

Weekly Current Affairs PDF May 07 to May 13, 2023

Current Affairs PDF- May 13, 2023

NATIONAL

Four-day Shri Anna Mahotsav begins in Dehradun

The four-day Shri Anna Mahotsav, Millets festival, has begun in Dehradun, Uttarakhand from Saturday. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated Shri Anna Mahotsav at Hathibarkala. Thousands of farmers from across the state are participating in the four-day event.

While addressing the gathering on the occasion of Shri Anna Mahotsav the Chief Minister said that such events would encourage the cultivation of coarse grains. The Chief Minister said that "Shri Anna" is becoming the medium of all-round development in India and now every citizen of the country is also getting associated with it. More than 100 stalls of coarse grains have been set up in the festival. On this occasion, Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi and many other dignitaries also participated in the program. It may be recalled that along with organic farming in the state, the implementation of the National Natural Agriculture Mission scheme is being started in 11 districts of the state from this year itself. For this, the Government of India has also approved the operation of an agricultural mission program of about 796 lakhs on 6 thousand 400 hectares of land.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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

IBM in collaboration with NASA unveiled a new geospatial foundation model designed to convert satellite data into high-resolution maps of floods, fires, and other landscape changes to reveal the planet's past and hint at its future.

The model watsonx.ai geospatial offering is an artificial intelligence (AI) technology developed by IBM.

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.

The goal of the NASA and IBM collaboration is to provide an easier way for researchers to analyse and draw insights from large NASA datasets related to Earth processes.

This collaboration is part of NASA's Open-Source Science Initiative (OSSI), a commitment to building an inclusive, transparent, and collaborative open science community over the next decade.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Linda Yaccarino the new CEO of Twitter

Elon Musk has confirmed that Linda Yaccarino is the new Twitter CEO who he has appointed. Musk further revealed that Yaccarino will primarily focus on business

operations while Musk will focus more on product design and new technology. Yaccarino will join as Twitter CEO officially in six weeks time,

About Linda Yaccarino - Linda Yaccarino is a notable figure in the media industry. Yaccarino has been with NBCUniversal for more than 20 years and has held a variety of leadership positions. Currently, she is responsible for all of NBCUniversal's global advertising and partnerships businesses.

As Musk previously confirmed that the new Twitter CEO will join in 6 weeks from now. It is also worth noting that Yaccarino is the first female Twitter CEO and also the first to come from a non-tech background. All ex-Twitter CEOs were from a tech background.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

India Semiconductor Mission signs MoU with Purdue University in US

The Indian Semiconductor Mission and Purdue University have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the purposes of capacity building, research and development, and industry participation, according to Union Minister of Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw, who is now in the US.

About: India Semiconductor Mission - India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) is a specialized and independent Business Division within the Digital India Corporation that aims to build a vibrant semiconductor and display ecosystem to enable India's emergence as a global hub for electronics manufacturing and design. Led by global experts of the Semiconductor and display ecosystem the mission aims to serve as a focal point for the comprehensive, coherent, efficient, and smooth deployment of the Program for Development of Semiconductor and Display Ecosystem in consultation with the Government ministries/departments/agencies, industry, and academia.

MoU signed between Telangana government and LSEG to set up tech centre in Hyderabad

In a major boost to the banking, financial services and insurance sector in Telangana, the London Stock Exchange Group PLC (LSEG) has announced its decision to set up a Technology Centre of Excellence in Hyderabad, generating employment for about 1,000 people in a year.

The announcement was made after IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao, who is currently on a tour of the United Kingdom, met with Anthony McCarthy, Group CIO, LSEG, Following the announcement, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Telangana government and LSEG. The MoU was signed by Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary (IT and Industries) and McCarthy.

About: LSEG - The London Stock Exchange Group is a leading global financial market infrastructure and data provider, operating in 70 countries worldwide and serving customers in 190 countries. With over 2,000 issuers across 100 countries and a benchmark of \$161 linked to FTSE Russell indexes, LSEG continues to be a major player in the global financial industry.

G7 Finance Ministers, Central Bank Governors meet in Japan to tackle global economic challenges

The G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met in Niigata, Japan joined by the Heads of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank Group, Organisation for Economic

Cooperation and Development, and Financial Stability Board. The meeting took place from 11th-13th May.

During the meeting, many issues of global interest were discussed including the Russia - Ukraine war and debt vulnerabilities in developing countries.

Other issues included strengthening global economic resilience through climate action, global health architecture, economic security as well as financial digitalization and pursuing welfare enhancement by upgrading economic policies

The discussions held with Brazil, Comoros, India, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, and Singapore were given due importance in respective issues. G7 members and Finance Ministers of these countries exchanged views on recent global economic developments and major challenges.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Cochin Port bags Sagar Shreshta award

Cochin Port has bagged Sagar Shreshta Award of Ministry of Ports Shipping & Waterways for best performance among all Indian Major Ports for best turnaround time in non-container port category, during the year 2022-23.

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal has given the award to M. Beena, Chairperson, Cochin Port Authority at a function held in New Delhi. The award is in recognition of the 'excellent performance of the Cochin Port in handling dry bulk and liquid bulk cargo vessels'.

The port recorded 48 hours in turning around vessels of an average parcel size of 43,800 MT that arrived at the Port. The TRT is a performance parameter which is calculated on the basis of the notice of readiness by the vessel till pilot disembark time after operations, of a vessel that arrives at the port. Union Minister for Ports, Shipping Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal given away the Award to Dr M Beena, Chairperson, Cochin Port Authority.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Kotak Bank's 'privy league' premium banking customers to get country's first LED debit cards

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) has launched a premium banking programme, Privy League, aimed at high-net-worth individuals. The programme offers lifestyle privileges and bespoke financial solutions. According to a statement issued by the bank, the Privy League will be the bank's flagship premium banking program and is designed to celebrate its customers' achievements. One of the features of this account is the Premium Metal Debit Card, designed by artist Arunanshu Chowdhury for the Privy League black tier, lets customers enjoy luxury deals and complimentary airport lounge access, among many other benefits. The Signature LED Debit Card, designed for Privy League Platinum tier, is India's first LED card, which lights.

Current Affairs PDF- May 12, 2023

NATIONAL

PM Modi launches development projects worth Rs 4400 crore in Gujarat

PM Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated several projects to the nation worth around Rs 4400 crores in Gandhinagar, Gujarat today, 12th May. The projects that were inaugurated included development initiatives worth Rs. 2450 in Urban Development Department, Water Supply Department, Road and Transport Department and Mines and Minerals Department. Besides, PMAY projects (both rural and urban) worth Rs. 1950 crores, were also inaugurated. PM Modi also handed over keys to beneficiaries of the scheme for about 19,000 houses built under the Gruh Pravesh scheme, and interacted with them via video link.

Details of the Projects- The inaugurated projects include the expansion of multi-village drinking water supply schemes in Banaskantha district, the construction of a river overbridge in Ahmedabad, the establishment of a drainage collection network at Naroda GIDC, and sewage treatment plants in Mehsana and Ahmedabad, as well as an auditorium in Dahegam, among others.

The foundation stone will be laid for other projects such as bulk pipeline projects in Junagadh district, augmentation of water supply schemes in Gandhinagar district, the construction of flyover bridges, a new water distribution station, and various town planning roads, among others.

Varanasi's LBSI airport becomes first in country to have a reading Lounge

The Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport here has become the first in India to have a reading lounge. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's advisor Awanish Awasthi inaugurated the lounge. This lounge was set up with the help of the National Book Trust (NBT) an Indian publishing house and autonomous body under the ministry of education of the Union government. The NBT will operate this lounge, created near the entrance point of the airport's main lobby.

The Airport Reading Lounge is a reflection of Kashi, for both traditionalists as well as the contemporary visitors and passengers, and for those who wish to seek further knowledge on the mystical heritage of this ancient city.

Apart from India's culture, history, traditional knowledge systems, health and wellness, literature in Hindi, French, Spanish, English and many other Indian languages, the reading lounge also celebrates literary icons of Varanasi through their works, iconic places and unknown facts and connections with the city.

The lounge also has a dedicated shelf of the budding authors displaying their recently published books under the Prime Minister's Mentorship Scheme for Young Writers (PM-YUVA Scheme).

The lounge also offers free access to downloaded portions of any book through a QR code. For the technology-driven generation, another QR code gives access to select Free Audio books, on the comfort of a mobile, laptop or tablet.

Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework Launched by Minister R Bindu

Kerala Government has launched the Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework, KIRF. The new higher education framework was launched by the State Minister for Higher Education R Bindu. With KIRF, Kerala becomes the first state to implement its own ranking system for higher education.

Created on the lines of the National Institute of Ranking Framework, under KIRF, the government aims to introduce a more democratic and secular approach to the ranking system in the state.

The ranking framework has been implemented by the Kerala State Higher Education Council and KSHEC will be issuing rankings annually. By implementing the KIRF, Kerala becomes the first state to have its own ranking system for higher education institutions.

SPORTS

Yashasvi Jaiswal smashes fastest fifty in the history of IPL

Rajasthan Royal's left-handed batter Yashasvi Jaiswal created history by making the fastest 50 in the history of IPL. He reached the 50-run mark in just 13 balls to break the record jointly held by KL Rahul and Pat Cummins. Both had scored half-centuries in 14 balls. With RR chasing a 150-run target against KKR, The opener batsman struck 26 runs, with three fours and two sixes, in the very first over by KKR captain Nitish Rana. Jaiswal got emotional after the match-winning knocks and said that his dream is to play at 3 in ODI for India.

About Yashasvi Jaiswal - Yashasvi Bhupendra Kumar Jaiswal is an Indian professional cricketer who plays for Mumbai in domestic cricket and Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League. He is the youngest cricketer in the world to score a List A double century.

Yuzvendra Chahal creates history, becomes first Indian to take most wickets in IPL

Yuzvendra Chahal, the spinner for both India and the Rajasthan Royals cricket team, made history on Sunday as he became the first Indian bowler to take 300 wickets in T20 cricket. Chahal's impressive performance against the Sunrisers Hyderabad saw him take four wickets for just 17 runs in four overs, ultimately leading his team to a 72-run victory. Chahal reached the milestone after dismissing Harry Brook with the last ball of the seventh over. He now has an impressive record of 303 wickets in 265 matches, having also taken down Mayank Agrawal, Adil Rashid, and Bhuvneshwar Kumar throughout the match.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Plant Health

The United Nations designated 12 May the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect biodiversity and the environment, and boost economic development.

Plants provide 98 percent of the oxygen we breathe, 80 percent of food we consume, the fibres for our clothes and other lifestyle items. They give shelter to countless birds and other living beings. Yet, as per the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), around 40 percent food crops get damaged annually due to diseases and pests. Climate change is also having an adverse impact on plants. Rural agricultural communities are the most affected by this food security issue. Maintaining or ensuring good health of plants is vital for the survival of mankind and other life.

Theme - The theme of this year's celebration of International Day of Plant Health is "Plant Health for Environmental Protection," as mentioned on the IPPC website. The IPPC is a 1951 multilateral treaty overseen by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) which formulates action plans to prevent and control the introduction and spread of pests of plants and plant products.

International Nurse Day

The International Council of Nurses has dedicated May 12 as International Nurse Day to honour the contribution of nurses to society and acknowledge the role they play in the overall healthcare system. Nurses play a crucial role in providing medical care and their role during COVID-19 has inspired humankind. The day marks the birthday of Florence Nightingale.

Florence Nightingale also known as "The Lady With the Lamp," was a British nurse, social reformer and statistician best known as the founder of modern nursing. She was the founder of St. Thomas's Hospital and the Nightingale Training School for Nurses in 1860. The International Council of Nurses has dedicated May 12 as International Nurse Day to celebrate Florence Nightingale's birthday. The Council celebrated International Nurses Day for the first time in 1965. Every year, a different component of nursing or the healthcare system is highlighted through the theme of International Nurses Day. This year, the theme of International Nurses Day 2023 is "Our Nurses. Our Future."

BANKING AND ECONOMY

World Bank Approves USD 82 Mln for Zoonotic Disease Prevention in India

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved an \$82 million loan towards the adoption of global best practices for animal health management to prevent, detect, and respond to endemic zoonotic, transboundary, and emerging infectious diseases. It will strengthen India's One Health approach, which recognises that people and animals are connected with their shared environment.

Animal disease outbreaks globally continue to pose risks to public health systems and have enormous economic costs. With India having the largest livestock population in the world, these risks are particularly high. For example, foot and mouth disease alone costs the country more than \$3.3 billion annually.

Current Affairs PDF- May 11, 2023

NATIONAL

PM Modi lay foundation stone, dedicate to nation multiple scientific projects worth over Rs 5,800 cr in New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple scientific projects of over 5 thousand 800 crore rupees on the occasion of National Technology Day

During a function in New Delhi, Mr. Modi released a commemorative stamp and coin and also inaugurated the Expo showcasing scientific and technological advancements made in India in the recent past.

The projects whose foundation stones were laid by the Prime Minister include Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory – India (LIGO-India), Hingoli, Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Jatni in Odisha and Platinum Jubilee Block of Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai.

The LIGO-India will be one of the handful Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave observatories in the world. It will work in synchronisation with two such observatories operating in the United States.

During the function, the projects related to Fission Molybdenum-99 Production Facility in Mumbai, Rare Earth Permanent Magnet Plant and Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in Visakhapatnam, National Hadron Beam Therapy Facility and Women and Children Cancer Hospital Building in Navi Mumbai were dedicated to the nation.

Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launches 'Harit Sagar' the Green Port Guidelines 2023

To meet the larger vision of achieving Zero Carbon Emission Goal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways has launched 'Harit Sagar' the Green Port Guidelines. The guidelines were launched by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways and AYUSH in the august presence of Shri Shripad Y. Naik, Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Tourism and other senior officials of the Ministry today in New Delhi.

Harit Sagar Guidelines - 2023 envisages ecosystem dynamics in port development, operation and maintenance while aligning with 'Working with Nature' concept and minimizing impact on biotic components of harbor ecosystem. It lays emphasis on use of Clean / Green energy in Port operation, developing Port capabilities for storage, handling and bunkering Greener Fuels viz. Green Hydrogen, Green Ammonia, Green Methanol / Ethanol etc.

These Guidelines provides a framework for the Major Ports for drawing out a comprehensive action plan for achieving targeted outcomes in terms of quantified reduction in carbon emission over defined timelines, through focused implementation and close monitoring of Green Initiatives and to achieve Sustainable Developmental Goals

OBITURY

Famous corporate lawyer Rajiv Luthra passes away at 67

Veteran corporate lawyer and founder of the law firm Luthra & Luthra, Rajiv Luthra passes away at the age of 67 due to a brief illness, The veteran lawyer is survived by his wife Gayatri and two daughters.

He started his career as a chartered accountant, pursued Law and was an alumnus of University of Delhi. In the year 1989, he established his own firm Luthra & Luthra Law offices at the age of 31. After setting up his firm, he opted for courses at the Harvard Law School for the period of seven years. He studied several spheres of law and it helped him in developing a niche in practicing acquisitions, mergers, finance with specialization in public private partnership and in project finance.

Luthra & Luthra Law Offices has over 350 lawyers and has branches in Mumbai and Bangalore.

Former AIFF vice-president AR Khaleel passes away

The former All India Football Federation (AIFF) vice-president, treasurer and executive committee member AR Khaleel passed away after a brief illness. He was 91. Khaleel is survived by his wife and four daughters.

AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey condoled the demise of Khaleel, who was also the former president of the Karnataka State Football Association (KSFA).

A prominent face in the Indian football administration for nearly six decades, Khaleel was also active at the continental level, and on occasions was a member of Asian Football Confederation Standing Committees. A president of the KSFA for 28 years till 2018, Khaleel had worked for the game in various capacities. He was a footballer, who ran Jawahar Union FC, one of Bengaluru's traditional clubs, was an administrator par excellence, and served Karnataka football as an office bearer for many years.

He also donned managerial roles for the Indian national teams in various age groups. In Karnataka football, Khaleel will always be remembered for the exemplary work he did in acquiring land and building the Bangalore Football Stadium, owned by the KSFA.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

NIIF appoints Rajiv Dhar as interim CEO

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), a quasi-sovereign wealth fund, board has appointed Rajiv Dhar as interim Managing Director and CEO.

The planned succession follows Sujoy Bose's request to relieve him from his current responsibilities as MD and CEO, Dhar, executive director and chief operating officer, has been part of NIIF since 2017.

The government had set up the Rs 40,000-crore NIIF in December 2016 as an investment vehicle for funding commercially viable greenfield, brownfield and stalled projects. It was envisioned as a mother fund with several sectoral feeder funds.

The corpus of NIIF is proposed to be Rs 40,000 crore wherein the government intends to invest 49 per cent. It will raise third-party capital for the remaining Rs 20,000 crore from long-term international investors, such as sovereign wealth funds, insurance and pension funds, and endowments.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Technology Day: India

National Technology Day is celebrated every year on May 11. This day commemorates India's successful nuclear tests that were conducted on May 11th, 1998, at Pokhran, Rajasthan. It is a day to celebrate the achievements of Indian scientists and engineers who have contributed to the development of technology in various fields.

On this day, different government organisations, institutes, schools, and colleges hold programmes in honour of India's scientists and their achievements. India is one of the fastest developing nations in the world, and much of the credit goes to technological advancement.

Theme - Every year, the Technology Development Board (TDB) selects a theme for each year's event. This year the theme of the National Technology Day 2023 is 'School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate.'

National Technology Day is a reminder of the important role that technology plays in our lives, and the need for continued investment and innovation in this field to ensure progress and growth.

Note - This term was coined by former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to recognise the contributions of Indian scientists.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Ministry of AYUSH and ICMR sign MoU for integrative health research

In a significant development a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Ayush and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to promote and collaborate on integrative health research. This cooperation will focus on identified areas of national importance in healthcare for promoting high impact research to generate evidence utilizing modern scientific methods. This MoU will also strengthen research capacity through training of Ayush researchers.

MoU was signed by Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, secretary, Ministry of Ayush and Dr. Rajiv Bahl, Director General, ICMR & secretary, Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

This MoU will enable both parties to jointly establish Ayush-ICMR Centers for Advanced Research in Integrative Health at all AIIMS with co-funding. Further, they will explore possibility to work on public health research, take initiatives for addressing diseases of national importance and look at possibilities of conducting high-quality clinical trials jointly on identified areas/disease conditions of national importance with promising therapies of Ayush system to generate evidence for wider acceptance.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

UP CM Yogi Adityanath honoured with Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar award

Former president of India Ram Nath Kovind honoured Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on with the Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award for creating a fear-free Uttar Pradesh. The award ceremony was organized at Shri Shanmukhananda Auditorium in Mumbai where member of UP legislative council Dr. Lalji Prasad Nirmal received the award on behalf of Yogi Adityanath. Buddhanjali Research Foundation organized the award ceremony which was graced by Ramnath Kovind as the chief guest

About the Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award - The Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award is an annual award presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to society in the areas of education, social welfare, and economics, in the spirit of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Current Affairs PDF- May 10, 2023

NATIONAL

PM lays foundation stone and dedicates to nation infrastructure projects worth over Rs. 5500 crores in Nathdwara, Rajasthan

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone, inaugurated and dedicated to the nation projects worth over Rs. 5500 crores in Nathdwara, Rajasthan. The development projects focus on bolstering infrastructure and connectivity in the region

where the railway and road projects will facilitate the movement of goods and services, thereby boosting trade and commerce and improving the socio-economic conditions of the people in the region

Projects –

1. Lays foundation stone for redevelopment of Udaipur railway station and gauge conversion project
2. Lays foundation stone for road construction projects for upgradation to two-lane in Rajsamand and Udaipur.
3. Inaugurates three national highway projects

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister expressed gratitude for getting the opportunity to visit the glorious land of Mewar of Lord Shrinath. The Prime Minister recalled performing darshan and puja at the Shrinathji Temple in Nathdwara earlier in the day and wished for blessings to accomplish the goals of a Viksit Bharat in the Azaadi Ka Amrit Kaal.

Telangana Robotics Framework: IT Minister KT Rama Rao Launches First-Of-Its-Kind Policy

IT and Industries Minister K.T. Rama Rao launched Telangana State Robotics Framework with an aim for creating a sustainable robotics ecosystem promote the robotics ecosystem and establishing the state as a leader in the field of robotics,

The framework is a comprehensive roadmap that outlines the state's vision for the development of the robotics ecosystem in the state and contributing to the growth of the industry in the country,

About Robotics Framework - The State Robotics Framework is a detailed plan that outlines Telangana's vision for advancing the robotics ecosystem and promoting industry growth in India. The framework was created by the Emerging Technologies Wing of the ITE&C Department of Telangana, in collaboration with the All India Robotics Association and input from academic, industry experts and stakeholders.

Punjab becomes first state to implement 'Right To Walk'

Punjab has become the first state to implement 'Right To Walk' by making it mandatory for all road-owning agencies, including the NHAI, to provide footpath and cycle tracks in all future expansion of roads and construction of new ones, This has come amid consistent rise in deaths of pedestrians and cyclists, Punjab has taken the lead among the states and UTs in India.

The state government has issued these directions following two court orders after PILs were filed at Punjab and Haryana HC and another in the Supreme Court. As per a communication from Punjab chief secretary Vijay Kumar Janjua to Punjab government's traffic adviser, Navdeep Asija, "in future all expansions of existing roads and construction of new roads, a mandatory provision of cycle tracks and footpaths should be made by all road owning departments and agencies".

SPORTS

Lionel Messi and Argentina WIN BIG at Laureus Awards 2023

Lionel Messi has been named the Sportsman of the Year at the 2023 Laureus World Sports Awards ceremony in Paris. The Argentine football star won the prestigious award for his

remarkable achievements on the pitch in the past year, which included leading Argentina to victory in the FIFA World Cup. Messi was nominated alongside other star athletes such as Kylian Mbappe, Rafael Nadal, Stephen Curry, Mondo Duplantis, and Max Verstappen. In addition to that, Messi accepted the World Team of the Year award on behalf of the Argentina men's football team, who won the championship in Qatar. Messi also became the first athlete to scoop both the World Sportsman of the Year Award and the World Team of the Year Award in the same year.

With the win, the Argentine becomes the only footballer ever to win Laureus Awards twice. Messi previously won the Sportsman of the Year award in 2020 in a ceremony that took place in Berlin.

OBITUARY

Renowned Bengali author Samaresh Majumdar passes away at 79

Sahitya Akademi Award Winning Bengali Author who is known for portraying the tumultuous Naxalite period of the 1970s, passes away at a private hospital in Kolkata, he was 79.

Samaresh Majumdar was suffering from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), and was undergoing treatment at the hospital for over a month.

Born on March 10, 1944, novelist Majumdar is best known for his 'Animesh' series. He was first published in the year 1967 - a novel named 'Dour' (Run). One of his works was even adapted into the 2013 film 'Arjun-Kalimpong E Sitaharan'.

Majumdar is also known for 'Uttoradhikar', 'Kaalpurush', 'Satkahan', and 'Adventures of Detective Arjun'. The writer-poet has innumerable accolades under his belt, including Sahitya Akademi Award which he won for 'Kalbela' in 1984.

Apart from this, he has been conferred the Anand Award and Bankim Award. In 2018, the West Bengal government honoured him with the 'Banga Bibhushan' award.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Argania

Every year on May 10, the International Day of Argania or International Day of the Argan Tree is observed to promote awareness and understanding of the argan tree's environmental importance worldwide. This day was established by UNESCO. The United Nations will celebrate on 10 May 2023, the third International Day of Argania, since its proclamation by General Assembly Resolution A/RES/75/262 in 2021.

Theme: The theme of the International Day of Argania – 2023 is Socio-economic development & sustainability of the Argan ecosystem.

About: Argania - Argania is a genus of flowering plants containing the sole species Argania spinosa, known as argan, a tree endemic to the calcareous semi-desert Sous valley of southwestern Morocco and to the region of Tindouf in southwestern Algeria. Argan trees grow to 8–10 m high and live up to approximately 200 years.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

RBI imposes Rs 1.73 crore penalty on HSBC for incorrect credit information

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on May 8 imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.73 crore on the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd for contravention of Credit Information Companies Rules, 2006.

A notice was issued to the bank advising it to show cause as to why the penalty should not be imposed for contravention of the said provisions of CIC Rules, as stated therein.

After considering the bank's reply to the notice and oral submissions made during the personal hearing, the RBI came to the conclusion that the charge of contravention of the aforesaid CIC Rules was substantiated and warranted imposition of monetary penalty. This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

About: HSBC - HSBC's origins in India date back to 1853 when the Mercantile Bank of India was established in Mumbai. The bank has grown steadily and now offers products and services to corporate and commercial banking clients and retail customers.

The Mercantile Bank was bought in 1959 by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited. Founded in 1865 to serve the needs of the merchants of the China coast and finance the growing trade between China, Europe and the US, HSBC has been an international bank from its earliest days.

HSBC in India has been active in the development of the Indian banking industry - even giving India its first ATM in 1987.

Federal Bank launches e-Bank Guarantees in partnership with NeSL

Federal Bank has gone live with NeSL for the issuance of electronic Bank Guarantee facility. With this partnership, customers of Federal Bank can now avail of a complete digital experience while getting a Bank Guarantee. This will, in due course, replace the traditional paper-based process.

Electronic Bank Guarantee facilitates the issuance, invocation, amendment, and cancellation of Bank Guarantee in digital form and removes the need of printing any document/request thereof. It is safe, secure, and fast, facilitating the trade/business activities

Individual, Sole Proprietor, Company, Partnership Firm, Govt. Agencies, Association of People, Body of Individuals are eligible to avail of this facility. This is currently available only in states where e-stamping is available. – As on Mar 2023

Current Affairs PDF- May 09, 2023

NATIONAL

Telangana CM lays foundation for Hare Krishna Heritage Tower

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao laid the foundation for the Hare Krishna Heritage Tower in Hyderabad. The tower will stand at a towering height of 400 feet (120 meters) and will be constructed on six acres of land in Narsingi at a cost of Rs 200 crore.

The tower will house the temples of Sri Sri Radha Krishna and Sri Venkateswara Swamy and will be a cultural landmark for Hyderabad.

The Telangana government announced Rs 25 crore for the construction of the temple, showing their support for organizations that promote peace and spirituality. The tower will also provide accommodation for 1,500 devotees, and an Annadanam hall will be present where 500 visiting devotees can be served food at one time.

The temple complex will feature a library, Kalyanai Auditorium, IMAX open-air theaters, lecture halls, Q complex, and guest rooms. Advanced laser shows will also be arranged to help educate the youth on Lord Krishna's history and teachings. The temple structures will incorporate cutting-edge technology with the skill of the Kakatiyas to preserve Telangana's historical and cultural heritage.

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy inaugurates PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra in Secunderabad

Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy has inaugurated a PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra at Warasiguda in Secunderabad. Mr Reddy said these Jan Aushadhi Kendras provide affordable healthcare and generate self-employment opportunities for youth. He said the Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi scheme has been launched to make quality generic medicines available to the common man at low cost.

About: PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra Scheme - Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India in November, 2008. It is a scheme launched by the Government of India to provide affordable and quality generic medicines to the general public.

Under this scheme, the government sets up Jan Aushadhi Kendras, which are stores that sell generic medicines at much lower prices than branded medicines. The medicines sold in these stores are approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and are of the same quality as branded medicines. These stores are run by individuals, self-help groups, NGOs, or private institutions that are registered under the PMJAK scheme.

SPORTS

ICC Player of the Month d for April 2023

Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman has been honoured with the Men's Player of the Month title for April 2023 and Naruamol Chaiwai from Thailand has been named the Women's Player of the Month for April 2023. by the International Cricket Council (ICC). They have been given this prestigious honour for their achievements and great performances in the cricket matches.

Fakhar Zaman is a Pakistani cricketer who plays for the Pakistan national cricket team and for Lahore Qalandars in the Pakistan Super League. Amd Naruamol Chaiwai is a Thai cricketer. In April 2021, the Cricket Association of Thailand appointed her as the captain of the Thailand women's team, replacing Sorannarin Tippoch.

Asian Weightlifting Championships 2023: Indian weightlifters finish with three silver medals

In Weightlifting, Indian weightlifters finished the Asian Weightlifting Championships 2023 in Jinju, South Korea, with three silver medals. Yesterday, Ajith Narayana and Achinta Sheuli were the only two Indian weightlifters competing in the men's 73kg category. However, the duo failed to add to India's medals tally. Ajith Narayana, who was competing in his first international weightlifting event, topped Group B with a combined lift of 307kg. Commonwealth Games 2022 gold medallist Achinta Sheuli, meanwhile, finished second in Group B with a total lift of 305kg.

However, after the final standings were announced following the completion of Group A, Ajith Narayana and Achinta Sheuli could only rank ninth and tenth, respectively. Bindyarani Devi had opened India's medals account at the Jinju meet with a silver medal in the women's 55kg category on Saturday.

A total of six Indian weightlifters competed at the continental championships, which is second in the series of qualifying events for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The Asian Weightlifting Championships 2023 will run till May 13 but India doesn't have any representation in any of the remaining categories.

Max Verstappen of Red Bull won the F1 Miami Grand Prix 2023

Dutch-Belgian racing driver Max Verstappen of Red Bull won the F1 Miami Grand Prix 2023 title. Two-time defending Formula One world champion Max Verstappen is one step closer to a third straight title.

World champion Max Verstappen powered from ninth on the grid to beat Red Bull teammate 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. Aston Martin's Spanish veteran Fernando Alonso took third for his fourth podium in five races this season as he continues to enjoy his late career revival. Charles Leclerc, who crashed late in qualifying and started seventh on the grid, finished in seventh place with Frenchman Pierre Gasly of Alpine in eighth.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

MakeMyTrip collaborates with Microsoft, for voice assisted travel bookings using AI technology

Digital travel firm MakeMyTrip has collaborated with Microsoft to introduce voice assisted bookings in Indian languages to make travel planning more inclusive and accessible for its customers.

As per the company's statement, this new platform is powered by Microsoft Azure OpenAI and Azure Cognitive Services. The new service will enable user interactions and offer personalised travel recommendations based on their preferences. It will also help in curating and booking holiday packages based on variable inputs like occasion, budget, activity preferences, time of travel, hotel reviews, etc.

According to the announcement, this partnership will add more than 600 fresh travel itineraries to MakeMyTrip's current collection, which includes nearly 5,000 vacation packages.

The new update would elevate the user experience and make the platform more inclusive, accessible, and easy to navigate. The corporation aims to increase its franchise presence by more than 50% by 2023, allowing it to expand its influence into smaller towns and cities throughout India.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Rabindra Jayanti

Rabindra Jayanti 2023 is being celebrated on 9 May, His birth anniversary is on May 7 according to the English calendar, but Bengalis celebrate it on 'Pochishe Baisakh', which falls on May 9, this year

Rabindranath Thakur was born on May 7, 1861. He was a leading figure in the Bengali Renaissance and played a significant role in the modernization of Bengali art. His poetry, novels, short stories, and essays continue to be widely read around the world to this day. Various schools, colleges, and universities organise cultural programmes and events such as poetry recitations, dances, and drama competitions.

Rabindra Jayanti is observed annually to commemorate the birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. This year marks the 162nd birth anniversary of Tagore's birth.

Tagore left us for the heavenly abode on August 7, 1941, gifting us songs, stories and poems to cherish for generations to come. But, a man named Somanth Bhadra is seen along the streets of Kolkata, still giving passers-by a glimpse of Tagore. With his curly grey hair and long grey beard, this old man looks nothing less than the great Nobel Laureate himself.

Victory Day: Russia

Russia celebrates the anniversary of its victory in World War II over Nazi Germany viz. Victory Day on 9th May, amidst the recent drone attacks on the Kremlin citadel. It is organising a parade in Red Square with beefed-up security as Russian President Vladimir Putin is set to deliver a speech there, where he will be joined by leaders of several ex-Soviet republics. Victory Day is one of the most important public holidays in Russia. On this day, people commemorate the sacrifices of the Soviet Union during the 'Great Patriotic War of 1941-45' which resulted in the deaths of 27 million citizens, reported news agency Reuters.

With Russia losing thousands of soldiers in the 15-month war with Ukraine, this anniversary becomes even more important and emotional.

Putin, his Defence minister, and other senior officials will review the parade at Red Square, which usually includes tanks, intercontinental missile launchers, and marching troops.

Current Affairs PDF- May 08, 2023

NATIONAL

Shantanu Thakur flags off vessel 'M.V. MSS Galena' from V.O. Chidambaranar Port

Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Shantanu Thakur flagged off the vessel 'M.V. MSS Galena' from V.O. Chidambaranar Port, as the Direct Shipping Service between Tuticorin to Maldives.

During visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Maldives in June 2019, Prime Minister of India & President of Maldives dwelt on need to improve connectivity between India & Maldives through establishment of enabling infrastructure, which shall also give impetus to bilateral trade between two countries. To take this forward and to reaffirm the mutual understanding between the two Nations this service is being operated as a culmination of the Memorandum of Understanding signed for Establishment of Passenger and Cargo Services by Sea between Ministry of Port, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India, and Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, Government of Maldives on 08.06.2019, during the State Visit of Prime Minister of India to Maldives. This is also in line with 'Neighbourhood-First Policy' and the vision of Security and Growth for all in the Region.

About: M.V. MSS Galena - The vessel 'M.V. MSS Galena', a vessel with carrying capacity of 421 TEUs of containers & provision to carry bulk cargo, deployed by Shipping Corporation of India, arrived at PSA SICAL Container Terminal on 04.05.2023. It was loaded with 270 TEUs of containers at PSA SICAL Container Terminal. 'M.V. MSS Galena' will sail from Tuticorin to Male on 05.05.2023. It is scheduled to reach Male on 07.05.2023. The rotation of this shipping service is Tuticorin – Male – Tuticorin, and is scheduled to make 3 calls a month.

Uttar Pradesh to get its first Pharma Park

The first Pharma Park of the state will be built in Bundelkhand, which is one of the backward areas of Uttar Pradesh. The state government has given green signal to the project of setting up a Pharma Park in Lalitpur district of Bundelkhand. For this, the state government will transfer 1500 hectares of land to the Animal Husbandry Department in Lalitpur district. The state government will spend Rs 1560 crore on development works and providing necessary facilities to the investors in Lalitpur Pharma Park.

The state government has made necessary amendments in its policy for the establishment of Pharma Park in Uttar Pradesh and to encourage the industries set up here. According to the revised policy, all the facilities and subsidies etc. will be given to the entrepreneurs setting up units in Pharma or Medical Device Park. Entrepreneurs setting up units in Pharma Park will be given 100 per cent exemption in stamp duty on land purchase, along with capital subsidy, housing construction for workers, employment generation, etc., will be given subsidy by the government

Rajnath Singh inaugurates country's first Indian Air Force Heritage Centre in Chandigarh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a first-of-its-kind Indian Air Force (IAF) Heritage Centre in Chandigarh. The minister said it is a testament to the courage and dedication of all those who served in the force and a reminder of their invaluable contributions in protecting the nation

The centre has been set up under a memorandum of understanding between the Union Territory of Chandigarh and the IAF which was signed last year. Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator Banwarilal Purohit, The centre also depicts the role of the Indian Air Force during various wars including 1947, 1948, 1965, and 1971 besides the Kargil Conflict and the Balakot Air Strikes.

Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari, and Member of Parliament from Chandigarh Kirron Kher were present on the occasion.

On this occasion, Defence Minister Mr, Singh sat in one of the MiG-21 aircraft on display at the centre. He also sat in a flying simulator.

This wonderful initiative will help in preserving the rich heritage of the Indian Air Force and also inspire young minds to join the armed forces

SPORTS

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz beats Jan-Lennard Struff to defend title of Madrid Open

World number two Carlos Alcaraz continued his good work from the Barcelona Open and successfully defended his title at Madrid on Sunday, 7 May. Alcaraz beat lucky loser Jan-Lennard Struff 6-4 3-6 6-3 and win his fourth ATP Tour trophy of the year and his tenth overall.

The 20-year-old Spaniard had an injury-plagued start to the season but came back in top form last month to win the Barcelona Open for the second consecutive year.

About Madrid Open - The Madrid Open is a professional tennis tournament that takes place annually in Madrid, Spain. The tournament is part of the ATP Tour and the WTA Tour, which are the men's and women's professional tennis circuits, respectively. The Madrid Open is one of the most prestigious tennis events in the world, and it is held at the Caja Magica, which is a multi-purpose stadium with three clay courts.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

IAS Vineet Joshi appointed as new Chief Secretary in Manipur

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Sunday appointed Vineet Joshi, Additional Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education as the new Chief Secretary in Manipur. Vineet Joshi, a 1992 Manipur cadre IAS officer, replaced Dr Rajesh Kumar as the new Chief Secretary.

Vineet Joshi is currently the Director-General of National Testing Agency, which is responsible for conducting entrance examinations in India. He also served as the resident commissioner of Manipur Government

Earlier in February 2022, IAS Vineet Joshi, Additional Secretary, Department of Higher Education, was appointed as the new chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Red Cross Day

World Red Cross Day, is observed on May 8 every year. It commemorates the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize.

History - In 1859, Henry Dunant witnessed the suffering of wounded soldiers on the battlefield of Solferino, Italy, during the Second Italian War of Independence. Shocked by the lack of medical care and support, he organized local civilians to provide assistance to the wounded, regardless of their nationality. . In 1863, his efforts led to the creation of the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded, later known as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The ICRC aimed to provide neutral and impartial humanitarian aid during armed conflicts. The idea of World Red Cross Day was proposed during the 1920s and gained momentum in

subsequent years. It was officially established during the 20th International Conference of the Red Cross in Tokyo, Japan, in 1933.

The conference designated May 8th as the day to commemorate Henry Dunant's birth and honor the humanitarian work of the Red Cross movement. Since then, World Red Cross Day has been observed annually on May 8th.

World Thalassemia Day

World Thalassemia Day is a global healthcare event commemorated every year on May 8th to raise awareness about the condition among the local public and policymakers, apart from supporting and strengthening the morale of the victims who have battled for years with this fatal disease.

On this day, many local and international organisations, patient associations, public authorities, and healthcare professionals gather together to promote the importance of prenatal screening, counselling, prevention, management, or treatment of thalassemia in a patient-centred manner.

About: Thalassaemia - Thalassaemia is an inherited (genetically transmitted) autosomal recessive disorder acquired from parents (either or both). It affects the red blood cells due to a genetic mutation, leading to the depletion of haemoglobin's alpha and/or beta-globin chains. This results in low production of red blood cells and a lack of oxygenated blood supply to the body parts.

Theme - This year, 2023, the World Thalassemia Day Theme is "Be Aware. Share. Care: Strengthening Education to Bridge the Thalassaemia Care Gap". This is a continuation of last year's "Be Aware. Share. Care" initiative.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

MoHUA and MoR jointly ink MoU with JICA for Project SMART

The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Ministry of Railways jointly signed an MoU with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for 'Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail' (Project-SMART). Project-SMART envisages to develop surrounding areas of Mumbai - Ahmedabad High Speed Railway (MAHSR) Stations to enhance accessibility and convenience of commuters & other stakeholders and to promote economic activities in the vicinity of station areas.

The project would facilitate and enhance institutional capacity of State Governments, Municipal Corporations and Urban Development Authorities to plan, develop and manage surrounding areas of MAHSR stations.

Current Affairs PDF- May 07, 2023

INTERNATIONAL

Charles III crowned as King of UK at historic ceremony in London

King Charles has been crowned at his Coronation in London on Saturday May 6. Charles III has taken his oath and been crowned King in a ceremony witnessed by over two thousand guests and dignitaries in Westminster Abbey.

The Archbishop of Canterbury placed the St Edward's Crown on the King's head during a ceremony at Westminster Abbey. After the King was crowned, his wife Camilla as crowned Queen.

Gun salutes were made at 13 locations across the UK, including in London, Edinburgh and Hillsborough, at the moment King Charles was crowned, while the bells of Westminster Abbey rang for two minutes.

NATIONAL

BharatPe launches PAYBACK India in a new avatar, Rebrands it as 'Zillion'

BharatPe Group, one of India's leading names in the fintech industry, announced that it will be rebranding PAYBACK India, the multi-brand loyalty program to 'Zillion'. This new brand identity is in line with the company's vision to make Zillion ubiquitous to loyalty and rewards across the country.

Customers will have a variety of alternatives from Zillion to earn and redeem points at a variety of partners across the country, For their regular purchases, through the network of offline and online partners, including those in the grocery, fuel, entertainment, travel, clothing, and other industries customers will be able to collect "Zillion coins," which will provide them more joy in the moment. This is included into the Zillion logo, which stands for having moments of inspiration and discovering 'aha' moments everywhere.

BMC to set up Asia's largest bio-gas plant in Mumbai, to treat 1,000 tonnes of wet waste daily

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) are joining hands to set up Asia's largest bio-gas plant in Mumbai. The upcoming plant will have the capacity to treat 1,000 tonnes of wet waste every day

the proposed plant will recycle damp, organic, and degradable waste, which accounts for 3,500 tonnes of the 6,000 tonnes of solid waste generated daily in Mumbai. The plant will be able to treat nearly one-third of the daily wet waste generated in the city. It is intended to repurpose the waste for a useful purpose.

The BMC will supply the segregated wet waste to the plant, which MGL will treat to produce gas and supply it back to the city. At present, the solid waste management (SWM) department of the BMC is operating five vehicles in each municipal ward to transport wet waste to scientific treatment centres.

SPORTS

India's Bindyarani Devi wins silver at Asian Championships

Indian weightlifter Bindyarani Devi won the silver medal in the women's 55kg event at the Asian Championships. Bindyarani covered up her underwhelming snatch performance by lifting the second highest weight in clean and jerk to take home the silver in the section. She lifted 80kg and 83kg in her first two snatch attempts with relative ease but her 85kg try was deemed a no lift.

The 24-year-old switched back to her original 55kg weight division for this event due to an injury she had sustained ahead of the selection trials. Bindyarani had moved to the 59kg weight class that features in the Paris Olympics, during last year's World Championships, where she finished 25th.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Athletics Day

World Athletics Day is observed on May 7 to encourage sports activities throughout the world. The primary aim of this day is to inculcate athleticism in youngsters. World Athletics Day was first introduced as a social responsibility project titled 'Athletics for a better world' by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).

The importance of this day cannot be understated as it promotes fitness and health. Many schools and colleges celebrate World Athletics Day by organising sports competitions. The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) is the primary body for organising and managing athletics in India. AFI conducts several major national and international sports events and also promotes sports across the country on this day.

World Athletics Day was established in 1996 by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) president and Italian sports official Primo Nebiolo. The IAAF was founded in Stockholm, Sweden, on July 17, 1912. The organization changed its name to World Athletics in 2019.

Theme - The theme for World Athletics Day 2023 is – 'Athletics for All – A New Beginning.' This theme focuses on making athletics more diverse and inclusive.

Border Roads Organisation Raising Day: India

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) was founded on 7th May 1960 as a leading road construction agency under the Ministry of Defence with Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam (everything is achievable through hard work) as its motto.

On 7 May 2023 BRO is celebrating its 64th Raising Day (foundation day). To commemorate the sacrifices and contribution of its Karmyogis in nation building, Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is organising "Ekta Evam Shradhanjali Abhiyan", a multi modal expedition as a part of 64th BRO Day Celebrations. Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt will flag in the Expedition teams at Pune on 07 May 2023.

About: BRO - The Border Roads Organisation is a statutory body under the ownership of Ministry of Defence, Government of India. BRO develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas and friendly neighboring countries. Apart from road construction it also executes maintenance works along Northern and Western frontiers mainly to meet the strategic requirements of the Indian Army. It is responsible for over 53,000 Km of roads. Its work also involves Formation Cutting, Surfacing, Bridge construction and Resurfacing.

World Laughter Day

World Laughter Day is an annual event celebrated on the first Sunday of May to raise awareness about laughter and its many healing benefits. This year, in 2023, the day falls on May 07. An innocent smile or slight giggle can completely change the mood and atmosphere around you. Laughter has the power to heal and renew.

World Laughter Day was created by Dr. Madan Kataria, founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement, Established in 1998 and the first celebration of World Laughter Day was on 10 May 1998, in Mumbai, India, arranged by Dr. Madan Kataria, himself.

The celebration of World Laughter Day is a positive manifestation of world peace and is intended to build up a global consciousness of brotherhood and friendship through laughter.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

BEL signed MoU with Emjay for joint manufacture & business development of bollards

Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has signed an MoU with Emjay Control Systems Pvt Ltd to jointly manufacture and develop business for state-of-the-art, electro-mechanical bollards for use in various Defence, Homeland Security, Paramilitary, and export projects.

The bollards are envisaged to safeguard vital installations by pre-empting unauthorized entry of heavy vehicles. They are built to withstand the impact of IED-laden vehicles weighing from 24,000-1,50,000 Kgs and coming in at alarming speeds from 80-100 Kmph. The bollards have been indigenously designed, in keeping with the Government's Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat policies.

About: Emjay Control Systems - Emjay Control Systems Pvt Ltd is a Bengaluru-based company having its manufacturing centre at Malur in Kolar district. Emjay is a leading manufacturer of Automatic Retractable Bollards with manual override, having Indian and US patents, with the brand name ISEQ (International Security Equipment).

About BEL- Navratna PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) was established in 1954 under the Ministry of Defence, GoI, with a farsighted vision to make the country self-reliant in Defence electronics. Today, BEL is a multi-product, multi-technology, multi-unit conglomerate which designs, manufactures and supplies state-of-the-art products and systems in a wide variety of fields including Radars, Missile Systems, Military Communications, Naval Systems, Electronic Warfare & Avionics, C4I Systems, Electro Optics, Tank Electronics & Gun/Weapon System Upgrades, and Electronic Fuzes in the Defence segment.

BOOKS & AUTHOR

Boria Majumdar released a new book titled 'Sachin@50 - Celebrating a Maestro'

The book has been conceptually designed and curated by Majumdar, with a special back cover note penned by Gulzar. It was officially released on April 24, 2023, which is Tendulkar's 50th birthday.

The book traces Tendulkar's journey to success, starting from his teenage debut where he gained global recognition in 1989 following a bleeding nose incident in Pakistan. It also throws light on how he transcended the boundaries of the game to become the biggest batting sensation ever.

The book features original essays and excerpts from several notable personalities, including Tendulkar's wife, Anjali Tendulkar, his brother Ajit Tendulkar, cricket legends Sunil Gavaskar, Sourav Ganguly, and Rohit Sharma, and international cricketer David Warner.

The book also includes contributions from eminent personalities from other fields such as Abhinav Bindra, Farhan Akhtar, Prahlad Kakkar and Viswanathan Anand.