



Prime Reader

CHASE YOUR VISION & DREAMS



May 2024

GA BOOSTER

Weekly

PDF



www.primereader.co.in

- BANK
- SSC
- UPSC
- RAILWAY
- SBI
- IBPS



website : www.primereader.co.in
contactus : support@primereader.co.in

Telegram : PrimeReader

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
- MOU
- Acquisition & Mergers



Our paid course services

- Weekly Reading
 - Pdf Download
 - Mock Test
- Monthly Reading
 - Pdf Download
 - Mock Test
- Topic- Wise Reading
 - Pdf Download
 - Mock Test
- Exam Oriented Reading
 - Pdf Download
 - Mock Test
- Daily Current Affairs
 - Daily Mock Test
 - Pdf Download
- News Topic Wise
- One Liner Weekly
- One Liner Monthly
- One Liner Quarterly
- One Liner Half Yearly
- Pdf Hub (Unlimited Download)
- Software Technology System (Auto News Analysis)
- मॉक Mock Test

Visit on : www.primereader.co.in
Telegram : [PrimeReader](https://t.me/PrimeReader)
Contactus : support@primereader.co.in
70 4444 2011

Cisco and Tata Communications partner to launch Webex Calling in India.

Cisco and Tata Communications on Wednesday launched their Webex Calling solution in India with cloud public switched telephone network (PSTN), aimed at helping enterprises move from on-premises phone systems to a global cloud calling system. The calls will be routed via Tata Communications' data centre in the Mumbai region, thereby helping organisations stay compliant with local regulations.

RBI Unveils PRAVAAH Portal, Retail Direct App, And Fintech Repository For Enhanced Public Access.

The Reserve Bank of India has launched three major initiatives – the PRAVAAH portal, the Retail Direct Mobile App and a FinTech Repository – aimed at enhancing public access to the central bank and facilitating regulatory approvals and transactions. The PRAVAAH (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation, and Authorisation) portal is a secure and centralized web-based platform for individuals and entities to apply online for various regulatory approvals from the RBI. The portal streamlines the process of seeking authorizations, licenses, or regulatory approvals by providing a single point of contact for applicants. It is expected to improve the efficiency of the RBI's regulatory approval and clearance processes.

International Day of UN Peacekeepers is observed on 29 May.

For 76 years, United Nations peacekeepers have worked to save and change lives in the world's most fragile political and security situations. Since 1948, more than two million uniformed and civilian personnel have helped countries to transition from war to peace. Today, more than 70,000 peacekeepers serve in 11 missions deployed in hotspots around the world. Observed under the theme "Fit for the future, building better together," this year's International Day looks at the invaluable contributions military, police and civilian peacekeepers have made over the last seven decades. It encapsulates the spirit of progress and collective action towards creating a more equal, just and sustainable world.

Thomas Cook India Introduces TCPay for International Money Transfers.

On May 10, 2024, Thomas Cook India informed the exchanges about the launch of TCPay, a new digital service that simplifies and streamlines international money transfers. The company stated that the conventional way to send money abroad was regarded as a difficult process that involved visits to branches, cumbersome paperwork, and fixed working hours. Addressing these challenges, Thomas Cook has introduced TCPay, which offers numerous benefits that transform how individuals transfer funds. The simple digital platform, associated with Thomas Cook's recently launched Video KYC process, assists customers in transferring funds from the comfort and convenience of their homes.

Vietnam's security chief To Lam becomes new president.

Vietnam's rubber-stamp parliament has approved public security minister To Lam as the country's new president after a major anticorruption campaign forced his predecessor to resign. In line with the one-party state's usual procedures, the National Assembly voted unanimously on a resolution that approved 66-year-old Lam's election after a secret ballot in which he was the only candidate for the job. The vote followed his nomination by the ruling Communist Party last week.

RBI approves appointment of Pradeep Natarajan as IDFC FIRST Bank's Whole Time Director.

The Reserve Bank of India has approved Pradeep Natarajan as Whole Time Director on the Board of IDFC FIRST Bank for three years. IDFC FIRST Bank reported a net profit of Rs 724 crore for the fourth quarter of March 2024, with reduced gross and net Non-Performing Assets. Shareholder approval pending.

Shah Rukh Khan is now the new brand ambassador of Muthoot Pappachan Group .

Muthoot Pappachan Group (MPG), popularly known as Muthoot Blue, has roped in Shah Rukh Khan as its brand ambassador. This strategic collaboration represents a significant milestone for MPG, reinforcing its brand presence, and a new way of connecting with a diverse audience across the country, a press release said. Muthoot Pappachan Group is the promoter of leading NBFCs including Muthoot FinCorp Limited (flagship Company of the Group), Muthoot Microfin Limited, Muthoot Capital Services Limited and Muthoot Housing Finance Company Limited.

Centre Appoints Justice R Mahadevan As Acting Chief Justice Of Madras High Court.

The Central Government has appointed Justice R Mahadevan, the senior most judge of the Madras High Court as the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court. A notification in this regard was issued by the Ministry on 22nd, May 2024. Justice Mahadevan will take charge as the Acting Chief Justice from 24th May, upon the retirement of the current Chief Justice SV Gangapurwala.

Dominican Republic President Abinader re-elected to 2nd term.

Dominican Republic President Luis Abinader was re-elected on May 19 for another four-year term, an endorsement of his handling of the economy and tough policies toward migration from Haiti. The two nations share the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, but the much more prosperous Dominican Republic stands in stark contrast to its poverty and gang violence-plagued neighbor. The volatility across the border has been a key issue in the election campaign, but Mr. Abinader, 56, also boasted

success in managing the economy and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran elected as new Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health.

Today marks another significant milestone in the World Organisation for Animal Health's (WOAH) unwavering commitment to global animal health as the Organisation announces the election of its new Director General. Through a secret ballot vote, following the "one country, one vote" rule, WOAH Delegates chose Dr Soubeyran, to lead the Organisation into its next chapter. She therefore becomes WOAH's 8th Director General. Under Soubeyran's leadership, the Organisation will remain dedicated to advancing animal health governance, promoting a safer, healthier future for both animals and humans.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointments of five Secretary level appointments on Monday.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointments of five Secretary level appointments on Monday. Pradip Kumar Tripathi (IAS) has been appointed as Secretary to the Lokpal till the date of his superannuation, i.e. June 30, 2024, and thereafter on contract basis for a period of two years beyond the date of his superannuation on usual terms and conditions applicable to re-employed Central Government officers. Tripathi is a 1987-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of AGMUT cadre. Presently, he is serving as Secretary (Coordination) in Cabinet Secretariat.

Jetha Ahir Is Elected As NAFED Chairman.

Shehra Jetha Ahir, a BJP MLA who formerly served as deputy speaker of the Gujarat Assembly, was chosen unopposed as head of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED). Senior officials said that Ahir won the support of Rajkot MP Mohan Kundariya to become NAFED chairman in the election held in Delhi on May 28.

Delhi High Court Appoints Retired Justice Najmi Waziri As Chairperson Of Equestrian Federation Of India's Ad-Hoc Administrative Committee.

The Delhi High Court has appointed its retired judge, Justice Najmi Waziri, as the Chairperson of ad-hoc Administrative Committee constituted to supervise the administration of the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI). Justice Tara Vitasta Ganju also directed that the committee will also comprise of former Chief Election Commissioner of India Dr. S.Y. Quraishi as the observer and Advocate Rohini Musa as member.

Ambassador Allamaye Halina Named New Chad PM: Presidency.

Chad's former ambassador to China Allamaye Halina has been named prime minister, according to a presidential decree read out on public television on Thursday. "Allamaye Halina is named prime minister, head of the government," said the Chadian presidency's secretary general Mahamat Ahmat Alhabo, after former junta chief Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno was sworn in for a five-year term as president.

RBI approves appointment of Pradeep Kumar Sinha as Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank.

The Reserve Bank of India has granted its approval for the appointment of Pradeep Kumar Sinha as the Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank. Sinha is set to assume this role for a term of three years, starting from July 1, 2024. Sinha has been a Government Nominee Director in numerous major Public Sector Undertakings like ONGC, IOCL, HPCL, BPCL, GAIL, etc. In particular, he was on the Board of Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) for about 7 years at a stretch and similarly on the Boards of BPCL and HPCL for about 6 years each.

Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda re-elected in vote marked by Russia fears.

During the election campaign, Nausėda repeatedly stressed that his first term in office was not easy due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a migrant crisis, and the war in Ukraine. In a press conference on Monday morning, he said he does not expect his second term to be easier. "I am closely following world events and I see that the geopolitical situation, unfortunately, will remain difficult," Nausėda said.

NTPC gets third rank at ATD BEST Award 2024 for talent development.

NTPC, one of the largest power utility public sector companies, has secured a significant milestone by securing the third rank globally at the ATD BEST Award 2024, the Ministry of Power said in a release. Rachana Singh Bhal, CGM (Strategic HR and Talent Management), accepted the award at a ceremony held in New Orleans, USA, on May 21, 2024. The ATD BEST Award, established by the Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA, is one of the most esteemed international recognitions in the field of Learning and Development (L&D).

Pink E-Rickshaw Driver From UP Wins UK's Royal Award, Meets King Charles.

In today's fast-paced world, individuals are pushing themselves harder than ever to pursue their dreams and make a positive impact, regardless of their background or circumstances. This determination is evident not only in bustling cities but also in remote villages, where people are striving to overcome obstacles and create meaningful change. In an inspiring story, Arti, an 18-year-old e-rickshaw driver from a small village in Uttar Pradesh, received the prestigious Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award in London earlier this week, followed by a meeting with King Charles III.

Scientist Srinivas Kulkarni honoured with 2024 Shaw Prize in astronomy .

Shrinivas R Kulkarni, an Indian-origin professor of astronomy from the US will be bestowed the prestigious Shaw Prize in Astronomy for his ground-breaking discoveries about millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and other variable or transient astronomical objects. Apart from Kulkarni, who is the George Ellery Hale Professor of Astronomy and Planetary Science, Division of Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy at the California Institute of Technology, the other Shaw Prize awardees are Swee Lay Thein and Stuart Orkin, both from the US, who received the Shaw Prize in Life Science and Medicine is awarded in equal shares, and Peter Sarnak, another US scientist who received the Shaw Prize in Mathematical Sciences.

Thiruvananthapuram International Airport receives zero waste to landfill accolade.

Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) [India], May 22 (ANI): Thiruvananthapuram International Airport has made history by becoming the first airport in India to achieve the Zero Waste to Landfill (ZWL) accolade. This recognition, awarded by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-ITC) Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, highlights the airport's exceptional waste management practices and commitment to sustainability.

Indian Arm Wrestlers Win Seven Medals At Asian Championship 2024.

The Indian arm wrestling contingent delivered an outstanding performance at the 2024 Asian Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, bringing home a total of seven medals, which included one gold and six bronze. Shrimant Jha, who competed in two categories, was the top performer for India. He won the gold medal in the left-hand para category and also bagged a bronze medal in the right-hand para category. Laxman Singh Bhandari won two bronze medals in the Masters category.

London-based Indian-origin artist Anish Kapoor tops the Hurun India Art List 2024.

For the sixth consecutive year, London-based Indian origin artist Anish Kapoor has topped the Hurun India Art List of the most successful Indian artists alive, released by the Hurun Research Institute. The list ranks the top 50 living Indian artists according to the sales of their works sold at public auctions as of January 1, 2024. "Our hypothesis on Indian art is testing positive. The Hurun India Art List 2024 evidences that the demand for Indian art is on the rise. For instance, the entry point for the top 10 artists rose from Rs 1.99 crore in 2021 to Rs 7.70 crore in 2024, reflecting a nearly 287 per cent increase," noted Anas Rahman Junaid, Managing Director and Chief Researcher of Hurun Report India, in a release.

ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East Announces Green Airports Recognition 2024.

Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific & Middle East announced the results of the Green Airports Recognition (GAR) 2024, recognising 12 airports in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East for their outstanding accomplishments in sustainability projects. The ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East Green Airports Recognition 2024 continues to showcase the airports setting the standard for sustainable practices, demonstrating the industry's commitment to environmental preservation and responsible business practices.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday penalised ICICI Bank and YES Bank for violating various regulatory norms

RBI's supervisory inspection found violations by both banks relating to their financial position as on March 31, 2022. The RBI issued notices to both banks, requesting explanation as to why penalties should not be imposed. After reviewing their responses, the RBI concluded that the banks' lapses warranted the penalties.

SEBI Mandates Social Enterprises On SSE To Submit Annual Impact Report By Oct-End For FY24.

Capital markets regulator SEBI on Monday asked social enterprises, which have registered or mobilised funds through social stock exchange, to submit an 'annual impact report' for the financial year 2023-24 to such bourse by October-end. The annual impact report to SSE captures the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the social impact generated by the social enterprise. "Social enterprises which have registered or raised funds through SSE shall be required to submit Annual Impact Report to SSE by Oct. 31, 2024 for the Financial Year 2023-24," SEBI said in a circular.

Bank of Maharashtra Nurturing Agri-Innovation with its Maha Krishi Samrudhi Yojana (MKSY) Scheme.

India is a nation where agriculture forms the backbone of the economy and the quest for a robust support system for farmers and agro-based industries is utmost essential. Recognizing this, Bank of Maharashtra presents an effective solution: the Maha Krishi Samrudhi Yojana (MKSY), providing financial assistance to Food and Agro-Based industries, Agri Infrastructure Projects engaged in processing activities and to create Agriculture Infrastructure facilities under Agriculture.

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday notified a framework for issuance of subordinate units by privately placed infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs).

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday notified a framework for issuance of subordinate units by privately placed infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs). The issuance of subordinate units is primarily intended to bridge the valuation gaps that may arise as a result of the difference in the valuation of an asset assessed by the Sponsor (in its capacity of the asset seller) and the InvIT (in capacity of the asset buyer).

Unclaimed deposits with banks soar to ₹42,270 crore, up 28% shows Parliament data.

Compared to the preceding financial year of FY22, where the unclaimed deposits with both public and private sector banks stood at ₹32,934 crore, the current figure represents a noteworthy increase to ₹42,272 crore by the end of March 2023, marking a 28 percent rise. Of the total unclaimed deposits, a substantial sum of ₹36,185 crore remained with public sector banks, while ₹6,087 crore was attributed to private sector banks by the end of March 2023.

IRDAI introduces new corporate governance regulations for insurers.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has asked insurance companies to seek prior approval for the appointment of their Board Chairperson, effective immediately. Existing Chairperson have been given until March 31, 2026, or the end of their current terms, whichever comes first, to comply with the new regulations.

Nippon India Mutual Fund Launches Industry-First Sonic Identity: The Sound of Freedom.

Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited (NAM India), the asset manager of Nippon India Mutual Fund (NIMF), proudly announces the unveiling of its groundbreaking sonic identity -- a powerful soundscape symbolizing financial freedom. NIMF is the first asset management company (AMC) in India to launch its own brand sound. This innovative initiative underscores the company's commitment to innovation and fostering deeper connections with investors.

RXIL TReDS Surpasses INR 1Trillion (1 Lakh Crore) in Invoice Financing for MSMEs.

Receivables Exchange of India Limited (RXIL) Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform has achieved a significant milestone, facilitating financing of over 50 lac invoices worth ₹1,00,000 crore since its inception providing accessible working capital financing solutions to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India which plays a pivotal role in driving economic growth and facilitating the nation's journey towards achieving a Rs. 5 trillion economy.

SBI General Insurance signs bancassurance partnership with Jana Small Finance Bank to increase insurance penetration.

SBI General Insurance, one of India's top general insurance firms, has signed a strategic bancassurance collaboration agreement with Jana Small Finance Bank, a leading financial institution in India, to facilitate the sale of non-life insurance products. Under this strategic relationship, SBI General Insurance will provide Jana Small Finance Bank customers with a comprehensive variety of general insurance products. These products will include a broad range of insurance options, such as health, personal injury, house, auto, and travel insurance.

Inflation target of 4% will be met in second half of this financial year: RBI paper.

A durable alignment of the 4% inflation target may begin to appear from second half of the current fiscal, the central bank economists led by the deputy governor Michael Debabrata Patra, who is in charge of the monetary policy department at the Mint Road, have said in the latest monthly bulletin. The monetary policy committee is mandated to bring retail inflation at of 4%, with a leeway of 2 percentage point on either side. But the central bank has not been able to meet the target so far on a durable basis instead it had missed it during the pandemic. And three successive quarter of missing the target entails the governor to write to the government.

RBI Approves Dividend Of Rs 2.11 Lakh Crore To Government For FY24.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board approved the transfer of Rs 2,10,874 crore as surplus to the Central Government for the accounting year 2023-24. The decision was taken at Apex Bank's 608th meeting of the Central Board of Directors. Presided over by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, the board reviewed the global and domestic economic scenario, including risks to the outlook. The workings of Apex Bank during the year April 2023 – March 2024 were also discussed during the meeting.

M&M Finance Gets License from IRDAI to Enter Insurance Business.

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services has announced obtaining a certificate of registration from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for a Corporate Agency License. This licence permits Mahindra Finance to act as a corporate agent under the Insurance Act, 1938, across its extensive network of 1360+ branches. The corporate agency licence allows Mahindra Finance to broaden its product portfolio by integrating insurance solutions, aiming to meet both the financial and insurance needs of its over 10 million customers with assets of over USD 11 billion under a single entity.

TCS gets core banking transformation deal from Kuwait's Burgan Bank.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on May 22 announced that it has bagged a deal to modernize the core banking technology of Burgan Bank, a leading commercial bank in Kuwait, coming at a time when the IT services giant is seeing increased growth and demand in the emerging markets including the Middle East. TCS will help Burgan Bank consolidate multiple standalone legacy applications into a contemporary universal banking solution that drives innovation and strengthens customer relationships. Burgan Bank is one of the youngest commercial banks in Kuwait, with a regional network of over 160 branches and 360 ATMs.

Poonawalla Fincorp Limited has partnered with IndusInd Bank to introduce the IndusInd Bank Poonawalla Fincorp eLITE RuPay Platinum Credit Card.

Some key features of the credit card include no joining fee and no annual fees, rewards on every Rs 100 spent (excluding fuel), and rewards on UPI transactions. Cardholders can benefit from 2.5 times reward points on e-commerce transactions, cash credit of reward points, and a Buy One Get One movie ticket offer through BookMyShow."The 'IndusInd Bank Poonawalla Fincorp eLite RuPay Platinum credit card', which reflects our commitment to enabling dreams of our customers. By offering this card, we aim to enhance engagement with our existing customers digitally while also extending our reach to new customers," said Abhay Bhutada, MD, Poonawalla Fincorp.

IFSCA sets up committee to position GIFT CITY as global commodity trading hub.

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has set up an expert committee to position GIFT IFSC in Gujarat as a 'Global Trading Hub'. The 21-member expert committee will be chaired by Rajeev Kher, former commerce secretary, according to an official release here. The committee will propose steps to promote GIFT IFSC as a Global Commodity Trading Hub by studying how key global commodity trading centres operate, and specially identify areas with strong synergies for the GIFT IFSC financial services industry. It will also identify key groups of commodities such as metals, energy/ hydrocarbons, agricultural commodities, etc, that should be given high priority in developing the IFSC ecosystem.

MHA forms inter-ministerial panel to tackle SE Asia cybercrime threats.

A day after the Indian Embassy in Cambodia rescued 60 Indian nationals trapped in cyber fraud camps at Sihanoukville, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) announced on Wednesday that a high-level inter-ministerial committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to tackle cybercrime threats originating from southeast asia region. The committee, chaired by the MHA's special secretary for internal security, will coordinate with relevant ministries and departments like the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), social media intermediaries, and law enforcement agencies.

CDS Gen Anil Chauhan attends Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024.

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan attended 'Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024', on May 22, 2024, and underscored the importance of strengthening India's cyber defence capabilities. The comprehensive cyber defence exercise is being conducted by Defence Cyber Agency from 20 - 24 May 2024. It aims to further develop Cyber Defence Capability of all Cyber security organisations and promote synergy amongst all stakeholders. It focusses on enhancing collaboration and integration among participants from various military and prominent national organizations.

Centre extends tenure of Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande .

In a rare move, the central government on May 26 extended the tenure of Army Chief General Manoj Pande for a period of one month, just days before his scheduled superannuation. General Pande was to retire from service on May 31 after a 25-month tenure. According to the Ministry of Defence, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved one month's extension in service of Gen Pande. "The Appointments Committee of Cabinet on May 26 approved the extension in service of Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj C Pande for a period of one month, beyond his normal age of superannuation (May 31), i.e. up to June 30, under Rule 16 A (4) of the Army Rules 1954," the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

The IAF landed C-130J aircraft in Eastern Sector using night vision goggles.

The IAF has for the first time landed an aircraft using night vision goggles (NGVs) in the Eastern Sector. The C-130J aircraft Super Hercules transport aircraft was brought down safely on an advanced landing ground. Experts say this development greatly boosts the IAF's ability to operate in low-light conditions and increases its strategic advantage over its enemies

IAF chief inaugurates first-ever emergency medical response system in Bengaluru.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari has inaugurated its first-ever Emergency Medical Response System of the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Command Hospital Air Force in Bengaluru, a Defence Ministry release said on Wednesday, 22 May. The Emergency Medical Response System (EMRS), which was inaugurated on 21 May, has been set up in order to provide expert guidance and definitive care during medical emergencies of serving personnel of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and their families across the nation.

IIT Kanpur, DRDO join forces to establish DIA Centre of Excellence, to foster research in next-gen defence technology.

IIT Kanpur, in collaboration with the Defence Research and Development Organisation, inaugurates DRDO-Industry-Academia Centre of Excellence. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has joined hands with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to establish a DRDO-Industry-Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA CoE) on its campus for interdisciplinary research in next-generation defence technologies.

DRDO chief Samir V Kamat gets one-year extension.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Monday extended the tenure of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) chief Samir V Kamat by a year. According to the government order, Kamat, who was appointed to the top DRDO post on August 26, 2022, will continue in the position till May 31, 2025, following a defence ministry proposal.

Vice Admiral Gurcharan Singh takes charge as Commandant of NDA.

An alumnus of the NDA, Singh was commissioned into Indian Navy in Jul 1990. The Flag Officer has held several appointments, both afloat and ashore. As a specialist in gunnery and missiles, he has served onboard Indian Naval Ships Ranjit and Prahar. He holds the distinction of being part of the commissioning crew of three Indian constructed warships, INS Brahmaputra as gunnery officer, INS Shivalik as executive officer, and INS Kochi as commanding officer.

South Korea completes development of long-range SAM system.

The L-SAM is a part of the Korea Air and Missile Defense system, which consists of several layers of capability designed to intercept missiles from North Korea. The L-SAM can intercept missiles at an altitude of 50–60 km, and the Patriot and Cheongung II can intercept missiles at around 40 km altitude. (Janes) South Korea's Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) has completed the development of its long-range surface-to-air missile (L-SAM) system, the country's Ministry of National Defense (MND) said on 27 May.

Market capitalisation to GDP ratio scales a 15-year high of 140.2%.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of all listed companies and traded on the Bombay Stock Exchange shot up 61 percent since the end of March 2023, compared to an estimated 10 percent growth in India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current prices in FY24, according to a Business Standard report. India's mcap-to-GDP ratio has hit a 15-year high of 140.2 percent, up sharply from 95.8 percent at the end of March 2023, with the total valuation of all BSE-listed companies reaching \$5 trillion or over Rs 414.46 trillion on May 21 as against India's GDP at current prices of Rs 296.6 trillion in FY24.

Disney to sell 30% Tata Play stake to Tata Group; transaction valued at \$1 billion.

Walt Disney has finalised a deal to sell its minority stake in the subscription television broadcaster Tata Play to the Tata Group, according to a report by Bloomberg. The transaction values the satellite TV provider, Tata Play, at about \$1 billion. The Tata Group took full control of the platform after buying the 29.8 per cent stake from Disney. Disney signed a binding agreement in late February to combine its India unit with billionaire Mukesh Ambani's media arm, 'Viacom 18 Media Pvt', creating an \$8.5 billion entertainment juggernaut that will have over 750 million viewers and dominate the media sector in India.

Sebi Amends Rule to Facilitate Ease of Doing Business for Companies Planning IPOs.

The promoter group entities and non-individual shareholders holding more than 5 per cent of the post-offer equity share capital can be permitted to contribute towards the shortfall in minimum promoters' contribution (MPC) without being identified as a promoter, according to a notification issued by Sebi. Companies promoted by entrepreneurs often have several rounds of funding prior to listing their equity shares on the stock exchanges. In such situations, the promoters' holding may fall short of the minimum promoter contribution i.e., 20 per cent of the post-offer equity share capital. While the current ICDR (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) rule permits certain categories of investors to contribute equity shares held by them towards the shortfall, further flexibility has been provided.

India 'sees' its third unicorn of 2024 in logistics services platform Porter.

Logistics startup Porter has become the third unicorn this year, following an internal funding round where friends and family purchased shares directly from the company's employee stock ownership plan, according to sources familiar with the matter. Moneycontrol was the first to report the news, which said 15-20 individuals bought shares worth Rs 25 crore in the company, at a valuation of above \$1 billion. Earlier this year, fintech firm Perfios and Ola's AI venture Krutrim had turned unicorns. As per Tracxn, there were 113 unicorns in India as of earlier this month.

Global carbon pricing revenues reached record USD 104 billion in 2023, milestone in climate action:WB Report

A World Bank report reveals that countries with carbon pricing mechanisms generated a record \$104 billion in revenues last year. Over half of the funds were directed towards climate and nature-related programs. Carbon pricing, implemented through carbon taxes or emissions trading systems (ETS), is critical for reducing emissions and fostering low-emission growth. Despite this achievement, the report emphasizes that current carbon taxes and emissions trading schemes remain

insufficient to meet the Paris Agreement's climate goals. Although 24% of global emissions are covered by some form of carbon pricing, less than 1% are subject to prices high enough to limit temperature increases to below 2°C.

India's merchandise exports may grow to \$500-510 bn in FY25 projected by FIEO

Merchandise exports from India may grow to \$500-510 billion in the current financial year (FY25) after witnessing a 3 per cent contraction in the last financial year (FY24), Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), the apex body for exporters, said on Thursday. Services exports could be worth \$390-400 billion, pushing the country's total exports to around \$890-910 billion, FIEO President Ashwani Kumar told reporters. This will be driven by sectors such as engineering, and advertising services, among others. Expansion of the global capability centre and their businesses are expected to further push exports. India's total exports stood at \$778 billion in FY24.

Credit growth to slip 200 bps to 14% in FY25 on revision in risk weights, slower GDP growth: CRISIL

Bank credit growth is likely to decelerate by 200 bps to 14 percent on year this fiscal primarily because of the economy losing its sheen this fiscal, partly due to a high base, says a report. Strong economic activity and retail credit demand drove loan growth last fiscal to a robust 16 percent. This fiscal, however, growth will be tempered by the high base effect, a revision in risk weights and a slower economy.

WEF founder, executive chairman Klaus Schwab to step back from current role.

Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF), will step back from his current role and become chairman of the board of trustees by next January, the organization said on Tuesday. The Geneva-based institution said in an emailed statement it was undergoing a planned "governance evolution" from a founder-managed organization to one where the president and the managing board assume full executive responsibility.

India's energy major, IndianOil, exported its first-ever parcel of the superior 100 octane premium fuel, XP100 from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) on Saturday.

This milestone of exporting XP100 to Sri Lanka symbolises IndianOil's ambition to become a global energy player, recognized not just for the scale of operations but also for the quality of products and contributions to a sustainable future. Flagging off the inaugural shipment, V. Satish Kumar, Director (Marketing), IndianOil stated "Today marks a momentous occasion as another one of our products moves out to conquer new markets in Sri Lanka. This is the third time we are taking a product offshore, showcasing our potential to send quality products from India to the world."

GDP growth to dip to a four-quarter low of 6.7% in Q4 FY2024 from 8.4% in Q3: ICRA.

ICRA has projected the year-on-year (YoY) expansion of the GDP to moderate to a four-quarter low 6.7% in Q4 FY2024 from 8.4% in Q3 FY2024. Further, the growth in the gross value added (GVA) is estimated to ease to 5.7% in Q4 FY2024 from 6.5% in Q3 FY2024, driven by the industrial (to +7.9% from +10.4%) and services (to +6.2% from +7.0%) sectors. The agricultural GVA is expected to contract for the second straight quarter in Q4 FY2024 (-0.5%), at a pace similar to Q3 (-0.8%), amid weak trends in the rabi output (barring wheat) and concerns related to yields.

SBI Research says, India's GDP growth likely to touch 8 % in financial year 2024.

The State Bank of India (SBI) yesterday released a report anticipating India's GDP growth 7.4% in the fourth quarter of the financial year 2023-24, while the overall growth could touch 8%. The report released by the SBI's Economic Research department highlights the potential impact of global economic resilience on India's growth trajectory. The report identifies a consistent growth trend across both urban and rural sectors in India. Urban economic momentum is indicated by strong performance in passenger vehicle sales, airport passenger traffic, GST collections, credit card transactions, petroleum consumption, and toll collection. On the other hand, Rural economic indicators also show a positive trend, with diesel consumption and two-wheeler sales increasing.

SEBI Introduces New Framework For Unaffected Price Determination And Market Rumour Verification.

To facilitate ease of business, and protect stock prices from volatility arising out of market rumours, the Securities and Exchanges Board of India (Sebi) has issued new guidelines in which a concept of 'unaffected price' is presented. In a circular on May 21, 2024, Sebi reiterated that listed companies must verify and respond to market rumours when stock price changes occur due to rumours.

NSE to launch 1 paisa tick size for stocks below Rs 250.

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has introduced one Paisa tick size for all stocks below Rs 250 per share. "Exchange has informed about revision in tick size of securities price below Rs 250 in Capital Market Segment (CM Segment) of NSE. The stock futures shall have the same tick size as applicable for underlying security in CM Segment," NSE stated.

SEBI tweaks dynamic price bands for scrips in derivatives segment.

At present, the conditions precedent for flexing is minimum of 25 trades to be executed with minimum five different UCCs on each side of the trade at or above 9.90

per cent and so on. This has been revised to a minimum of 50 trades, 10 unique UCCs and 3 trading members on each side to take care of issues related to sudden price movement, fat finger error, etc. For the first two instances of flexing, the price band would be flexed by 5 per cent of yesterday's closing price after the cooling off period. This cooling off period would be 15 minutes if conditions for flexing are satisfied before last half an hour of trading and 5 minutes if conditions for flexing are satisfied in the last half an hour of trading.

Ligdus Garvale a new spider species found in Karnataka.

A team of naturalists recently documented a new spider species named 'Ligdus Garvale' from Garvale, a village nestled in the Somwarpet taluk of the Kodagu district, Karnataka. Jumping spiders are the largest family of spiders, with more than 6,380 species (family Salticidae). They are known for their ability to jump and pounce upon their prey. They are very common in the tropics, but some also live in northern and even Arctic regions.

Rangelands are facing a 'silent demise', suffering losses as high as 50%.

A new report by the United Nations paints a concerning picture of the world's rangelands, with up to 50 per cent estimated to be degraded. This figure is nearly double the previous estimates that ranged from 20-35 per cent, the land outlook report on rangelands and pastoralists highlighted. Past estimates of degraded rangeland worldwide significantly understated the actual loss of rangeland health and productivity, which could be as much as 50 per cent, agreed over 60 expert contributors from over 40 countries of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in the report. The report, Global Land Outlook Thematic Report on Rangelands and Pastoralists, was released May 21, 2024.

New Algal Species Discovered in Kerala's Western Ghats by Phycologists.

Scientists from Catholicate College's Department of Botany have found a new species of algae. This is a big step forward in our knowledge of the variety in the Western Ghats, an area of India's mountains known for its many plant and animal species. The researchers Merin Grace Jiji, Binoy T. Thomas, and Thomas V.P. found this new species of algae in the forests of the Kumbhavuruttu region in the Kollam district. They have called it *Oedocladium sahyadricum*. The Western Ghats have unique weather and soil conditions that make it possible for a wide range of land microalgae to grow.

MoRTH announces new rules for driver's license & RTO tests from 1 June.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has announced new rules and regulations effective from June 1, 2024 to streamline and simplify the process for

licence seekers. The new regulations include a simplified documentation process and the option to take driving tests at private, government-authorised driving training centres instead of the Regional Transport Office (RTOs). The new rules will also introduce stricter penalties for traffic violations. Fines for driving without a valid licence have increased, ranging from Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000. If a minor (under 18 years) is caught driving, their parents will face legal action and a fine of Rs 25,000. In addition, the vehicle's registration certificate will be revoked, and the minor will be ineligible for a licence until they turn 25.

The National Health Claim Exchange (NHCX) one-stop-portal is likely to be launched in the next two-three months by Government.

The government is planning to launch a Unified portal that will process health insurance claims across hospitals all over the country. The new portal will use a common data collection format that will contain all the information needed by different insurance companies. It will aim to speed-up the pre-authorisation time and discharge approvals, and bring down insurance premiums in the future.

International Day to end obstetric fistula - may 23.

Obstetric fistula is a hole between the birth canal and bladder or rectum, caused by prolonged, obstructed labour without access to timely, high-quality medical treatment. It leaves women and girls leaking urine, faeces or both, and often leads to chronic medical problems, depression, social isolation and deepening poverty. Ninety percent of pregnancies involving fistula end in stillbirth. The global landscape of maternal health has seen significant strides in recent years, yet the specter of obstetric fistula persists, particularly in lower- and middle-income countries. While pregnancy and childbirth are generally safer than ever before, thousands of women still endure the devastating consequences of obstetric fistula annually. This childbirth injury, resulting from prolonged and obstructed labor, is not just a medical issue but a reflection of systemic inequalities ingrained within societies.

World Turtle Day - May 23

Every year, World Turtle Day is observed to spread awareness about the habitat and lifestyle of turtles and tortoises. This is also an occasion to ask people to understand them better and also contribute to their well-being. World Turtle Day® was begun by American Tortoise Rescue, a nonprofit organization established in 1990 for the protection of all species of tortoise and turtle. The day was created as a yearly observance to help people celebrate and protect turtles and tortoises and their disappearing habitats around the world.

International Day for Biological Diversity - May 22

The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. When first created by the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly in late 1993, 29 December (the date of entry into force of the Convention of Biological Diversity), was designated The International Day for Biological Diversity. In December 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted 22 May as IDB, to commemorate the adoption of the text of the Convention on 22 May 1992 by the Nairobi Final Act of the Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This was partly done because it was difficult for many countries to plan and carry out suitable celebrations for the date of 29 December, given the number of holidays that coincide around that time of year.

International Day for Women in Maritime - May 18

May 18th is the International Day for Women in Maritime, an annual event initiated by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) of the United Nations. The purpose of this day is to highlight women's participation in the industry and emphasize the efforts to include more women. The maritime sector is an international industry with significant competition. This industry, which includes shipping companies, shipyards, equipment, and service providers, ensures value creation and employment along the entire coast. The sector must attract labor and maintain its competitive edge in the face of societal changes, and it is crucial to ensure recruitment from the entire population. The Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Policy encourages everyone to mark this important day and to support women in the maritime industry

World Schizophrenia Awareness Day 2024 - May 24.

On World Schizophrenia Awareness Day, Professor Chris Langmead, Director of the Neuromedicines Discovery Centre, highlighted the urgent need for new safe and effective medicines to treat schizophrenia, a mental health condition that affects more than 20 million people worldwide. Australia has a growing number of leaders across drug development, psychiatry, psychology and public health, with the combined expertise to not only address the societal issue of severe mental illness.

Indian Commonwealth day is celebrated on 24th MAY.

Each year on 24th May, Commonwealth Day is commemorated. Commonwealth Day is observed on the birthday of Queen Victoria of England, who was born on 24th May, 1819, and is observed by all countries which were once a colony of the British Empire. Commonwealth Day is observed on various dates all across the globe. On the 2nd Monday of March, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada commemorate the day. On the other hand, on 24th May, India, alongside countries such as Belize, commemorates Commonwealth Day. Every year, the Commonwealth Day has a theme, and the day is commemorated in such a way that it honours and instils that theme in the United Kingdom as well as in the rest of the Commonwealth.

World Vape Day is observed on May 30.

On May 30, the vaping community worldwide will be celebrating harm reduction efforts around the globe. The choice of date is not coincidental and falls just one day before the World No Tobacco Day proclaimed by the WHO: precisely to showcase that vaping and other harm reduction tools are one of the most efficient ways to help smokers quit.

Inaugural International Day of Potato — May 30, 2024.

More than 15 years ago, the potato industry gathered together in 2008 to celebrate the United Nations (UN) International Year of Potato. At the time it pushed the crop forward in the public eye raising its profile. As the years passed, those in the potato industry felt there was more they could do to continue the year's legacy.

International Everest Day is a chance to celebrate this amazing natural wonder. - May 29.

Mount Everest is renowned all over the globe for being the tallest mountain there is! Many people dream of one day seeing this gigantic elevation in person, and perhaps even climbing its formidable slopes and summiting its awe-inspiring peak. Attempts to climb Mount Everest began in the 1920s, with various expeditions led by the British. While several climbers made it close to the summit, it wasn't until 1953 during the ninth expedition that this ultimate feat was finally accomplished by Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary.

The Theme for World Digestive Health Day 2024 is "Your Digestive Health: Make It a Priority".

WGO seeks to raise awareness of digestive health through its annual public advocacy and awareness campaign, World Digestive Health Day. WGO is pleased to announce that this year's WDHD theme is Your Digestive Health: Make It A Priority. WDHD is celebrated each year on 29th May with associated events, activities, and initiatives continuing throughout and beyond the campaign year.

International Day of Action for Women's Health 2024 serves as a reminder for women to pay attention to their health. - May 28

The International Day of Action for Women's Health is an annual event that aims to raise awareness about women's health issues and promote the importance of prioritising women's health in global policies and programs. In this article, we have focussed on how increasing protein intake can contribute to healthy ageing in women.

World Hunger Day is an annual day focused on raising awareness and encouraging action to end world hunger - May 28.

May 28 — is World Hunger Day, an annual day focused on raising awareness and encouraging action to end world hunger. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, as many as 783 million people face hunger globally. That is almost 10% of the world's population, making this an issue of critical importance. Everyone deserves consistent access to the food they need to live a healthy life — and together, we can mobilize to eradicate hunger. That's what World Hunger Day is all about! Keep reading to learn more about the annual holiday and how you can get involved.

International Missing Children's Day is observed on 25th May.

International Missing Children's Day is an international day celebrated on May 25th, the same day as the United States' National Missing Children's Day designated by Ronald Reagan in 1983. It is a day dedicated to raising awareness about the issue of missing children, highlighting the efforts made to find and bring them back safely, and supporting the families affected by these tragedies.

May 25th is World Thyroid Day.

In 2008, the 25th of May was named World Thyroid Day (WTD) by the European Thyroid Association (ETA) and, since 2010, the Day has been endorsed by our sister Associations, The American Thyroid Association (ATA), the Latin Thyroid Association (LATS), and the Asian Oceanic Thyroid Association (AOTA). WTD highlights the dedication of the endocrine community—clinicians, researchers, teachers, and nurses—to the thyroid and its diseases and underlines the strong and constant bond between us and our patients.

International Markhor day, first time celebrated in 2024 - May 24

The markhor was categorized as “near threatened” in 2014 and is on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species, and has been included in Appendix I to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora since 1992. Besides its ecological value, the markhor is a valuable species that contributes to the local economy. Preserving the markhor and its natural habitat is an ecological imperative and a significant opportunity to bolster the regional economy, foster conservation efforts and promote sustainable tourism and economic growth and that conservation efforts will benefit the ecosystem.

World Menstrual Hygiene Day is a time to spotlight the importance of menstrual health- May 28

On May 28, we mark World Menstrual Hygiene Day, a time to spotlight the importance of menstrual health, which must be recognized as the complete physical, mental, and social well-being of women and girls in relation to the menstrual cycle.

Menstrual hygiene is the ability of women and adolescent girls to manage their menstruation in a hygienic manner, with dignity, using clean menstrual absorbents, and having access to facilities for changing in privacy, as well as for washing their bodies and hands.

Celebrating the beautiful game of FOOTBALL on World Football Day.- 25th May

The year 2024 holds special significance as it marks the 100th anniversary of the first international football tournament in history. On 25 May 1924, during the summer Olympic Games held in Paris, teams from all regions came together to compete. Little did they know that their passion for the sport would lay the foundation for a global phenomenon – one that transcends borders and unites people across cultures.

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development - May 21

Held every year on 21 May, UNESCO leads the celebration of World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development highlighting not only the richness of the world's cultures, but also the essential role of intercultural dialogue for achieving peace and sustainable development. With 89% of all current conflicts in the world occurring in countries with low intercultural dialogue, to forge effective cooperation and sustain peace, strengthening intercultural dialogue must be a priority.

International Tea Day 2024 - May 21

On May 21, the world observes International Tea Day. The day is devoted to recognising the contributions of the tea industry and promoting fair trade and investment in the area. This year, the event is set to be celebrated on Tuesday. International Tea Day includes giving recognition to tea and the people who work in the tea business. The most effective way to celebrate this day is by assisting with bringing issues to light in regards to the working conditions of workers in the tea business. This day is significant and everybody must take part in the exercises.

National Anti-Terrorism Day - May 21

Every year it is observed throughout the country on 21st May. The day is marked by a pledge taking ceremony among other activities. The Day is observed to generate awareness in the country among all sections of people, about the danger of terrorism and violence and its effect on the people, society and the country as a whole. It was on this day in 1991 that former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi fell to the designs of terrorists. The objective behind the observance of Anti-Terrorism Day is to wean away the people from terrorism and violence. On the occasion, debates, discussions, symposia, seminars, lectures, etc. are held in schools, colleges and universities on the dangers of terrorism and violence.

India ranks 39th on the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism

Development, USA tops.

The World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024 has been released, with India ranking 39th, the highest in South Asia. India's new ranking is a notable improvement from its 54th position in the 2021 index. However, it is important to note that changes made to the index parameters since the last report in 2021 make direct comparisons challenging.

IISc Bangalore top Indian institute in THE's Asia University Rankings 2023.

The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, emerged as India's highest-ranked university in the Times Higher Education's (THE) Asia University Rankings 2023. In the full rankings, which were released for Asian universities on Thursday, it stood at 48th place. In India, IISc was followed by JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, Bengaluru, which ranked 68th in Asia. Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences, Solan, ranked 77th in Asia and third in the country.

Global Cities Index 2024: Delhi better than Mumbai in economy, quality of life; UP's Sultanpur takes last spot on list.

Delhi is the best among Indian cities in Oxford Economics' 1,000 global cities ranking released on Tuesday. The national capital, however, ranks 350 on the global list. Several other Indian cities have taken much lower positions in the chart. According to the report, Delhi fared better than Mumbai in several parameters, including Economics, Human Capital, and Quality of Life. Delhi was worse in the Environment ranking, while all the Indian cities ranked 380 in Governance.

Indian-Born Nikesh Arora, Second-Highest Paid CEO In The US.

Indian-born Nikesh Arora, the CEO of Palo Alto Networks, has landed the second spot on The Wall Street Journal's 2023 list of highest-paid CEOs in the US. With a compensation of \$151.43 million, the 56-year-old's earnings have surpassed those of many tech giants, like Meta's Mark Zuckerberg and Google's Sundar Pichai.

Reliance backed Radisys forms consortium to set up telecom network in Ghana.

Reliance backed Radisys has formed a consortium called Next-Gen Infra Co (NGIC) which will set up a 4G and 5G network for the Government of Ghana in collaboration with Nokia, Mahindra Tech, Ascend Digital, K-NET and Mobile Network Operators (MNOs), AT Ghana and Telecel Ghana. As part of the Reliance Industries family, Radisys, enables service providers to become digital experience providers through open platforms and solutions, offering digital endpoints, access and core solutions, and applications, supported by expert lifecycle services for scalable, high-performance networks, a company statement said.

DAHD and UNDP signs MoU on Digitalization of Vaccine Cold Chain Management, Capacity Building, and Communication Planning.

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India on Digitalization of Vaccine Cold Chain Management, Capacity Building, and Communication Planning. The MOU was signed today at "We the People Hall", UNDP Country office, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi between Smt. Alka Upadhyay, Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Ms. Caitlin Wiesen, UNDP India Resident Representative a.i. This strategic partnership aims to enhance the digitalization of vaccine cold chain management, capacity building, and communication planning in India.

Airbus Helicopters and SIDBI Sign an MoU for Helicopter Financing in India.

Airbus Helicopters and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the Government of India's principal financial institution for promoting, financing and developing the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for financing the purchase of Airbus' helicopters in India. The MoU was signed by Rahul Priyadarshi, Chief General Manager, SIDBI and Sunny Guglani, Head of Airbus Helicopters, India and South Asia. Under the MoU, both Airbus Helicopters and SIDBI will identify potential civil helicopter operators in India who are interested in financing solutions for purchasing Airbus helicopters. Airbus will provide the technical and helicopter industry knowledge to SIDBI who will evaluate these prospects and finance them exclusively for Airbus.

Spain becomes 99th member of International Solar Alliance.

Spain has become the 99th member of the International Solar Alliance. Spain handed over the International Solar Alliance Instrument of Ratification during the meeting between Spain's Ambassador to India, Jose Maria Ridao Domkinguez, and Head of Depository, Joint Secretary (ED and MER), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Abhishek Singh in New Delhi on Wednesday, MEA official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

RITES signs pact with Bangladesh Railway to supply 200 passenger coaches.

State-owned RITES Limited signed a contract with Bangladesh Railways on Monday to supply 200 broad-gauge passenger carriages to the neighbouring country. "The export arm of Indian Railways, RITES, has won the USD 111.26 million (approximately Rs 915 crore) contract, funded by European Investment Bank, through a global competitive bidding process," a press statement from RITES Limited said. It added that besides supply, RITES will offer its expertise in design, spare parts support and training as per the terms and conditions of the contract.

Tata Steel has signed an agreement with National Grid Plc's Electricity System Operator to build the power infrastructure required to switch its Port Talbot site to a green steel project.

The deal will see the British grid operator build the new electrical framework capable of powering the Indian company's 3.2 million-ton electric arc furnace by the end of 2027. "This will help us replace our aging and carbon-intensive blast furnaces with a state-of-the-art electric arc furnace capable of producing our customers' most demanding steel products," said Rajesh Nair, chief executive of Tata Steel.

Axis bank partners with VST tillers tractors ltd to offer financial solution to farmers for farm equipments.

VST Tillers Tractors Limited (VST), India's leading farm equipment manufacturer, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Axis Bank, one of the leading private sector banks in India, to offer financial solutions to the farmers for purchasing tractors and Farm Mechanisation products. As per the agreement, Axis Bank will provide financial solutions to VST's prospective customers through its extensive network of 5370+ branches spread across geography.

Azad Engineering bags contract for advanced turbo gas generator engine from DRDO lab GTRE .

Azad Engineering has bagged a DRDO laboratory Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) contract for end-to-end manufacturing, assembly and integration of completely-assembled advanced turbo gas generator engine. We have now expanded our manufacturing capabilities to provide end-to-end production for a fully assembled advanced turbo engine, creating a massive opportunity to build a complete solution for propulsion system for the country and global defence requirements, says Chairman and CEO Rakesh Chopdar.

India says WIPO treaty a significant win for Global South.

The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) treaty is a "significant win" for India and the Global South as it will help in protecting traditional knowledge of these countries, a commerce and industry ministry statement said. The agreement could be reached after a two-week long deliberation involving 192 countries and 86 observers who participated from May 13-24 at the diplomatic conference in Geneva. (AFP)

Indian Oil Hands Over Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus To Indian Army.

In a significant milestone towards promoting sustainable, eco-friendly transportation solutions, Indian Oil has handed over a state-of-the-art green hydrogen fuel cell bus to the Indian Army. The handing over and signing ceremony was held at the National War Memorial, India Gate, New Delhi, in the presence of Army Chief General Manoj

Pande and Chairman of Indian Oil S M Vaidya. This initiative aims to promote hydrogen and fuel cell technology for heavy-duty e-mobility, positioning the Indian Army as a pioneer in evaluating this technology in collaboration with Indian Oil.

Reliance's pact with Norway's Nel to accelerate new energy investments.

Reliance Industries Ltd's technology partnership with Norway's Nel ASA will help accelerate its new energy investments, including in the production of green hydrogen that will aid billionaire Mukesh Ambani's pivot towards green energy. Reliance (RIL) on May 21 entered into a technology licensing agreement that provides the company with an exclusive license for Nel's alkaline electrolyzers in India and also allows it to manufacture the Norwegian company's alkaline electrolyzers for captive purposes globally.

NSDC and ILO forge strategic partnership to enhance Skill Development and Lifelong Learning.

Advancing the Skill Mission, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) today announced a strategic partnership to advance skill development and lifelong learning in India and globally. This collaboration aims to empower individuals across the globe, by equipping them with essential competencies and qualifications, thereby enhancing employability and sustainable economic growth. Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, MSDE, and other officials of the Ministry were present in the event.

(BHEL) has signed a technology transfer agreement with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) for a 50 kW alkaline electrolyser system.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has entered into a Technology Transfer Agreement (TTA) with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) for 50 kW alkaline electrolyser systems for Hydrogen production. The well proven technology offered by BARC is indigenously developed and has high local material content. The agreement was signed in the presence of Mr. Jai Prakash Srivastava, Director (Engineering, Research & Development), BHEL, by Mr. K. Ravishankar, Executive Director (Corporate Technology Management and Corp R&D), BHEL and Dr. S. Adhikari, Associate Director (Knowledge Management Group), BARC.

MEA, MeitY and CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd sign MoU to provide eMigrate services through Common Services Centres.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is entered into between Ministry External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India and CSC eGovernance Services India Limited to create a synergy between CSC SPV & MEA to provide the eMigrate

services through CSCs in the country. eMigrate project is undertaken to assist mainly the blue-collar workers going to Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries. The project was conceptualized to address issues faced by the migrant workers by making emigration process online seamless and also to bring foreign employers and registered recruitment agents and insurance companies on one common platform aimed at promoting safe and legal migration.

India announces immediate relief assistance worth US\$ 1 million to Papua New Guinea in the wake of devastating landslide.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed deep condolences and conveyed India's readiness to extend all possible support and assistance to the Pacific island country in its time of difficulty. As a close friend and partner under the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) and as a gesture of solidarity with the friendly people of Papua New Guinea, Government of India extends an immediate relief assistance of US\$ 1 million to support relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

GAIL inaugurates 10 MW green Hydrogen Plant in Madhya Pradesh.

State-owned GAIL (India) Ltd's maiden green hydrogen plant at Vijaipur in Madhya Pradesh has been commissioned, making a major step for the nation's largest natural gas transmission and distribution firm's foray into new and alternate energy, the company said. The 10-megawatt proton exchange membrane electrolyser for the green-hydrogen producing unit at the Vijaipur complex has been imported from Canada.

South Africa's central bank fines SBI over compliance.

The Prudential Authority, South Africa's central bank, has imposed administrative sanctions and a penalty on SBI for violating anti-money laundering laws in the country. In a statement to the exchanges, SBI said that the 10 million rand (Rs 4.5 crore) penalty was imposed "for not complying with certain provisions of the Financial Intelligence Centre Act" . Section 45C of South Africa's Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) Act 38 of 2001 empowers the FIC to issue directives to ensure compliance with the Act. This section enables the FIC to take measures to address issues related to money laundering.

Rationalisation of govt bodies: WCD ministry 'officially' dissolves Food and Nutrition Board.

A board responsible for providing technical and logistical support for functioning of community nutrition programmes has been "officially dissolved" as part of a plan for rationalisation of government bodies. The Food and Nutrition Board has been shut down by the Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry. It was a technical wing of the ministry headquartered at the Centre in Delhi.

PLFS records Delhi's employment rate lowest, Kerala's highest in Q4 FY24.

Kerala recorded the highest unemployment rate among the 15-29 age group in urban areas for the January-March quarter of 2024, while Delhi had the lowest joblessness rate, according to the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI). The overall unemployment rate for the 15-29 age group was 17 per cent for the January-March period, an increase from 16.5 per cent in the previous quarter but slightly lower than the 17.3 per cent reported in the same period in 2023. For all age groups, the unemployment rate was 6.7 per cent, marginally up from 6.5 per cent in the previous quarter and slightly below the 6.8 per cent from the previous year.

EPFO created 11.4% more formal jobs in 2023-24 at 15.4 million, shows payroll data.

Formal job creation under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation went up by 11.4% in 2023-24 to 15.4 million as against 13.85 million formal jobs created in 2022-23, shows the government data. Provisional payroll data, released by the retirement fund body on Monday, shows 1.44 million net members were added to EPFO in March, 2024 vis-a-vis 1.54 million added in February. According to the ministry of labour and employment, the March data shows 0.74 million new members were added during the month under consideration with new members joining EPFO in the 18-25 age group constituting 56.83% of the total new members added in March 2024.

Oscar-Winning Polish Composer Jan AP Kaczmarek Dies at 71.

Polish composer Jan A.P. Kaczmarek, who won a 2005 Oscar for the score of Finding Neverland, died Tuesday at 71. His death, caused by a rare neurological disorder called MSA, was announced by Poland's Music Foundation and confirmed by his wife. Kaczmarek composed music for both European and Hollywood films, including Total Eclipse (1995) and Unfaithful (2002).

Fred Roos, Oscar-Winning Producer of 'The Godfather Part II,' Dies at 89.

Fred Roos, the Oscar-winning producer of The Godfather Part II and longtime collaborator of Francis Ford Coppola, died on Saturday, just days after his and Coppola's latest film, Megalopolis, premiered at the Cannes Film Festival. Roos was 89. "Fred Roos possessed a casting instinct that was near infallible: so beautifully demonstrated in American Graffiti and The Outsiders," Coppola wrote on social media following news of Roos' passing. "He was a great lifelong friend and collaborator with, above all, a true love for movies... He was a unique talent and will certainly be missed."

Albert Ruddy, Oscar-winning producer of 'The Godfather' and 'Million Dollar Baby,' dies at 94.

Albert S. Ruddy, a colorful, Canadian-born producer and writer who won Oscars for *The Godfather* and *Million Dollar Baby*, developed the raucous prison-sports comedy *The Longest Yard* and helped create the hit sitcom *Hogan's Heroes*, has died at age 94. Ruddy died "peacefully" Saturday at the UCLA Medical Center, according to a spokesperson, who added that among his final words were, "The game is over, but we won the game."

Richard M. Sherman, Oscar-winning composer who co-wrote songs for 'Mary Poppins,' 'It's a Small World,' dies at 95.

Composer Richard M Sherman, who wrote songs for Disney film classics such as *Mary Poppins* has died aged 95 in Beverly Hills. Sherman partnered with his late brother Robert, and the pair won two Oscars in 1965 for their work on *Mary Poppins*. Some of the brothers' best-known compositions include the *Jungle Book*'s *Trust in Me* and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*'s *Truly Scrumptious*.

Chennai startup Agnikul Cosmos launches world's first 3D-printed rocket engine.

The Agnibaan rocket is capable of carrying up to 300 kg payload to a 700 km high orbit. The complexity in Agnikul's rocket launch arises from the fact that the launch vehicle 'Agnibaan SOrTeD' is using India's first semi-cryogenic engine, which uses a mix of liquid and gas for propellant. Srinath Ravichandran, co-founder and CEO, Agnikul Cosmos, said, "This is the culmination of 1000s of hours of reviews and hard work by the team. We are blessed to have had the opportunity and the full support of IN-SPACE and ISRO to design and build original space worthy hardware in India."

Doordarshan Kisan unveils first government TV channel with new AI anchors 'Krish' and 'Bhoomi'.

Today, Doordarshan Kisan has launched its first government television channel. DD Kisan was established by the government of India in 2015. The channel has also introduced two AI anchors named 'AI Krish' and 'AI Bhoomi'. These anchors can reportedly speak in about 50 different languages. The aim of 'Doordarshan Kisan' is to give farmers information about farming research, market trends, weather updates, and government programmes. The channel will be available to farmers in every state across the country.

NASA Launches Small Climate Satellite to Study Earth's Poles.

The first of a pair of climate satellites designed to study heat emissions at Earth's poles for NASA is in orbit after lifting off atop Rocket Lab's Electron rocket from the company's Launch Complex 1 in Māhia, New Zealand at 7:41 p.m. NZST (3:41 a.m.

EDT) on Saturday. The agency's PREFIRE (Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-InfraRed Experiment) mission consists of two shoebox-size cube satellites, or CubeSats, that will measure the amount of heat Earth radiates into space from two of the coldest, most remote regions on the planet. Data from the PREFIRE mission will help researchers better predict how Earth's ice, seas, and weather will change in a warming world.

SpaceX Launches First Satellites For New US Spy Constellation.

SpaceX on Wednesday launched an inaugural batch of operational spy satellites it built as part of a new U.S. intelligence network designed to significantly upgrade the country's space-based surveillance powers, the first deployment of several more planned this year. The spy network was revealed in a pair of Reuters reports earlier this year showing SpaceX is building hundreds of satellites for the U.S. National Reconnaissance Office, an intelligence agency, for a vast system in orbit capable of rapidly spotting ground targets almost anywhere in the world.

Microsoft unveils new Copilot+ PCs featuring advanced AI capabilities.

Microsoft has launched a new type of personal computer designed with AI capabilities, underscoring the company's commitment to integrating cutting-edge technology across its product lineup. This new category not only boosts Microsoft's ventures but also positions it to compete directly with AI-led advancements from tech giants such as Alphabet and Apple. During an event at Microsoft's campus in Redmond, Washington, CEO Satya Nadella unveiled the Copilot+ PCs. These computers, developed in collaboration with manufacturers like Acer and Asustek Computer, align with Microsoft's stock prices reaching near all-time highs amid Wall Street's expectations that AI will significantly boost earnings for major tech firms.

GalaxEye tests SAR sensor tech on NAL's pseudo-satellite.

Bengaluru-based space technology startup GalaxEye announced on Tuesday the successful testing of its Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) technology on a subscale High Altitude Pseudo-Satellite (HAPS) developed by the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL). HAPS systems operate from the stratosphere like high-flying drones. They are enabled for prolonged periods of aerial surveillance by solar energy and advanced battery systems. SAR comes with the advantage of all-weather, all-time imaging capabilities.

TCS Partners With IIT-Bombay To Develop India's First Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager.

This project strengthens the long-standing partnership between TCS and IIT-Bombay, which includes various collaborative initiatives since the 1990s. In an exchange filing, TCS announced that the company has formed a strategic partnership with IIT Bombay to build India's first Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager. As per the reports,

this cutting-edge sensing instrument has the potential to transform the precise inspection of semiconductor chips, lower chip failure rates, and improve the energy efficiency of electronic equipment.

Magnus Carlsen triumphs in first Casablanca Chess Variant Tournament.

The inaugural Casablanca Chess tournament took place over the weekend of May 18-19, 2024. This unique event featured chess grandmasters Magnus Carlsen, Hikaru Nakamura, Viswanathan Anand, and Amin Basseem competing in the new "Casablanca chess variant," a format designed to honor the history of chess. The play began from positions taken from historical games, chosen by Grandmasters Hicham Hamdouchi and Laurent Fressinet.

Elorda Cup 2024: Nikhat, Minakshi win gold as India finishes with 12 medals.

Reigning world champion Nikhat Zareen and Minakshi clinched gold medals as the Indian team concluded their Elorda Cup 2024 campaign with 12 medals in Astana, Kazakhstan on Saturday. Nikhat (52kg) continued her dominance in the ongoing prestigious tournament as she outclassed Zhazira Urakbayeva of Kazakhstan with an unanimous 5-0 scoreline to add yet another gold medal to her coveted medal tally.

IOC Launches 'Let's Move India' Campaign To Inspire People To Celebrate Athletes At Paris Olympics.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has announced the launch of 'Let's Move India', an initiative to inspire people to celebrate the athletes participating in the upcoming Olympic Games in Paris. The move invites people from across the country to join the movement through a digital challenge on social media. According to a press release, young people can take part in a series of regional school initiatives to coincide with Olympic Day on June 23. Starting today, people are encouraged to recreate their favourite athlete celebrations or create their own, aiming to inspire and celebrate the Olympians heading to Paris 2024, who will be representing their 1.4 billion compatriots from July 26.

Pakistan's Shahid Afridi Joins Yuvraj Singh, Chris Gayle As Tournament Ambassador For ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

Legendary Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi is the latest addition to the roster of ambassadors for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, which will be held in West Indies and USA in June. Afridi joins an elite panel of iconic names, including Yuvraj Singh, Chris Gayle and Usain Bolt. Afridi played a key role in Pakistan's journey to the final of the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007 and their triumphant campaign in the 2009 edition at Lord's.

Indian women's compound team wins gold medal in Yecheon in Archery World Cup 2024.

The Indian women's compound team of Aditi Swami, Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Parneet Kaur won the gold medal at the Archery World Cup 2024 Stage 2 in Yecheon, Republic of Korea on Saturday. The Indian women's compound archery team, ranked world No. 1, got the better of Turkiye's Hazal Burun, Ayse Bera Suzer and Begum Yuva in the gold medal match with a scoreline of 232-226.

Dipa Karmakar Becomes First Indian Gymnast To Win Gold In Asian Senior Championships.

Leading gymnast Dipa Karmakar made history on Sunday by becoming the first Indian to win a gold medal at the Asian Senior Championships, clinching the title in the women's vault. Competing in Uzbekistan's capital, the 30-year-old Dipa achieved an average score of 13.566 in the vault final on the competition's last day. North Korean gymnasts Kim Son Hyang and Jo Kyong Byol secured the silver and bronze medals with scores of 13.466 and 12.966, respectively. Dipa, who narrowly missed a medal with a fourth-place finish in the vault final at the 2016 Rio Olympics, had previously won a bronze medal in the same event at the 2015 Asian Championships. Ashish Kumar had also won a bronze medal in the individual floor exercise at the 2015 Asian Championships.

Kolkata Knight Riders thumps listless Sunrisers Hyderabad to win third title

Pat Cummins' level-headed prognosis on match eve that his trophy-winning spree as captain would eventually run out of steam materialised too soon as Sunrisers Hyderabad's record-breaking season culminated with a listless display against Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League (IPL) final at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium here on Sunday.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc wins home F1 race in Monaco.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc won the Monaco Grand Prix on Sunday with a flawless lights-to-flag victory, securing one of the most coveted trophies in Formula 1 for the first time in his career. It was a poignant triumph for Leclerc, who grew up on the streets of Monaco and has fallen short of winning his home race so many times, due to a mix of misfortune and mistakes, that F1 commentators had dubbed it the Leclerc "curse."

PV Sindhu Signs Off With Runner-Up Finish At Malaysia Masters.

Star Indian shuttler PV Sindhu's wait for a much-needed title extended further as she faltered in the finishing line, going down in three games to world no. 7 Wang Zhi Yi of China in the summit clash in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday. Fifth seed Sindhu, a double Olympic medallist, last won the Singapore Open and Commonwealth Games in 2022 and finished runner-up at the Madrid Spain Masters in 2023. The title here looked within her reach when world no. 15 Sindhu held a massive 11-3 lead in the decider

after winning the opening game but the former world champion imploded after the final change of sides to go down 21-16 5-21 16-21 in a 79-minute women's singles final.