conference News

Global IndiaAI Summit 2024: Empowering Responsible AI Development and Adoption

The 'Global IndiaAI Summit 2024' commences today in New Delhi, hosted by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. This two-day event aims to position India as a global leader in AI innovation while promoting ethical and inclusive AI advancement. It will feature sessions on IndiaAI's strategic pillars, including compute capacity, datasets platform, innovation centers, and skills development.

24th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit: Key Highlights

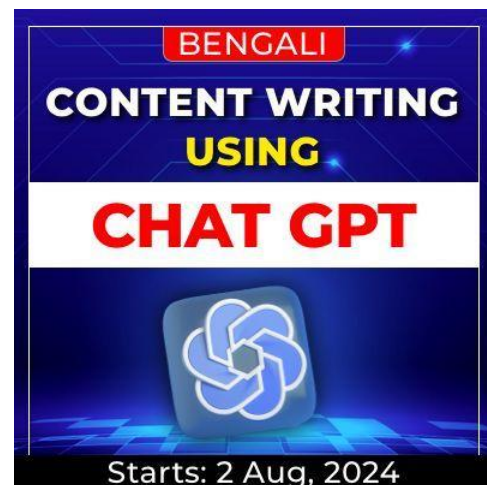
The 24th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) took place on July 4, 2024, in Astana, Kazakhstan. This important gathering brought together leaders from various countries to discuss regional cooperation and security issues.

Laos Gears Up to Host 57th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting

Laos authorities have discussed preparations for the 57th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related meetings, scheduled to take place in the Laos capital Vientiane from July 21 to 27.

NATO Summit: Biden Hosts Historic Meeting with Strong Support for Ukraine

The NATO summit, hosted by President Joe Biden in Washington, DC from July 9 to 11, marks a pivotal moment for the alliance. It will include Sweden as a new member, highlighting NATO's expansion and unity amidst global challenges. Biden aims to strengthen support for Ukraine, with announcements expected to bolster military, political, and financial aid. The summit, commemorating NATO's 75th anniversary, underscores its role in Euro-Atlantic security and collective defense against evolving threats.



ICC Annual Conference 2024, A Landmark Event for Sri Lankan Cricket

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is set to make history as it holds its Annual Conference in Sri Lanka from July 19th to 22nd, 2024. This marks the first time the prestigious event will be hosted in the Asian region, highlighting the growing importance of Asian cricket on the global stage.

World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2024

India is hosting the UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting for the first time, alongside the 2024 World Heritage Young Professionals Forum in New Delhi. From July 14 to 23, young professionals from around the world will gather to enhance their skills in heritage preservation and sustainable development. The forum, organized by the Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India, focuses on integrating global heritage concepts with local Indian heritage management.

India To Host 2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference On Civil Aviation

India is set to host the second Asia Pacific ministerial conference on civil aviation on September 11 and 12, with representatives from around 40 countries, including China and Pakistan. The Asia Pacific region is a significant contributor to global air traffic, and India the world's fastest-growing aviation market.

Awards & Honors News**P. Geetha Receives Inaugural K. Saraswathi Amma Award**

In a significant recognition of feminist literature and studies, writer, critic, and feminist activist P. Geetha has been awarded the first K. Saraswathi Amma Award. This prestigious accolade, instituted by WINGS (Women's Integration and Growth Through Sports) Kerala, marks a pivotal moment in the acknowledgment of feminist contributions to literature and social discourse.

Agri-Entrepreneur Sopna Kallingal Secures Spice Award

Sopna Kallingal of Kallingal Plantation, Thrissur, received Spice Award 2024, instituted by ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research. The award has been given to her for her initiatives in enterprise diversification and integrated crop management strategies, promoting a sustainable spice-based cropping system.

Tamil writer Sivashankari selected for Dr. C. Narayana Reddy National Literary Award

Tamil literature, renowned author Sivashankari has been selected as the recipient of the highly esteemed Dr. C. Narayana Reddy National Literary Award. This prestigious accolade celebrates her immense contributions to the rich tapestry of Tamil literary culture and her role in shaping contemporary Indian literature.

Dr. Arpit Chopra Receives Prestigious Excellence Award for Pioneering Work in Homeopathy

In a significant recognition of his contributions to alternative medicine, Dr. Arpit Chopra, a distinguished homoeopathic practitioner, was bestowed with the Excellence Award at the NDTV MSMES (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) Summit held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The award ceremony, which took place at the Marriott Hotel, saw the presence of several high-ranking state officials and industry leaders.

PM Modi To Receive Russia's Highest Civilian Honour For "Outstanding Service"

Prime Minister Narendra Modi ceremoniously presented with the Order of St Andrew the Apostle the First-Called, which was bestowed on him in the year 2019 at St Catherine's Hall of the Moscow Kremlin. The order was presented to the Prime Minister of India for his distinguished contribution to the development of a privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India and friendly ties between the two countries.

Retired Tamil Nadu Professor K. Chockalingam Honoured with Prestigious Hans von Hentig Award

In a significant recognition of his contributions to the field of victimology, retired professor K. Chockalingam from Tamil Nadu, India, has been selected for the esteemed Hans von Hentig award. This honour highlights the global impact of Indian scholarship in the study of crime victims and their experiences within the criminal justice system.

Indian Space Scientists Honoured at International COSPAR Assembly

The Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), the world's first scientific body dedicated to space science research, has recognized the outstanding contributions of two Indian space scientists at its 45th scientific assembly in Busan, South Korea. This recognition highlights India's growing prominence in the global space research community. Prahlad Chandra Agrawal, one of India's most senior space scientists, received the esteemed Harrie Massey Award. Anil Bhardwaj, the director of the Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), was awarded the Vikram Sarabhai Medal. This award, jointly instituted by COSPAR and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), honors outstanding space science research in developing countries.

Sri Kurumba Trust Wins Global CSR ESG Award 2024

Sobha Group's CSR wing, Sri Kurumba Educational and Charitable Trust, has been honoured with the "Best Child and Women Development Initiatives of the Year 2024." This esteemed accolade was presented at the Global CSR, Sustainability, and ESG Awards 2024, at the Hyatt Regency, Gurgaon. The event was organised by Marketing and Brand Honchos and brought together industry leaders and champions of social responsibility.

Nobel Laureate Rigoberta Menchú Tum Receives Prestigious Gandhi Mandela Award 2020

Rigoberta Menchú Tum, the renowned Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Guatemalan human rights activist, has been honored with the Gandhi Mandela Award 2020. This prestigious accolade recognizes her lifelong commitment to advocating for Indigenous rights and promoting peace and social justice.

RRR Star Ram Charan to be Honoured at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2024

Ram Charan, the superstar known for his stellar performance in the global blockbuster "RRR", is set to be the guest of honor at the prestigious Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2024. This recognition comes as a testament to his significant contributions to Indian cinema and his rising international profile.

AIFF awards 2024, Chhangte, Indumathi Win Top Male and Female Awards

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) recently held its annual awards ceremony, recognizing outstanding achievements in Indian football for the 2023-24 season. The top honours went to Lallianzuala Chhangte and Indumathi Kathiresan, who were named the male and female Players of the Year respectively.

Indian Tennis Legends Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj Inducted into International Tennis Hall of Fame

In a momentous occasion for Indian and Asian tennis, former Indian tennis stars Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj have become the first Asian men to be inducted into the prestigious International Tennis Hall of Fame. This historic induction not only celebrates their individual achievements but also marks a significant milestone for tennis in the Asian continent.

Abhinav Bindra Awarded Prestigious Olympic Order by IOC

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has honored Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual Olympic gold medallist, with the prestigious Olympic Order. This recognition will be formally presented during the 142nd IOC Session in Paris on August 10, 2024, a day before the closing of the Paris Olympics. The Olympic Order, the IOC's highest award, acknowledges distinguished contributions to the Olympic Movement.

Shah Rukh Khan, First Indian Actor, Honoured With Gold Coins

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan has been honoured with customised gold coins by the Grevin Museum in Paris. Shah Rukh is the first Indian actor to have gold coins in his name at the museum.

Rajbhasha Gaurav Samman 2023-24 Award Ceremony

The Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) honored Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in Visakhapatnam with the 'Rajbhasha Gaurav Samman' for the year 2023-24. The event was hosted by NTPC and was presided over by Atul Bhatt, Chairman of TOLIC and CMD of RINL.

Important Dates News**National Doctor's Day 2024, Date, History and Significance**

National Doctor's Day, observed on 1st July every year, is an annual celebration that recognizes the invaluable contributions of medical professionals to our society. As we approach the 2024 observance, it's important to reflect on the significance of this day and the impact doctors have on our lives.

International Plastic Bag Free Day 2024, Date, History and Significance

International Plastic Bag Free Day is celebrated on July 3 every year. This special day aims to raise awareness about the harmful effects of plastic bags on our environment. It encourages people to stop using plastic bags and find eco-friendly alternatives.

World Population Day 2024: Know Date, History and Theme

As July 11th approaches, the world prepares to observe World Population Day, an annual event that has become increasingly significant in our rapidly changing global landscape. Established by the United Nations in 1989, this day serves as a crucial platform for raising awareness about pressing population issues that affect every corner of our planet. The theme for World Population Day 2024, "Leave no one behind, count everyone," underscores a critical aspect of population dynamics and sustainable development.

World Youth Skills Day 2024: Know Date, Theme, and History

World Youth Skills Day, observed annually on July 15th, was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014. This day serves as a global platform to highlight the importance of equipping young people with skills essential for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship. As we approach the 2024 celebration, the theme "Youth Skills for Peace and Development" takes center stage, emphasizing the crucial role of young people in fostering peace and driving sustainable development.

Nelson Mandela International Day 2024: Date, Theme, Significance And History

Every year on July 18th, the world unites to celebrate Nelson Mandela International Day, honouring the life and enduring legacy of one of history's most inspiring figures. This day serves not only as a commemoration but as a global call to

action, encouraging individuals and communities worldwide to embody Mandela's spirit of service and dedication to social justice. For 2024, the theme "It's still in our hands to combat poverty and inequality" resonates deeply with Mandela's lifelong commitment.

International Chess Day 2024: A Global Celebration of Strategy and Intellect

International Chess Day, celebrated annually on July 20th, is a worldwide commemoration that honours the ancient game of chess and its profound impact on global culture, education, and intellectual development. Recognized by UNESCO since 1966, this day serves as a platform to promote chess as a powerful tool for education, the cultivation of logical thinking, and cultural exchange across nations. As we approach International Chess Day 2024, it's an opportune moment to explore the rich history, significance, and global celebrations surrounding this revered game.

India's National Flag Day 2024: Honouring the Tiranga

India's National Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the Indian national flag on July 22, 1947, by the Constituent Assembly, just days before the country attained Independence from British rule on August 15, 1947. This day holds great significance as it honors the symbol of India's unity, integrity, and sovereignty, according to the government website Know India.

World Hepatitis Day 2024, Date, Theme, Significance and History

World Hepatitis Day, observed annually on July 28th, serves as a global platform to raise awareness about viral hepatitis, a group of infectious diseases that cause inflammation of the liver and can lead to severe liver disease and cancer. As we approach the 2024 commemoration, the urgency of addressing this global health challenge has never been more pressing.

Sports News

Ravindra Jadeja Retires From T20 Internationals

Star India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has announced his decision to retire from T20 internationals following India's T20 World Cup 2024 triumph. Ravindra Jadeja has called it quits from T20 internationals, bowing out on a high with the T20 World Cup 2024 trophy.

Viswanathan Anand Wins 10th Leon Masters Chess Championship

Viswanathan Anand, the former world chess champion from India, achieved a remarkable feat. He won the Leon Masters chess championship for the 10th time, defeating Jaime Santos Latasa of Spain in the final with a score of 3-1. This victory adds another jewel to Anand's crown of achievements in the world of chess.

India Dominates U23 Asian Wrestling Championship in Jordan

India's U23 wrestling team excelled in Amman, Jordan, clinching a total of 19 medals across women's wrestling, Greco-Roman, and freestyle categories. The women wrestlers led with three gold medals, showcasing dominance in their divisions. Meenakshi, Pushpa Yadav, and Priya Malik stood out with impressive performances, securing victories by various methods including Victory by Superiority and Victory by Fall.

George Russell Triumphs in Dramatic Austrian Grand Prix 2024

The Austrian Grand Prix 2024 will be remembered as a day of unexpected twists and turns, culminating in a stunning victory for George Russell of Mercedes. This race, held at the iconic Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria, showcased the unpredictable nature of Formula 1 racing and the skill of drivers who can capitalize on sudden opportunities.

Neeraj Chopra To Lead 28-Member Squad in Paris Olympics

A 28-member Indian athletics team, led by men's javelin throw defending champion Neeraj Chopra, will compete at the Paris 2024 Olympics, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) announced on June 04. Chopra made history three years ago by becoming the first Indian track and field athlete to win a medal at the Olympics, that too a gold. This time, the Indian javelin throw ace will have Olympic debutant Kishore Jena for company in his pet event.

Kolkata, Kokrajhar, Jamshedpur & Shillong to host 133rd Durand Cup

The Durand Cup, Asia's oldest and India's most prestigious club-based football tournament, is set to enter its 133rd edition in 2024. This historic competition, which has been a cornerstone of Indian football for over a century, continues to evolve and expand, bringing together the best teams from across the country.

Four Different Venues To Host Durand Cup 2024 Starting July 27

The Durand Cup 2024 football tournament will start from July 27 with the final scheduled at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (Salt Lake Stadium) in Kolkata on August 31. First played in 1888, the Durand Cup is India's oldest football tournament and serves as the opener for the Indian domestic season. The upcoming edition will be the 133rd edition of the legacy competition.

PM Hosts ICC T20 World Cup Winners, 2024

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted the T20 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team for breakfast on June 4. The team led by skipper Rohit Sharma arrived in Delhi in the early morning from Bridgetown in Barbados, where it was stranded for five days owing to a Category-4 hurricane.

Lewis Hamilton Wins the British Grand Prix 2024

Lewis Hamilton has won the British Grand Prix 2024. He became the first F1 driver to win on any track nine times and also extended his F1 record to 104 wins. His last came at the Saudi Arabian GP in December 2021 — the year he lost the title to Red Bull driver Verstappen. Red Bull's triple world champion Max Verstappen finished 1.465 seconds behind, extending his overall lead to 84 points, and McLaren's Lando Norris was third after being passed four laps from the end.

Indian Squash Players Triumph at Asian Squash Doubles Championship 2024

Indian squash players secured two titles at the recently concluded Asian Squash Doubles Championship 2024 held at the Arena Emas in Johor, Malaysia. The Indian team clinched victories in both the men's doubles and mixed doubles categories.

Gagan Narang Appointed as India's Chef-De-Mission for Paris Olympics 2024

Four-time Olympian and 2012 Olympic bronze medalist Gagan Narang has been appointed as India's Chef-De-Mission for the 2024 Paris Olympics. This decision comes after Mary Kom's resignation from the position due to health issues.

PV Sindhu, Sharath Kamal confirmed as India's flag bearers for Paris Olympics

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has announced that India will continue the tradition of having two flag bearers for the Paris 2024 Olympics, following the precedent set at Tokyo 2020. PV Sindhu, the badminton ace, has been chosen as the female flag bearer for the Indian contingent. Sharath Kamal, the veteran table tennis player, will serve as the male flag bearer.

Jasprit Bumrah and Mandhana Clinch ICC Player of the Month Awards

Jasprit Bumrah, the hero of India's victorious T20 World Cup campaign, has added another accolade to his illustrious career. He was named the 'ICC Men's Player of the Month for June', cementing his status as one of cricket's premier fast bowlers. Smriti Mandhana, the vice-captain of the Indian women's cricket team, secured her first ICC Women's Player of the Month award. Her stellar performance was instrumental in India's clean sweep over South Africa in the recent ODI series.

Gautam Gambhir Appointed Head Coach of India Men's Team

The Cricket Advisory Committee comprising Mr Ashok Malhotra, Mr Jatin Paranjpe and Ms Sulakshana Naik on July 9, unanimously recommended Mr Gautam Gambhir as the Head Coach of Team India (Senior Men). The former India batter will take charge from the upcoming away series against Sri Lanka where Team India are set to play 3 ODIs & 3 T20Is starting July 27.

Adani Group Announced as Principal Sponsor for Indian Team at 2024 Paris Olympics

In a significant development for Indian sports, Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, has declared that the conglomerate will be the principal sponsor of the Indian contingent at the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympics. This announcement marks a pivotal moment in the preparation of Indian athletes for one of the world's most prestigious sporting events.

PUMA Partners with the Indian Olympic Association for Paris Olympics 2024

Sports brand PUMA India has announced a significant partnership with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), becoming the Official Footwear Partner for the Indian contingent at the Paris Olympics 2024. This collaboration marks a major step in supporting Indian athletes on the global stage and promoting sports excellence in the country.

James Anderson Retires from Test Cricket: End of an Era for England

In a momentous occasion for cricket fans worldwide, James Anderson, the veteran English speedster, has officially announced his retirement from Test cricket. The 41-year-old bowler's illustrious career, spanning an impressive 21 years, came to a close at the very ground where it all began – the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground in London.

India Champions Triumph in World Championship of Legends 2024

In a riveting finale of the World Championship of Legends 2024, India Champions clinched a memorable victory against their arch-rivals Pakistan Champions by five wickets. The match, held at Edgbaston on July 13, 2024, showcased the enduring spirit of cricket and the fierce competition between these two cricketing powerhouses.

Thomas Muller Retires from International Football

In a move that marks the conclusion of an illustrious international career, Thomas Müller, the German football icon, has announced his retirement from international football following the conclusion of Euro 2024. This decision brings to a close a chapter that has spanned over a decade, leaving an indelible mark on German and world football.

Chennai Super Kings sets up Super Kings Academy in Sydney

The Chennai Super Kings (CSK), one of the most successful franchises in the Indian Premier League (IPL), has announced a significant expansion of its global presence with the establishment of its third international Super Kings Academy in Sydney, Australia. This move not only enhances CSK's international profile but also reinforces the franchise's long-standing connection with Australian cricket.

9th Women's Cricket Asia Cup 2024, Tournament Details and Significance

The 9th edition of the Women's Cricket Asia Cup is set to commence on July 19, 2024, in Dambulla, Sri Lanka. This prestigious tournament, organized by the Asian Cricket Council, will showcase the best of women's cricket in the region and serve as a crucial preparatory event for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup in Bangladesh later that year.

PR Sreejesh Announces Retirement After Paris Olympics 2024

Indian hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, a pivotal figure in the sport, has announced that he will retire from international hockey following the Paris Olympics 2024. This decision marks the end of an illustrious career, characterized by significant achievements and a lasting impact on the team.

IOC Announces Olympic Esports Games To Be Hosted In The Kingdom Of Saudi Arabia

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on July 12, announced that it has partnered with the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of Saudi Arabia to host the inaugural Olympic Esports Games 2025 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This groundbreaking step follows the IOC's recent announcement that the IOC Executive Board (EB) has established Olympic Esports Games. The proposal will be made to the IOC Session, which will be held on the eve of the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

Harmanpreet Kaur Surpasses Smriti Mandhana To Become India's Highest T20I Run-Getter

Harmanpreet Kaur has now become the top run-scorer in women's T20I cricket for India, overtaking Smriti Mandhana. This milestone was achieved during India's Women's Asia Cup T20 match against the UAE in Dambulla on July 21. The UAE won the toss and chose to bowl first, Smriti Mandhana getting out on 13 runs.

Sania Mirza, Mary Kom And Rannvijay Singha Join Play Sports As Brand Ambassadors

Six-time Grand Slam winner and former World No. 1 in women's doubles Sania Mirza, six-time World Champion and Olympic bronze medallist MC Mary Kom and actor Rannvijay Singha have joined 'Play Sports' as brand ambassadors. Play Sport's objective is to create a sustainable sports eco system in India by working with schools, developing sports, managing sports infrastructure, running academies and scouting talent from grassroots.

France Set To Host 2030 Winter Olympics, Subject To Conditions

The International Olympic Committee named the French Alps as the host for the 2030 Winter Games on July 24, though the decision is subject to certain conditions. While presenting the bid to IOC members in Paris, French President Emmanuel Macron assured the committee that the

government formed after the 2024 Summer Games in Paris would handle all outstanding organisational and financial guarantees.

Kargil Vijay Diwas 2024, Remembering India's Triumph in the Kargil War

Every year on July 26, India observes Kargil Vijay Diwas to commemorate the brave hearts of the Indian Army and celebrate the victory of the Indian Armed Forces over Pakistan during the 1999 Kargil Conflict. This day holds significant importance in India's military history, marking the successful conclusion of Operation Vijay.

Obituaries News**Bhupinder Singh Rawat, Former Indian Midfielder passes away at 85: AIFF**

Former India midfielder Bhupinder Singh Rawat, who played in the 1969 Merdeka Cup in Malaysia died after a brief illness, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) stated. A speedy winger of the 1960s and 1970s, Rawat played for India in the 1969 Merdeka tournament in Malaysia. Domestically, he played for Delhi Garrison, Gorkha Brigade and Mafatlal.

Robert Towne, Oscar-winning screenwriter of 'Chinatown,' Dies at 89

Robert Towne, the acclaimed screenwriter whose work shaped the landscape of American cinema in the 1970s and beyond, passed away on Monday, December 4, 2023, at his home in Los Angeles. He was 89 years old.

Jon Landau, Oscar-winning Producer, Passes Away at 63

Jon Landau, the Oscar-winning producer known for his collaborations with director James Cameron on blockbuster films like Titanic and the Avatar series, has died at the age of 63.

Subhash Dandekar, the Visionary Behind Camlin's Success Passes Away at 86

The stationery industry in India lost a pioneer with the passing of Subhash Dandekar, the founder of the iconic brand Camlin. At the age of 86, Dandekar left behind a legacy that transformed the landscape of stationery and art supplies in the country. His vision and leadership not only built a household name but also contributed significantly to India's industrial and social development.

Padma Shri Awardee Kamala Pujari Passes Away at 74

Kamala Pujari, the renowned Padma Shri awardee and pioneering organic farmer, passed away at the age of 74 due to kidney-related ailments. She was being treated at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack but succumbed to her condition early on Saturday. Her death has prompted condolences from prominent leaders and the announcement of state honours by the Odisha government.

C.T. Kurien, a distinguished economist, Passes Away

On July 23, 2024, the world of economics lost a brilliant mind and compassionate soul. C.T. Kurien, a distinguished economist and former professor of Madras Christian College, passed away at the age of 93 due to age-related ailments. His death marks the end of an era in Indian economics, but his legacy continues to inspire generations of economists and social thinkers.

Veteran Marathi Writer Father Francis D'Britto Dies At 81

Vasai-based Catholic priest Father Francis D'Britto, writer and environmentalist, who translated the Bible into Marathi, passed away on July 25, 2024, after prolonged illness. D'Britto (81) breathed his last at his home in Vasai in Palghar district.

Defence News**Maitree Exercise 2024, Strengthening India-Thailand Military Cooperation**

July 1, 2024, marks the beginning of an important event in India-Thailand relations. The Maitree Exercise, a joint military exercise between the Indian Army and the Royal Thai Army, kicks off at Fort Vachiraprakan in Tak Province, Thailand. This two-week exercise, running until July 15, 2024, is a significant step in strengthening military ties between the two nations.

Inauguration of Indian Air Force Weapon Systems School

The Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief, Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari, inaugurated the Weapon Systems School (WSS) in Hyderabad, marking a significant advancement for the IAF. Established to recalibrate and transform the IAF into a future-oriented force, the WSS aims to provide contemporary, effect-based training to officers of the newly formed Weapon Systems (WS) branch. This initiative integrates ground-based and specialist weapon system operators under one umbrella, enhancing the IAF's war-fighting capabilities.

India's Defence Production Hits All-Time High of Rs 1,26,887 Crore

India's defence sector has achieved a remarkable milestone in the fiscal year 2023-24, with total annual defence production reaching an all-time high of Rs 1,26,887 crore. This unprecedented achievement, announced by the Union Ministry of Defence on July 5, 2024, marks a significant leap in India's journey towards self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

Defence Investiture Ceremony 2024: President Murmu Honors Gallantry Award Recipients

On July 5, 2024, President Droupadi Murmu presided over the Defence Investiture Ceremony-2024 (Phase-I) at Rashtrapati Bhavan, presenting Gallantry Awards to distinguished servicemen and women.

Indian Army Inducts First Indigenous Chip-Based 4G Base Station

Indian army has inducted the first-ever indigenous chip-based 4G mobile base station, which it procured from Bangalore-based firm Signaltron through the government e-marketplace portal. Signaltron founder Himamshu Khasnis told PTI that the chip used in the Sahyadri LTE base stations has been developed by Signalchip.

India Unveils Indigenous Light Tank 'Zorawar'

India has unveiled the 'Zorawar' light tank, developed jointly by DRDO and Larsen & Toubro, aimed at bolstering military capabilities in high-altitude environments. Designed within a record two-year timeframe, the tank features advanced weaponry and protection systems, including a 105mm rifled cannon and composite modular armor. Named after General Zorawar Singh, the tank is slated for extensive trials before potential deployment in Ladakh, Sikkim, or Kashmir.

DRDO Seven New Projects Awarded to Industries Under Technology Development Fund Scheme

The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has taken a significant step towards promoting self-reliance in the defense sector by awarding seven new projects to industries under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme. These projects aim to address various requirements of the Armed Forces and the aerospace & defense sectors, while simultaneously nurturing the growth of industries, particularly MSMEs and start-ups, in these domains.

Indian Air Force Participation in Exercise Pitch Black 2024

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has embarked on a significant international engagement by participating in Exercise Pitch Black 2024, hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) at their Base Darwin, Australia. This biennial, multi-national exercise, scheduled from July 12 to August 2, 2024, represents a crucial platform for enhancing international military cooperation and showcasing air combat capabilities.



Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth Launches GAINS 2024 at GRSE

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth inaugurated the GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024) at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata on July 10, 2024. This initiative aims to foster technological solutions for shipyard challenges and promote innovation through Indian start-ups.

INS TABAR ARRIVES IN HAMBURG, GERMANY

Indian Navy's frontline frigate, INS Tabar arrived at Hamburg, Germany on 17 July 24 for a three day visit. It will participate in a exercise. During the visit, activities will include professional exchanges between the Indian and German Navies, tours of the German Naval Academy, and public visits to the ship. The crew of INS Tabar will also engage in community service.

Captain Supreetha C.T. Breaking Barriers at Siachen Glacier

In a landmark moment for gender equality and women's empowerment in the Indian Armed Forces, Captain Supreetha C.T. has etched her name in history by becoming the first woman officer from the Corps of Army Air Defence to be operationally deployed at the Siachen Glacier. This achievement not only highlights her personal valor but also marks a significant step forward in the ongoing integration of women into frontline combat roles in the Indian Army.

Indian Army Departs for Multinational Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2024

The Indian Army contingent has embarked on its journey to participate in the multinational military exercise KHAAN QUEST 2024. This prestigious event is scheduled to take place from 27th July to 9th August 2024 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The exercise serves as a platform for military forces worldwide to collaborate and enhance their peacekeeping capabilities.

Books & Authors News**A book titled "Manoj Bajpayee: The Definitive Biography" by Piyush Pandey**

In the world of celebrity biographies, a new addition stands out for its raw honesty and inspiring narrative. "Manoj Bajpayee: The Definitive Biography" by journalist Piyush Pandey offers readers an intimate look into the life of one of India's most respected actors.

Tim Walker's "The Prisoner of Bhopal": A Novel Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy

Tim Walker, an award-winning designer-turned-author, has recently published a historical fiction novel titled "The Prisoner of Bhopal." This book, aimed at young readers, commemorates the 40th anniversary of one of India's most devastating industrial disasters – the Bhopal gas tragedy.

Walker's unique connection to the event and his storytelling prowess have combined to create a narrative that not only educates but also engages readers about this significant historical event.

Book on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Leadership Legacy

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh was recently presented with a significant book titled "Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi", authored by Dr. R Balasubramaniam. Dr. Balasubramaniam, a noted intellectual, former Rhodes Professor at Cornell University, and current Member HR at the Capacity Building Commission, has previously written acclaimed works such as Voices From The Grassroots and Leadership Lessons For Daily Living.

A Book Title Jamsetji Tata: Powerful Learnings For Corporate Success

Interwoven with engaging real-life stories and interesting anecdotes that went into the making of India's popular brands such as Tata Tea, Tata Motors, Titan and Tanishq. This unique account brings alive the vision of Jamsetji Tata and what we can learn from it.

Miscellaneous News**UNESCO Expands World Network of Biosphere Reserves**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has recently made a significant announcement, approving the designation of 11 new Biosphere Reserves across 11 countries. This expansion brings the total number of sites in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves to an impressive 759, spanning 136 countries worldwide. This development marks a crucial step forward in global efforts to protect biodiversity and promote sustainable development.

'World's First' 3D-Printed Electric Abra Begins Trial Voyage In Dubai

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has launched the trial operation of the world's first electric abra manufactured using 3D printing technology, in collaboration with the private sector. The abra, which can carry 20 passengers, was designed, and built to retain the traditional abra identity.

Delhi's Judicial System Enters the AI Era

In a significant leap towards modernizing the judicial system, Delhi Courts have embraced Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology with the inauguration of their first 'Pilot Hybrid Court'. This innovative courtroom, equipped with a groundbreaking 'Speech to Text Facility', marks a new era in judicial proceedings, promising enhanced efficiency and productivity.

Mumbai's Aqua Line: A New Era in Underground Metro Transportation

Mumbai, India's bustling financial capital, is set to witness a significant transformation in its urban transit system with the inauguration of its first underground metro, the Aqua Line. Scheduled to begin operations on July 24, 2024, this long-awaited infrastructure project promises to revolutionize travel across Mumbai's congested streets, offering a faster, more efficient alternative to surface transportation.

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