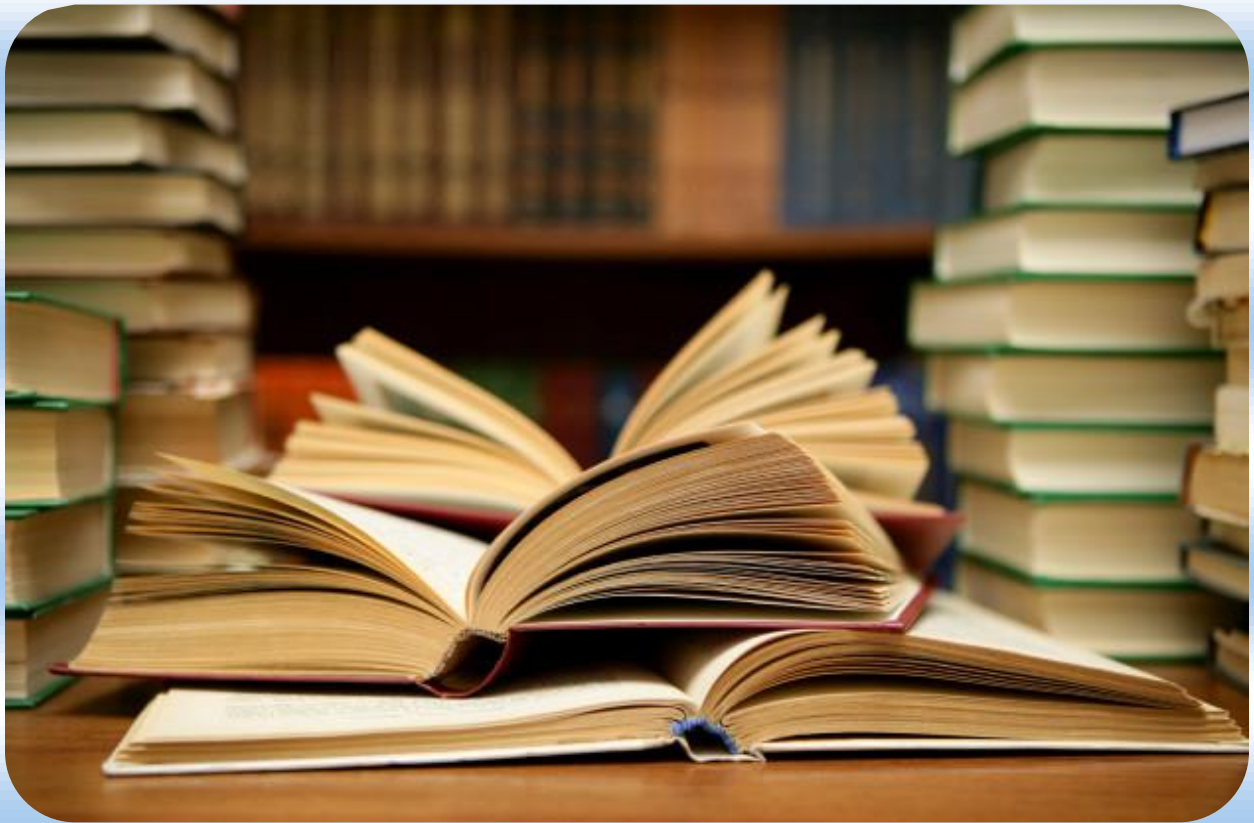


LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTER, NOIDA

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



JULY-2024

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

RBI Ups Financial Accommodation for States/UTs by 28% to ₹60,118 Crore

The aggregate ways and means advances (WMA) limit for State governments/ Union Territories (UTs) has been upped to ₹60,118 crore against the existing limit of ₹47,010 crore. The upward revision in WMA, which takes into account the expenditure data of the States for the recent years, is based on the recommendations made by the Group constituted by RBI and consisting of select State Finance Secretaries. The revised WMA limit is effective from July 1.

Tata Group Is India's Most Valuable Brand: Report

Tata Group has retained its position as India's most valuable brand with a value of \$28.6 billion, reflecting a 9 per cent increase from last year. Following Tata, Infosys holds the second position, while HDFC Group has made a significant leap to third place, in Brand Value's 'India 100 2024' ranking.



Ravindra Jadeja Retires from T20 Internationals

Seasoned India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja on Sunday announced his retirement from T20 Internationals, joining his illustrious teammates Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in bidding adieu to the format a day after winning the World Cup here. One of the world's finest fielders, Jadeja said he will continue to play ODIs and Tests.



Viswanathan Anand Wins 10th Leon Masters Chess Championship

Viswanathan Anand, the five-time world champion, showcased his exceptional skills once again by defeating Jaime Santos Latasa from Spain with a score of 3-1 in the finals, securing his 10th victory at the Leon Masters. The 54-year-old Anand demonstrated that this tournament remains one of his preferred hunting grounds, having won his first title here 28 years ago in 1996..



Air India to Set Up South Asia's Largest Flight Training School in Amravati

Air India is setting up South Asia's largest flight training school with an investment of over ₹200 crore in Maharashtra's Amravati district. The school which will ensure a steady pipeline of pilots for the airline will open in first quarter of next financial year.



International Toy Fair to Begin on July 6 With Over 100 Foreign Buyers

More than 300 domestic companies and over 100 foreign buyers from the US, Germany and other countries are expected to participate in the four-day international toy fair beginning on July 6 in the national capital, a statement said on Tuesday.



ICICI Bank Launches Pre-Paid Sapphire Forex Card for International Student

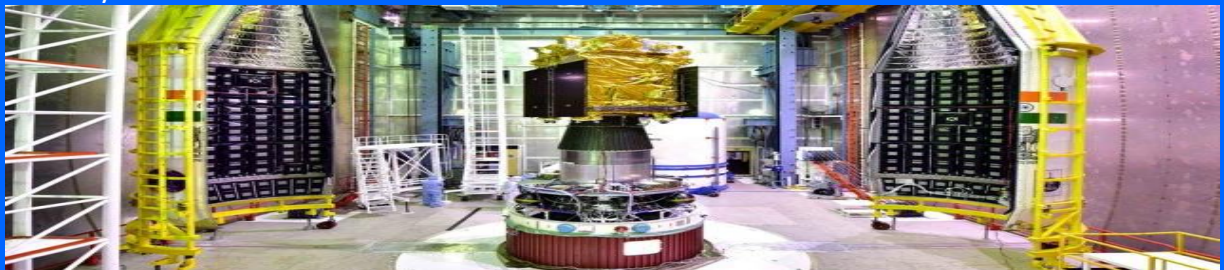
Private sector lender ICICI Bank on Tuesday launched a pre-paid Sapphire Forex Card, crafted specifically for students who are going abroad for higher education. The card, powered by Visa, provides exclusive benefits and convenience to students and their parents to manage education-related expenses abroad like admission fees, course-related fees and other day-to-day expenses, including travel, dining and groceries, among others, the bank said in a statement.

Paytm Launches 'Health Saathi' Plan at ₹35 per Month for Merchant Partners

One 97 Communications Limited (OCL) that owns the Paytm brand, has announced the launch of 'Paytm Health Saathi', an exclusive health and income protection plan for its merchant partners, available on the 'Paytm for Business' app. This initiative is part of Paytm's ongoing efforts to support its vast network of merchant partners by providing them with affordable, comprehensive healthcare benefits. The launch of 'Paytm Health Saathi' aims to safeguard the well-being of its merchants, ensuring their health and business continuity.

ISRO's Aditya-L1 Completes First Halo Orbit

India's first solar mission Aditya-L1 spacecraft completed its first halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point on Tuesday, ISRO said. The space agency said its station-keeping manoeuvre on Tuesday ensured its seamless transition into the second halo orbit.



IGNOU Launches MA Programme in Bhagavad Gita Studies

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has announced the launch of a new Master of Arts (MA) course in Bhagavad Gita Studies, starting from the 2024-2025 academic session.



Indiabulls Housing Finance Rebrands as Sammaan Capital Limited

Indiabulls Housing Finance announced that it has officially changed its name to 'Sammaan Capital Limited'. The renaming and rebranding happened in the company's 25th year of operation. Non-banking finance company Indiabulls Housing Finance on Wednesday announced that it has officially changed its name to 'Sammaan Capital Limited', following the receipt for Certificate of Incorporation issued by the Registrar of Companies (RoC), and Certificate of Registration (CoR) as an NBFC-ICC from the RBI.

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 programme to enhance financial literacy and business skills among women entrepreneurs. This initiative aims to provide vital support, enabling women to access the financial tools needed for business growth and job creation. The SEHER programme is part of WEP's (a public-private partnership platform incubated at NITI Aayog) Financing Women Collaborative (FWC).

RBI Slaps ₹1.32 Crore Monetary Penalty on PNB

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalty on ICICI Bank and Punjab National Bank. RBI has slapped ₹30 lakh fine on ICICI and ₹1.80 crore penalty on PNB. The penalty on ICICI Bank has been imposed "for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Levy of penal charges on non-maintenance of minimum balances in savings bank accounts' dated November 20, 2014".

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

On Friday, Pune headquartered Bajaj Auto launched the world's first CNG powered motorcycle. Priced between Rs 95,000 and Rs 1,10,000, the bike will be available across the country in a phased manner. Union minister of Road Transport Nitin Gadkari who unveiled the bike talked about the Centre's commitment to green and clean technology. Gadkari said India's automobile industry is the third largest in the world. "Our automobile industry contributes around Rs 3 lakh crore in terms of GST and employs around 4 crore people," he said. Gadkari talked about upcoming projects which will use rice straw for production of ethanol.

Private Sector Drives NPS Growth and Economic Activity

Pension regulator PFRDA remains "hopeful" about reaching the set annual goal of adding 13 lakh new NPS subscribers from the private sector this fiscal, despite the current count being only 6 lakh, its Chairman Deepak Mohanty said on Friday.

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, a top company official said. Signaltron founder Himamshu Khasnis told PTI that the chip used in the Sahyadri LTE base stations has been developed by Signalchip.



Neeraj Chopra to Lead 28-Member Squad in Paris Olympics

NEW DELHI: Neeraj Chopra, the defending champion, will lead a 28-member Indian athletics team at the Paris Olympics, commencing on July 26. The 26-year-old, who clinched the gold medal at the Tokyo Games and is the current world champion in javelin throw, has opted to forgo the final Diamond League event in Paris this weekend to focus on his preparations for the quadrennial spectacle.

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

New Delhi [India], June 26 (ANI): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a USD 60 million nonconvertible debentures financing agreement, disbursing USD 30 million to Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) to provide housing loans to women and address the shortage of financing in the low-income and affordable housing segment in India. As per a release, half of the funds will be deployed in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

Government Mandates BIS Standards for Stainless Steel and Aluminium Utensils

In a significant move to enhance kitchen safety, quality, and efficiency, the Government of India has mandated conformity to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for stainless steel and aluminium utensils. According to the Quality Control Order issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, on March 14, 2024, the ISI mark would be compulsory for such utensils. Non-compliance is punishable, emphasising the government's commitment to consumer safety and product integrity, according to a government press release on Friday.

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

Varanasi: Tata Power Solar Systems Limited launched a transformative rooftop solar initiative aimed at powering every home in (UP) with clean energy on Friday. Starting from Varanasi, the ambitious initiative of 'Ghar Ghar Solar, Tata Power ke Sang' promises substantial financial savings and environmental benefits for residents through state-of-the-art Rooftop Solar Solutions (RTS). Speaking at the launch ceremony in Varanasi, Praveer Sinha, CEO and MD, Tata Power, said.

PM Modi to Receive Russia's Highest Civilian Honour for "Outstanding Service"

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Tuesday, was honoured with the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Russia's highest civilian accolade. The highest civilian Russian award for the Indian Prime Minister was announced in 2019, for "exceptional services in promoting special and privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India and friendly relations between the Russian and Indian people".



ICICI Lombard Introduces 'Elevate': Revolutionizing Health Insurance with AI

ICICI Lombard, a leading private general insurer in India, proudly announces the launch of its revolutionary health insurance product, 'Elevate'. Powered with AI, the first-of-its-kind health product is loaded with cutting-edge features and add-ons, offering personalised solutions to meet the needs of dynamic lifestyles, unforeseen medical emergencies and medical inflation. This significant launch underscores ICICI Lombard's commitment to pioneering advancements in the insurance industry, delivering exceptional value to its customers.

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

London Olympics bronze medallist shooter Gagan Narang on Monday replaced Mary Kom as India's Chef-de-Mission for the Paris Olympics where ace shuttler PV Sindhu will be the female flag bearer during the opening ceremony. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President PT Usha said the 41-year-old Narang's elevation from deputy CDM's position was an automatic choice in the wake of Mary Kom's resignation.

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

In a big announcement on Wednesday, Gautam Adani, the chairman of the Adani Group, has announced that the conglomerate will be sponsoring the Indian team travelling to Paris for the 2024 Olympics Games. With the Indian contingent in the last leg of its preparations for the 2024 Olympics, the Adani Group has pledged its whole-hearted support to the champions of the nation through a campaign with the theme #DeshkaGeetAtOlympics.

Rajat Sharma Elected as NBDA President

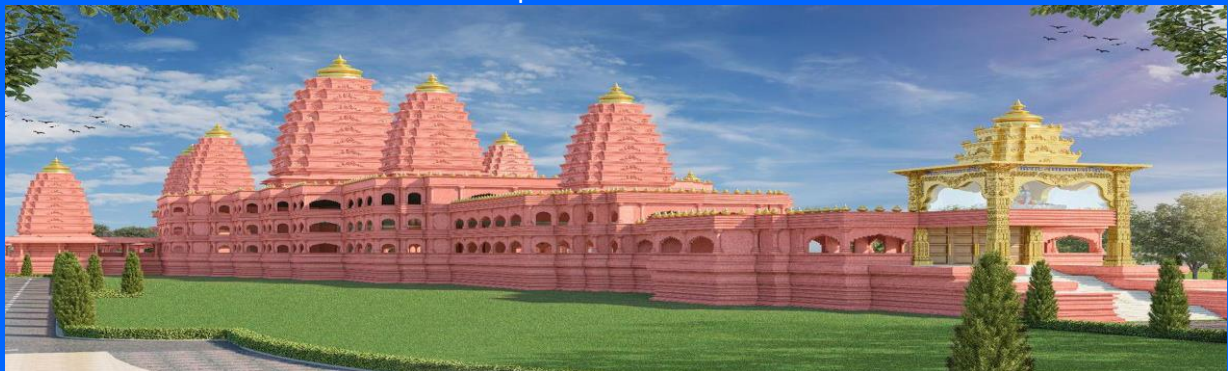
Rajat Sharma, chairman of India TV, has been elected as the president of the News Broadcasters and Digital Association (NBDA), for another term in 2024-25. The largest organization of news broadcasters in India, consisting of almost all major news networks in the country. The appointments took place during NBDA's board meeting held on July 9. Addressing the NBDA, Sharma remarked on the significant challenges facing news broadcasters today.

Financial Inclusion Index Rises with Growth Across all Segments

The Reserve Bank's FI-Index, capturing the extent of financial inclusion across the country, rose to 64.2 in March 2024, showing growth across all parameters. The index captures information on various aspects of financial inclusion in a single value ranging between 0 and 100, where 0 represents complete financial exclusion and 100 indicates full financial inclusion. "The value of the index for March 2024 stands at 64.2 vis-à-vis 60.1 in March 2023.

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

The second phase of construction of the "world's largest Ramayan temple" began in East Champaran district of Bihar of Tuesday. The Viraat Ramayan Mandir, once complete, will be three times bigger than the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. Being built at a cost of ₹500 crore, the temple will also have the world's largest *shivling*. The architecture of the temple is inspired by the Angkor Wat in Cambodia, the Ramanathaswamy temple at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu, and the Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple in Madurai.



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

The Government is poised 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).

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

India's population will most likely peak at 1.7 billion in the early 2060s and is projected to decline after that by 12 per cent. However, according to UN estimates, India will remain the world's most populous country for the entire century, newswire PTI reported on Friday, July 12. The world's population is expected to grow in the next 50-60 years, reaching its peak of 10.3 billion in the mid-2080s.

Bihar's First Transgender Sub-Inspectors Make History

In a first, three transgenders qualified the Bihar Police Subordinate Services Commission (BPSSC) exam to become police sub-inspectors. Earlier, following a Patna High Court judgment in 2021, the State government had asked BPSSC to recruit third genders into police services. The State Home department had also filed an affidavit before a two-member Bench of the Patna HC saying the government would post a sub-inspector and four constables from third gender category in every district of the State.

Jio Financial Services Gets RBI Nod to Become Core Investment Company

Jio Financial Services received approval by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday to become a Core Investment Company (CIC) from a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), said the company in an exchange filing. Reliance Industries Ltd, a conglomerate that focuses in energy to telecom, split out to form Jio Financial Services. In November of last year, Jio Financial Services submitted an application to the RBI to convert from an NBFC to a CIC.

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

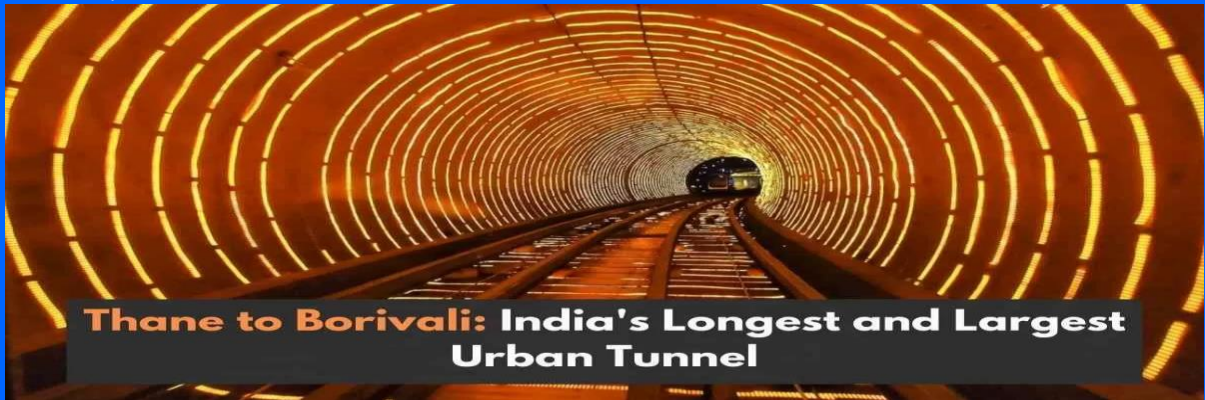
The Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission (UGC) launched a project on July 16 to develop 22,000 books in Indian languages in the next five years. The project, titled ASMITA (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian Languages through Translation and Academic Writing), was launched by Sanjay Murthy, Secretary of Higher Education. It is a collaborative effort of the UGC and the Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti, a high-powered committee under the ministry, to promote Indian languages in education.

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

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday raised its projection of growth in India's gross domestic product (GDP) for 2024-25 by 20 basis points to 7 per cent amid a boost in private consumption, especially in rural areas. "The forecast for growth in India has ... been revised upward ... with the change reflecting carryover from upward revisions to growth in 2023 ...," the update to the IMF's World Economic Outlook (WEO) said.

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 by Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority, costing Rs. 16,000 crore, will cut travel time between Thane and Borivali to 12 minutes, down from an hour.



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

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

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has entered into a tie-up with IDFC First Bank Ltd under corporate agency arrangement. This tie-up will facilitate more than 1 crore customers of IDFC First Bank to buy LIC policies online by visiting the bank's website, India's largest life insurer said in a statement. Referring to more than 95 per cent of the bank's transactions happening online, the Corporation said, "It would be a great experience for the bank customers to have end-to-end solution for their varied life insurance needs."

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 Thursday ended at Rs 1,491.95 on the NSE, down by Rs 7.10 or 0.47%.

NFDC and Netflix India Collaborate to Train Voice-Over Artists

The government and Netflix India on Thursday joined hands to create avenues for voice-over artists, particularly women, to hone their skills and seek better opportunities in the ever growing media and entertainment sector. The National Film Development Corp. and Netflix India signed a Memorandum of Understanding to train voice over artists in English, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu and Gujarati languages as part of an initiative called 'The Voicebox'.

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

ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), has acquired Norwegian firm Equinor's stake in an Azerbaijan oilfield and an associated pipeline for \$60 million, the firm said in a statement. OVL "has signed a definitive sale purchase agreement (SPA) for directly acquiring 0.615 per cent participating interest (PI) in offshore Azeri Chirag Gunashli (ACG) oil field in Azerbaijan from Equinor

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

The location of the planned final assembly line (FAL) to manufacture European aerospace major Airbus's best-selling civil helicopter H125 in India is expected to be finalised shortly with eight potential sites under active consideration, top Airbus Helicopters officials said.



Assam's Charaideo Maidam Nominated for UNESCO World Heritage Site

The Charaideo Moidams, a unique 700-year old mound-burial system of the Ahom dynasty from Assam, was officially inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List on July 26 becoming the 43rd property from India to be included in the prestigious index.



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

Indian superstar Shah Rukh Khan has been honoured with a customised gold coin bearing his name and likeness by the Grévin wax museum in Paris. The renowned museum, which houses a wax statue of Khan, along with those of other Bollywood stars like Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Ranveer Singh.



Renaming of Rashtrapati Bhavan's Halls to Reflect Indian Values

The government stand to de-hyphenate from British legacy and symbolism was reflected in President Droupadi Murmu's move announced on Thursday to rename 'Durbar Hall' and 'Ashok Hall' -- the two important enclosures of the Rashtrapati Bhavan -- as 'Ganatantra Mandap' and 'Ashok Mandap' respectively.



Discovery of Lithium Resources in Mandya and Yadgiri Districts, Karnataka

Lithium deposits have been found in the Mandya and Yadgiri districts of Karnataka, said Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences in Rajya Sabha. The minister stated in a written reply that the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of the Department of Atomic Energy, has found the presence of Lithium resources in the Mandya and Yadgiri districts, Karnataka.

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

Mankind Pharma on Thursday said it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire a 100 per cent stake in Bharat Serums and Vaccines (BSV) from private equity firm Advent International for an enterprise value of Rs 13,630 crore. BSV reported revenues of Rs 1,723 crore in FY24, delivering robust 20 per cent year-on-year growth with adjusted EBITDA margins of 28 per cent. The business has grown at a 21 per cent revenue compound annual growth rate over the last three years.

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

Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has approved a Rs 284.19 crore integrated agri-export facility project at Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai, an official statement said on Friday. This facility, a first in India, will address inefficiencies in logistics, reduce multiple handlings, and extend the shelf life of agricultural products. It will also empower farmers, boost job opportunities, and enhance export capacity.

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

Artificial intelligence, at a very high pace, is changing the online landscape and causing effects on the personal and professional lives of every internet user. OpenAI, Google, Microsoft, and Meta are some leading tech giants contending to lead this new era of technology. After the dominance war in the field of generative AI, the time has come when AI-driven search engines have become indispensable for discovering the web.

Nita Ambani Unveils India House at Paris 2024 Olympics

Nita Ambani, International Olympic Committee (IOC) member and founder of Reliance Foundation, officially inaugurated India House, marking India's first-ever country house at the Olympic Games, during the Paris 2024 Olympics, on July 27. In her speech, Ambani highlighted the significance of this milestone for India and its Olympic ambitions.



UltraTech Acquires 32.7% Stake in India Cements for ₹3,945 Crore

The country's largest cement company will make an open offer to India Cements shareholders at ₹390 a share after obtaining all regulatory approvals, said the company in a statement on Sunday. The company will soon sign a Share Purchase Agreement with N Srinivasan-led India Cements promoters and their associates before seeking regulatory approvals. The Board of Directors of UltraTech, at its meeting held on Sunday, approved the purchase of a 32.72 per cent equity stake of India Cements promoters and their associates.

Amazon Pay, Adyen, and BillDesk Obtain RBI Cross-Border Payment License

Three payment companies have secured the cross-border payment aggregator licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). These are Mumbai-based merchant payment company BillDesk, Amazon Pay, and global payments major Adyen. They joined Bengaluru-based payment aggregator Cashfree in the list of licence holders. Cashfree was the first company to secure the PA-cross border licence.

Historic Bronze Win for Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh at Paris Olympics

Manu Bhaker will go into Indian sporting legend as the first multiple medallist at an Olympic Games — winning a bronze medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event on Tuesday, and the history books will also read that her accomplishment would not have been possible without a stellar supporting hand from her teammate Sarabjot Singh.



SEBI Launches AI Chatbot 'SEVA' for Investors

For investor protection, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has started its Virtual Assistant (SEVA) – an Artificial Intelligence (AI) based conversation platform for investors. The Beta version of the chatbot includes features like citations for generated response, speech-to-text and text-to-speech functionality for accessibility and follow-up questions.

Indian Army Launches E-SeHAT Tele-Consultancy for Veterans

The Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) has launched the Electronic Services e-Health Assistance and tele-consultation (E-SeHAT) module on Tuesday. The E-SeHAT tele-consultancy would enable ECHS beneficiaries in obtaining online Tele-consultation for medical treatment from their homes without visiting the ECHS polyclinic. The module aims to provide health care services through safe and structured video based clinical consultations. The pilot project has been launched today at 12 ECHS polyclinics including remote locations of Baramulla, Imphal, Churachandpur, Dimapur and Aizawal.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Japan Introduces Holographic Technology in New Banknotes

Japan issued its first new banknotes in two decades, yen packed with 3D hologram technology to fight counterfeiting. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida praised as historic the state-of-the-art anti-counterfeit traits of the new 10,000 yen, 5,000 yen and 1,000 yen bills. "I hope the people will like the new bills, and they will help energize the Japanese economy," he told reporters at the Bank of Japan.



World's First AI Dress" with Robotic Snakes, Internet Reacts

A Google employee recently created the "world's first AI dress" and it has astonished many on the internet. Christina Ernst, a software engineer at the tech giant and the Founder of SheBuildsRobots.org, a platform which aims to educate girls on building robots, shared a clip of her creation which has robotic snakes attached to it to detect faces.

Keir Starmer: The Next British Prime Minister

"I changed Labour. I will fight for you and change Britain," Keir Starmer, chief of the Labour party, wrote on X on May 28, as part of his campaign for the U.K. elections, held on July 4. And as can be seen by the results, Britain desperately desires change. Mr. Starmer and his Labour party won the mandate of the people by an overwhelming margin. Labour has won 412 out of the total 650 seats in the U.K's House of Commons.

Masoud Pezeshkian Elected Iran President: Implications for India

Masoud Pezeshkian has been sworn in as Iran's ninth president, replacing Ebrahim Raisi who died in a helicopter crash in May. Tuesday's ceremony in parliament comes two days after Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei officially endorsed Pezeshkian and gave the 69-year-old presidential powers. "I as the president, in front of the holy Quran and the people of Iran, swear to almighty God to be the guardian of the official religion and the Islamic Republic system and the constitution of the country,".

Rachel Reeves: Britain's First Woman Finance Chief

Rachel Reeves, Britain's first woman finance minister, is a former child chess champion and Bank of England economist who has pledged to grow the nation's economy while showing strong fiscal discipline. Reeves, 45, becomes chancellor of the exchequer after her centre-left Labour party won Thursday's U.K. general election by a landslide, ending 14 years of rule by the right-wing Conservatives.



Lewis Hamilton Wins the British Grand Prix 2024

Lewis Hamilton shed pent-up tears of joy after ending a 945-day wait for a win with a record ninth British Grand Prix victory in front of his home fans on Sunday. Mercedes' seven-time Formula One world champion was overcome by the emotion as he took the chequered flag in triumph for the first time since Saudi Arabia on December 5, 2021 - 56 races ago.



Hong Kong, and Singapore Most Expensive Cities to Live in the World

Hong Kong, Singapore and Zurich are the costliest cities for expats in 2024, according to Mercer's Cost of Living City rankings. These three cities have maintained their position since last year. The cities ranked lowest in terms of living costs are Islamabad, Lagos and Abuja. Mumbai ranks the highest in India, at 136th place, up 11 spots from last year. This makes it the costliest city in India for expats. The national capital, Delhi, closely follows, moving up four points to 165. Chennai slipped five points, and Bengaluru slipped six points to 189 and 195, respectively.

India and Russia Aim for \$100 Billion Trade

India and Russia are looking to raise bilateral trade to \$100 billion by 2030, balance the lopsided trade, eliminate non-tariff trade barriers, and explore the possibility of a Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)-India Free Trade Area. A joint statement issued after multiple rounds of talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday also announced that both nations plan to establish a bilateral settlement system using national currencies and introduce digital financial instruments into mutual settlements.

The First Woman Chief Justice of Lahore Takes Oath

Justice Aalia Neelum on Thursday took oath as the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC) of Pakistan, 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. Justice Neelum, 57.

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

England's veteran pacer James Anderson will play in his 188th and last Test match starting this week at the Lord's Cricket Ground against West Indies. The 41-year-old, who turns 42 later this month, believes that despite the age, he is still bowling as best as he has throughout his career.



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

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.



Serum Institute Rolls Out New High Efficacy Malaria Vaccine in Africa

A new high efficacy malaria vaccine co-developed by the Serum Institute of India (SII) and the University of Oxford was officially rolled out on Monday when Cote d'Ivoire in West Africa became the first country to begin administering R21/Matrix-M. The vaccine, which was granted World Health Organisation (WHO) approval last year, is said to have undergone a rigorous regulatory process and clinical assessment and was found to be highly effective and affordable. As a low-dose vaccine, it can be manufactured at speed and scale which is seen as critical to stemming the spread of the mosquito-borne disease.

Elon Musk Says X, SpaceX Headquarters Will Relocate to Texas from California

Elon Musk announced on Tuesday he will move the headquarters of his companies X and SpaceX from California to Texas. In a post on Twitter/X, Musk cited California's new law banning school transgender notification requirements as one of the reasons for the move, calling it the "last straw" and saying such bills "[attack] both families and companies".



ADB Approves \$240.5 Mn Loan for Rooftop Solar Systems in India

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of USD 240.5 million to finance rooftop solar systems in India, aiding the government's efforts to expand energy access through renewable energy. The ADB announced on Wednesday that this financing will support tranches 2 and 3 of the Multitranche Financing Facility (MFF) Solar Rooftop Investment Program, initially approved by ADB in 2016. In 2023, the program was restructured to focus specifically on deploying residential solar rooftop systems.

Belarus Introduces 90-Day Visa-Free Regime for 35 European Countries

Belarus will introduce a visa-free policy for 35 European countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said in a statement on its official website. The policy will take effect on Friday, July 19, and will last until December 31, 2024, Xinhua news agency reported, citing the statement. Citizens of the 35 countries, including members of the European Union and the UK, can stay in Belarus for 30 days at a time without a visa. The statement said that in order to further demonstrate Belarus's commitment to openness, peace and good neighbourliness.

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

China recently presented a ground-breaking advancement in high-speed rail technology, cementing its position as a global leader in the sector. According to Interesting Engineering, the country has unveiled the first carbon fiber-only passenger train in history. Because this train is noticeably lighter than conventional trains, it will help cut pollution tremendously, as per the reports of Yahoo Tech.

