

INTERNATIONAL

1) Paraguay's political system

- On the day May 1, 2023, Paraguayans went to the polls to elect their next president. In a surprising turn of events, Santiago Pena of the right-wing Colorado Party emerged as the winner, defeating center-left challenger Efrain Alegre.

- The election result has raised concerns about corruption within Paraguay's political system, as the Colorado Party has been in power for almost eight decades and has been tainted by graft allegations.

NATIONAL

1) 'Mann ki Baat'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio program 'Mann ki Baat' reached a significant milestone on Sunday, April 30th, with the broadcast of its 100th episode.

- The program, which started in October 2014, has become an essential component of the Indian government's outreach program and has addressed various social groups, including women, youth, and farmers.



2) 91 FM transmitters in 18 states and two union territories

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently inaugurated 91 FM transmitters in 18 states and two union territories, aimed at improving FM radio connectivity in border regions and aspirational districts.
The move is expected to benefit an additional two crore people who did not have access to the medium before.

3) Millets Experience Centre at Dilli Haat in New Delhi





- India's Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar recently launched the Millets Experience Centre (MEC) at Dilli Haat in New Delhi.

- The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) established the MEC in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture to promote the adoption of millets among the general public.

4) Officers Training Academy

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



5) Scheduled commercial banks

- Scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) reported a robust credit growth of 15.4% in FY23 compared to 9.7% in FY22.

The growth was powered by personal loans, loans to the services sector, and agriculture and allied activities. Personal loans registered a growth of 20.6% in FY23 as compared to 12.6% in the year-ago period, primarily driven by housing loans, according to RBI data on sectoral deployment of bank credit.
Bank credit and deposit growth lost steam in the last fortnight of FY23 compared to the year-ago period, even as overall growth under these two key parameters was robust in the reporting financial year as compared to FY22.

6) Reserve Bank of India

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

- During the April-February period of FY23, Tamil Nadu's gross market borrowings through State Development Loans (SDLs) stood at ₹68,000 crore. The State's Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan announced in his budget speech last month that Tamil Nadu planned to borrow ₹1,43,197.93 crore during 2023-24 and make repayments of ₹51,331,79 crore, resulting in net borrowings of ₹91,866.14 crore.





- In the budget estimates for 2023-24, the Fiscal Deficit is estimated to be 3.25% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

STATE NEWS

1) IIT Kanpur's C3iHub, a cybersecurity Technology Innovation Hub

- IIT Kanpur's C3iHub, a cybersecurity Technology Innovation Hub, has launched a Cybersecurity Skilling Programme with support from the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS).

- The programme, which focuses on models, tools, and techniques for enforcing security, strives to provide students with a greater grasp of the technological fundamentals of cyberspace and cyber problems. It also introduces real-time cybersecurity approaches and procedures.



APPOINTMENTS AND RESGINATIONS

1) Debadatta Chand

- Debadatta Chand has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of Bank of Baroda (BOB), according to a government announcement made on April 29. Chand is currently serving as the Executive Director of the bank.

- He will assume the position of MD for a term of three years, effective from July 1, 2023, or until further notice.

- This appointment follows the term extension of the previous MD, Sanjiv Chadha, which ended on January 19, 2021, and was extended by the government for an additional five months until June 30, 2021.

2) Rajneesh Karnatak

- The Indian government has selected Rajneesh Karnatak as the Managing Director (MD) of the Bank of India (BOI).





- Karnatak currently serves as the Executive Director of the Union Bank of India. As per the announcement, he will take up the role of MD & CEO of Bank of India for a period of three years, starting from the date he assumes office or until further instructions.

3) Ajit Kumar Mohanty

- Ajit Kumar Mohanty, who is a well-known physicist and also serves as the director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), has been selected as the new chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy.

- This appointment means he will be responsible for overseeing India's nuclear program and exploring the use of atomic power for non-military purposes. Mohanty will take over from K N Vyas.



SPORTS

1) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty

- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty made history on April 30, becoming the first Indian men's doubles pair to win a gold medal at the Badminton Asia Championships.

- The Indian pair defeated the Malaysian duo of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi in a thrilling three-game match that lasted for over an hour.

2) Ding Liren

- Ding Liren has become 17th world chess champion – the first from China – defeating Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi in a tie-breaker.

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

3) Red Bull's Sergio Perez won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix





- Red Bull's Sergio Perez won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix, the fourth round of the 2023 Formula 1 World Championship, in Baku.

- Sergio Pérez took advantage of a fortunately timed safety car to beat his teammate Max Verstappen to the victory in the Azerbaijan Grand Prix.

- Verstappen started second behind Ferrari's Charles Leclerc but swept past him on the long start-finish straight at the end of lap 3, the first lap on which drivers were allowed to use the DRS overtake assist system on the rear wing. Fernando Alonso finished in fourth place, showing strong pace for Aston Martin after issues in qualifying.



BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1) 'Collective Spirit, Concrete Action'

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

- The book was released during a day-long National Conclave on Mann Ki Baat @100, held in the national capital on April 26. According to the author, 'Mann Ki Baat' is a combination of the power of radio and the vision of a nation's leader.

- Over the course of 15 chapters, the book special also offers insights and perspectives from grassroots change-makers and iconic personalities.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) Dr M.N. Nandakumara

- Dr M.N. Nandakumara, a renowned Sanskrit scholar and Executive Director of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan centre in London, has been awarded an honorary MBE by King Charles III for his contributions to Indian classical arts in Britain.

- The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) has confirmed the award.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1) Maharashtra Day





- Maharashtra Day is celebrated on May 1st every year to commemorate the creation of the state of Maharashtra after the Bombay Reorganization Act of 1960 was enacted.

- The law came into effect on May 1st, 1960, and thus this day is significant in the history of the state. Maharashtra Day is a recognized state holiday that leads to the closure of significant government institutions, banks, schools and colleges.

- To commemorate the culture and principles of their state's inception, individuals often don traditional clothing.

2) Labour Day 2023

- On May 1st is a globally recognized holiday that acknowledges the accomplishments of the labour movement.

- It is commonly referred to as International Worker's Day or May Day, and is commemorated with a public holiday across more than 80 countries.

- The celebration, known as Labour Day in several nations, honors the contributions of working individuals to society, emphasizing the importance of work and the strides made by the labour movement.

OBITUARY

1) N. Gopalakrishnan has passed away

- N. Gopalakrishnan, the creator of the Indian Institute of Scientific Heritage (IISH) and a former scientist at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has passed away at the age of 68.

- Gopalakrishnan held a Master of Science degree in Chemistry, a Master of Arts degree in Sociology, and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry.

- He was born in the city of Kochi in the Ernakulam district of Kerala, and his parents were Narayanan Embranthiri and Satyabhama.



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