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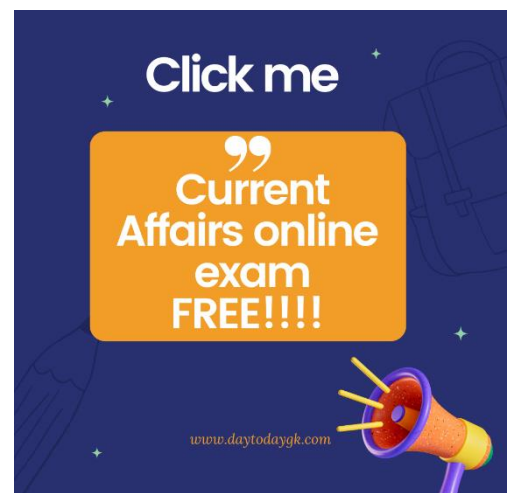Click the below buttons to Download Day Today GK's Free PDFs

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Awards and Honours

Awardee Name	Award Name	Extra Information
Meera Syal	BAFTA fellowship in London	Meera Syal, **a renowned actor and writer of Indian origin based in the UK, is set to receive the prestigious** BAFTA Fellowship, **the highest honour awarded by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts.**
Maria Stepanova	Leipzig Book Prize 2023	Maria Stepanova, **a renowned** Russian writer **currently residing in Berlin, has been awarded the** Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding in 2023.
CM Yogi Adityanath	Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award	Former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, presented the Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for his efforts in creating a fear-free Uttar Pradesh.
Cochin Port	Sagar Shreshtha Sammaan Award 2023	The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways honoured the Cochin Port Authority (CPA) with the Sagar Shreshtha Sammaan for the best turnaround time in non-container category during 2022-23.
Jayant Narlikar	Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award 2022	Renowned astronomer and founder director of IUCAA, Prof Jayant V. Narlikar, received the inaugural Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award from the Astronomical Society of India (ASI).
N Chandrasekaran	France's Highest Civilian Award - Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur	French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna gave the award to Chandrasekaran on behalf of the French President.
Narendra Modi	Papua New Guinea and Fiji's highest honour	Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the highest honours of Papua New Guinea and Fiji, an unprecedented acknowledgement of a non-resident in the two Pacific island nations.

Damodar Mauzo	57th Jnanpith Award	Damodar Mauzo, **a Goan short story writer, novelist, critic, and scriptwriter in Konkani, has been awarded the** 57th Jnanpith Award, **India's highest literary honor. Mauzo is the second Goan to receive the award, after Ravindra Kelekar in 2008.**

Appointments

Name	**Designation Name**	**Extra Information**
Saju Balakrishnan	Commander-in-Chief - Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)	With this appointment, Air Marshal Balakrishnan has become the 17th Commander-in-Chief of the ANC.
TS Sivagnanam	Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court	The Indian government has officially announced the appointment of Justice TS Sivagnanam as the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court.
Margherita Della	CEO of Vodafone	Margherita Della Valle has been interim CEO of Vodafone Group since Nick Read stepped down in December 2022. Vodafone Group announced that Della Valle has been named as permanent Chief Executive. Della Valle's career at Vodafone has included marketing, operational, commercial and financial positions.
Ajay Banga	President of World Bank	The 25-member executive board of the World Bank elected Ajay Banga, who previously served as the CEO of Mastercard, to hold the position for a period of five years, starting from June 2.
Polavarapu Mallikharjuna	next Coal India chief	The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PSEB) recommended Central Coalfields CMD Polavarapu Mallikharjuna Prasad as the

		next Chairman and Managing Director of Coal India (CIL).
Ajay Vij	Accenture India country managing director	Accenture appointed Ajay Vij as Country Managing Director, a newly created role, and Sandeep Dutta as the lead of its India Market Unit.
Parminder Chopra	Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) - Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)	If appointed, she will be the first woman to hold the position.
Karthik Balagopalan	Managing Director of PUMA India	He will succeed Abhishek Ganguly, who worked for PUMA's Indian business for 17 years and has been the Managing Director of PUMA India since 2014.
Rajiv Dhar	CEO & MD - National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL)	The planned succession follows Sujoy Bose's request to relieve him from his current responsibilities as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, a position he held since 2016 in the company.
Alia Bhatt	Indian Global Ambassador of Gucci	She will debut as the brand's newest global ambassador at the Gucci Cruise 2024 show in Seoul next week.
Ayushmann Khurrana	Ambassador for Special Olympics Journey to Berlin	His acting prowess and dedication to using films as a catalyst for societal transformation have garnered acclaim, including recognition from esteemed international publication TIME Magazine, which honored him as one of the world's most influential individuals.
Praveen Sood	Central Bureau of Investigation – Director	The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has announced the appointment of a new officer in their department. Praveen Sood, IPS Officer has taken over as the Director of this top-level investigating agency of India, as per the official notification released on May 14, 2203 (Sunday).
Linda Yaccarino	Twitter CEO	Ex-NBCUniversal advertising executive Linda Yaccarino will take over as CEO of Twitter, Elon Musk said. Musk, who

		runs Tesla and Space X, said a day prior that he plans to transition to a role as executive chairman and chief technology officer.
Virat Kohli	Duroflex – Brand Ambassador	Following this association with the 34-year-old star batter, the company would like to amplify the message of quality sleep to a wider audience.
Manoj Soni	UPSC chairman	Educationist Manoj Soni **will take oath as the** chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
Geeta Rao Gupta	US Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues	In a tweet, the department expressed its eagerness for Gupta to use her efforts to advance women and girls' rights through US foreign policy. With a vote of 51 to 47, the US Senate confirmed Gupta earlier this week.
Ashutosh Dixit	Deputy Chief of Air Staff	Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit took over as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff, according to the Minister of Defence. Ashutosh Dixit, an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, was Commissioned in the fighter stream on December 6 in 1986.
Ravneet Kaur	Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI)	There has been no full-time Chairperson for the competition regulator since Ashok Kumar Gupta demitted office in October 2022.
Bhavesh Gupta	Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the fintech company Paytm	Gupta will report directly to Paytm's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Vijay Shekhar Sharma.
Siddaramaiah	CM of Karnataka	Senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah will be the next chief minister of Karnataka and DK Shivkumar will be his deputy. Finally, the Congress party has reached the decision. The swearing-in ceremony will take place on Saturday, May 20, 2023.

KV Viswanathan, Prashant Mishrato	Supreme Court judges	Their names were recommended to the Centre by the Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud.
Dr K. Govindaraj	President of Basketball Federation of India	He is a Congress MLC. He is also the President of Basketball Federation of India and President of Karnataka Olympic Association.
RN Jayaprakash	President of Swimming Federation of India	The event was held with the aim to facilitate the election of new office-bearers who will steer the future of swimming in India.
Jayakumar S. Pillai	Deputy Managing Director of IDBI Bank	The appointment has been approved by the bank's board of directors and is valid for a period of three years starting from the date he assumes office, as authorized by the RBI.
R Dinesh	Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) - President	The CII National Council, which met in New Delhi to elect new office-bearers for 2023-24, also named EY Chairman India Region Rajiv Memani as Vice-President.
Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma	Karnataka Bank – MD & CEO	Karnataka Bank, a prominent Indian banking institution, has announced the appointment of Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
CAG Girish Chandra Murmu	External Auditor of the World Health Organisation (WHO)	The election was held yesterday in the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly in Geneva. The CAG was re-elected, with an overwhelming majority of 114 out of 156 votes in the first round of voting.

Tayyip Erdogan	President of Turkey	The Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has emerged victorious in the recent election following a tense run-off, according to unofficial data from the state-run Anadolu Agency and the country's Supreme Election Council.
Praveen Kumar Srivastava	Central Vigilance Commissioner	Praveen Kumar Srivastava, **a retired 1988-batch Indian Administrative Service officer of the** Assam-Meghalaya cadre**, has been officially sworn in as the Central Vigilance Commissioner.**
Bola Tinubu	Nigeria – President	Bola Tinubu **was sworn in as the** President of Nigeria **on May 29, amidst mounting pressure to address the country's persistent economic and security issues.**
Ajay Yadav	Managing Director, Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI)	Shri Ajay Yadav**, a 2005 batch** IAS officer of the Bihar cadre **has assumed the charge of** Managing Director, Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI).

Banking & Finance

SEBI has introduced the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has introduced the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system for issuers that have listed or are planning to list non-convertible securities, securitized debt instruments, and security receipts.

This unique global identifier for legal entities participating in financial transactions aims to create a global reference data system that uniquely identifies every legal entity that is a party to a financial transaction.

What is Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)?:

The LEI code is a 20-character code that identifies legally distinct entities that engage in financial transactions. Its purpose is to provide a unique global identifier for legal entities participating in financial transactions.

RBI Imposes Rs 1.73 Crore Penalty On HSBC Bank

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 1.73 crore** on the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd (HSBC Bank) for violating the Credit Information Companies Rules, 2006.

The RBI stated that during their examination of the Risk Assessment Report and all related correspondences pertaining to the same, it was discovered that the bank had breached the aforementioned rules.

HSBC had provided inaccurate credit information on various expired credit cards with nil dues to all four Credit Information Companies.

ADB, India sign $141.12 million loan for industrial corridor development in Andhra Pradesh

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India** signed, on 23.05.2023, a **$141.12 million loan** to support the development of high-quality internal infrastructure such as roads, water supply systems and electricity distribution network in three industrial clusters in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

This financing is the second tranche of the $500 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) for the program approved by ADB in 2016 to build infrastructure in three industrial clusters in the Visakhapatnam and Srikalahasthi-Chittoor nodes in the state.

PhonePe: The First Payment App to Link 2 Lakh Rupay Credit Cards to UPI

PhonePe, a Digital payment service provider announced that it has become the **first digital payments app to enable the linkage of 2 lakh Rupay credit cards** to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). It has also processed a Total Payment Value (TPV) of Rs 150 crore through Rupay Credit on UPI.

TPV refers to the total transaction value processed through the platform in a given time period.

Particularly, linking the credit card to UPI simplifies the utilization of credit for customers by leveraging the flexibility and widespread acceptance of UPI.

According to PhonePe, the company has already enabled the acceptance of Rupay Credit Cards on **UPI across 12 million merchant** outlets in the country, achieving the highest merchant penetration in the ecosystem.

Bank of Maharashtra Emerges as Top Performer in NPA Management during FY23

Bank of Maharashtra (BoM), a Pune-based state-owned lender, has been recognized as the best bank in managing bad loans, achieving a remarkably **low net non-performing assets (NPAs) ratio of 0.25%** during the financial year that ended in March 2023.

This achievement positions BoM as the leader among all banks with total business exceeding Rs 3 lakh crore, not limited to public sector banks (PSBs), according to the published yearly data of banks.

Equitas SFB Collaborates with IBM to Build a Digital Banking Platform

Equitas Small Finance Bank has entered into a partnership with **IBM Consulting** to develop and construct a digital banking platform. This collaboration aims to enhance Equitas' digital product offerings and service capabilities, as the bank adapts its business for the digital-first generation.

The joint effort will focus on providing a secure and streamlined banking experience to customers.

Bank of Baroda launches Electronic Bank Guarantee on its Digital Platform

Bank of Baroda, a public sector bank, has announced its partnership with **National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)**, a government-backed information utility appointed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, to launch the **Electronic Bank Guarantee (BG)** system.

The system enables the issuance of inland bank guarantees securely and conveniently through the bank's digital platform **BarodaINSTA.**

IDBI, BOB, and SBI Capital Chosen to Manage IREDA IPO for Renewable Energy Development

The **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** is set to go public with an initial public offering (IPO) in the near future.

To oversee this significant event, the government has appointed IDBI Capital, BOB Capital, and SBI Capital as the lead managers for the IPO. The IPO is expected to consist of a 10% stake sale by the government and a 15% fresh equity issuance by IREDA, aimed at funding the growth of the renewable energy project financier.

IRDAI Relaxes Norms for Surety Bonds, Boosting India's Insurance Market

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has recently announced the relaxation of norms for surety bonds, a type of insurance policy that protects parties involved in transactions or contracts from potential financial losses resulting from breaches or non-performance.

These regulatory changes aim to expand the surety insurance market and increase the availability of such products. The amendments come as a response to various representations received by IRDAI, reflecting the evolving needs of the market.

Paytm Money Launches Bonds Platform, Making Investing Easier for Retail Investors

Paytm Money, a subsidiary of One97 Communications, the **parent entity of Paytm**, has recently announced the launch of a bonds platform for retail investors in India.

This new platform aims to **provide investors** with a comprehensive and user-friendly interface to invest in government, corporate, and tax-free bonds. With a focus on innovation and leveraging technology, Paytm Money aims to make bond investing more accessible and transparent for retail investors.

Axis Bank Introduces 'Sarathi' – A Digital Onboarding Platform for PoS Terminals

Axis Bank has launched **'Sarathi,'** a revolutionary digital onboarding platform aimed at simplifying the process for merchants to **adopt Electronic Data Capture (EDC) or Point of Sale (PoS) terminals.**

By eliminating the need for lengthy paperwork and long waiting periods, Sarathi offers a streamlined and hassle-free experience to merchants, enabling them to begin accepting digital payments quickly and efficiently.

Indian Affairs

Anji Khad bridge, first cable stayed rail bridge in India

India's Union Railway Minister, **Ashwini Vaishnaw,** has shared a timelapse video showcasing the construction of the Anji Khad Bridge, the country's first cable-stayed rail bridge.

With a total of **96 cables spanning a length of 653km,** the bridge is part of the challenging Udampur-Srinagar-Baramulla-Rail Link (USBRL) Project in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

India's First Undersea Tunnel Nears Completion: Mumbai Coastal Road Project

The **Mumbai Coastal Road Project (MCRP)** is a **Rs 12,721-crore** initiative by the **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)** to link Marine Drive to the Bandra-Worli Sea Link.

The most significant feature of the project is the construction of India's first undersea tunnel, which is set to open by November 2023. The 2.07-kilometer twin tunnels run 17-20 meters below sea level, connecting Girgaon to Priyadarshini Park via the Arabian Sea, Girgaon Chowpatty, and Malabar Hill.

The construction of the twin tunnels involved cutting through complex geological strata using a massive Chinese Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) and a team of 35 men.

The TBM, named Mavala, is the largest ever used in India, weighing over 1,700 tonnes and standing about 12 meters tall. It was manufactured by the China Railway Construction Heavy Industry Company Ltd (CRCHI) and was assembled and launched a year ago.

India's First International Multimodal Logistics Park Coming at Jogighopa, Assam

The construction of **India's first International Multimodal Logistics Park in Jogighopa, Assam**, is well underway, and the jetty is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

The park, which is being built at a cost of **Rs 693.97 crore,** will provide direct connectivity to waterways, road, rail, and air, and is expected to be completed in 2023. Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, visited the site recently to review the progress and expressed satisfaction at the pace of work.

Tungnath temple built by Pandavas declared national monument

Tungnath, located in **Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand,** is not only one of the highest Shiva temples in the world but also the highest among the five Panch Kedar temples. Recently, it has been designated as a national monument.

The Central Government declared Tungnath a monument of national importance in a notification dated March 27. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), led by Devraj Singh Rautela, confirmed that they had been working towards this recognition for a significant period.

During the process, ASI actively sought public opinions and objections regarding the declaration of Tungnath as a national heritage.

Bhupender Yadav Inaugurates Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management at Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education in Dehradun

In a significant step towards combating land degradation and promoting sustainable land management practices, **Union Minister Bhupender Yadav** inaugurated the Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management (CoE-SLM) at the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) in Dehradun.

Amit Shah Lays Foundation Stone of National Academy of Coastal Policing Campus in Dwaraka, Gujarat

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah recently laid the foundation stone for the permanent campus of the National Academy of Coastal Policing in Dwaraka, Gujarat.

In his address, Shah emphasized the BJP government's commitment to coastal security, stating that it is a top priority under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The academy aims to provide comprehensive training facilities to over three thousand security personnel annually.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates new Parliament building

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On May 28, 2023, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi officially opened the new Parliament building**. He arrived at Gate No. 1, wearing traditional attire, and was greeted by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

Accompanied by priests from Karnataka's Shringeri Math, the Prime Minister participated in a ceremonial **"Ganapati Homam"** to seek divine blessings for the inauguration of the new Parliament building. Vedic chants added a spiritual atmosphere to the occasion.

PM Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union Ministers and CMs of different States attend a multi-faith prayer meeting under way at the new Parliament building. PM Narendra Modi felicitates the workers who helped in the building and development of the new Parliament House.

First Airbus C295 for India successfully completes its maiden flight

The first **C295 aircraft** for India has successfully completed its inaugural flight, marking a significant achievement towards its delivery in the latter half of 2023. The tactical plane (used by Indian Air Force) took off from Seville, Spain, at 11:45 am local time on May 5th, landing three hours afterward at 2:45 pm.

Airbus Defence & Space Head of Military Air Systems, Jean-Brice Dumont, expressed his satisfaction, recognizing the achievement as a fundamental stride for the initial Make in India aerospace plan.

Survey Report on Data Governance Quality Index

The **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)** has been ranked at the second position in the influential assessment known as the Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI).

Administered by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) under NITI Aayog, the DGQI survey has the objective of evaluating the level of maturity of administrative data systems and their application in the decision-making process.

With an impressive score of 4.7 out of 5, MoPSW has demonstrated its commitment to excellence in data governance. The DGQI assessment covers six key areas, which are Data Generation, Data Quality, Technology Utilization, Data Analysis, Utilization and Distribution, Data Security and HR Capability, and Case Studies.

Pasang Dawa Sherpa becomes 2nd person to scale Everest 26 times

Pasang Dawa Sherpa, also known as Pa Dawa, successfully reached the summit of **Mount Everest for the 26th time,** equaling the record set by another Nepalese guide. Accompanied by a Hungarian climber, the 46-year-old achieved this feat.

According to the Himalayan Database, which documents mountaineering achievements in Nepal's Himalayas, Pa Dawa had previously climbed Everest 25 times, including two ascents in 2022. Since his initial successful climb in 1998, Dawa has consistently made the journey nearly every year.

Union cabinet reshuffle: Arjun Ram Meghwal becomes Law Minister

Arjun Ram Meghwal will be **Law Minister**, **Kiren Rijiju gets Ministry of Earth Sciences**

In place of union Minister Kiren Rijiju, Arjun Ram Meghwal has been given the charge of Law Ministry. While Kiren Rijiju has been given the responsibility of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, reported HS.

Information in this regard was given by the press secretary of the President. Press Secretary Ajay Kumar Singh said that President **Droupadi Murmu** has given permission to reshuffle the ministries on the advice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

India leads list of 10 countries with 60% of global maternal deaths, stillbirths, newborn deaths: UN study

A new report from the World Health Organization (WHO), the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),** and the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** has highlighted the challenges faced in reducing maternal deaths, stillbirths, and newborn deaths globally.

The report shows that, in 2020-2021, there were a combined 4.5 million deaths of this kind, with India leading a list of 10 countries that account for 60% of the total.

India's high number of live births is believed to be a factor in its large number of maternal, stillbirth, and neonatal deaths, with the country accounting for 17% of global live births. **Nigeria, Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, and China** also feature on the list of countries with the highest rates of maternal, stillbirth, and neonatal deaths.

"Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi" Campaign: Improving Early Childhood Education in India

In September 2022, the Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani launched the '**Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi**' campaign, which aims to transform the 14 lakh Anganwadi centres into pre-schools that offer early childhood care and education. This campaign is focused on providing early learning opportunities to children.

Santiniketan in tentative list for UNESCO World Heritage list

The **UNESCO World Heritage Centre** has recommended **Santiniketan,** the cultural site in West Bengal, India, for inclusion in the **UNESCO World Heritage List.**

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), a France-based international non-governmental organization, made the recommendation.

The ICOMOS is an advisory body to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, comprising experts, representatives from local authorities, heritage organizations, and companies.

Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy has expressed hope that the site would be formally inscribed on the World Heritage List in the World Heritage Committee meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in September 2023.

Inauguration of online education program 'Pahal' for rural children

The online **rural education initiative 'Pahal'** was officially launched by Chief Secretary **Durga Shankar Mishra** at Government UP Sainik Inter College in Sarojini Nagar. This program, developed through a partnership between the **Department of Secondary Education and IIT Kanpur**, aims to provide education to rural communities through online platforms.

In the initial phase of the program, **10 government secondary schools** in the state will offer free online education as part of the 'Pahal' initiative.

Project-SMART for Station Area Development

The **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** and the Ministry of Railways have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for 'Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail' (Project-SMART).

The project aims to develop the areas surrounding the **Mumbai – Ahmedabad High-Speed Railway (MAHSR)** stations to enhance accessibility and convenience for commuters and promote economic activities in the vicinity of station areas.

The MoU is for four high-speed rail stations – **Sabarmati, Surat, Virar, and Thane – out of the 12 stations on the route.**

PM Modi inaugurates International Museum Expo 2023

During the inauguration of the **International Museum Expo** 2023 at **Pragati Maidan**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** emphasized his government's commitment to safeguarding India's heritage. However, he regretted that insufficient efforts were taken towards this cause following Independence.

The theme for IMD this year is "museums, sustainability, and well-being." The expo aims to initiate a comprehensive dialogue on museums with professionals that will help them develop as cultural centres contributing greatly to India's cultural diplomacy.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates IAF Heritage Centre in Chandigarh

India's Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** opened the country's first Indian Air Force Heritage Centre in Chandigarh on 8 May, under a memorandum of understanding between the **Indian Air Force and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.**

The centre spreads over 17,000 square feet and celebrates the Indian Air Force's role in previous conflicts such as the 1965, 1971, and Kargil Wars, as well as the Balakot air strike, through murals and memorabilia.

National Medical Commission makes unique ID mandatory for doctors

Doctors will now have to get a **Unique Identification Number (UID)** to be able to practice medicine in the country, as per the new regulations by the **National Medical Commission (NMC)**. The UID will be generated centrally by the NMC ethics board and thereby grant the practitioner, registration in NMR and eligibility to practice medicine in India.

Gatka Martial Art to feature in 37th National Games

The traditional game of **Gatka** is set to receive a major boost on a national level as it has been officially included in the 37th National Games-2023, which are scheduled to take place in Goa in October of this year.

The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** will be organizing competitions for a total of 43 disciplines during this national event, in collaboration with the Government of Goa.

Harjeet Singh Grewal, the President of the National Gatka Association of India (NGAI) and a State Awardee, expressed his appreciation to the IOA President, Rajya Sabha member PT Usha, and the Games Technical Conduct Committee (GTCC) Chairman, Amitabh Sharma, member Bhupiner Singh Bajwa, and other members for the inclusion of Gatka, a martial art, in the national games for the first time.

South Asian Youth TT Championship 2023: India bags 16 gold medals

The **South Asian Youth Table Tennis Championship 2023**, a three-day international event, came to a close on May 17 in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. Over 100 athletes from six countries, including Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, participated in the championship.

Lt. General KT Parnaik (Retd.), the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, graced the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest at the Dorjee Khandu Indoor Stadium in Itanagar.

On the final day, the host nation India achieved a remarkable feat by winning all the available gold medals at the tournament.

Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Seher Campaign Gains Momentum

The **"Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar"** campaign, launched by **Union Minister Shri Hardeep S. Puri** on 15th May 2023, has gained significant momentum across urban India.

With the aim of transforming waste into wealth, this nationwide campaign encourages cities to establish **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR) Centres.**

These centers serve as one-stop collection points where citizens can contribute items such as clothes, shoes, old books, toys, and used plastic for reuse or recycling. Since its inception, thousands of RRR Centres have been set up, fostering a spirit of sustainability and better living.

State related Affairs

National Manufacturing Innovation Survey: Karnataka ranked the most 'innovative' State

A survey on the degree of innovation among manufacturing firms found that Karnataka, overall, is the most **"innovative"** State, followed by **Telangana, and Tamil Nadu.**

The **National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22,** released earlier this month, also found that innovation in manufacturing is the lowest in the Northeastern states (excluding Assam), followed by Bihar.

Pune: Asia's first subsea research lab at MIT-World Peace University

Pune, India – In a groundbreaking development, **MIT-World Peace University (WPU)** has unveiled Asia's first-ever subsea research lab, the Centre for Subsea Engineering Research (CSER).

The state-of-the-art facility, created in collaboration with Aker Solutions, aims to revolutionize training and education for the global oil and gas industry by providing real-world experience and fostering multi-disciplinary talent.

Goa Signed MoU with Uttarakhand for Strengthening Tourism Cooperation

The **Government of Goa and the Government of Uttarakhand** have come together and signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to enhance the **tourism landscape** of both Goa and Uttarakhand.

The MoU signing ceremony was held in the presence of **Rohan Khaunte**, the Minister for Tourism, IT, E & C, Printing and Stationary, Government of Goa, and Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.

TN CM Stalin Inaugurates one of India's Biggest Skywalk Bridge

The recently inaugurated one of **India's biggest Skywalk bridges,** spanning **570 meters in length and 4.2 meters** in width, was officially opened by **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin.**

This skywalk bridge serves as a crucial connection between the **Mambalam railway station** and **T Nagar bus terminus.** The project is part of a larger multi-modal initiative aimed at facilitating pedestrian movement.

Bhopal becomes 1st city to measure Sustainable Development Goals progress

Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, has become the first city in India to measure its progress towards achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).** The city has adopted a Voluntary Local Review (VLR) process, which is a tool that helps cities to assess their progress on the SDGs and identify areas where they need to improve.

Chennai to Host Squash World Cup

The **city of Chennai** is abuzz with anticipation as it prepares to host the highly anticipated **2023 Squash World Cup**. This prestigious event, organized by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) in partnership with the World Squash Federation (WSF), will showcase the world's top squash players competing for the coveted trophy.

Date and Venue

From June 13 to 17, the squash enthusiasts of Chennai will witness intense matches at two prominent locations – the **Express Avenue Mall and the Indian Squash and Triathlon Academy (ISTA).**

Sponsorship and History

The 2023 Squash World Cup receives support from the **Tamilnadu Government**, emphasizing their commitment to promoting sports in the region. This isn't the first time Chennai has hosted this prestigious event.

International Competition

A total of eight countries will vie for the **2023 Squash World Cup trophy**. Besides the host nation India, teams from Hong Kong, China; Japan; Malaysia; Egypt; South Africa; Australia; and Colombia will compete against each other.

Uttar Pradesh Now Holds 2nd Position In GI Tagged Products

Uttar Pradesh now holds the **second position in the country** in terms of having the maximum number of **Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged goods.** The state has received GI tags for three more **One District One Product (ODOP)** crafts, taking the total number of GI-tagged products in the state to **48.**

The three newly-tagged ODOP crafts are Mainpuri tarkashi, Mahoba Gaura stone craft, and Sambhal horn craft. The GI tag is a valuable asset for the state of Uttar Pradesh. It helps to promote the state's traditional crafts and products, and also helps to boost the local economy.

The GI tag also helps to create awareness about the state's rich cultural heritage.

India's First pod taxi to be launched in Uttar Pradesh soon

India is all set to launch its first-ever pod taxi soon, which will run from Noida's Film City to the **International Airport in Jewar.** Introduction of such taxi transportation will lead to greater transportation ease, improved connectivity, modern infrastructure development, reduced traffic jams and reduced pollution as this system is powered by solar energy and other renewable sources.

According to the Uttar Pradesh Index, the Yamuna Authority has approved the revised **detailed project report (DPR)** and bid document for the country's first Personalised Rapid

Transit project. This development has allowed the construction to commence with the Uttar Pradesh government's permission, and the tendering process is expected to start soon.

Telangana Launches State Robotics Framework

The **Telangana government** has launched the State Robotics Framework to establish a sustainable robotics ecosystem in the state.

The Telangana government plans to leverage robotics technology in several key domains, including agriculture, healthcare, industrial automation, and consumer robotics. The State Robotics Framework outlines the vision for the development of the robotics industry in the state and aims to create a sustainable ecosystem.

London stock exchange group to set up technology centre in Hyderbad

The **London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG)** has announced its plan to set up a technology centre of excellence in Hyderabad, India. This move is expected to create about 1,000 jobs a year and boost the Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI) sector in the city.

The announcement was made after Telangana IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao's meeting with LSEG Group CIO Anthony McCarthy in London.

Kerala Becomes India's First Fully E-Governed State, Achieving Total E-Governance

Kerala, the southern state of India, is set to make history by declaring itself as the country's first **"total e-governed state."**

Building upon its reputation as the **first fully-literate state in India,** Kerala has achieved this milestone through a series of policy initiatives aimed at transforming the state into a digitally-empowered society.

With a focus on a knowledge-based economy and **100% digital literacy**, the government has digitized the delivery of vital services across various domains, ensuring transparency, inclusivity, and accessibility for all citizens.

International Affairs

Ding Liren becomes China's first world chess champion

Ding Liren has become **17th world chess champion** – the first from China – defeating Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi in a tie-breaker. Ding defeated Nepo in the last of the four Rapid tiebreaks.

Ding takes over as winner of the World Chess Championship from Norway's Magnus Carlsen, who chose not to defend his title after a 10-year reign. He and Nepomniachtchi had finished on seven points each after the 14 first-stage games played in the Kazakh capital, Astana.

Dubai becomes the host for the inaugural edition of the Global Chess League

Global Chess League (GCL), a joint venture between FIDE and Tech Mahindra, announced Dubai as the venue for the inaugural edition.

In the presence of key dignitaries such as Dr. Aman Puri, Consul General of India, Dubai, Viswanathan Anand, five-time world chess champion, and Deputy President, FIDE, CP Gurnani, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Tech Mahindra, Parag Shah, EVP & Head, Mahindra Accelo and Member, Global Chess League Board, and Jagdish Mitra, Chairperson, Global Chess League Board, in the Gulf city.

Ireland Set to Implement Alcohol Health Warnings, Leading Global Efforts

Ireland is on track to become the first country to enforce **mandatory health advisories on alcohol products**. The Irish Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, has approved the new policy, which will be implemented starting from May 22, 2026.

This three-year period aims to allow businesses enough time to adjust to the new public health guidelines.

World's Largest Car Exporter Title Shifts from Japan to China

According to data from **China's General Administration of Customs,** in the first quarter of this year, China exported **1.07 million vehicles,** a 58% increase compared to the same period in 2022, becoming the world's largest exporter of cars, surpassing Japan. In contrast, Japan exported 954,185 vehicles, an increase of 6% from the previous year.

China surpassed Germany to become the world's second-largest car exporter last year as the shift towards electric cars has helped expand the country's motor industry.

Bangladesh-US Joint Naval Exercise held in Chattogram

The **'Tiger Shark 40'** Joint **Bangladesh-US Naval drill Exercise** commenced at **BNS Nirvik in Chattogram**. The main aim of the exercise is to enhance the strategic capabilities of both countries and promote mutual exchange of technical and procedural knowledge.

According to a press release from the Bangladesh Inter Services Press Relations (ISPR), the exercise seeks to strengthen the existing positive relations between the armed forces of the two nations. The training exercise, overseen by Commodore Swords Command, involved the participation of Special Forces from the Bangladesh Army and Navy as well as US Special Forces.

Indian-Origin Sikh Becomes First Turban-Wearing Lord Mayor of UK City Coventry

Coventry, a city in the West Midlands of the United Kingdom, has appointed **Jaswant Singh Birdi** as its new **Lord Mayor**. As an Indian-origin Sikh councillor, Birdi's appointment marks a significant milestone in the city's history.

Taking on the role of Lord Mayor also means assuming the position of chairman of the City Council. In his new position, Birdi will serve as the non-political and ceremonial head of Coventry

First China-Central Asia Summit

Chinese President Xi Jinping will be hosting a summit with the leaders of five Central Asian nations next week. This is part of China's plan to increase its influence in the region.

The summit is named **China-Central Asia Summit** and is set to take place in Xi'an, the first of its kind since formal relations were established 31 years ago.

The leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan are expected to attend the two-day summit from May 18 to 19, with a focus on strengthening economic and diplomatic ties with Beijing.

Investment in Central Asia

China has invested **billions of dollars in Central Asia** to tap into natural gas reserves. Rail links connecting China to Europe criss-cross the region and are vital to the success of Mr. Xi's Belt and Road Initiative, a trillion-dollar global infrastructure project aimed at strengthening trade and infrastructure ties between China and other countries, primarily in **Asia, Europe, and Africa.**

First Dubai FinTech Summit

Dubai is making strides towards becoming a **global business hub,** with its strategic location, world-class infrastructure, and investor-friendly policies.

Recently, the city hosted the inaugural Dubai FinTech Summit from May 8th to 9th, which was hosted by the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), the leading international financial hub in the **Middle East, Africa, and South Asia (MEASA)** region.

The Summit was inaugurated by Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who holds positions of First Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Finance of the UAE, and serves as the President of DIFC.

Germany, Denmark building world's longest underwater road tunnel

Germany and Denmark have begun constructing the world's longest underwater rail and road tunnel. The **18-kilometre** passageway, which is due to be completed by 2029, will link the two countries via two double-lane motorways and two electrified rail tracks. The €10 billion project will cross a stretch of the Baltic Sea known as the Fehmarn Belt.

China and Pakistan agree to extend CPEC to Afghanistan

Pakistan, China, and Afghanistan have agreed to enhance their economic relations by extending the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**, which is supported by Beijing,

to Afghanistan. This move aims to fully exploit the potential of Afghanistan as a regional connectivity hub.

During the 5th China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue, Pakistan's foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, China's foreign minister Qin Gang, and Afghanistan's Taliban-appointed acting foreign minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi also emphasized the importance of preventing any group from using their territories to conduct terrorist activities against any country

World Bank Approves $82 Million Loan For Controlling Zoonotic Diseases in India

The **World Bank's Board of Executive Directors** has approved an **$82 million** loan to support India's efforts in adopting global best practices for animal health management. The loan aims to prevent, detect, and respond to endemic zoonotic, transboundary, and emerging infectious diseases, recognizing the interconnectedness of people, animals, and the environment.

With India being home to the largest livestock population in the world, the risks associated with animal disease outbreaks are particularly high. These outbreaks not only pose risks to public health systems but also have significant economic costs. For instance, foot and mouth disease alone costs the country over $3.3 billion annually.

FIFA World Cup 2026 Official Brand Unveiled

The **FIFA World Cup Trophy,** which is widely regarded as the most prestigious and recognized sporting symbol worldwide, has been revealed as a prominent feature of the official brand for the FIFA World Cup 2026.

In a groundbreaking move, the brand incorporates an image of the actual trophy along with the specific year of the tournament, resulting in an innovative design concept that forms the foundation of the **FIFA World Cup emblem** for the 2026 edition and future events.

This combination of the trophy and the hosting year allows for customization to showcase the distinctiveness of each host country while establishing a consistent and recognizable brand structure for the years ahead.

Ireland Set to Implement Alcohol Health Warnings, Leading Global Efforts

Ireland is on track to become the first country to enforce **mandatory health advisories on alcohol products**. The Irish Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, has approved the new policy, which will be implemented starting from May 22, 2026.

This three-year period aims to allow businesses enough time to adjust to the new public health guidelines.

Foreign Relations

India, Israel sign MoU for industrial research and development cooperation

India and Israel have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on industrial research and development cooperation, marking a significant milestone in their scientific and technological partnership, the Ministry of Science & Technology said.

The collaboration aims to enable joint industrial research and development projects in various high-tech fields such as artificial intelligence, quantum and semiconductors, synthetic biology, healthcare, aerospace, sustainable energy, and agriculture, among others.

India operationalized Sittwe port in Myanmar

The **Sittwe Port in Myanmar** has been put into operation by India, with the first shipment departing from the **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata.**

The project is a part of the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport initiative. The inaugural shipment, **carrying 20,000 bags of cement** weighing 1,000 metric tonnes, is expected to arrive at the Sittwe Port.

Constructed with grant aid from the Indian government, the port has been established based on a framework agreement between India and Myanmar for building and running a multimodal transit transport facility on the Kaladan river.

Once the **Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP)** is fully operational, it will provide an alternative route for connectivity from India's eastern coast to the northeastern states through the Sittwe port.

India & Canada forging new partnerships to boost bilateral trade

To boost bilateral trade, Union Minister **Piyush Goyal**, along with his Canadian counterpart Mary Ng, co-chaired the sixth **Ministerial Dialogue** on Trade and Investment (MDTI) in Ottawa on May 8.

The Minister held meetings with **CEOs of key Canadian companies**, addressed the CEOs roundtable, and interacted with members of the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce and Canada India Foundation in Toronto on May 9 and 10.

"The success of the **Canada-India relationship** is rooted within the close collaboration and hard work of Indian and Canadian businesses," said Canadian Minister Mary Ng. She also announced that she will be leading a Team Canada trade mission to India in October 2023.

India, Canada agree to increase discussions on movement of skilled professionals, students

India and Canada have agreed to ramp up their discussions on the movement of skilled professionals and students to enhance their bilateral economic partnership.

This decision was made during the sixth India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment, where Commerce and **Industry Minister Piyush Goyal** and his Canadian counterpart Mary Ng reviewed the progress of the seven rounds of negotiations towards an early harvest trade deal.

India begins "Operation Karuna" to assist Myanmar

India has taken an initiative to aid those affected by Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar by launching **"Operation Karuna."** On May 18th, three ships, namely Indian Naval Ships Shivalik, Kamorta, and Savitri, arrived in Yangon with emergency relief material such as food supplies, tents, essential medicines, water pumps, portable generators, clothes, and hygiene items.

Cyclone Mocha, which recently hit Myanmar, has been classified as an extremely severe cyclonic storm by the IMD and a **'Super Cyclone'** by the global weather website Zoom Earth.

India and Australia sign Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement

Reaffirming their determination to strengthen partnership in the field of mobility and migration with a view to encouraging the orderly movement of students, researchers, professionals, academics, and others, **New Delhi and Canberra** have signed the migration and mobility partnership agreement.

The agreement was exchanged during a joint press briefing addressed by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese** in Sydney today.

India, Singapore partnership to strengthen collaboration in skill development

Moving ahead with the aim of revolutionising the roadmap to skill development, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan held bilateral talks with Singaporean Minister for Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan on **May 30.**

Union Minister Pradhan is on a three-day visit to Singapore, exploring the **scope of bilateral engagement in education and skill development.**

"Fruitful conversations on fortifying **India- Singapore Knowledge Partnership** and taking our multifaceted bilateral cooperation in skill development and education to greater heights with Singaporean Minister for Foreign Affairs and a dear friend Vivian Balakrishnan," the Union Minister tweeted.

Business News

Apple, Google collaborate to combat creepy tracking tactics

Apple and Google, together with Samsung and other companies like **Tile, Chipolo, and Pebblebee**, have collaborated to combat unwanted tracking through Bluetooth devices that were initially designed to help locate lost items such as keys or luggage.

These companies have jointly submitted a proposal to create standards for preventing secret surveillance on **Apple's AirTag** trackers and similar products.

While AirTags have become popular for helping users locate lost property, they have also been misused by stalkers to track unsuspecting individuals, making this joint proposal all the more necessary.

Blackstone acquires International Gemological Institute

International Gemological Institute (IGI), the world's largest certification player for lab grown diamonds and the second largest certification player for natural diamonds, has been fully acquired by global private equity firm Blackstone.

The $535m deal sees Blackstone taking over the 80% stake held by China-based investment firm Fosun, as well as the 20% stake held by Roland Lorie, a member of the founding family.

Adidas named new India cricket team kit sponsor

The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** announced that Adidas will be the new kit sponsor of the Indian team. Adidas will replace Kewal Kiran Clothing Ltd, maker of Killer Jeans, which came in as interim sponsor after the then-sponsor Mobile Premier League Sports (MPL Sports) pulled out of the deal midway.

Adidas is a German multinational corporation that designs and manufactures athletic shoes, apparel, and equipment. The company is headquartered in Herzogenaurach, Germany, and is the largest sportswear manufacturer in the world.

Adidas has been involved in cricket for many years, and is the current kit sponsor for the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA).

JPMorgan Acquires First Republic Bank Amidst Recent Failures of Major US Banks

American regulators announced that First Republic Bank had been taken over and that an agreement had been reached to sell the bank to **JPMorgan Chase & Co.** This marks the third major U.S. financial institution to fail in just two months.

JPMorgan is set to acquire **$173 billion** in loans and around $30 billion in securities, which includes $92 billion in deposits from First Republic Bank, but they are not taking on the bank's corporate debt or preferred stock.

Amazon Web Services Announces $12.7 Billion Investment in India's Cloud Infrastructure by 2030

Amazon Web Services (AWS) has revealed plans to invest **$12.7 billion** into cloud infrastructure in India by 2030, aiming to meet the increasing demand for cloud services in the country.

The investment is projected to contribute $23.3 billion to India's economy over the same period, building upon AWS's previous **investment of $3.7 billion** between 2016 and 2022.

With this latest commitment, AWS's total investment in India will reach $16.4 billion by 2030. The company is focused on fostering positive social and economic impact in India, as demonstrated by its efforts in digital skills training and renewable energy projects.

HPCL to set up Rs 500 cr ethanol plant in Una

Chief Minister **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** announced that **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)** has committed to setting up a state-of-the-art ethanol plant in Jeetpur Baheri, Una district.

With an estimated cost of **Rs 500 crore**, this project aims to bolster the production of ethanol in the region and create numerous employment opportunities for local communities.

Adani Ports completes sale of Myanmar port for $30 million

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) announced that it has completed the sale of its Myanmar port, Coastal International Terminals Pte Limited, for **$30 million.** The decision to exit the project was made based on recommendations by the Risk Committee in October 2021.

The sale was initially announced in May 2022, following a military coup in Myanmar and subsequent crackdown on mass protests that drew international condemnation and US sanctions.

MakeMyTrip collaborates with Microsoft to introduce voice assisted booking in Indian languages

MakeMyTrip, leading travel portal announced a collaboration with **Microsoft** to bring travel planning to a wider audience through the introduction of voice-assisted booking in Indian languages.

The new technology stack incorporates **Microsoft Azure OpenAI Service and Azure Cognitive Services** to enable personalised travel recommendations for users based on their preferences.

The service is currently available in beta versions of English and Hindi for flights and holidays customers, with the next stage set to introduce voice-assisted booking for other transport offerings.

Zomato Partners with ICICI Bank to Launch Zomato UPI, Streamlining Payments for Users

Food and grocery delivery company Zomato has announced its partnership with **ICICI Bank** to introduce its own unified payments interface (UPI) offering called Zomato UPI.

With this new feature, Zomato aims to enhance the payment experience for its users by allowing them to complete orders and make payments seamlessly within the Zomato app, without the need to switch to a separate payment app.

Ranks

India overtakes Saudi as Europe's top refinery supplier: Kpler

Kpler data has revealed that India has become the largest supplier of refined fuels to **Europe, surpassing Saudi Arabia**. This comes as a result of Europe's reduced access to Russian oil and their growing dependence on Indian crude oil products.

Europe is set to increase its refined fuel imports from **India to over 360,000 barrels a day,** however this ultimately yields more demand for Moscow's crude, which carries freight costs.

Russia's crude oil imports into India are expected to **exceed 2 million barrels** a day in April, making up nearly 44% of India's overall oil imports.

Ektaa only Indian on 40 Most Influential Women in Int'l Film list

Ektaa Kapoor, Joint **Managing Director of Balaji Telefilms,** became the only Indian to feature in The Hollywood Reporter's 'The **40 Most Influential Women in International Film' list.**

The entertainment portal said that Ektaa "has grown into one of **South Asia's most prolific TV producers**". The list also features women from countries like Sweden, Nigeria, Germany and France.

Which are the world's five largest stock markets?

India has beaten France to reclaim its position as the **world's fifth-largest stock market with a market capitalisation of $3.31 trillion** following a broad-based rally in local equities, Bloomberg reported.

The **US** remains the world's largest stock market with a market capitalisation of $44.54 trillion, followed by **China** ($10.26 trillion), **Japan** ($5.68 trillion) and **Hong Kong ($5.14 trillion).**

The World's 10 Highest-Paid Athletes 2023 by Forbes

International soccer stars **Cristiano Ronaldo ($136 million), Lionel Messi ($130 million) and Kylian Mbappe ($120 million)** are the top three highest-paid athletes.

Ronaldo leads the way with an estimated haul of $136 million, including $46 million from his playing salary and bonuses and $90 million from endorsements, appearances, licensing income and other business endeavors.

Mbappé, who at age 24 comes in at No. 3 with $120 million, and Johnson, who lands at No. 6 with $107 million, make eye-popping debuts in the top ten.

Everest Annual ITS rankings: Accenture Tops Everest Annual ITS Rankings for Seventh Consecutive Year

Global IT research firm Everest Group has released its annual **PEAK Matrix Service Provider of the Year Awards for Information Technology (IT)** services. The rankings recognise large IT service providers with over $2 billion in annual revenue who have demonstrated superior capabilities and service strategies.

For the seventh year in a row, **Accenture** has secured the number one spot in the rankings, followed by **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Capgemini, Wipro, and HCLTech. TCS** climbed to second place, while Capgemini and Wipro each rose three positions in the rankings over last year.

Health Index Report of Covid Year: Kerala and Tamil Nadu Top Performers

The southern states of **Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana** emerged as the **top performers** among the larger states in the **NITI Aayog's annual health index for the Covid year of 2020-21**. Among the smaller states, Tripura ranked the highest, while Delhi ranked at the bottom among the Union territories.

The NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the Union Health Ministry and World Bank, launched the annual health index in 2017.
This index evaluates the performance of states and Union territories based on a weighted composite score that incorporates 24 health performance indicators.

Tamil Nadu tops market borrowing for third consecutive year, RBI Data Revealed

For the third year in a row, **Tamil Nadu** has emerged as the State with the highest market borrowings according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

During the April-February period of FY23, Tamil Nadu's gross market borrowings through State Development Loans (SDLs) stood at ₹68,000 crore.

The State's Finance Minister **Palanivel Thiaga Rajan** announced in his budget speech last month that Tamil Nadu planned to borrow ₹1,43,197.93 crore during 2023-24 and make repayments of ₹51,331,79 crore, resulting in net borrowings of ₹91,866.14 crore.

ICC releases annual rankings; India on top in Tests, T20Is, 3rd in ODIs

India has overtaken Australia to regain the **No.1 position in the ICC Men's Test** Team Rankings following the annual update that drops results from the 2019-20 season and reflects all series completed since May 2020.

India's rating points have moved up from 119 to 121 as their 2-0 defeat to New Zealand in March 2020 no longer figures in the rankings, which assesses series completed prior to May 2022 at 50 percent and subsequent series at 100 percent. India was last at the top for a month in December 2021.

Australia have slipped from 122 to 116 rating points as their home series wins over Pakistan (2-0) and New Zealand (3-0) in 2019-20 no longer figure in the rankings, while their 4-0 win over England in 2021-22 has its weighting halved to 50 percent.

World Press Freedom Index 2023: India ranks 161 out of 180 countries

According to the latest report from global media watchdog **Reporters Without Borders (RSF),** India has slipped to the **161st position out of 180 countries** in the 2023 **World Press Freedom Index**. The report was released by RSF, and it indicates a decline in India's ranking for press freedom.

What is World Press Freedom Index?

The World Press Freedom Index is based on five different factors that are used to calculate scores and rank countries. These five sub-indicators include the Political indicator, Economic indicator, Legislative indicator, Social indicator, and Security indicator.

ICC releases annual ODI rankings, Pakistan overtake India to take 2nd spot

The ICC released the **annual ODI rankings,** with Pakistan overtaking India to be ranked second. Australia retained their number one spot with 118 rating points, while Pakistan are second with 116 points and India are third with 115 points. The finalists of 2019 World Cup, New Zealand and England, are ranked fourth and fifth, respectively.

Mumbai Ranks Sixth In Annual Housing Price Growth Among 46 Cities Globally

Mumbai has moved up to the **sixth rank among 46 global cities** in terms of annual price growth of **high-end residential properties,** with an appreciation of 5.5%, according to a report by real estate consultant Knight Frank India.

The report, titled 'Prime Global Cities Index Q1 2023', notes that Bengaluru and New Delhi have also registered an increase in average annual prices in the first quarter of 2023.

Wayanad District Tops ODF Plus Ranking

Wayanad, a district in the **southern Indian state of Kerala**, has achieved a remarkable feat by becoming the first ODF Plus district in India. This is a significant milestone in the country's efforts towards maintaining cleanliness and sanitation under the **Swachh Bharat Mission (Clean India Mission).**

What is ODF?

ODF stands for Open Defecation Free. The ODF programme is part of the **Swachh Bharat Mission**, which was launched on October 2, 2014, by the Indian government to achieve cleanliness and sanitation across the country.

Defence News

Indian Army Inducts First Women Officers into Regiment of Artillery

In a historic first, the **Indian Army** has inducted five women officers into its **Regiment of Artillery**. Lt Mehak Saini, Lt Sakshi Dubey, Lt Aditi Yadav, Lt Pious Mudgil, and Lt Akanksha have joined the Army's premier artillery units after successfully completing their training at the Officers Training Academy (OTA) in Chennai.

Military sources have reported that three of the five women officers have been posted to frontline formations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, while the other two have been posted to **"challenging locations"** near the frontier with Pakistan.

India and Indonesia bilateral naval exercise Samudra Shakti-23

The ASW Corvette, **INS Kavaratti,** which was built and designed in India, has reached Batam, Indonesia to participate in the **4th India-Indonesia Bilateral exercise,** Samudra Shakti-23, from May 14 to May 19, 2023.

The Indian Navy's Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft and Chetak helicopter will also be part of the exercise, while the Indonesian Navy will be represented by KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda, **CN 235 Maritime Patrol Aircraft, and AS565 Panther Helicopter.**

Indian Naval Ships Reach Singapore for ASEAN-2023

- **ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise 2023** is scheduled to be practised between May 02 to May 04 for the first phase i.e. the Harbour Phase.
- In the next Sea Phase, the event will be held on May 07 and May 08. For the program, INS Satpura and INS Delhi have arrived along with their Commandant Rear Admiral **Gurcharan Singh at Changi Naval Port located in Singapore.**
- While there are 10 member states of the ASEAN group, India is among the dialogue partners of this alliance. The nautical event is organised to promote interoperability and activate old ties in the maritime domain.

Defence Production in India Surpasses ₹1 Lakh Crore Mark on the Back of Crucial Reforms

India has achieved a significant milestone in its defence sector as the value of defence production in the country crossed **₹1 lakh** crore for the first time.

This achievement is a result of key reforms implemented to boost growth in the sector and reduce reliance on military imports. The value of defence production has nearly doubled over the past five years, reflecting India's efforts to strengthen its position as a weapons and systems exporter.

Exercise Jal Rahat

The **Indian Army's Gajraj Corps,** in collaboration with various disaster management groups, recently conducted a joint flood relief drill called **'Exercise Jal Rahat.'**

The drill took place at Hagrama Bridge on the Manas River in Assam, aiming to enhance flood relief preparedness ahead of the monsoon season. The exercise emphasized coordination among multiple agencies and focused on efficient rescue operations and the utilization of innovative strategies.

Exercise Jal Rahat aimed to strengthen the preparedness of flood relief efforts. Recognizing the challenges posed by monsoon floods, the drill focused on improving coordination between different organizations involved in disaster response.

INS TARKASH and INS SUBHADRA Arrive in Saudi Arabia, Kickstarting AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2023 Naval Exercise

Marking a significant milestone in the growing defense cooperation between India and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the **INS TARKASH and INS SUBHADRA** have arrived at Port Al-Jubail to commence the second edition of the naval exercise, **'AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2023.'**

The visit of these Indian naval ships signifies the beginning of the harbor phase, highlighting the deepening defense ties and promoting regional stability in the Arabian Sea and the Gulf region.

I. INS TARKASH: A State-of-the-Art Stealth Frigate Commissioned on November 9, 2012, INS TARKASH is a state-of-the-art stealth frigate belonging to the Talwar class.

II. INS SUBHADRA: A Versatile Patrol Vessel Accompanying INS TARKASH is the INS SUBHADRA, a patrol vessel of the Sukanya class.

INS Magar – Indian Navy's Landing Ship Decommissioned After 36 Years of Service

INS Magar, the oldest Landing Ship Tank (Large), was decommissioned by the **Indian Navy after 36 years** of service on May 06 at the Naval base in Kochi.

The decommissioning ceremony was attended by **Vice Admiral MA Hampiholi,** Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command, as well as Air Marshal B Manikantan, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Air Command. Commander Hemant Salunkhe commanded the ship during its service. The event included the release of the ship's timeline and a special postage cover.

Indian Navy Attempted 'BrahMos' Supersonic Missile Ignition from INS Mormugao, Reflects Military Firepower

BrahMos Supersonic Missile of the Indian Navy successfully took off from the **Mormugao Port located in Goa**. This projectile hit the target on May 14, 2023 (Sunday). Visakhapatnam Class Destroyer Warship called INS Mormugao was involved in this test firing hosted by the country's military.

The operations held at sea that was initiated from **INS Mormugao** showcase the fire potential of the maritime forces of India. Both indigenously built vehicles are a pathway to **'Aatmanirbharta'** which implies the Self Reliant Defence Programme of the Modi Government.

Science related Affairs

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

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras have developed a machine learning-based computational tool called GBMDriver to improve the detection of cancer-causing tumours in the brain and spinal cord.

The tool is freely accessible and was primarily developed to identify driver mutations and passenger mutations in glioblastoma, a rapidly proliferating tumour.

Most Awaited Google's Talkative Bot 'Bard' Arrives in India for Free, Incorporated New Features

Google has ended the waiting list for using **Bard Chatbot** and India can now participate in enhancing their ideas and getting information from the popular AI agent. Bard is in rivalry with OpenAI's launch ChatGPT. Bard was only accessible in the US and UK, however now the company is giving a chance to use it for free.

IBM and NASA Collaborate to Convert Satellite Data into High-Resolution Maps Using AI

International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) and **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** have introduced a new geospatial foundation model that can transform satellite data into detailed maps of floods, fires, and other landscape transformations. These maps can provide insights into the Earth's history and offer glimpses into its future.

The platform's potential applications include estimating climate-related risks to agriculture, infrastructure, and buildings, assessing forests for carbon-offset initiatives, and assisting businesses in developing strategies to address and adapt to climate change by employing predictive models.

Israel ties up with IIT-M to set up water technology centre

The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** has entered into a partnership with Israel to establish the **'India-Israel Center of Water Technology' (CoWT).** This joint initiative aims to address the challenges in water resources management and water technologies in India.

The Letter of Intent (LoI) for the center was signed by representatives from both countries, highlighting the significance of this collaboration in ensuring water security for India.

Axiom Space's Private Astronaut Mission to Test Cancer Drugs in Space

Axiom Space, a private space habitat company, recently launched their latest mission, **Axiom Mission 2 (Ax-2)**, to the International Space Station (ISS).

This mission aims to conduct experiments on human stem cell ageing, inflammation, and cancer in the unique microgravity environment of space. The findings from these experiments not only contribute to the well-being of astronauts but also hold potential for advancing cancer treatment on Earth.

AI Supercomputer 'AIRAWAT' puts India among top supercomputing league

The AI Supercomputer **'AIRAWAT',** installed at **C-DAC, Pune** has been ranked 75th in the world. It was declared so in the 61st edition of Top 500 Global Supercomputing List yesterday at the International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) in Germany.

It puts India on top of AI Supercomputing nations worldwide. The system is installed under National Program on AI by Government of India.

"We need to make Artificial Intelligence in India and Artificial Intelligence work for India" – Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision **"AI FOR ALL".**

Microsoft launches Jugalbandi, a multilingual AI-chat bot for rural India

Microsoft has launched **Jugalbandi,** a generative AI-driven multilingual **chatbot** accessible via popular messaging platform, **WhatsApp.** The bot has been especially made to cover areas of **rural India** which aren't easily penetrated through media and lack access to government's welfare activities.

The chatbot has been developed by **AI4Bharat** in collaboration with **IIT Madras.** It is aimed at providing personalised assistance by understanding user queries in multiple languages, whether spoken or typed. The chatbot was launched in April and has been tested in Biwan, a village near India's capital city of New Delhi.

Shenzhou-16 Mission

Shenzhou-16 spacecraft was launched from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in China**. This important mission marked the fifth manned mission to the Chinese space outpost since 2021, underscoring China's commitment to advancing its space program.

XPoSat, India's first polarimetry mission

The **Indian Space Research Organisation** is collaborating with the **Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bengaluru,** an autonomous research institute, to build the X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) that is scheduled to be launched later this year.

Recently, ISRO chairman S Somanath urged Indian scientific institutions to identify talented students and take steps to motivate them in effectively using the data emerging from science-based space missions. He mentioned the XPoSat in this regard.

Book News

A book called 'Collective Spirit, Concrete Action' written by Shashi Shekhar Vempati

At the 100th episode of **'Mann Ki Baat',** a book called **'Collective Spirit, Concrete Action'** written by Shashi Shekhar Vempati, former CEO of Prasar Bharati (2017-2022) was launched.

The book was released during a day-long National Conclave on Mann Ki Baat @100, held in the national capital on April 26. According to the author, 'Mann Ki Baat' is a combination of the power of radio and the vision of a nation's leader. Over the course of 15 chapters, the book special also offers insights and perspectives from grassroots change-makers and iconic personalities.

A book titled "MADE IN INDIA :75 Years of Business and Enterprise" by Amitabh Kant

Retired **Indian Administrative Service (IAS)** officer **Amitabh Kant**, who served as **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) (2016-2022), has authored a new book titled **"Made In India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise"** published by the Rupa Publications India.

KK Shailaja's autobiographical work titled 'My Life As A Comrade'

CPM central committee member and former health minister of Kerala, KK Shailaja's autobiographical work titled **'My Life As A Comrade'** is set to be published by Juggernaut Books, a Delhi-based publishing house.

In her new book, My Life as a Comrade, co-written with Manju Sara Rajan, former CEO of the Kochi Biennale Foundation and journalist, Shailaja writes about the course of her life that started in a small settlement in Malabar and eventually led her to a Cabinet position in the State government.

A book "Guts Amidst Bloodbath : The Aunshuman Gaekwad Narrative" by Aditya Bhushan

Anshuman Gaekwad, a former **Indian Test cricketer**, released his semi-autobiographical book titled **"Guts Amidst Bloodbath"** at the Cricket Club of India (CCI).

The occasion was graced by six former India cricket captains, namely **Sachin Tendulkar, Gundapa Vishwanath, Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Ravi Shastri, and Kapil Dev**. These legendary cricketers shared anecdotes and praised Gaekwad for his contributions to the sport.

Ruskin Bond wrote a new book titled 'The Golden Years'

Indian author **Ruskin Bond** wrote a book titled **"The Golden Years: The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life".** The Golden Years book is published by HarperCollins India and released on 19 May 2023, Bond's 89th birthday. **"The Golden Years"** focuses on Bond's experiences during the 60s, 70s and 80s.

A book titled 'NTR: A Political Biography' by Ramachandra Murthy Kondubhatla

Journalist, editor and writer, **Ramachandra Murthy Kondubhatla**, has authored a new book titled **"NTR-A Political Biography"** which presents a realistic picture of Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR), the star figure in the discourse on cinema and politics in the two Telugu States (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana).

The book, published by HarperCollins India, commemorates the centenary year of NTR. The book uncovers many facets of, NTR's life and his impact on Politics at the state and national level.

Sports News

Name	Tournament & Title name	Extra Information
Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty	men's doubles medal in Badminton Asia Championships	The Indian pair defeated the Malaysian duo of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi in a thrilling three-game match that lasted for over an hour.
Sergio Pérez	Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2023	Red Bull's Sergio Perez won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix, the fourth round of the 2023 Formula 1 World Championship, in Baku. Sergio Pérez took advantage of a fortunately timed safety car to beat his teammate Max Verstappen to the victory in the Azerbaijan Grand Prix.
Luca Brecel	snooker World Championship title	Luca Brecel, **the 28-year-old** Belgian snooker player, **has claimed his first world title**

		after defeating Mark Selby in a thrilling final at the Crucible in Sheffield.
Neeraj Chopra	88.67 m throw at Diamond League 2023	Olympic gold medal winner Neeraj Chopra has secured victory with 88.67 m throw at Doha Diamond League 2023.
Babar Azam	becomes fastest to 5,000 ODI runs	Babar Azam, **the** captain of the Pakistan cricket team**, has set a new record by becoming the fastest player to** score 5000 runs in One Day International (ODI) **cricket.**
Max Verstappen	Miami Grand Prix 2023	World champion Max Verstappen powered from ninth on the grid to beat Red Bull team-mate Sergio Perez and win the Miami Grand Prix 2023. The victory extends Verstappen's lead at the top of the standings and follows his triumph in the inaugural Miami race last year.
FC Barcelona	27th La Liga Title	Football Club Barcelona (FC Barcelona) **has become the champions of Spain for the** 27th time **in the club's 123-year history, securing their first title since 2019.**
Max Verstappen	Monaco Grand Prix 2023	The victory was Verstappen's fourth of the season and extended his lead in the Drivers' Championship to 39 points.
Chennai Super Kings	IPL 2023 final	Chennai Super Kings (CSK) **clinched their** fifth Indian Premier League (IPL) title, **equaling a record with Mumbai Indians. They secured a five-wicket victory over the Gujarat Titans (GT) amidst a backdrop of fireworks and jubilant celebrations.**
India	CAVA Women's Challenge Cup 2023	ndia **has won the title of** NSC-CAVA Women's Volleyball Challenge Cup

		held in Kathmandu. **India won the title by** defeating Kazakhstan **in the final at the National Sports Council's Covered Hall in Tripureshwor, Kathmandu.**

Obituary News

Name	Associated Field
Ranajit Guha	Noted historian
SP Hinduja	Hinduja Group chairman
Karumuttu T Kannan	Industrialist and philanthropist
Tina Turner	Legendary Singer 'Queen of Rock'

Important Days

Days	Date	Themes
Labour Day	May 01	
World Tuna Day	May 02	
World Asthma Day	May 02	Asthma Care for All
World Press Freedom Day	May 02	Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for All Other Human Rights
Coal Miners Day	May 04	
International Firefighters' Day	May 04	
World Portuguese Language Day	May 05	
World Athletics Day	May 07	Athletics for All – A New Beginning
World Red Cross Day	May 08	Everything we do comes from the heart
World Thalassemia Day	May 08	Strengthening Education to Bridge the Thalassaemia Care Gap
International Day of Argania	May 10	
National Technology Day	May 11	
International Nurses Day	May 12	Our Nurses. Our Future
International Day of Plant Health	May 12	
World Migratory Bird Day	May 13	
Mother's Day	May 14	

International Day of Families	May 15	Demographic Trends and Families
UN Global Road Safety Week	May 15 – May 21	sustainable transport
International Day of Light	May 16	The International Day of Light is observed on May 16 every year to commemorate Theodore Maiman's successful operation of the laser in 1960.
International Day of Living Together in Peace	May 16	
National Dengue Day	May 16	
World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	May 17	Enabling the least developed nations through information and communication technologies
World Hypertension Day	May 17	
Global Accessibility Awareness Day	May 18	
International Museum Day	May 18	
World AIDS Vaccine Day Or HIV Vaccine Awareness Day	May 18	
World Bee Day	May 20	Engaging in Pollinator-Friendly Agricultural Production
World Metrology Day	May 20	Measurements supporting the global food system
International Tea Day	May 21	
World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	May 21	
National Anti-Terrorism Day	May 21	
International Day for Biological Diversity	May 22	From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity
World Turtle Day	May 23	
International Day to End Obstetric Fistula	May 23	
Indian Commonwealth Day	May 24	Forging a Sustainable and Peaceful Common Future
World Thyroid Awareness Day	May 25	
International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories	May 25 - 31	
International Day of UN Peacekeepers	May 29	Peace begins with me
Goa Statehood Day	May 30	
World Vape Day	May 30	