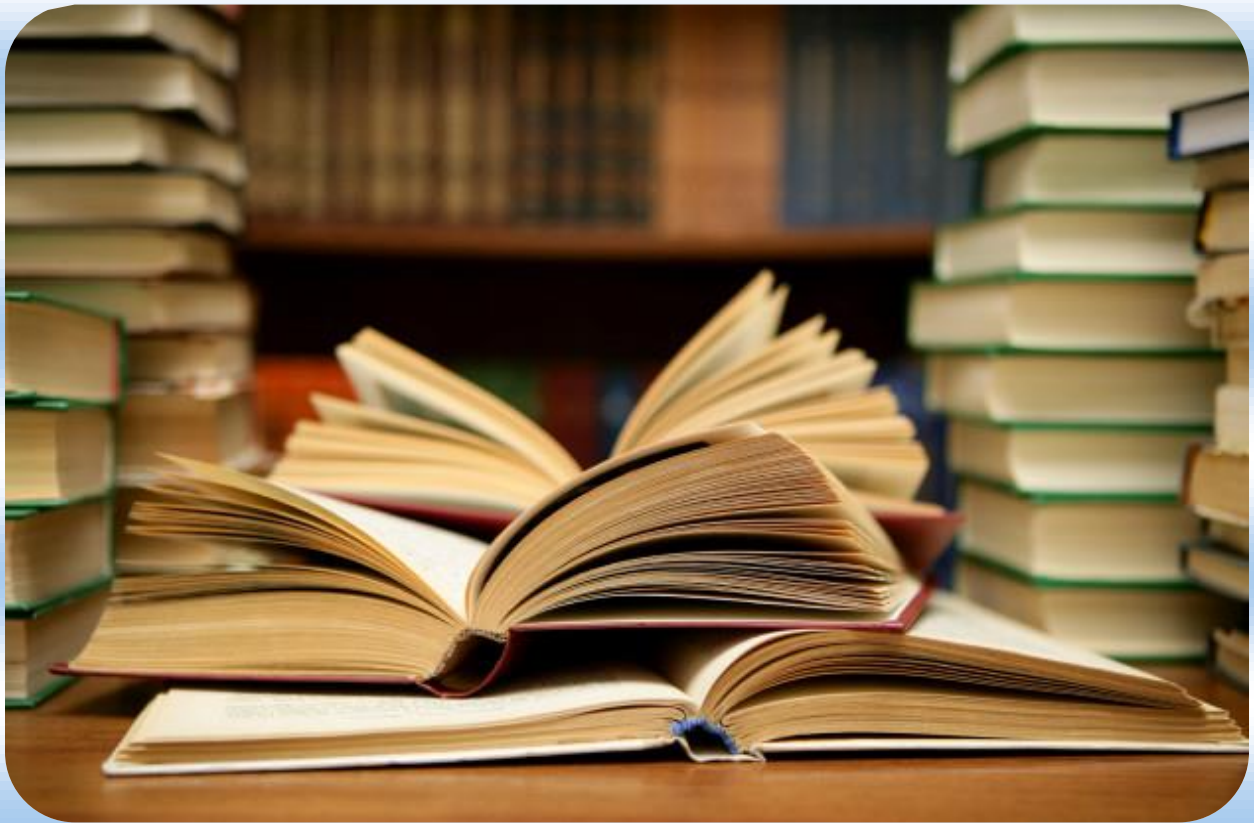


LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTER, NOIDA

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



MAY-2023

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Indian Army Inducts First Women Officers into Regiment of Artillery

The Indian Army is breaking barriers and trying to make the force more gender neutral even at higher positions. Five women officers joined the Regiment of Artillery after the successful completion of training at the Officers Training Academy (OTA), Chennai on Saturday.



Prime Minister Inaugurates 91 FM Radio Transmitters, To Benefit Border, Aspirational Districts

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated 91 FM transmitters spread across 18 states and two union territories and asserted his government was working towards giving people in every nook and corner of the country affordable access to technology. Inaugurating the 91 FM transmitters in border areas and aspirational districts, Modi said the move would take FM radio services to more than two crore people staying in remote regions and give them affordable access to information.

NPCI International Payments partners with PPRO to expand reach of RuPay and UPI

NPCI International Payments, a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), entered into partnership with digital payments infrastructure provider PPRO to facilitate global e-commerce payments through UPI. The agreement is aimed at expanding RuPay card and UPI acceptance across global clients such as payment service providers (PSPs) and global merchant acquirers, NPCI said in a release.

Banks end FY23 with a robust 15.4 pc credit growth: RBI Data

Scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) reported a robust credit growth of 15.4 per cent in FY23 against 9.7 per cent in FY22, powered by growth in personal loans, and loans to services sector and agriculture and allied activities. Personal loans registered a growth of 20.6 per cent in FY23 as compared with 12.6 per cent in the year ago period, primarily driven by 'housing loans', according to RBI data on sectoral deployment of bank credit. RBI collected data from 40 select scheduled commercial banks.

Mann Ki Baat 100th Episode: PM Modi addresses 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat

Mann Ki Baat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popular radio programme, completed 100 episodes on Sunday. Over the last almost nine years, the broadcast experiment that had a global history but no significant Indian precedents, has become a successful element in the communications strategy of the Prime Minister, a leader who believes in talking directly to the masses.

Rajneesh Karnatak Named as New MD and Chairman of Bank of India

Rajneesh Karnatak has been chosen by the country's government as the managing director (MD) of the Bank of India (BOI). Karnatak is the Union Bank of India's Executive Director at present. According to the announcement, he would serve as MD & CEO of Bank of India for a term of three years beginning on the day of assumption of office or until further instructions. Meanwhile, Debadatta Chand has been named as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of Baroda for a period of three years, as per a Finance Ministry notification.

BARC director A K Mohanty appointed as new Atomic Energy Commission chairman

Renowned physicist and Director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) Ajit Kumar Mohanty has been appointed as the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and the secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy. Mohanty succeeds K N Vyas to the posts that oversee India's nuclear programme and forays into harnessing atomic power for civilian needs. "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Dr Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Director, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre.

Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty end India's 52-year wait for men's doubles medal in Badminton Asia Championships

India's top men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won gold after beating the Malaysian pair of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi 16-21, 21-17, 21-19 in the final at the Badminton Asia Championships in Dubai on Sunday. There was little to separate the two pairs as the opening game started on an even note.



India's GST Revenues Hit Record High in April at ₹1.87 lakh crore

GST collection grew by 12 per cent in April to ₹1.87 lakh crore, the highest monthly mop-up since the rollout of the indirect tax regime. The gross GST revenue collected in the month of April 2023 is ₹1,87,035 crore of which CGST is ₹38,440 crore, SGST is ₹47,412 crore, IGST is ₹89,158 crore (including ₹34,972 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is ₹12,025 crore, the finance ministry said in a statement.

Justice TS Sivagnanam appointed as Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court

Kolkata: Justice T S Sivagnanam was on Monday appointed as the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court. The Department of Justice in the Union Law Ministry issued a notification announcing the appointment. The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended his name in February this year as the then chief justice, Justice Prakash Shrivastava, was to demit office on March 30. Justice Sivagnanam originally belongs to the Madras High Court and was so far the senior-most judge after the chief justice in the Calcutta HC.

NTPC and NPCIL sign agreement for joint development of nuclear power plants

NTPC Ltd, on Monday, signed a supplementary joint venture agreement with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) for the development of nuclear power projects, a power ministry statement said. This supplementary joint venture agreement marks a pivotal step for NTPC Ltd and NPCIL to collaborate and cooperate in the field of development of nuclear power projects which shall help the country in meeting its clean energy commitments to achieve a net zero emission target by 2070.

IIT Madras researchers develop machine learning tool to detect tumour in brain, spinal cord

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have developed a Machine Learning (ML)-based computational tool for better detection of cancer-causing tumours in the brain and spinal cord. Glioblastoma is a fast and aggressively growing tumour in the brain and spinal cord.



Toll collection through FASTag system reaches all-time high at over Rs 193 crore

New Delhi: National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on Tuesday said its daily toll collection through FASTag has reached about ₹193 crore. "On 29th April 2023, the daily toll collection through FASTag system achieved a historic milestone, reaching an all-time high collection of Rs. 193.15 crore, with 1.16 crore transactions recorded in a single day," the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways said in a statement.



Indian Government bans 14 apps in Jammu and Kashmir, cites use by terror groups

The Centre has blocked 14 mobile applications, which were, according to central intelligence agencies, being used by terrorists and their supporters in Jammu and Kashmir. The move has been taken on the recommendation of the Ministry of Home Affairs, said a source. The apps which have been blocked are Wickrme, Mediafire, Briar, BChat, Nandbox, Conion, IMO, Element, Second line, Zangi, Threema, Crypviser, Enigma, and Safeswiss.

Japan to train 1,000 Indian engineers for bullet train project

Training for the first batch of 16 Indian engineers — for laying of tracks for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project — has begun in Surat, an official release stated Monday. "The training of Indian engineers and leaders has started for the High-Speed Rail Track system for Mumbai-Ahmedabad HSR corridor (MAHSR), for T-2 Package (covering 237 km between Vapi and Vadodara)," it stated. About 20 Japanese experts will be imparting intensive training to the Indian engineers, supervisors, and technicians and certify their skills.



UIDAI allows residents to verify mobile numbers, email IDs seeded with Aadhaar

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on Tuesday announced the addition of new facility on its website and mobile app to allow residents to verify their mobile numbers and email IDs seeded with their Aadhaar. The development comes after the Aadhaar custodian noticed that in some instances, residents were not aware or sure about which of their mobile numbers is seeded to their Aadhaar.

Yoga Mahotsav to mark 50 days countdown to International Day of Yoga begins in Jaipur

In Rajasthan, on the occasion of the 50 days countdown to the International Day of Yoga (IDY), a grand program organized at Shri Bhawani Niketan College in Jaipur. The program was organized by the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga and was supported by the National Institute of Ayurveda, the state government of Rajasthan, local authorities, and various institutions.



India, Israel sign MoU on Industrial Research and Development Cooperation with focus on technology

NEW DELHI : India and Israel have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Industrial Research and Development Cooperation, with a focus on several key technology areas, including aerospace, electronics instrumentation, civil infrastructure and engineering, ecology, environment, earth and ocean sciences and water, among others. The multi-sectoral agreement was signed between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D).

Olympian Ashish Kumar Chaudhary enters the pre-quarterfinals of the World boxing championships

Olympian Ashish Kumar Chaudhary (80kg) overcame a tough challenge from Iranian Meysam Gheshlaghi to record a 4-1 win and enter the pre-quarterfinals of the World boxing championships in Tashkent on Tuesday. In a trading of explosive punches, Ashish seized the initiative by landing lusty combinations in the first period of the opening round contest. Following a slow start, 2021 Asian silver medallist Gheshlaghi impressed with well-directed hooks and uppercuts.

RVNL shares in focus as CPSE awarded Navratna status

Shares of Miniratna Rail Vikas Nigam (RVNL) will be in focus on Thursday morning after the central public sector enterprise (CPSE) was awarded Navratna status by the Ministry of Finance. With this, RVNL would become the 13th Navratna among CPSEs. In a filing to BSE, the company said: "Hon'ble Finance Minister has approved the upgradation of RVNL to Navratna CPSE. RVNL will be the 13th Navratna amongst CPSEs. RVNL is a Ministry of Railways CPSE with an annual turnover of Rs 19,381 crore and net profit of Rs 1,087 crore for the year 2021-22."

Amit Shah launches IFFCO's nano DAP fertilizer

Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched IFFCO's liquid nano Di-Ammonia Phosphate (DAP) on Wednesday. Addressing a gathering on the occasion, Shah said, "The launch of IFFCO's liquid DAP nano is an important beginning towards making India self-reliant in the field of fertilizers." The first Nano DAP (Liquid) has been launched in the world today, Shah said. This revolutionary step will not only take Indian agriculture forward in foodgrain production but it will also make India self-reliant in fertilizer production also, he added.

Buddha Purnima is being celebrated on May 5; Gautam Buddha was born on the same day and attained Nirvana

The auspicious festival of Buddha Purnima is just around the corner. Also known as Buddha Jayanti, the occasion is celebrated with much pomp and marks the birth anniversary of Lord Gautam Buddha, revered as the founding figure of Buddhism. On this day, devotees vow to follow the teachings of Gautam Buddha, take a bath early in the morning to cleanse themselves of all impurities, clean their homes and follow rituals dedicated to the festival.



DRDO scientist in Pune has been arrested on charges of espionage

The Maharashtra anti-terrorism squad on Thursday arrested a highly decorated and important senior scientist of the Defence Research and Development Organisation, PM Kurulkar, for allegedly sharing sensitive defence related information to agents of Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence. He was produced before the Pune court which remanded him to custody until May 9.

IIT Roorkee unveils new labs to drive India's clean energy transition

Two new labs - Renewable Grid Integration Laboratory and Green Hydrogen Laboratory - were inaugurated at the IIT Roorkee's Department of Hydro and Renewable Energy (HRED). The institute's Director KK Pant inaugurated them on May 8, says a release.



Biologist Sathyabhama Das Biju, known as 'the Frogman of India', has been chosen for Harvard University's prestigious Radcliffe fellowship

NEW DELHI: Harvard University names Delhi University Professor Sathyabhama Das Biju, popularly known as 'Frogman of India', as Radcliffe Fellow. As a 'Hrdy Fellow' at Radcliffe, he will expedite efforts to outpace nameless extinctions in India's amphibian hotspots through discovery and documentation of species and identification of key biodiversity areas for conservation prioritization.



AWS launches skill development programme for quantum computing in India

Amazon Web Services (AWS) has launched two skill development programmes for quantum computing in India. The company is collaborating with academic institutions and learning platforms to integrate Amazon Braket — a fully managed quantum computing service — in the courses, said Kanishka Agiwal, Head, Service Lines, AWS India. AWS will be collaborating with QpiAI, an AI and quantum learning platform, to integrate Amazon Braket with the QpiAI Explorer platform — an interactive learning platform for students.

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) gold reserves touched 794.64 metric tonnes in fiscal 2023

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) added 34.22 metric tonnes of gold in the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2023, taking the total gold reserves to 794.64 metric tonnes. RBI held 760.42 metric tonnes as of March 31, 2022, compared to 695.31 metric tonnes as of March 31, 2021. The gold reserves as of March 31, 2023, included gold deposits of 56.32 metric tonnes, according to the RBI's half-yearly report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves- October 2022 – March 2023.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to inaugurate Indian Air Force Heritage Centre in Chandigarh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Monday inaugurated the nation's first Indian Air Force Heritage Centre in Chandigarh's Sector 18. Spread across 17,000 sqft at the Government Press Building, the heritage centre highlights the IAF's role in various wars.



Fintech sector to become \$1.5 trillion industry by 2030

Revenues in the financial technology sector are projected to grow sixfold from \$245 billion to \$1.5 trillion by 2030, said a report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and QED Investors. The fintech sector, which currently holds a 2 per cent share of the global financial services revenue of \$12.5 trillion, is estimated to grow up to 7 per cent..



Moody's predicts India's economy to recover with 5.5% GDP growth in 2023

Global rating agency Moody's Investor Service on Wednesday raised India's economic growth forecast to 5.5% in 2023 from 4.8% pegged earlier, due to higher capital expenditure proposed in the Budget and a sustained economic momentum. It has, however, revised downwards India's growth estimate for 2022 to 6.8% from 7% pegged in November last year. The forecast comes just a day after the second advance estimates of national income retained India's GDP growth at 7% for 2022-23.

Wastewater study detects a large, silent wave in Bengaluru

The XBB.1.16 Omicron recombinant first detected in India on December 25, 2022 has become the dominant variant in the country. Based on 2,856 genome sequences from India posted on GISAID between December 1, 2022 and April 8, 2023, a team led by Dr. Rajesh P. Karyakarte, Head of the Microbiology Department at the BJ Medical College, Pune found that the XBB.1.16 lineage had grown from 9.3% in the first week of February to 79.17% in the first week of April.

Centre for Innovation Incubation Research and Entrepreneurship (C-i2 RE) inaugurated in Telangana

In Telangana, the Centre for Innovation Incubation Research and Entrepreneurship (C-i2 RE) was inaugurated yesterday by IT Minister K Taraka Ramarao at the Kakatiya Institute of Technology & Science (KITS) Warangal campus. On the occasion, the Minister said, the Centre will promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the student community to inculcate research and innovative skills among the students, faculty, and young researchers.

World Gold Council (WGC): India's gold demand for Q1 2023 (January to March) shrank by 17% to 112.5 tonnes

As record-high gold rates and high price volatility affected consumption, India's gold demand during the January-March quarter declined by 17 per cent to 112.5 tonnes, according to the World Gold Council (WGC). Overall gold demand during the corresponding quarter in 2022, was at 135.5 tonnes, WGC's Gold Demand Trends Q1 2023 stated. "India's gold demand in Q1 2023 fell 17 per cent year-on-year to 112.5 tonnes following record high and volatile gold prices.

India-US bilateral trade has been recorded at highest point in past few years

Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that India-US partnership is at a 'defining stage' and the two countries will continue to work towards diversifying and deepening trade and investment ties for mutual growth and prosperity. While speaking at the 31st Annual General Meeting, he said that the bilateral trade between India and US has been the highest in the couple of years and is aimed to increase multifold in the coming years. Goyal also added that with the increasing eminence and recognition of India across the world.

National Green Tribunal (NGT) levies ₹4,000 crore environmental compensation on Bihar for failure in waste management

The National Green Tribunal has imposed a Rs 4,000 crore environmental compensation on Bihar for failing to scientifically manage solid and liquid waste, in accordance with the polluter pays principle. A bench of chairperson Justice A K Goel directed that the amount be deposited in a ring-fenced account within two months. The account will be operated only under the chief secretary's directions for waste management in the state.

Avinash Sable, Parul Chaudhary break 5000m national records in the Sound Running Track Festival

Three Indian track and field national records fell in a day, raising hopes for the country's athletics in a busy season leading up to the Budapest world championships and the Huangzhou Asian Games as well as the Paris Olympics qualification. Commonwealth Games 3,000m silver medallist Avinash Sable and Parul Chaudhary set new marks in the 5,000m while Praveen Chithravel broke the triple jump national mark.

IBA Boxing World Championships: Hussamuddin reaches quarters, Deepak beats Olympic medallist Saken

Deepak Bhoria (51kg) shocked defending champion and Olympic bronze medallist Saken Bibosinov, while Mohammad Hussamuddin (57kg) ousted fourth-seeded Eduard Savvin on a mixed day for Indian pugilists at the World boxing championships in Tashkent on Sunday. "My target was to play with patience since the start of the bout and gather as many points as I can. The first two rounds were tough but I was focused on not losing my patience and waiting for the right moment to attack," Deepak said after a memorable win.

India Extends \$1 Billion Credit Line to Sri Lanka Amid Economic Crisis

India has extended a \$1 billion credit line for Sri Lanka by one year, a Sri Lankan official told Reuters on Tuesday, giving the crisis-hit country a backup funds to pay for essential imports. The credit line, part of about \$4 billion in emergency assistance extended by India during the peak of Sri Lanka's financial crisis early last year, was scheduled to end in March. Post-negotiations, the credit line was extended until March 2024, said Sri Lanka's Deputy Treasury Secretary Priyantha Rathnayake.

Telangana govt launches first of its kind State Robotics Framework

Telangana government launched State Robotics Framework, a first of its kind policy in India, aimed at creating a sustainable robotics ecosystem and to position state as a leader in field of robotics The Telangana government on Tuesday launched State Robotics Framework, a first of its kind policy in India, aimed at creating a sustainable robotics ecosystem and to position the state as a leader in the field of robotics.

First Airbus C295 for India successfully completes its maiden flight

The first C 295 tactical lift aircraft made for the Indian Air Force undertook its maiden test flight in Spain on Monday, bringing it one step closer for the scheduled delivery later this year. The aircraft was tested in Seville, Spain and undertook a three-hour flight to check various onboard systems. The first 16 aircraft of the type are being made in Spain, while the following 40 are to be manufactured in Gujarat by Tata Advanced Systems Limited in collaboration with Airbus.



RBI Imposes Rs 1.73 Crore Penalty on HSBC Bank

The Reserve Bank of India on Monday said it has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.73 crore on HSBC for non-compliance with norms. This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement.

Fakhar Zaman, Naruemol Chaiwai crowned ICC players of the month for April

Pakistan batter Fakhar Zaman was named the ICC Men's Player of the month for April while Thailand skipper Naruemol Chaiwai was adjudged best in the women's section after both produced match-winning performances for their countries in the ODIs. Both batters were identified as April's outstanding performers following a vote conducted among a specialist panel comprising ICC Hall of Famers, former international players, and media representatives, who, in combination with global cricket fans registered at icc-cricket.com.

Santiniketan in tentative list for UNESCO World Heritage list

Santiniketan has been recommended for inclusion in the Unesco World Heritage List by an international advisory body, Union minister for culture and tourism G Kishan Reddy has said. Santiniketan, the town in West Bengal's Birbhum district where Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore spent much of his life.



AU Small Finance Bank introduces RuPay credit card for self-employed Customers

AU Small Finance Bank has partnered RuPay to roll out the Business Cashback RuPay credit card, an innovative solution tailored to meet the financial requirements of self-employed customers. This latest offering is aimed at providing a diverse range of benefits to small businesses. The credit card was launched in the presence of Dilip Asbe, CEO of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Sanjay Agarwal, MD & CEO of AU Small Finance Bank.

CM Yogi Adityanath honoured Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award

LUCKNOW: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was conferred with the Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award for creating a "fear-free Uttar Pradesh". The award was given by former Indian President Ram Nath Kovind and accepted on the CM's behalf by UP Legislative Council member Lalji Prasad Nirmal. Kovind, who was chief guest at the event organised by the Buddhanjali Research Foundation in Mumbai on Friday, said Yogi Adityanath has made the state fear-free by ending hooliganism in UP.



Google's Bard chatbot to launch globally, including India

Google has announced new features for its Bard chatbot at the I/O 2023 event. Originally opened to the public in February this year, Bard was only available in the US and UK via a waitlist. Google has now removed the waitlist and opened up access to Bard in more than 180 countries and territories, including India. The tech giant has also made Bard available in Japanese and Korean, and promises to add 40 more languages to the mix.

"The Indian Metropolis: Deconstructing India's Urban Spaces" book by Feroze Varun Gandhi

As countries across the world experience rapid urban growth and the rise of megacities, India is one of the hotspots for this massive-scale urbanisation, with an estimated urban population growth of 90 million over the last decade. This phenomenon of urbanisation and its impact on the daily life of urban India is the focus of Feroze Varun Gandhi's *The Indian Metropolis: Deconstructing India's Urban Spaces*.

NIIF appoints Rajiv Dhar as CEO & MD on interim basis

Rajiv Dhar will be the interim CEO and managing director of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) starting Thursday. He succeeds Sujoy Bose who is leaving after holding the position since 2016. Dhar is currently executive director and chief operating officer at NIIF, a collaborative investment platform anchored by the government for international and Indian investors.

Alia Bhatt appointed as first Indian Global Ambassador of Gucci

Alia Bhatt has been named the first Indian global ambassador for Gucci, the Italian luxury house, and will make her first appearance as the brand's latest global ambassador at the Gucci Cruise 2024 show, to be staged in Seoul next week. Bhatt's appointment, which comes close at the heels of her much-anticipated Met Gala debut, is a significant moment for the brand and for the Indian fashion industry.

Varanasi's LBSI airport gets India's first reading lounge

Varanasi Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport: The Lal Bahadur Shastri International (LBSI) Airport here has become the first in India to have a reading lounge. Apart from books on Kashi, the lounge's library has a collection of literature and books in many international languages besides books of youth authors published under Prime Minister Yuva Yojana. LBSI airport director Aryama Sanyal said, "The Varanasi airport has become the first airport in the country to have a free reading lounge.



Retail Inflation Sees Significant Drop in April, Hits 4.7%

India's retail inflation in the month of April eased to an 18-month low of 4.70 per cent, data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Friday showed. At 4.70, the consumer price index (CPI) in April remained below the upper threshold of the Reserve Bank of India's medium-term 4+/- 2 percent target. The country's headline inflation remained within the tolerance range of the RBI for the second consecutive month. In March, India's headline inflation stood at 5.66 per cent.

London stock exchange group to set up technology centre in Hyderabad

The London Stock Exchange Group PLC (LSEG) will set up a technology centre of excellence in Hyderabad, which will create about 1,000 jobs a year. The announcement was made after Telangana IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao's meeting with LSE Group CIO Anthony McCarthy in London on Friday. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was also signed by Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary of IT and Industries Departments (Govt of Telangana), and McCarthy.

Rajasthan Royals' Yashasvi Jaiswal scores fastest IPL 50 in 13 balls

Rajasthan Royals opening batter Yashasvi Jaiswal made his way into the history books as he became the player to score the fastest half century in the Indian Premier League against Kolkata Knight Riders on Thursday. Chasing 149, Jaiswal started like a house on fire as he scored 50 in just 13 balls, whooshing past KL Rahul's 14-ball half century in 2018. He also eclipsed KKR's Pat Cummins who scored a 14-ball half ton in 2022.



National Medical Commission makes unique ID mandatory for doctors

To make it easier for people to get the access of doctors' detail, the Indian government has made it mandatory for all registered doctors to get a Unique Identification Number (UID) from the National Medical Commission (NMC). With this, people would be able to know details like registration number, date of birth, date of registration, etc of the doctor. As per the new notification, a common medical register will be maintained and updated by the NMC for all the registered medical practitioners of the country.

Telangana's Vuppala Praneeth became India's 82nd Grandmaster

V.Praneeth became Telangana's sixth and India's 82nd Grandmaster when he outwitted GM Hans Niemann of US in the penultimate round of Baku Open 2023. The win against the top seed helped Praneeth to cross ELO 2500 in the live ratings, 2500.5 to be exact having already earned the third GM norm in the earlier tournament. The 15-year-old Praneeth earned his first GM-norm at First Saturday GM March 2022.

UGC launches new website, UTAH and PoP portals to promote quality education

The University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof M Jagadesh Kumar on Tuesday launched the redesigned UGC website, UTAH (Undertaking Transformative Strategies and Actions in Higher Education) and POP (Professor of Practice Portal) portals. The updated website (pop.ugc.ac.in), as per the UGC chief, will provide a more user-friendly interface for students, educators, and other stakeholders in the higher education ecosystem.

Uttar Pradesh Now Holds 2nd Position in GI Tagged Products

Varanasi: Uttar Pradesh has achieved the second position nationally in terms of having the maximum number of Geographical Indication-tagged goods after receiving GI tags for three more ODOP crafts — Mainpuri tarkashi, Mahoba Gaura stone craft, and Sambhal horn craft — with the technical facilitation provided by the Varanasi-based NGO Human Welfare Association (HWA).

Paytm appoints Bhavesh Gupta as president and COO

One 97 Communications Ltd, which owns Paytm, announced the appointment of Bhavesh Gupta as the president and chief operating officer (COO) of the firm. In a regulatory filing, Paytm said that Senior Vice President Bhavesh Gupta, in his new role as the president and COO of the company, “will be responsible to lead verticals of lending, insurance, payments – online and offline, consumer payments and drive key initiatives including user growth, operations risk, fraud risk and compliance”.

Income Proof Now Mandatory for Rs 10 Lakh Investments in Small Savings Schemes

In a bid to curb the menace of money laundering and Financing of Terrorism, the Department of Posts has issued a new notification in which it has asked officials to collect the income proofs from investors of certain categories investing in small savings schemes. "Further, in order to comply with the guidelines of the Financial Intelligence Unit - India (FIU-IND) and Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates new Parliament building

Most opposition parties did not participate, saying they wanted the president instead of Mr Modi to open the building. During the ceremony, some of India's top wrestlers were detained when they tried to reach the new parliament to protest. The new building has replaced the British-era parliament. Ceremonies leading up to a formal inauguration began at 07:00 (02:00 GMT) on Sunday.



INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Santiago Pena wins Paraguay vote, keeps rightwing party in power

Paraguayans on Sunday elected a president from the rightwing party in power for nearly eight decades, rejecting a center-left challenger who had railed against endemic institutional corruption. Economist and former finance minister Santiago Pena, 44.



King Charles III awarded Britain's honorary MBE to UK-based Sanskrit scholar

A well-known UK-based Sanskrit scholar and the Executive Director of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan centre in London has been conferred an honorary MBE by King Charles III for services to Indian classical arts in Britain. Dr M.N. Nandakumara, who hails from the village of Mattur in Karnataka, has been associated with the Bhavan for 46 years and has welcomed Charles – the then Prince of Wales – to the popular Indian cultural hub on several occasions.

Ding Liren becomes China's first world chess champion

Ding Liren has become China's first men's world chess champion, after defeating Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi. Ding, 30, won a rapid-play tiebreaker after 14 first-stage games at the World Chess Championship in Kazakhstan. He succeeds Norway's Magnus Carlsen, the five-time champion who said he was "not motivated" to defend his title. Carlsen accused a US opponent of cheating last year in a row that rocked the chess world.



Sergio Pérez wins Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2023

“Expect the unexpected”, proclaimed the banners adorning the streets of Baku for the Azerbaijan Grand Prix. An entreaty that proved to be wishful thinking at best for all but the final moments of the race, when a near-disaster in the form of an astonishingly dangerous incident proved as entirely unanticipated as it was unwelcome. Sergio Pérez might have taken the win for Red Bull but the meeting was marked by the sight of personnel gathered in the pit lane scattering in panic as Esteban Ocon’s car bore down on them.

Russian poet Maria Stepanova wins Leipzig Book Prize 2023

Maria Stepanova, a powerful contemporary voice of Russian literature now living in exile in Berlin, has been awarded the prestigious Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding in 2023. The Russian-Jewish author, whose novel *In Memory of Memory* explores Stalinism and the fall of the Soviet Union, was nominated for the Booker Prize in 2021, was honored in Leipzig on Tuesday for her volume of poetry, *Girls Without Clothes*.

Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Ganemat Sekhon win Gold for India in ISSF Shotgun World Cup

Shooters Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Ganemat Sekhon won India its first medal in the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Shotgun World Cup, winning the gold medal by defeating Mexicans Luis Raul Gallardo Oliveros and Gabriela Rodriguez 6-0 in the skeet mixed team event on Sunday (April 30) in Egypt. It was a second gold medal win in mixed team event for young Indian shooter Ganemat Sekhon, also a fourth senior World Cup medal, while veteran shooter Mairaj secured his fifth senior ISSF medal after the gold medal win.



Sudan unrest: What are the Rapid Support Forces?

Sudan’s military and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary group are engaged in fierce fighting in the capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere in the country, raising fears of a civil war. The fighting, which began on Saturday, has killed at least 56 civilians, the Sudanese Doctors Union said in a statement. The clashes follow months of heightened tensions between the army and RSF.

After adopting new Constitution, Uzbekistan calls presidential election

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — Uzbekistan's leader on Monday called a snap presidential election for July, with the announcement coming a week after a constitutional referendum extended the term from five years to seven. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev is in his second term, the maximum allowed by the constitution. But the referendum passage allows him to begin the count of terms anew and run for two more, raising the possibility that the 65-year-old leader could stay in office until 2037.

Chinese President Xi Jinping will host a two-day summit with the leaders of five Central Asian nations

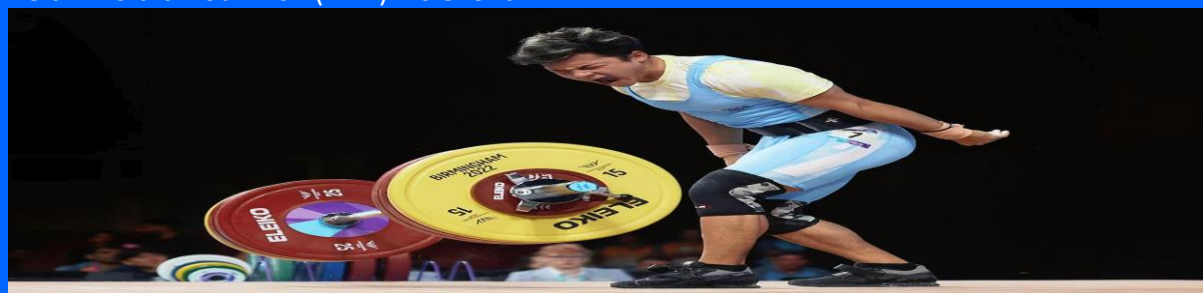
President Xi Jinping will host a two-day summit with the leaders of five Central Asian nations next week, Beijing said on Monday, as China moves to increase its influence in the region. Leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are expected to attend the China-Central Asia Summit from May 18 to 19, said China's foreign ministry. The summit in the city of Xi'an is the first of its kind, according to Chinese state media, and will focus on strengthening economic and diplomatic ties with Beijing.

Arab League readmits Syrian government after 11-year absence

The Arab League has re-admitted Syria after an 11-year absence, the organization said Sunday, following an extraordinary meeting at the Arab League's headquarters in Cairo, Egypt. The re-entry comes with immediate effect, after Syria was suspended during a violent crackdown on anti-government protests. The Arab League is an organization of Middle Eastern and African countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization. Its purpose is to promote closer political, economic, cultural and social relations among the members.

Asian Weightlifting Championships: Jeremy Lalrinnunga wins silver medal at Jinju, Korea

Indian weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga won a silver medal in snatch but could not get an overall total as he failed to lift the weight in any of his three clean and jerk attempts in a disappointing show at the Asian Championships here on Sunday. Competing in his first tournament since the 2022 Commonwealth Games, Jeremy was the only one in the 12-lifter field who did not finish (DNF) his event.



Britain's King Charles III formally ascended the throne at the age of 74, as titular head of the U.K. and 14 former commonwealth countries

King Charles III was crowned as the new monarch of United Kingdom on Saturday. Along with Britain he also took over as head of state of other 14 nations. King Charles III was officially crowned as the monarch of the United Kingdom on Saturday in a grand ceremony steeped in centuries of tradition. This historic event marked the country's first coronation in 70 years. In addition to being the head of state of Britain.



WHO: Covid-19 no longer represents a global health emergency

The statement represents a major step towards ending the pandemic and comes three years after it first declared its highest level of alert over the virus. Officials said the virus' death rate had dropped from a peak of more than 100,000 people per week in January 2021 to just over 3,500 on 24 April. The head of the WHO said at least seven million people died in the pandemic.

Argentina's Lionel Messi wins Laureus sportsman of the year 2023

Argentina and Paris Saint Germain veteran star Lionel Messi on Monday scooped a unique double, landing individual and team Laureus awards for his exploits and those of his World Cup-winning nation. Messi, 35, finally landed a first World Cup winners medal in Qatar last December after a thrilling penalty shootout final win over France - enough to earn him an individual accolade while the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner also accepted the team award at a prestigious Paris ceremony.



Sherpa becomes 2nd person to scale Everest 26 times

A Nepali Sherpa guide climbed Mount Everest for the 26th time, officials said, matching the record set by a fellow Nepalese guide, Kami Rita Sherpa, for the most ascents of the world's highest peak. Pasang Dawa Sherpa, 46, stood atop the 8,849-metre (29,032-foot) peak on Sunday, becoming the world's second person to achieve the feat, Bigyan Koirala.



Ex-NBC Universal ad chief Linda Yaccarino named as new Twitter CEO

NBCUniversal global advertising chief Linda Yaccarino has resigned to join Twitter as its next chief executive. Twitter owner Elon Musk confirmed the hire in a tweet Friday. "I am excited to welcome Linda Yaccarino as the new CEO of Twitter!" Musk tweeted. He said she "will focus primarily on business operations, while I focus on product design & new technology." He added, "Looking forward to working with Linda to transform this platform into X, the everything app."

Geeta Rao Gupta appointed as US Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues

Indian American Geeta Rao Gupta has been confirmed by the US Senate as the Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues in the State Department. The department in a tweet on Friday said it is looking forward to her efforts to promote women and girls' rights through US foreign policy. Gupta was confirmed by the US Senate by 51 to 47 votes early this week. According to Gupta, there are many inequities and indignities that women suffer around the world, which hold them back from participating fully in the economy.

