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July 2024

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General Awareness Topic(Covered)

- National
- International
- Banking & Finance
- Awards & Recognitions
- Sports
- Economy & Business
- Appointments & Resignation
- Defence
- Books & Authors
- Important Days
- Index & Reports
- Science & Technology
- Govt Scheme
- Obituary
- Committee & meeting
- Summit
- Environment
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"Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches Indo-French Network to Combat Metabolic Liver Diseases.

Addressing the launch programme Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted that the Indo-French Node, InFLiMeN, aims to address key issues related to a common metabolic liver disorder, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), which can progress to cirrhosis and primary liver cancer eventually. It predates diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and many other diseases. As an endocrinologist myself, I understand the nuances of fatty liver and its relation with diabetes and other metabolic disorders.

Govt Makes ISI Mark Mandatory For Stainless Steel And Aluminium Utensils.

The government has mandated conformity to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for stainless steel and aluminium utensils to enhance kitchen safety, quality and efficiency. According to an order issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the ISI mark will be compulsory for such utensils. Consumer Affairs Ministry said, non-compliance to this order is punishable. Recently, the BIS has developed a range of standards covering essential kitchen items.

"Government Releases Rs 100 Commemorative Coin in Memory of Lokmat Founder Jawaharlal Darda.

The Government of India has released a commemorative coin worth Rs 100 in honor of Jawaharlal Darda, the founder of Lokmat Media Group. This gesture marks the contributions of Darda, who played a pivotal role in shaping the landscape of journalism in Maharashtra. The coin serves as a tribute to his legacy and enduring impact on media and society.

"MoMA Designated as Nodal Ministry for Haj Committee of India.

Haj pilgrimage for the Indian Pilgrims is conducted either through Haj Committee of India (HCoI), which is a statutory organization under the administrative control of Ministry of Minority Affairs or through the Haj Group Organisers (HGOs) duly approved by Ministry. The work related to Management of Haj Pilgrimage, including administration of the Haj Committee Act, 1959 (51 of 1959) and the rules made thereunder has been transferred from Ministry of External Affairs to Ministry of Minority Affairs from 1st October, 2016.

"Ministry of Culture Launches Project PARI for 46th World Heritage Committee Meeting"

Project PARI (Public Art of India), an initiative by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, being executed by Lalit Kala Akademi and National Gallery of Modern Art seeks to bring forth public art that draws inspiration from millennia of artistic heritage

(lok kala/lok sanskriti) while incorporating modern themes and techniques. These expressions underscore the intrinsic value that art holds in Indian society, serving as a testament to the nation's enduring commitment to creativity and artistic expression.

GSV Vadodara and Airbus Partner for Aerospace Education.

Indian Railways' Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) Vadodara and Airbus today entered into collaboration to significantly strengthen the Indian aviation sector. Following up on the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) signed in September 2023, a definitive agreement was signed at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi between Mr. Rémi Maillard (President and Managing Director, AIRBUS India and South Asia) and Prof. Manoj Choudhary (Vice-Chancellor, Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya).

India employment provisionally grew at 6% in FY24 vs 3.2% in FY23.

India provisionally created 46.7 million jobs in the financial year ended March 2024, taking the country's total employment to 643.3 million, a Reserve Bank of India report showed on Monday. The country's employment growth rate stood at 6 per cent in that fiscal year, versus 3.2 per cent in the previous fiscal year, the RBI's report on measuring industry level productivity and employment showed.

FSSAI to mandate salt, sugar, and fat labelling on packages in bold, bigger font.

FSSAI to mandate salt, sugar, and fat labelling on packaged food items in bold letters and bigger font to prevent misleading claims and keep consumers informed. Food regulator FSSAI on Saturday approved changes in nutritional information labelling on packaged food items, proposing that total salt, sugar and saturated fat should be displayed in bold letters as well as bigger font size.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth Launches GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024).

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth launched "GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024)" of Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata on July 10, 2024. It is an innovative scheme which seeks solution to the problems related to the shipyards and promotes technology development using the start-ups created and nurtured in the country. It encourages and enables MSMEs and Start-Ups to develop innovative solutions for further technological advancement.

Mutual Recognition Agreement between India and Taiwan for Organic Products.

The Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for organic products between India and Taiwan has been implemented w.e.f. 8th July 2024 during the 9th Working Group on Trade Meeting with Taiwan at New Delhi. The implementation of the MRA between India and Taiwan is a landmark achievement as it is the first bilateral agreement for organic products. The implementing Agencies for the MRA are Agricultural and

Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India and Agriculture and Food Agency, Ministry of Agriculture (AFA), Taiwan.

India Creates 12.5 Crore Jobs in FY14-23, Surpasses 2.9 Crore Jobs in FY04-14.

India has created 12.5 crore jobs during FY14-23, compared to only 2.9 crore during FY04-14, per a State Bank of India (SBI) study based on RBI data. Even if we exclude Agriculture, the total number of jobs created in Manufacturing and Services is at 8.9 crores during FY14-FY23 and 6.6 crores during FY04-FY14," per a report by SBI's Economic , The total employment reported by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) registered with the MSME Ministry has crossed the 20-crore mark, according to data from the Udyam registration portal.

Union Cabinet approves India's signing of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved India to sign the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement. This landmark decision marks a significant step towards the conservation and sustainable utilisation of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Often referred to as the 'High Seas', areas beyond national jurisdiction are the global common oceans open to all for internationally lawful purposes such as navigation, overflight, laying submarine cables and pipelines, etc. The Ministry of Earth Sciences will spearhead the country's implementation of the BBNJ Agreement.

Rajasthan to become first State to adopt a road safety action plan for 10 years.

Rajasthan is set to pioneer road safety by becoming the first Indian state to implement a comprehensive 10-year action plan. Aimed at reducing accidents and fatalities, the plan includes measures such as infrastructure improvements, enhanced enforcement of traffic rules, public awareness campaigns, and emergency response systems. This initiative is expected to significantly enhance road safety standards across the state, prioritizing the well-being of commuters and residents alike.

Uttar Pradesh govt partners with MakeMyTrip to boost state's tourism sector.

The Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with MakeMyTrip to boost tourism in the state. Under the agreement, MakeMyTrip will serve as a strategic partner, providing insights into consumer trends, tourist preferences, and supply-side information to aid in policy-making. The initiative aims to enhance tourist experiences by leveraging digital platforms to promote various forms of tourism such as eco-tourism, adventure tourism, and spiritual tourism.

Karnataka Launches 'Digital Nagarik' Programme For Cyber Safety Of Kids, Students.

With the tech-city reporting a spike in the number of students falling prey to cyber frauds, the department of IT, BT has collaborated with Meta to empower 10 lakh students with digital safety knowledge and augmented reality/virtual reality (AR-VR) skills by 2025. Not just students, around one lakh teachers from across the state too will be trained under the 'Digital Nagarik and AR-VR Skills Programme', that was rolled out on Thursday. "This will be the first time in the country that such a programme has been launched," said IT, BT minister Priyank Kharge.

Indo-Russian Joint Venture Delivers 35,000 AK-203 Rifles to MoD.

Just ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia, the Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL), a joint venture between the two countries, has produced and transferred 35,000 Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles to the Indian Ministry of Defence, Rostec state corporation of Russia announced on July 5.

NASA set to Launch Habitable Worlds Observatory Telescope to Find Inhabitable Planets by 2050.

NASA is further prioritizing its long-running search for life in the universe and laying the groundwork for its next flagship astrophysics mission after the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope (slated to launch by May 2027). This observatory would simultaneously provide powerful capabilities for transformational astrophysics discoveries, from our cosmic backyard of the solar system to the distant universe and everything in between. Currently referred to as the Habitable Worlds Observatory (HWO), this is a concept for a mission that would search for and characterize habitable planets beyond our solar system.

IUCN Red List Updated Ibiza Wall Lizard Designated as Endangered Species.

The Ibiza wall lizard has been newly classified as "Endangered" on the updated IUCN Red List. Endemic to Spain's Ibiza island, their population is facing a serious decline, prompting conservation concerns. This designation highlights the urgent need for protective measures to safeguard their habitat and mitigate threats.

UNESCO Unveils New World Soil Health Index at International Conference on Soils in Morocco.

UNESCO has launched the World Soil Health Index at an international conference in Morocco, aiming to evaluate global soil health. This initiative is pivotal for sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation, addressing issues like soil degradation and food security. The index will offer essential data for policymakers, researchers, and farmers to enhance soil management practices and productivity. UNESCO aims

to promote awareness and collaboration for sustainable agricultural development worldwide.

UNESCO names 11 new biospheres in 11 countries.

UNESCO has designated 11 new biosphere reserves across 11 countries, highlighting their commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development. These reserves, spread across diverse ecosystems from mountains to coastal regions, aim to balance biodiversity conservation with sustainable use. The designation underscores global efforts to protect natural habitats and promote harmonious coexistence between humans and nature.

WHO Launches MeDevIS Platform for Global Medical Device Information

The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched the Medical Devices Information System (MeDevIS), an open-access online platform to streamline global access to medical technologies and devices. MeDevIS is created to assist governments, regulators and users in making informed decisions about the selection, procurement, and usage of medical devices.

Vietnam most affordable country for expats .

Vietnam has been identified as the most affordable country for expatriates. The cost of living in Vietnam is notably low, making it highly attractive for expats. Factors contributing to this affordability include inexpensive housing, food, and daily expenses compared to other countries in the region. This makes Vietnam a preferred destination for those seeking cost-effective living without compromising on quality of life.

Russia plans to create core of new space station by 2030.

Russia aims to establish the core of its new orbital space station by 2030, according to its space agency, Roscosmos. The agency's head, Yuri Borisov, approved the timeline, which includes launching an initial scientific and energy module in 2027 and adding three more modules by 2030, with two additional modules planned between 2031 and 2033. Previously collaborating on the International Space Station (ISS), Russia plans to exit the ISS by 2028 and focus on its own station to address scientific, technological, and national security needs.

Reformist Pezeshkian Wins Iran Presidential Election.

United Arab Emirates (AP) — Reformist candidate Masoud Pezeshkian won Iran's runoff presidential election Saturday, besting hard-liner Saeed Jalili by promising to reach out to the West and ease enforcement on the country's mandatory headscarf law after years of sanctions and protests squeezing the Islamic Republic. Pezeshkian promised no radical changes to Iran's Shiite theocracy in his campaign and long has

held Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as the final arbiter of all matters of state in the country.

Aselsan Successfully Launches Turkey's First Homegrown Türksat-6A Communication Satellite.

Turkish defense company, has achieved a significant milestone by successfully launching Türksat-6A, Turkey's first domestically produced communication satellite. The satellite, aimed at enhancing Turkey's communication capabilities, was launched into orbit from the Guiana Space Centre in French Guiana. Türksat-6A is expected to bolster Turkey's telecommunications infrastructure and support various communication services across the country and the surrounding region.

Keir Starmer appointed as the UK's new PM.

Labour leader Keir Starmer officially became Britain's Prime Minister after an audience with King Charles III at Buckingham Palace. Earlier, he pledged to start a period of "national renewal" in the U.K. after his opposition Labour party defeated the ruling Conservatives in the general election. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak conceded defeat in the national election on July 5, saying the opposition Labour Party had won.

Indian Infrastructure Project Providers Expand Global Presence for Enhanced Project Execution"

Infrastructure project service providers in India and abroad are expanding their global presence. This expansion aims to leverage expertise in diverse regions, enhancing project execution capabilities. With India's growing infrastructure demands and international opportunities, firms are strategically positioning themselves for increased project engagements. The focus remains on delivering efficient and sustainable solutions across varied sectors, ensuring robust contributions to global development.

LIC raises stake in IDFC First Bank to 2.68%.

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) shareholding in IDFC First Bank increased after the insurer acquired 18,60,34,900 shares at ₹80.63 apiece in a private placement offer by the lender. From 0.20% of the pre-issue paid-up capital, the shareholding has increased to 2.68% of the post issue paid-up capital of the bank, LIC said in a filing on Thursday. In terms of number of shares, the holding has increased from a little more than 1.42 crore to more than 20.02 crore.

RBI fines five banks including PNB for regulatory non-compliance.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed penalties on five banks, including Punjab National Bank (PNB), for non-compliance with regulatory requirements. The penalties were levied as part of RBI's ongoing efforts to ensure adherence to banking

regulations and maintain financial stability. This action underscores the importance of banks adhering to regulatory guidelines to safeguard the interests of depositors and maintain the integrity of the banking system.

RBI Cancels Licence Of Varanasi Co-Op Bank.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Banaras Merchantile Co-operative Bank, Varanasi, due to its worsening financial position. This decision affects the bank's operations, requiring depositors to find alternative measures for the safety of their funds. The move follows an assessment by agencies of the bank's financial condition.

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Paytm launches 'Health Saathi' plan for its merchant partners.

The affordable healthcare and income protection plan for merchants starts at just ₹35 per month. One 97 Communications Limited (OCL), which owns brand Paytm, has rolled out 'Paytm Health Saathi', an exclusive health and income protection plan for its merchant partners. This plan is available on the 'Paytm for Business' app.

India to provide USD 2.5 mn LoC for solar power plant in Guyana.

Exim Bank has inked an agreement with the Guyana government to extend an India-supported line of credit (LoC) of USD 2.50 million for the installation of a solar photo voltaic power plant at Cheddi Jagan International Airport in Guyana. The export of eligible goods and services from India would be allowed, subject to their eligibility under the Foreign Trade Policy of the Indian government and whose purchase may be agreed to be financed by the Export-Import Bank of India under the agreement, the RBI said.

Star Health Insurance Teams Up with HP State Cooperative Bank to Boost Health Insurance in the State.

Star Health Insurance has partnered with HP State Cooperative Bank to enhance health insurance accessibility in Himachal Pradesh. This collaboration aims to provide comprehensive health coverage to residents through the bank's extensive network. The initiative seeks to address healthcare affordability and expand insurance penetration in the state, ensuring more individuals and families have access to quality medical services without financial strain.

Tata MF Launches India's First Tourism Index Fund.

Travel in India is soaring to new heights, fueled by a growing middle class and a rising appetite for exploration. To capitalize on this exciting trend, Tata Asset Management has launched India's first-ever tourism index fund – the Tata Nifty India Tourism Index Fund. The Tata Nifty India Tourism Index Fund will track the Nifty India Tourism Index (TRI, i.e., total returns index).

ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund launches ICICI Prudential Nifty Oil and Gas ETF.

ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund has launched the ICICI Prudential Nifty Oil and Gas ETF, aimed at investors seeking exposure to the oil and gas sector. This exchange-traded fund (ETF) tracks the Nifty Oil & Gas Index and offers a convenient way for investors to participate in the performance of companies within this sector. The ETF launch reflects ICICI Prudential's strategy to cater to market demand for specialized sectoral investments, providing an opportunity for investors to diversify their portfolios effectively.

PNB Introduces Safety Ring to Enhance Security for Internet and Mobile Banking Users.

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched a new initiative aimed at bolstering security for internet and mobile banking users. The initiative, known as the Safety Ring, seeks to provide enhanced protection against cyber threats. This move comes amidst rising concerns over digital security breaches. The Safety Ring is designed to offer users an additional layer of authentication and safeguard their transactions effectively. PNB's proactive step underscores its commitment to ensuring secure banking experiences in an increasingly digital age.

AU Small Finance Bank and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance enter into strategic partnership.

This collaboration will empower AU SFB's customers to gain access to Bajaj Allianz Life's comprehensive suite of life insurance products, thereby addressing their imperative need for financial security. Uttam Tibrewal, Executive Director of AU Small Finance Bank and Tarun Chugh, MD and CEO, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance signed the agreement and announced their strategic partnership. Through this partnership, the bank aims to leverage technology-based solutions for its customers through wide variety of life insurance products offered by Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance.

Ageas Federal Life Insurance floats Golden Years Pension Plan with Bluechip Pension Fund.

The Bluechip Pension Fund is a new fund offering that would be launched with a limited time offer of flat NAV of Rs 10 per unit. It invests in equities, reverse repos

treasury bills and mutual funds amongst others. Private life insurer Ageas Federal Life Insurance has come up with Ageas Federal Life Insurance Golden Years Pension Plan with Bluechip Pension Fund. The plan will offer a comprehensive solution to secure the financial futures of policyholders.

RBI has canceled the registration of 2 NBFCs.

The Reserve Bank on Monday said it has cancelled the certificates of registration of two NBFCs -- Star Finserv India and Polytex India -- due to irregular lending practices. Hyderabad-based Star Finserv India was offering the service under 'Procap' (owned and operated by Desiderata Impact Ventures Private Limited). Polytex India, headquartered in Mumbai, was providing services under the 'Z2P' mobile application (owned and operated by Zatech Technologies Private Limited).

Muthoot finance selected for FATF mutual evaluation report 2023-24.

Muthoot Finance, a prominent Indian financial institution, has been selected for evaluation in the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) Mutual Evaluation Report for the year 2023-24. The FATF's assessment will scrutinize Muthoot Finance's adherence to international standards and regulations concerning anti-money laundering (AML) and combating the financing of terrorism (CFT). This evaluation plays a crucial role in determining the institution's compliance and reputation in the global financial landscape.

RBI's financial inclusion index spurts in quarter ended March 2024.

There has been an impressive spurt in financial inclusion levels in the country, according to a latest update from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). In consultation with the concerned stakeholders including the Government, the Reserve Bank of India had constructed a composite Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) to capture the extent of financial inclusion across the country, which was first published in August 2021 for the FY ending March 2021. The FI-Index for the year ending March 2024 has since been prepared.

"SEHER Program Launched by Women Entrepreneurship Platform and TransUnion CIBIL to Empower Women Entrepreneurs".

SEHER, a credit education program launched today by the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and TransUnion CIBIL, will empower women entrepreneurs in India with financial literacy content and business skills, helping them to access the financial tools they need to drive further growth and create employment in the country's economy. The Women Entrepreneurship Program (WEP) is a public-private partnership platform incubated at Niti Aayog and aims to create an enabling ecosystem for women entrepreneurs in India.

"MoRD and Convergence Energy Services Ltd. Sign MoU for Green Mobility in DAY-NRLM.

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) today signed an MoU with Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a wholly owned subsidiary of EESL, to help facilitate "Sustainable Transport for Rural Entrepreneurs through Electric Bicycles" (STREE) for Self Help Group (SHG) Women under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). STREE intends to empower the rural economy, especially the rural women by providing them access to green mobility through the introduction of electric bicycles.

Karnataka government promotes investment in Seoul.

On the second day of the delegation's visit to Seoul, South Korea, the Government of Karnataka has signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) totalling ₹1040 crore with DN Solutions and EMNI Co. Ltd. The delegation was led by Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development, M.B. Patil. These strategic partnerships are set to advance the state's manufacturing, research and development, and battery technology sectors.

DEPwD Signs Two Significant MoUs towards empowering persons with disabilities.

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) took a significant step towards empowering persons with disabilities by signing two important Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) Under the guidance of Secretary Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, the first MoU was signed between "DEPwD" and "Enable Me" Access Association (EMA), and the second MoU was signed between the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center (ISLRTC) and YUNIKEE.

There is going to be a change in the top officials of PSU Insurance in which GMDs will be replaced by EDs.

The top-level structure of public sector insurance companies is set to undergo an overhaul with the selection process and interviews for filling up the nine posts of executive directors (EDs) in place of general managers and directors (GMDs) expected to be completed soon. The ED structure for PSU insurers, which will be introduced for the first time, will be on the lines of PSU banks.

Kerala Set to Become First State to Publish PBR.

Kerala is set to make history by publishing its People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) in Hindi, becoming the first state to do so. This initiative aims to improve access and understanding of biodiversity information among Hindi speakers. The PBR documents local biological resources and traditional knowledge, crucial for conservation and

sustainable development. Translating it into Hindi promotes broader participation in biodiversity conservation, fostering inclusive environmental awareness and governance nationwide.

Keynote address by Secretary (East) at the 6th EAS Conference on Maritime Security.

Secretary (East) delivered a keynote at the 6th East Asia Summit Conference on Maritime Security, emphasizing regional cooperation and challenges in maritime domains. Discussions centered on enhancing security measures and strategic partnerships among East Asian nations. Key points included the importance of maritime stability for economic growth and efforts to combat transnational threats at sea.

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan Named Principal Advisor for National TB Elimination Programme.

(Dr.) Soumya Swaminathan has been appointed as the Principle Advisor at the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme on a pro bono basis. As the Principal Advisor for the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, Prof. (Dr.) Soumya Swaminathan will provide technical advice on the overall strategy to achieve program goals, suggest policy directions and necessary course corrections for optimal outcomes, and advise on research strategy. She will also assist in the formation of expert groups with top talent globally.

Researchers from TN discover new species of snake in Meghamalai.

Researchers from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and the UK have identified a new species of shield tail snake in the Meghamalai-Munnar region of the Western Ghats. Known as the Tail-spot Shield tail, this non-venomous snake was often mistaken for the Palni Shieldtail. Shield tail snakes, a group of burrowing species found in the Western Ghats, emerge during monsoons for breeding. The discovery was published in Zootaxa.

Adani Sportsline is principal sponsor of Indian Olympic Association.

Adani Sportsline, the sports arm of the Adani Group, has inked a long-term principal sponsorship deal with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). It will be the official partner of the Indian contingent during the upcoming Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022, the Hangzhou Asian Games 2022, and the Paris Olympic Games 2024. The group had earlier been associated with the Indian contingent during the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

Rajasthan Finance Minister Diya Kumari Presents State Budget for FY25.

Rajasthan's Finance Minister Diya Kumari presented the state budget for fiscal year 2025, emphasizing healthcare, education, agriculture, and infrastructure. The budget boosts healthcare and education funding, enhances agriculture through irrigation and modernization, and plans urban connectivity improvements. It prioritizes welfare schemes for marginalized groups and aims to stimulate economic growth and employment statewide.

HCLTech chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra awarded France's highest civilian honour.

HCLTech chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra receives France's highest civilian honor for outstanding service and promoting economic ties between France and India. Nadar Malhotra emphasizes commitment to scaling operations and supporting digital transformation in France. Award presented at ceremony in Delhi.

RBI Approves Govind Singh's Reappointment as MD and CEO of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of Govind Singh as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank. Singh, who has been instrumental in the bank's growth and strategic initiatives, will continue to lead Utkarsh Small Finance Bank in its mission to expand financial inclusion and services across India. His leadership has been pivotal in navigating challenges and achieving significant milestones, reinforcing the bank's commitment to serving its customers effectively.

Narendra Modi keeps India's 2024 economic growth forecast unchanged at 6.8%.

Narendra Modi maintained its GDP growth forecast for India at 6.8% for 2024, with a slight moderation to 6.5% expected in 2025. The agency attributed this outlook to strong domestic and international demand, supporting growth across emerging markets (EM) with varying trajectories. In its March Global Macro Outlook 2024-25, Moody's upgraded India's growth projection from 6.1% to 6.8% for 2024, citing robust manufacturing and increased infrastructure spending as key drivers.

Tasnim Clinches Victory at Reunion Open Tournament.

Shuttler Tasnim Mir was crowned the women's singles champion at the St Denis Reunion Open 2024 International Challenge badminton tournament, held in Reunion, an overseas department and region of France. Tasnim defeated compatriot Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj 21-15, 21-19 in the final. The shuttler from Mehsana district had beaten top seed Rosy Oktavia Pancasari of Indonesia 21-10, 21-17 in the semifinal. In the quarterfinal, she bounced back after suffering a mid-match lapse in concentration to see off Sri Lanka's Ranithma Liyanage 21-12, 16-21, 21-7.

BCCI appoints Gautam Gambhir as Indian men's team head coach.

BCCI honorary secretary Jay Shah announced on Tuesday, 9 July that former India opener Gautam Gambhir has been named as the head coach of the Indian men's national team. IndiaToday.in had confirmed in May that Gambhir was expected to take over the team from Rahul Dravid, who left his role after the conclusion of the T20 World Cup 2024. Back then sources had confirmed to the publication that Gambhir's announcement was a mere formality.

Tamil Nadu chief minister M.K. Stalin releases coffee table books on folk deities.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin released two coffee table books titled – 'Folk Deities of Tamil Nadu: Worship, Tradition and Custom' and 'Forts of Tamil Nadu: A Walk-Through' — brought out by The Hindu Group of Publications in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu government's Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR and CE) Department and Tourism Department. The books were released at the Secretariat in Chennai on Tuesday, July 9, 2024.

Bandhan Bank appoints Ratan Kumar Kesh as interim MD & CEO.

The lender said Mr. Kesh will be the interim MD & CEO for a period of three months or till the new incumbent takes charge, whichever is earlier. Ratan Kumar Kesh, executive director and chief operating officer of Bandhan Bank, has been appointed as interim MD & CEO of the private lender with effect from July 10. The present MD&CEO and founder of the bank will retire on July 9.

BSF conducts "Grow with the Trees" plantation drive in Srinagar.

Border Security Forces (BSF), in association with SBI Bank, organized a "Grow with the Trees" plantation drive at BSF Headquarters in Srinagar on Saturday. The initiative aimed to promote environmental conservation and enhance green cover. Officers and volunteers actively participated, planting a variety of saplings. The event underscored BSF's commitment to sustainable practices and community engagement.

Gagan Narang To Be Chef-De-Mission Of The Indian Contingent In Paris Olympics.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has named Gagan Narang, four-time Olympian and 2012 Olympic Games men's 10 meter Air Rifle bronze medalist, as the the Chef-de-Mission of the Indian contingent to compete in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, starting on 26th July. He will replace MC Mary Kom. Star Shuttle PV Sindhu and Table Tennis Ace Achanta Sharath Kamal will be the flag bearers during the opening ceremony.

DPIIT signs MoU with NCAER for Development of Framework & Assessment of Logistics Cost in India.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry and National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi today for the development of Framework & Assessment of Logistics Cost in India. The MoU was signed by Secretary and Operations Director, NCAER, Dr. Anil Sharma and Joint Secretary, DPIIT, Dr S K Ahirwar; the occasion was graced by Secretary, DPIIT, Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh.

The President honored 36 gallantry medals.

President Smt Droupadi Murmu conferred 10 Kirti Chakras (seven posthumous) and 26 Shaurya Chakras (seven posthumous) to the personnel of the Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces and State/Union Territory Police during Defence Investiture Ceremony (Phase-1) at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on July 05, 2024. The awards were given to the personnel for displaying conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage and extreme devotion to duty.

Shri Sheel Nagu appointed as Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The President of India has appointed Shri Sheel Nagu, currently serving as a Judge in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh, as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana. This appointment, made under the authority vested by the Constitution of India, is effective from the date he assumes office. Shri Sheel Nagu's elevation to this role marks a significant decision in judicial appointments aimed at bolstering the judiciary's leadership in the region.

Arunachal Pradesh Governor releases book on Kargil War.

Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt General (Retd) K T Parnaik has launched a book on Kargil War authored by Vir Chakra awardee, the late Colonel M B Ravindranath. The book, titled 'Kargil War: The Turning Point' was released by Parnaik at Cariappa Hall at Rajendra Singhji Army Officers Institute in Bengaluru on Wednesday, a statement issued by the Raj Bhavan here said.

Defence production hits record high of nearly ₹1.27 lakh crore in 2023-24.

The government is committed to creating a more conducive regime for developing India as a leading global defence manufacturing hub. The Ministry of Defence has achieved the highest-ever growth in indigenous defence production in value terms during financial year 2023-24, on the back of successful implementation of the policies and initiatives of the government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, focussing on achieving 'Aatmanirbharta'," the defence ministry said in a statement on

Friday.

Bandhan Bank appoints Ratan Kumar Kesh as interim MD & CEO.

The lender said Mr. Kesh will be the interim MD & CEO for a period of three months or till the new incumbent takes charge, whichever is earlier. Ratan Kumar Kesh, executive director and chief operating officer of Bandhan Bank, has been appointed as interim MD & CEO of the private lender with effect from July 10. The present MD&CEO and founder of the bank will retire on July 9.

IEX Board Reappoints Satyanarayan Goel as CMD.

Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) board on Friday approved the proposal to reappoint Satyanarayan Goel as its Chairman and Managing Director and to appoint Rohit Bajaj as its Joint Managing Director. The board noted that Goel will attain the age of 70 years on August 10, 2024, and consequently, as per Companies Act, 2013, his term as Managing Director will end from the closure of the business hours on August 9, 2024, a BSE filing said.

Lewis Hamilton wins for the ninth time at Silverstone.

British Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton was finally back on the top step of the podium after a long wait of 56 races without a win. Lewis Hamilton picked up the win in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone. This was a record 104th win for Hamilton in Formula One, extending his lead as the driver with the most wins in the sport. The British Grand Prix was a wet-dry race as the race saw two different spells of rain due to which defending champion Max Verstappen seemed to struggle for pace.

India's Indigenous Light Tank Prototype Ready for Trials.

In a much needed break, India's indigenous light tank has completed the prototype development stage under Project Zorawar. Developed by DRDO and L&T, the tank will now undergo an array of trials before its induction into the military by 2027. Success here is absolutely crucial in light of the ongoing standoff with China along LAC.