

## **Weekly Current Affairs PDF MAY 14 to MAY 20, 2023**

### **Current Affairs PDF- MAY 20, 2023**

#### **INTERNATIONAL**

##### **Prime Minister unveils Mahatma Gandhi Bust in Hiroshima**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled the bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Hiroshima, Japan. The Mahatma Gandhi bust has been gifted by the Government of India to the city of Hiroshima as a symbol of friendship and goodwill between India and Japan, on the occasion of the visit of the Prime Minister for the G-7 summit from 19-21 May 2023.

The 42 inches tall bronze bust has been sculpted by Padma Bhushan awardee Shri Ram Vanji Sutar. The bust site, adjacent to the Motoyasu River, is close to iconic A-Bomb Dome that is visited by thousands of people - locals and tourists alike - every day. The location has been chosen as a mark of solidarity for peace and non-violence. Mahatma Gandhi dedicated his life to peace and non-violence. The location truly resonates with the principles and life of Gandhiji, which continue to inspire the world and its leaders.

#### **NATIONAL**

##### **Siddaramaiah sworn in as CM of Karnataka, D.K. Shivakumar takes oath as Deputy CM**

Congress Legislative Party leader Siddaramaiah was sworn in as Chief Minister of Karnataka, along with the Karnataka Congress president D.K Shivakumar as the Deputy Chief Minister. The Oath of office was administered by Karnataka Governor Thawarchand Gehlot at Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru.

Congress MLAs Dr G Parameshwara, KH Muniyappa, KJ George, MB Patil, Satish Jarkiholi, Priyank Kharge, Ramalinga Reddy and BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan took oath as the ministers in the state cabinet.

##### **India's Operation Karuna provides humanitarian aid to Cyclone Mocha victims in Myanmar**

In keeping with its tradition of Vasudaiva Kutumbakam, India as the first responder to natural disasters in the region started Operation Karuna to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) materials for the people of Myanmar affected by Cyclone Mocha, Three ships INS Shivalik, INS Kamorta and INS Savitri brought around 40 tonnes of materials, and The fourth ship INS Gharial brought additional materials, mostly medicines and medical items,

The relief materials carried by the 4 ships have 14 pallets of essential items of use (edible and non-edible) and 16 medical pallets. INS Gharial also contains portable medical container facility with the capacity for 120 bedded hospital. The medical pallets contain first aid items, antibiotics, anti-histamines, analgesics, intravenous fluids for commonly spread infections and diseases.

### **Indian Navy's sixth and final Kalvari Class Submarine, Vaghsheer commences sea trials**

The Indian Navy's sixth and final Kalvari class submarine, Vaghsheer, has begun its sea trials. Vaghsheer is scheduled for delivery to the Indian Navy in early 2024 after completion of these trial. The submarine was launched on 20th April 2022 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).

About Submarine Vagsheer - Vagsheer is named after the sand fish, a deep sea predator of the Indian Ocean. Vagsheer is a diesel attack submarine, designed to perform sea denial as well as access denial warfare against the adversary. It is enabled with a C303 anti-torpedo countermeasure system. It can carry up to 18 torpedoes or Exocet anti-ship missiles, or 30 mines in place of torpedoes. Its superior stealth features include advanced acoustic absorption techniques, low radiated noise levels, hydro-dynamically optimized shape, and it can launch a crippling attack using precision guided weapons, underwater or on surface.

### **SCIENCE & TEHNOLOGY**

#### **ISRO likely to launch NVS-01 navigation satellite on May 29**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is likely to launch NVS-01, a navigation satellite on-board the Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle or GSLV Mk-II, The launch of NVS-01 is scheduled around May 29. This will be a return flight mission for the GSLV launch vehicle, which will carry the next generation NavIC satellite. This satellite will replace the IRNSS-1G satellite launched in 2016, RNSS-1G was the seventh navigation satellite of the seven satellites constituting the IRNSS space segment. Its predecessors—IRNSS-1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E and 1F—were launched by PSLV-C22, PSLV-C24, PSLV-C26, PSLV-C27, PSLV-C31 and PSLV-C32 in July 2013, April 2014, October 2014, March 2015, January 2016 and March 2016, respectively.

### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

#### **World Bee Day**

World Bee Day is an annual observance held on May 20th to raise awareness about the importance of bees and other pollinators for the environment, agriculture, and human well-being. Pollinators are crucial to the sustainable development of our planet, and the Day aims to raise awareness about their threat and importance.

World Bee Day promotes efforts to protect and conserve bees and highlights their importance. The campaign aims to educate people about pollinators and the challenges they face, such as habitat loss, climate change, pesticide use, and disease.

The United Nations introduced World Bee Day in 2017 to bring focus to the essential role played by bees and other pollinators in our ecosystems. May 20th was selected as the date to honor the birthday of Anton Janša, a Slovenian beekeeping pioneer and renowned bee expert

Theme - The United Nations introduced World Bee Day in 2017 to bring focus to the essential role played by bees and other pollinators in our ecosystems. May 20th was selected as the date to honor the birthday of Anton Janša, a Slovenian beekeeping pioneer and renowned bee expert

### SUMMIT'S & MOU's

#### **PM Modi attends G7 Summit in Hiroshima, Japan; Holds bilateral meetings with top leaders of Japan, South Korea and Vietnam**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated at the G7 Summit in Hiroshima, Japan on Saturday 20th May. He was welcomed by Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

On the sidelines of the G7 Summit, Prime Minister Modi held bilateral talks with the Prime Minister of Japan, President of South Korea and Prime Minister of Vietnam. During the meeting with Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida, both the leaders discussed ways to enhance India-Japan friendship across different sectors including trade, economy and culture, ways to synergise efforts of their respective G7 and G20 Presidencies, and the need to highlight the voice of Global South.

The broad terms of the G7 Summit preferences include nuclear disarmament, economic resilience and security, regional issues, climate and energy, food and health and development. There are other priorities also like digitisation and science and technology which will be highlighted during several sessions at the Summit. Japan has also invited Australia, Brazil, Comoros, Cook Islands, Indonesia, South Korea, and Vietnam and some of the international organisations including the UN.

### BANKING AND ECONOMY

#### **RBI Announces Withdrawal of ₹2000 Banknotes from Circulation**

In a surprise move, the Reserve Bank announced withdrawal of ₹2,000 currency notes from circulation but gave public time till September 30 to either deposit such notes in accounts or exchange them at banks.

Unlike the November 2016 shock demonetisation when old ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes were invalidated overnight, the ₹2,000 notes will continue to be a legal tender till September 30.

**Why are ₹2,000 denomination banknotes being withdrawn** - The ₹2,000 denomination banknote was introduced in November 2016 under Section 24(1) of the RBI Act, 1934 primarily with the objective to meet the currency requirement of the economy in an expeditious manner after withdrawal of the legal tender status of all ₹500 and ₹1,000 banknotes in circulation at that time. With the fulfilment of that objective and the availability of banknotes in other denominations in adequate quantities, the printing of ₹2,000 banknotes was stopped in 2018-19.

## Current Affairs PDF- MAY 19, 2023

### NATIONAL

#### **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.

About: Voluntary Local Review - The VLR process in Bhopal was developed in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and a number of

other local stakeholders. It involved a comprehensive assessment of the city's performance on the SDGs, including a review of data, interviews with stakeholders, and public consultations.

The VLR process in Bhopal is a valuable tool that can help other cities in India to measure their progress on the SDGs and identify areas where they need to improve. It is a step in the right direction for the city and for India as a whole.

### **IIT - Madras partners with Israel to establish 'India - Israel Center of Water Technology'**

The Government of Israel is partnering with India through the - Indian Institute of Technology Madras(IIT Madras) to establish an 'India - Israel Center of Water Technology' (CoWT) in Water Resources Management and Water Technologies at IIT Madras, A letter of Intent was signed at New Delhi by Mr. Manoj Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras and Mr. NaorGilon, Ambassador of Israel to India, in presence of Shri. S. Jaishankar and Mr. Eli Cohen, Hon'ble External Affairs Ministers of India and Israel, respectively, in the presence of Prof. T. Pradeep, Institute Professor, IIT Madras. Israel, a strategic partner to India, is a global leader in Integrated Water Resources Management. The MoHUA will collaborate with MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, to establish this new centre, which will be located at IIT Madras.

### **Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches State Dashboard**

Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik rolled out the State Dashboard, a data and analytics-powered platform which will streamline performance monitoring of government schemes, aiding data-driven decision making.

The State Dashboard consists of three critical components – CM Dashboard, Department Dashboard and Administrative Action Monitoring Portal. The application appraises the performance of different administrative departments on 5T parameters. The CM dashboard shares huge data with the public and is a landmark initiative for transparency.

The standout features of this dashboard include Key Performance Indicators based on performance monitoring and a visual display of progress for timely decision-making. It showcases 30 different dashboards from 16 departments currently, with a plan to add more departments subsequently. It leverages the power of visualization and advanced analytics to appraise the performance of departments and their schemes.

### **OBITUARY**

#### **BJP MP Rattan Lal Kataria passes away At 71**

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Haryana's Ambala, Rattan Lal Kataria, passes away at the age of 71. The three-time BJP MP was admitted to PGI Chandigarh, where he breathed his last.

Rattan Lal Kataria became an MP from Ambala for the first time in 1999, He was also associated with the RSS for over five decades.

He served as the President of the BJP - Haryana Unit, from 2000 to 2003, In 2014 he got elected to the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha from Ambala as a candidate of BJP.

Rattan Lal Kataria became the Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Social Justice and Empowerment from 2019 to 2021.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit takes over as Deputy Chief of Air Staff**

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit took over as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff, Ashutosh Dixit, an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, was Commissioned in the fighter stream on December 6 in 1986.

Mr Dixit is a qualified flying instructor as well as an experimental test pilot, with over 3,300 hours of flying experience on fighter, trainer and transport aircraft. He participated in operations 'Safed Sagar' and 'Rakshak'. Air Marshal Dixit commanded a Mirage 2,000 Squadron, a frontline fighter base in the Western sector, as well as a premier fighter training base. He has earlier served as Principle Director of Air Staff Requirement, Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Projects) & Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Plans), The Air Officer has also been the Air Defence Commander of Southern Air Command and was Senior Air Staff Officer, at South Western Air Command prior to taking over as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.

### SUMMIT'S & MOU's

#### **MoU signed for ferry service on Brahmaputra to connect 7 religious sites**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to develop a 'Riverine Based Religious Tourism Circuit' between Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), Sagarmala Development Corporation Limited (SDCL), Assam Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC) and Department of Inland Waterways Transport (DIWT), Government of Assam.

The primary objective of the MoU is to establish a modern ferry service, operating on a 'Hop-On Hop-Off' mode, to connect seven historically significant temples situated on the banks of the Brahmaputra.

These sites include Kamakhya, Pandunath, Ashwaktanta, Douli Govinda, Umananda, Chakreshwar, and Aunati Satra. Passengers will be able to enjoy a seamless travel experience with ferry services departing every 30 minutes, providing a convenient means of exploring these spiritual landmarks. The circuit's route will commence from Hanuman Ghat, Uzan Bazar, which should reduce the overall travel time to under two hours for completing one full circuit.

The execution of this project will require an investment of Rs 45 crore and will be carried out through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), The funding for the project will be shared, with SDCL and IWAI jointly contributing 55 per cent of the costs, while ATDC will provide the remaining amount. Additionally, DIWT has offered the usage of Ghats near the temples, free of charge, to facilitate the initiative.

#### **MoUs for two community development projects signed between India and Nepal**

The Embassy of India, Kathmandu and the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Government of Nepal has signed a memorandums of understanding (MoUs) for undertaking two High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) in Nepal.

The projects are implemented under a grant assistance of the Government of India - one each in health care and education sectors, at a total estimated cost of around Rs 80.33 million,

These two projects, namely, construction of Malagiri Shanti Yogashram, Ramechhap District and Kedar Jyotipunja Multiple Campus, Doti District of Nepal will be implemented through Ramechhap Municipality and Badikedar Rural Municipality, respectively.

### **BANKING AND ECONOMY**

#### **SBI Funds Management gets RBI's nod to acquire 9.99% stake in HDFC Bank**

State Bank of India (SBI) Funds Management received the approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to acquire up to 9.99 per cent stake in HDFC Bank.

SBI Funds Management has been advised by the central bank to complete the said stake acquisition in the bank within a period of six months i.e. by November 15, 2023. Further, SBI Funds Management must ensure that the aggregate holding in the Bank remains below 10 per cent of the paid-up share capital or voting rights of the bank at all times, it added. RBI's approval that has been granted to SBI Funds Management is subject to the conditions, including compliance with the relevant provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, RBI's Master Direction and Guidelines on Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies dated January 16, 2023, provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, provisions of the regulations issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), and any other guidelines, regulations, and statutes as applicable.

## **Current Affairs PDF- MAY 18, 2023**

### **NATIONAL**

#### **Tamil Nadu's CM M.K. Stalin Inaugurates India's Biggest Skywalk Bridge**

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated one of India's biggest Skywalk bridges. The 570-metre long and 4.2-meter wide skywalk bridge connects the Mambalam railway station and T Nagar bus terminus.

Considered one of the longest skywalks in the country, it is equipped with escalator and lift facilities and also ensures public safety with CCTV cameras installed, and a connection to the police control room. Additionally, it offers restrooms and trash cans. To aid the public, lights have been installed throughout the bridge.

The skywalk, built by the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) at a cost of Rs 28.45 crore under the Smart City funds, aims to decongest the traffic at Ranganathan Street, Madley Road, Market Street. It is expected to be used by around one lakh people on a daily basis.

#### **PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the International Museum Expo 2023 in New Delhi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the International Museum Expo 2023 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi today 18th May, The International Museum Expo is being organised as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate the 47th International Museum Day.

During the programme, Mr Modi inaugurated a virtual walkthrough of the upcoming National Museum at the North and South Blocks. The Museum is a comprehensive effort to

highlight and showcase historical events, personalities, ideas and achievements related to India's past that has contributed to the making of India's present.

The Prime Minister also unveiled the Mascot of the International Museum Expo, the Graphic Novel – A Day at the Museum, the Directory of Indian Museums, the Pocket Map of Kartavya Path, and Museum Cards.

### **PM Modi launches railway projects worth over 8,000 crore rupees in Odisha; Flags off Vande Bharat Express train between Puri and Howrah**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicate several railway projects worth over 8,000 crore rupees in Odisha via video conferencing. During the event, Mr. Modi flagged off the Vande Bharat Express between Puri and Howrah.

The train will cover 500 kms distance and pass through Khordha, Cuttack, Jajpur, Bhadrak, and Balasore districts in Odisha and Paschim Medinipur, Purba Medinipur districts in West Bengal. The train will provide a faster, comfortable and convenient travel experience to the rail users, boost tourism and promote economic development in the region.

**Howrah-Puri-Howrah Vande Bharat Express** - The regular run of the Howrah-Puri-Howrah Vande Bharat Express will commence from May 20. The train will run six days a week. The train will depart Howrah at 6.10 am and reach Puri at 12.35 pm and in the return direction, it will depart Puri at 1.50 pm and arrive at Howrah at 8.30 pm.

Mr Modi also dedicated 100% electrification of the rail network in Odisha. He also dedicated the doubling of the Sambalpur-Titlagarh rail line; a new broad gauge rail line between Angul-Sukinda; the third line connecting Manoharpur-Rourkela-Jharsuguda-Jamga and a new broad-gauge line between Bichhupali-Jhartarbha.

### **OBITUARY**

#### **SP Hinduja, chairman of Hinduja Group, passes away at 87**

Srichand Parmanand Hinduja, the eldest of the four Hinduja brothers and chairman of Hinduja Group, passes away in London at the age of 87. He was unwell for some time. Srichand Parmanand Hinduja was born in 1935 in Pakistan to a Hindu family. He moved to India with his family in 1947 after the partition of India, After completing his education in 1952, Srichand P Hinduja joined his father PD Hinduja, the founder of Hinduja Group, in the family business. SP Hinduja, a British national, is survived by three brothers, namely Gopichand, Prakash and Ashok and two daughters, Shanu and Vinoo. SP Hinduja had suffered from a form of dementia. His wife Madhu died in January 2023.

The Hinduja family patriarch and his brothers, Gopichand and Prakash, were accused of receiving nearly SEK 81 million in illegal commissions to help Swedish gunmaker AB Bofors secure an Indian government contract. A court had however exonerated them.

### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

#### **Global Accessibility Awareness Day**

Global Accessibility Awareness Day is celebrated on the third Thursday of May, every year. This day brings focus to designing contents and technologies especially for the persons with disabilities. It is widely considered that in this age of technology, unless technologies become more inclusive and accessible, the condition of estimatedly more than one billion

people worldwide living with different kinds of disabilities and impairments, can't be transformed.

Hence, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) celebrates the Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) on 18th May. The effort of the government is clearly inspired by the vision to build an inclusive society in which equal opportunities are provided for the growth and development of Persons with Disabilities, so that they can also lead productive, safe and dignified lives.

### International Museum Day

International Museum Day is observed on May 18 every year since 1977. The day represents a unique moment for the international museum community. Different events and activities are planned on this day and go on through the entire week or the weekend. More than 37,000 museums from 158 countries and territories participated in an event organised last year.

**History** - To bring awareness about the importance of museums, the International Council of Museums (ICOM) created International Museum Day in 1977. The International Council of Museums is a global association of museums and museum professionals who promote public awareness, conservation, and education.

**Theme** - The theme of International Museum Day this year is "Museums, Sustainability and Well-being". Calling museums a key contributor to the well-being and to the sustainable development of our communities.

### AWARDS & RECOGNITION

#### N Chandrasekaran awarded France's highest civilian honour

Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran was conferred with France's highest civilian honour- "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur"- by French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna. The 59-year-old was conferred with the award for the role played by him in developing and fostering commercial links between India and France.

**About: Ordre national de la Légion d'** - France's highest civilian award is the National Order of the Legion of Honour (French: Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur). It was established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802 and is awarded to French citizens and foreigners for their outstanding service to France in the fields of military, civil, and cultural affairs. The Legion of Honour is a symbol of France's national pride and is a testament to the country's commitment to excellence. It is an honor that is bestowed upon those who have made significant contributions to France and to the world.

### BANKING AND ECONOMY

#### Zomato launches UPI service in partnership with ICICI Bank

Zomato, a well-known online food delivery platform, has recently rolled out its own UPI (Unified Payments Interface) service. This real-time payment system has been launched in collaboration with ICICI Bank, and it will allow users to make direct payments to both individuals and merchants. With this new payment service, Zomato aims to offer a more streamlined and convenient payment experience to its users.

As a result of this development, Zomato users will have the convenience of paying for their purchases from a variety of merchants as well as sending money to other users in a peer-

to-peer fashion. By logging into the Zomato application, customers can now generate their own UPI IDs, enabling them to make payments directly through the app. This feature provides a simplified payment experience for Zomato users, allowing them to handle transactions seamlessly within the application.

## Current Affairs PDF- MAY 17, 2023

### NATIONAL

#### Exercise Jal Rahat was conducted by Indian Army, in Assam

Gajraj Corps of the Indian Army conducted a Joint Flood Relief 'Exercise Jal Rahat' at Hagrama Bridge on Manas River, Assam to validate joint drills and coordinate preparedness by multi-agency flood relief columns.

Apart from Indian Army- SSB, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and police representatives took part. The event included coordination and rehearsals for rescue mission of people from inundated areas by joint efforts of specialist teams from Army, NDRF and SDRF.

Practice on use of innovative expedients by the flood relief columns was also organised in which teams of Army and SSB demonstrated use of local resources during such calamity.

#### Government launches Sanchar Saathi Portal: Enables tracking and blocking of stolen / lost mobile phones

Sanchar Saathi Portal, central government's ground-breaking move in enhancing the safety and security of users in the digital ecosystem. On May 16, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the Sanchar Saathi Portal and said, "Various frauds such as identity theft, forged KYC, and banking frauds can take place by misusing mobile phones. This portal has been developed to prevent such frauds."

The portal enables mobile users to track and block their stolen/lost mobile phones. It also allows the user to know the mobile connections issued in their names and to get the connections not required by them disconnected.

Centralised Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) - In case any mobile device is stolen or lost, a user can submit the IMEI numbers on the portal, Information submitted by the user along with a copy of the police complaint is then verified, The system is integrated with the Telecom Service Providers and Law Enforcement Agencies, Once the information is verified, the system blocks the stolen mobile phones from being used on Indian networks, In case anyone tries to use the stolen device, the system allows Law Enforcement Agencies to trace the device when the stolen device is recovered, the user can unlock the device on the portal.

#### Uttar Pradesh Emerges as the Second State in India with a High Number of GI-Tagged Products

Uttar Pradesh now ranks second in the country in terms of the number of Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged commodities. 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,

**Mainpuri tarkashi, Mahoba Gaura stone craft, and Sambhal horn craft** are the three new ODOP crafts. The Geographical Indication (GI) label is a major 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.

Geographical Indication GI tag - A Geographical Indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### Government appoints Ravneet Kaur as CCI chief

Ravneet Kaur, a 1988-batch Punjab-cadre IAS officer, has been appointed the new chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for a period of five years. Kaur is the first woman to head the country's chief national competition regulator, which has been operating without a full-time chairperson since October last year.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has chosen Kaur as CCI chairperson for a period of five years from the date of taking charge, or till the age of 65 years, or until further orders,

Kaur (60) is the second woman to serve in an 'economic regulator' role after Madhabi Puri Buch, who was appointed chairperson of the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) last year.

With over two decades of experience in government, Kaur has held several key positions including that of chairman of India Tourism Development Corporation (2017-2019), joint secretary in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (2015-2017).

Before she was appointed CCI chairperson, Kaur was serving as special chief secretary (apex scale) in the Punjab government's agriculture and cooperation departments in Chandigarh.

#### Government appoints Anil Kumar Jain as new PNGRB chairman

The government has appointed seasoned bureaucrat and gas sector expert Anil Kumar Jain as the new chairman of the oil and gas sector regulatory body, PNGRB,

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Jain, who retired as coal secretary in October last year, as the new chairman of the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

The ACC has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, based on the recommendations of the Search Committee, for the appointment of Anil Kumar Jain.

Jain has been appointed as the Chairperson PNGRB "for a period of five years from the date assumption of charge of the post or till attaining the age of 65 years, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest, on a consolidated pay package of Rs 4.50 lakhs per month (without house and car) or as revised by the Ministry of Finance from time to time".

### **Paytm appoints Bhavesh Gupta as President and COO**

One 97 Communications Ltd – OCL, which owns Paytm, announced the appointment of Bhavesh Gupta as the president and chief operating officer (COO) of the firm.

Senior Vice President Bhavesh Gupta, in his new role as the president and COO of the company, “will be responsible to lead verticals of lending, insurance, payments – online and offline, consumer payments and drive key initiatives including user growth, operations risk, fraud risk and compliance”. He will be reporting to Vijay Shekhar Sharma, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Paytm.

Bhavesh Gupta is a financial services professional with over 25 years experience building businesses grounds up in payments, technology and analytics platforms, retail loans, digital lending, SME banking, retail banking, etc. Before joining Paytm in 2020, Gupta worked in multiple leadership roles including CEO of Clix Capital (formerly known as GE Capital), Head of SME & Business Banking at IDFC Bank and was also associated with ICICI bank in various roles.

### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

#### **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day**

The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is celebrated annually on 17 May. In order to recognise the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) establishment and to spread awareness of the value of telecommunications and the information society, the UN General Assembly officially declared it in 1969.

The International Telecommunication Union, a specialised agency of the UN, was founded in 1865 and has been instrumental in influencing international telecommunications standards and policy.

WTISD offers the chance to discuss the potential and problems posed by the developing information society as well as to showcase the developments made in the fields of telecommunication and information technology.

The significance of WTISD is to close the digital divide and encourage the widespread adoption of inclusive information and communication technologies (ICTs). It acknowledges the ability of ICTs to alter industries like education, healthcare, business, governance, and interpersonal relationships. The day also provides a forum for talks on new technologies, legislative measures, and other programmes that can encourage universal access to the advantages of the information society and digital connection.

### **BANKING AND ECONOMY**

#### **World Bank approves grant of Rs 51 crore to set up road safety enforcement system in Shimla and Nurpur**

The World Bank has approved a grant of Rs 51 crore to set up an integrated road safety enforcement system in Shimla and Nurpur police districts and develop the Palampur-Sheela chowk in Kangra as a "safe corridor",

The project envisages the establishment of a traffic enforcement control room in Shimla and the allocation of funds for interceptors and patrol vehicles, an intelligent traffic management system, artificial intelligence (AI) cameras and rescue equipment,

For the first phase of the project, Shimla and Nurpur have been selected and a sum of Rs 42 crore will be spent on the twin police districts to strengthen their emergency response

systems, 120 locations have been identified in Shimla district for installation of AI-powered cameras. These include Theog, Rampur, Rohru, Kumarsain, Kotkhai, Nerva, Jubbal, Chopal and Sunni, besides the capital city.

## Current Affairs PDF- MAY 16, 2023

### NATIONAL

#### **In A First, Kerala Launches Welfare Fund For Workers Under Employment Guarantee Scheme**

In a first in the country, the Kerala government launched a welfare fund for Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers in the State, 27 lakh people in the State depend on the MGNREGS and the Left government intends to make use of the scheme for the social development of Kerala. In a Facebook post, Vijayan said the workers need to pay a nominal monthly amount of Rs 50 as contribution to the fund and the government will also contribute an equal amount. He said for those who have paid the contributions for ten or more years, their families will get the benefits in case of beneficiary's death.

Launching the initiative, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the workers who have completed the age of 60 will be entitled for pension under the fund which will also provide financial assistance for medical treatment, education, marriage, among other benefits.

#### **Union Minister Narendra Tomar Inaugurates Integrated Biological Control Laboratory in Hyderabad**

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Government of India, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the Integrated Biological Control Laboratory at National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM) Hyderabad, Telangana.

The new laboratory has state-of-the-art facilities for giving hands-on experience on production methodologies for biopesticides, biocontrol agents like predators and parasitoids, entomopathogenic fungi, biofertilisers, NPV, pheromone and botanicals. Deploying them will help in reducing the use of chemical pesticides and fertilisers, reduce the adverse effects on the environment and human health and contribute to improved soil and plant health. The laboratory will also have an insect museum, weed museum, exhibition hall, natural farming cell etc. to showcase the specimens of agriculturally important insects and weeds in the best preserved or live forms.

#### **CM, Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the National Homoeopathic Convention 'Homocon 2023'**

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the National Homoeopathic Convention 'Homeocon 2023' at Doon University, Dehradun and launched a documentary on Homeopathy.

The commitment of the state government to establish Uttarakhand as a major AYUSH region is due to the economic and effective nature of homeopathy.

Homeopathy has been recognized as the second most practiced system of medicine in the world and its importance has been demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

AYUSH - AYUSH is the abbreviation of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Society and aims to promote education and research in the field of medicine. It is a government ministry of India established in 2014. responsible for the development, promotion and regulation of traditional systems of medicine.

### SPORTS

#### Barcelona win 27th La Liga title

Barcelona secured their 27th La Liga title with a 4-2 triumph over rivals Espanyol, securing their first title since 2019. This win was accomplished with goals from Robert Lewandowski, Alex Balde, and Jules Kounde, and within just 53 minutes, Barcelona had taken a commanding 4-0 lead at the RCDE Stadium.

This was their first league title since Lionel Messi's highlighted exit at Camp Nou. Polish striker Robert Lewandowski scored twice to shine in Barcelona's title win at RCDE Stadium in Cornellà de Llobregat.

About: Barcelona FC - Futbol Club Barcelona, commonly referred to as Barcelona and colloquially known as Barça, is a professional football club based in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain, that competes in La Liga, the top flight of Spanish football.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### Manoj Soni takes oath as Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) chairman

Eminent educationist Manoj Soni took oath as the chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). He was administered the oath of office and secrecy as chairman, UPSC by Smita Nagaraj, senior most member in the Commission,

About UPSC - The UPSC was established on 1 October 1926 by the Government of India under the Government of India Act, 1919. The Commission is headquartered in New Delhi and has regional offices in Allahabad, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, and Patna. It is India's premier central recruitment agency for recruitment of all the Group 'A' officers under Government of India. It is responsible for appointments to and examinations for the Group 'A' posts of several central government establishments which also includes the central public sector undertakings and the central autonomous bodies. While Department of Personnel and Training is the central personnel agency in India.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### Sikkim celebrates its 48th State Day

Sikkim celebrates its 48th State Day today. It was on 16th May, 1975 that the erstwhile kingdom became part of India as its 22nd state. The state level celebration will be organised at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok in the presence of governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya and chief minister PS Tamang. The programme will include civilian awards, launch of a multimedia database management system by the IPR department and a public awareness video on mobile village clinics; and release of a book titled Skill Gap Assessment Study of Sikkim by the state skill development department, among other recognitions and initiatives.

Sikkim governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya and chief minister PS Tamang have wished citizens on the State Day. Mr Acharya said that Sikkim's journey since becoming part of the

world's largest democracy has been remarkable and marked by unprecedented social, economic and cultural development.

### International Day of Light

The International Day of Light is observed on May 16 every year to commemorate Theodore Maiman's successful operation of the laser in 1960. This day serves as a reminder to enhance scientific collaboration and leverage its capacity to promote peace and sustainable progress. The International Day of Light is an annual event that recognizes the crucial significance of light in science, culture, art, education, and sustainable development.

**History** - In 2015, the International Year of Light was followed by the International Day of Light. The day was proposed by the Russian Federation, Ghana, Mexico, New Zealand, and the Executive Board of UNESCO. In November 2017, the proposal received approval from the UNESCO General Conference. The International Day of Light was declared by the Executive Board of UNESCO during its 200th session (200 EX/Decision 27). In Document 39 C/40, the 39th General Conference endorsed this choice.

Later on May 16, 2018, the anniversary of the day in 1960 when physicist and engineer Theodore Maiman successfully shot the first laser, UNESCO organised the first International Day of Light event.

### BOOKS & AUTHOR

#### The Golden Years – The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life, a book by Ruskin Bond

Ruskin Bond an Indian author, authored a new book Title "The Golden Years – The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life" published by harper Collins India, which is scheduled to be released on 19th May 2023 (on the occasion of 89th Birthday of Ruskin Bond)

"The Golden Years"-- that's the name of my latest book. This time it isn't a children's book strictly speaking, nor is it novel or a collection of short stories with which my readers are familiar. I suppose you can call it a self-help book,"

Revealing details about the book, Bond further said, "It's called 'The Golden Years' because it is really about the last 20, 30 years of my life; my 60s, 70s and 80s. It is addressed to other people who are growing up and growing old, and sometimes worried about the future; whether old age will be a pleasant experience. I guess, it isn't always but it can be and should be. In my case, I think, I would say the 20 years have been the best professionally and personally in many ways. In this book, in 60 short chapters I have told my friends, my readers, what it's like to be growing old and the pleasant side of it."

## Current Affairs PDF- MAY 15, 2023

### NATIONAL

#### AIIMS Delhi partners with WHO, Duke-NUS on patient safety and quality control

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi (AIIMS) has collaborated with World Health Organization (WHO-SEARO) to ensure patient safety and quality control. According to WHO, the current challenge in global public health is patient harm, which is a leading cause of avoidable mortality and morbidity.

In this regard, a core committee for Patient Safety and Quality at AIIMS is being constituted for implementation of advanced patient safety and quality initiatives across various departments. AIIMS will follow the learning curriculum proposed by WHO in collaboration with the Duke-NUS (Institute of Patient Safety & Quality -IPSQ).

AIIMS sees footfall of more than 25,000 patients every day for wide range of medical ailments will get from the aid from this new initiative. The WHO will organize onsite visits of experts or study tour of AIIMS staff as and when required.

### SPORTS

#### **Telangana's Praneeth Vuppala becomes 82nd Grandmaster of India**

Telangana's Praneeth Vuppala has become India's 82nd Grandmaster after he achieved the required 2,500 FIDE rating points during the Baku Open tournament.

1. Praneeth, a 15-year-old chess player from Telangana, achieved the title of Grandmaster, becoming the sixth from the state and the 82nd in India.

The State chess player had already achieved three GM norms earlier and needed to cross 2,500 rating points. He got the required points after defeating GM Hans Niemann of the USA in the penultimate round of the Baku Open. Praneeth is now the sixth Grandmaster from the State of Telangana.

India has produced a total of 81 grandmasters, making it the third-most in the world after Russia and China. The first Indian grandmaster was Viswanathan Anand, who won the title in 1988. Anand is a five-time world champion and is considered one of the greatest chess players of all time.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### **Karnataka top cop Praveen Sood appointed new CBI Director for a period of 2 years**

Karnataka Director General of Police Praveen Sood has been appointed as the next Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director for the next two years. The top cop's name was finalised by a high-level committee comprising the prime minister, Chief Justice of India and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha.

A 1986-batch IPS officer from the Karnataka cadre, Praveen Sood will take over from current chief Subodh Kumar Jaiswal after the completion of his tenure. Sood's appointment comes after the high-level committee shortlisted three senior IPS officers for the post of CBI Director.

The CBI Director is selected by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, CJI and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha for a fixed tenure of two years. The tenure can be extended up to five years.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### **International Day of Families**

International Day of Families is celebrated on May 15 to raise awareness of the importance of families and their role in society. The day focuses on the important role that families play in our society while also highlighting the issues faced by them. The International Day of Families is a global observance that is celebrated by countries around the world. The occasion is celebrated by conducting various events and activities that bring families together to celebrate their diversity and strengthen their unique bond.

**History** - The United Nations adopted a resolution in 1994 establishing the International Day of Families to celebrate the institution of family and to raise awareness regarding the issues faced by families.

**Theme** - International Day of Families has been observed annually, with a different theme each year. The theme of International Day of Families 2023 is 'Demographic Trends and Families'. The theme of last year's International Day of Families was 'Families and Urbanisation'.

### **UN Global Road Safety Week 2023: 15-21 May**

Road traffic injuries are a leading cause of death and disability worldwide, with around 1.3 million people killed and as many as 50 million people injured each year. For people aged 5-29 years, there is no greater threat to their lives. Globally, 1 of every 4 deaths occur among pedestrians and cyclists.

UN Global Road Safety Week is an annual event held in May to raise awareness about road safety and the importance of taking steps to prevent accidents. This year the UN Global Road Safety Week will take place from 15-21 May 2023. The week is organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN regional commissions, and it is supported by a wide range of partners, including governments, NGOs, businesses, and individuals. The week was first marked in 2007. It was no longer observed until 2013, and it had been recorded every two years since then until 2019. It is a special global road safety campaign hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) that aims to raise awareness about road safety and accident prevention.

**Theme** - The theme is sustainable transport, and specifically the need for governments to facilitate a shift to walking, cycling and using public transport.

### **SUMMIT'S & MOU's**

#### **3rd ETWG under India's G20 Presidency will begin in Mumbai**

The 3rd Energy Transitions Working Group Meeting (ETWG) under India's G20 Presidency will begin in Mumbai today. Over 100 delegates representing G20 member countries, special invitee countries and International Organisations such as International Energy Agency (IEA), World Bank and World Energy Council India will deliberate on Priority Areas during the three-day meeting.

Akashvani Correspondent reports, the six priority areas, outlined under India's Presidency, include Energy transition through addressing technology gaps, Low-cost financing for energy transition, Energy security and diversified supply chains, Energy efficiency, industrial low carbon transitions and responsible consumption, Fuels for Future and Universal access to clean energy and just, affordable, and inclusive energy transition pathway.

In the morning session, representatives of International Energy Agency, World Energy Council India, National Power Training Institute and other eminent organizations are going to present on topics related to the priority areas.

### AWARDS & RECOGNITION

#### **Arinze Ifeakandu has been awarded with the Dylan Thomas Prize 2023**

Nigerian writer Arinze Ifeakandu has been awarded one of the world's largest literary prizes for young writers – the Swansea University Dylan Thomas Prize 2023 – for his 'exhilarating' debut *God's Children Are Little Broken Things*, a stunning short fiction collection, whose nine stories simmer with loneliness and love, and depict what it means to be gay in contemporary Nigeria

About: Swansea University Dylan Thomas Prize - The Swansea University Dylan Thomas Prize was launched in 2006 with the aim of celebrating and nurturing international literary excellence. It is named after the Swansea-born writer Dylan Thomas and is awarded for the best published literary work in the English language, written by an author aged 39 or under.

By winning the prize, Ifeakandu managed to beat the other shortlisted writers Warsan Shire for *Bless the Daughter Raised by a Voice in Her Head*, Robbie Arnott for *Limberlost*, Sara Baume for *Seven Steeples*, Sheena Patel for *I'm a Fan*, and Saba Sams for *Send Nudes*.

#### **Jayant Narlikar awarded with the Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award**

Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar gets the first Astronomical Society of India Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award, President of the ASI, Prof. Dipankar Banerjee handed over the award announced earlier to Prof. Narlikar and felicitated him.

The most befitting recipient of the very first ASI Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement award is Prof. Jayant V. Narlikar, an astronomer par-excellence, the founding director of IUCAA, Pune and also a past President of the ASI. Though the award was announced earlier this year at the 41st meeting of the ASI held at IIT Indore, Prof. Narlikar was unable to travel to receive it.

Prof. Narlikar was amongst the first to initiate cosmology research in India. He came up with an idea of creating a dedicated center to nucleate and spread astronomy curriculum and research in the Indian Universities. His dream was fulfilled with his hard work by the formation of IUCAA. He has been a motivational figure for young aspiring minds for decades.

## Current Affairs PDF- MAY 14, 2023

### NATIONAL

#### **India-Indonesia Bilateral exercise SAMUDRA SHAKTI – 23 from 14-19 May**

INS Kavaratti, indigenously designed & built ASW Corvette, arrived at Batam, Indonesia to participate in the 4th edition of India-Indonesia Bilateral exercise Samudra Shakti-23 from 14-19 May 23. An Indian Navy Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft and Chetak helicopter is also participating. The Indonesian Navy will be represented by KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda, CN 235 Maritime Patrol Aircraft and AS565 Panther Helicopter.

Exercise Samudra Shakti is aimed at enhancing interoperability, jointness and mutual cooperation between both the navies. The Harbour phase will comprise Cross deck visits, professional Interactions, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges, and sports fixtures. And During the Sea Phase, weapon firing, Helicopter Operations, Anti-submarine warfare & air defence exercises and boarding operations are planned. Samudra Shakti -23 will showcase the high level of interoperability between the two navies and their shared commitment towards peace and stability in the region.

### **Indian Navy successfully test fired a BrahMos supersonic cruise missile**

Using its frontline guided missile destroyer INS Mormugao, the Indian Navy successfully test fired a BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, The official also lauded INS Mormugao for hitting "bulls eye" with her maiden BrahMos supersonic cruise missile firing. It is the latest guided-missile destroyer to be used by the Indian Navy.

BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd is an India-Russian joint venture, responsible for producing supersonic cruise missiles that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms, India also exports the BrahMos missiles, that fly at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound,

### **GMR Hyderabad International Airport becomes world's most punctual airport**

In a recently released report by the aviation analytical firm Cirium, GMR Hyderabad International Airport recorded 90.43 per cent On-Time Performance, for the month of March 2023.

Hyderabad airport is the only airport in the world to cross the 90 per cent mark.

The airport was also ranked 4th in the 'Large Airports' category with an OTP of 88.44 per cent, in November 2022. The airport was selected based on the actual gate departure service which has 80 per cent or better coverage of the actual departure time and must serve at least three regions (inclusive of its own).

Since its inception, GMR Hyderabad International Airport has ushered in a number of first-of-its-kind technological innovations for the airport sector in the country, including the first- ever integrated and centralized Airport Operations Control Center (AOCC) and an array of modern passenger information systems and technological initiatives.

## **SPORTS**

### **Indian shooters Hriday Hazarika and Nancy Mandhotra bag silver medals in 10-meter air rifle event at ISSF World Cup 2023**

Indian shooters Hriday Hazarika and Nancy Mandhotra have bagged silver medals in the men's and women's 10 meter air rifle events, at the ongoing ISSF World Cup 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

It was the first-ever ISSF World Cup medal for 21-year-old Hriday Hazarika as well as 19-year-old Nancy Mandhotra. Hazarika made it to the men's 10m air rifle final.

The Baku meet is the penultimate stage of the ISSF World Cup for rifle and pistol shooters. The final stage will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil before the ISSF World Championships in November at Doha. India have sent a 34-member team to the ISSF World Cup Baku 2023. The event will end today.

### **Indian pair Divya TS and Sarabjot Singh win gold in 10m air pistol mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup 2023**

In the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup being held at Baku in Azerbaijan, Indian pair Divya TS and Sarabjot Singh won gold in the 10m air pistol mixed team event .

The Indian pair defeated the Serbian legends Damir Mikec and Zorana Arunovic in the final match pulling off a nerve-wracking 16-14 win. It was a second ISSF World Cup gold for Sarabjot who had won the individual air pistol in Bhopal in March this year. On the other hand, it was the first senior medal for Diya at the international level. Ismail Keles and Simal Yilmaz of Turkey won bronze.

### **OBITUARY**

#### **Eminent singer Kalyani Kazi, passes away at 87**

Eminent singer and the youngest daughter-in-law of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Kalyani Kazi passes away at the age of 87, Kazi, 87, breathed her last at SSKM hospital where she was shifted from a nursing home in south Kolkata a few days back.

She had been suffering from leukaemia for quite some time and also had renal problems and died after multi-organ failure Kazi, the widow of Kazi Nazrul Islam's younger son Kazi Aniruddha, is survived by two sons and a daughter who lives in the US.

Kalyani Kazi was a member of Kazi Nazrul Islam Academy's advisory council. The musical maestro was also honoured with the Sangeet Mohashomman Award from West Bengal in 2015.

### **APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS**

#### **Geeta Rao Gupta appointed US Ambassador for Global Women's Issues**

The US Senate has confirmed the appointment of Indian-American Geeta Rao Gupta as the 'Ambassador at Large' for global issues related to women at the State Department.

According to Geeta Rao Gupta, women across the world face many inequalities and stigma and this prevents them from participating fully in the economy.

Geeta Rao Gupta is a leader on gender, women's issues, She has served as the executive director of the UN Foundation's 3D Program for Girls and Women. She also advises the UNAIDS Global Coalition on Women and AIDS and is on the boards of the InterAction and Moria Fund. She has also held the position of Co-Chair of the United Nations Millennium Project Task Force on Education and Gender Equality.

### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

#### **Mother's Day 2023**

Mother's Day is celebrated every year on the second Sunday of May to honour motherhood and is observed in different forms throughout the world. This year, the Mother's Day celebration falls on May 14,

**History** - The modern Mother's Day was championed by Anna Jarvis, an American social activist. She held campaigns to establish a national holiday to honor mothers after her own mother's death in 1905. She wanted to create a day for individuals to express their love, and gratitude to their mothers.

President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation declaring the second Sunday of every May as 'Mother's Day' in 1914. Since then, Mother's Day has been adopted by various countries around the world.

The purpose of Mother's Day is to express love, appreciation, and gratitude towards mothers and mother figures for their unconditional love, support, and sacrifices.

