

Weekly Current Affairs 29th April to 04th May 2024 - English

National News

India Renews Agreement to Train 1500 Bangladeshi Officers

The Government of India has signed an agreement with the Government of Bangladesh to renew the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for training 1500 Bangladeshi officers from 2025 to 2030. The agreement was signed between the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India, and the Bangladeshi Ministry of Public Administration.

MCA Approves Hitesh Sethia as Jio Financial Services' MD and CEO for 3 Years

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has granted its approval for the appointment of Hitesh Kumar Sethia as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Jio Financial Services for a three-year period, effective from November 15, 2023.

Solomon Islands Elects Pro-China Leader Jeremiah Manele as New Prime Minister

In a significant political development, the Solomon Islands has elected former Foreign Minister Jeremiah Manele as its new prime minister, indicating that the South Pacific island nation is likely to maintain close ties with China.

International News

Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif Appoints Ishaq Dar as Deputy Prime Minister

In a strategic move within the government's leadership hierarchy, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has appointed Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar as the country's Deputy Prime Minister with immediate effect, as reported by Samaa TV.

Zimbabwe Introduces New Currency Amid Skepticism

Zimbabwe has launched a new currency called the ZiG (short for Zimbabwe Gold) in an attempt to address the country's long-running currency crisis. The ZiG, backed by Zimbabwe's gold reserves, was introduced electronically in early April and has now been released in banknote and coin form.

Kathmandu Tops The List of Cities With 'unhealthy air' in the World

The Ministry of Health and Population of Nepal has urged residents to wear masks due to the alarming increase in air pollution levels in the Kathmandu valley. According to IQAir, an organization that measures real-time pollution in 101 cities worldwide, Kathmandu has been ranked as the most polluted city globally.

CAG of India and Auditor General of Nepal Sign MoU to Enhance Collaboration in Auditing

In a significant development, **Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)**, has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Toyam Raya, Auditor General of Nepal**. This agreement aims to strengthen collaboration and facilitate the exchange of expertise in auditing practices between the **Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs)** of both countries.

State News

Tamil Nadu's Conservation Efforts for the Endangered Nilgiri Tahr

The government of Tamil Nadu has launched a three-day survey of the Nilgiri Tahr, the state's iconic animal. This initiative aims to better understand and conserve this endangered species that faces numerous challenges, including habitat loss and poaching.

Rankings & Reports News

Indian EdTech Giants Shine on TIME's Global Ranking

In a remarkable achievement, Emeritus, the Indian edtech startup, has secured the coveted top spot in TIME Magazine's "World's Top EdTech Companies of 2024" ranking. Founded in 2015 by Ashwin Damera and Chaitanya Kalipatnapu, Emeritus offers courses from prestigious global universities, including the University of Cambridge, Harvard Business School, and MIT Sloan, among others.

Business News

IREDA Granted Prestigious 'Navratna' Status by Government

The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a public sector enterprise, has been granted the coveted 'Navratna' status by the government, according to a recent filing with the stock exchanges. This prestigious designation takes the total number of Navratna PSEs (Public Sector Enterprises) in India to 17.

Former BharatPe COO Dhruv Bahl Launches Eternal Capital VC Fund

In the dynamic landscape of Indian startups, former BharatPe COO Dhruv Dhanraj Bahl steps into the world of venture capital with the launch of his maiden fund, Eternal Capital, with a substantial corpus of Rs 240 crore, including a greenshoe option.

Appointment News

Sunil Kumar Yadav (IRS) Appointed as Director of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs

The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has welcomed a new addition to its leadership team. Sunil Kumar Yadav, an officer from the Indian Revenue Service (IRS), has been appointed as the Director of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.

Sarvadanand Barnwal Appointed as Director in Department of Land Resources

Sarvadanand Barnwal, an Indian Statistical Service (ISS) officer of the 2010 batch, has been appointed as Director in the Department of Land Resources. The appointment was made on Friday, April 26, 2024, through an order issued by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT).

Bharat Biotech's Krishna Ella Leads Indian Vaccine Manufacturers

In a significant development, the Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association (IVMA) has announced the appointment of Krishna Ella, co-founder and executive chairman of Bharat Biotech, as its new president for the next two years, effective April 2024. Ella will take over the presidency from Adar C. Poonawala, who held the position from 2019 to March 2024.

Justice Dinesh Kumar Appointed as the SAT Presiding officer

Justice (retired) Dinesh Kumar took charge as the Presiding Officer of the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) on 29 April 2024. The government of India appointed Justice Dinesh Kumar for a four-year term. Before taking over as the presiding officer of SAT, Justice Dinesh Kumar was the chief justice of the Karnataka High Court. He retired from the post in February 2024.

Pratima Singh (IRS) Appointed As Director In DPIIT

The Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) has announced the appointment of Pratima Singh, an officer of the Indian Revenue Service (IRS), as the Director in the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Shashi Bhushan Singh Appointed Secretary of National Jute Board

Shashi Bhushan Singh, a 2010-batch Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer, has been appointed as the Secretary (at the Director level) of the National Jute Board in Kolkata under the Ministry of Textiles. The appointment, approved by the Central Government, is effective for a five-year term or until further orders.

RBI Approves Re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as HDFC Bank Part-Time Chairman

Atanu Chakraborty's re-appointment as part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank for three years, effective from May 5, 2024, to May 4, 2027, has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The Board of Directors has also sanctioned his re-appointment as an Independent Director for the same tenure.

Awards & Honors News

Sharjah Teacher Gina Justus Wins Regional Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Award

Gina Justus, an English High School teacher at the Sharjah Girls Branch in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has been named the regional winner for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region at the prestigious 2024 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards. This achievement celebrates her outstanding mentorship and dedication to charity work.

India Today Group's AI Anchor Sana Shines at Global Media Awards

Sana, the AI-powered news anchor developed by the India Today Group, has achieved remarkable success at the prestigious International News Media Association (INMA) Global Media Awards held in London. This groundbreaking AI innovation has captured two coveted awards, solidifying its position as a trailblazer in the field of AI-driven journalism.

Alok Shukla Wins Prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize 2024

Alok Shukla, a renowned environmental activist and convenor of Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan, has been selected for the prestigious 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize. Also known as the "Green Nobel Prize," this annual award honours grassroots environmental champions worldwide for their outstanding contributions to environmental protection.

Eminent Personalities Honoured with Prestigious Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award

Noted Hindi film superstars Hema Malini and Saira Banu, along with other prominent personalities from the fields of art and culture, will be honoured with the prestigious Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award. The award ceremony will take place on 31 August 2024 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Purnima Devi Barman Gets the 'Green Oscar' Whitley Gold Award 2024

Dr. Purnima Devi Barman, a wildlife biologist from Assam, has been recognized with the prestigious Whitley Gold Award for her exemplary conservation efforts aimed at protecting the endangered Greater Adjutant Stork and its wetland habitat. This accolade, often referred to as the 'Green Oscar', highlights her remarkable contributions to wildlife conservation and underscores the importance of grassroots efforts in safeguarding biodiversity.

UNESCO Guillermo Cano Prize 2024 Awarded to Palestine Journalists in Gaza

In a gesture of solidarity and recognition, **Palestinian journalists** covering the **crisis in Gaza** have been named laureates of the **2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize**. The announcement comes from the recommendation of an International Jury of media professionals, emphasizing the courage and commitment of these journalists amidst challenging circumstances.

Important Dates News

International Jazz Day 2024 Celebrated Annually on April 30th

International Jazz Day, celebrated annually on April 30th, is a global event that celebrates the power of jazz to bring people together and promote peace, unity, and intercultural dialogue. This year marks a significant milestone as the city of Tangier, Morocco becomes the first African host city for the global celebration.

International Dance Day 2024 Celebrated Annually on April 29th

International Dance Day, celebrated annually on April 29th, stands as a global tribute to the art of dance. Conceived by the Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), an essential partner of UNESCO in the realm of performing arts, this day commemorates the birth of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727–1810), revered as the progenitor of modern ballet.

Ayushman Bharat Diwas 2024, Celebrating India's Healthcare Initiative

Ayushman Bharat Diwas is celebrated annually on April 30 to raise awareness about the Ayushman Bharat Yojana and its goals. This year, it falls on Tuesday, April 30, 2024. The day was established by the government to highlight the scheme's objective of providing better access to affordable and quality healthcare services, especially for the underprivileged.

International Labour Day 2024 Celebrated on 1st May

International Labour Day, also known as May Day or Workers' Day, is celebrated on Wednesday, May 1st, 2024. This annual observance honours the contributions and achievements of workers worldwide and promotes their rights and opportunities. Every year, the theme is announced by international labour organisations like the International Labour Organization (ILO). This year, the focus is on ensuring safety and health at work in a changing climate.

World Tuna Day 2024 Observed Annually on May 2nd

World Tuna Day, observed annually on May 2nd, is dedicated to raising awareness about the critical importance of tuna conservation. Tuna is popular for its numerous health benefits, as it provides Omega-3 fatty acids, protein, and vital vitamins. But, tuna populations face significant threats due to overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices.

World Press Freedom Day 2024 Celebrates on May 3rd

On May 3rd, the global community will come together to observe World Press Freedom Day, a significant event that honours the fundamental principles of press freedom and the vital role journalists play in informing and enlightening the public. This year, World Press Freedom Day falls on a Friday, and the theme for 2024 is "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis." The theme highlights the crucial role of journalism and freedom of expression in addressing the global environmental crisis and driving meaningful action on pressing environmental issues.

International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action 2024 Observed on May 4th

The **International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action**, observed **annually on April 4th**, serves as a poignant reminder of the ongoing threats posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) worldwide. This day not only underscores the urgent need for collective action to address these threats but also celebrates the progress made in mine action efforts globally.

The **theme for the 2024 International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action**, observed on April 4, is **centered on survivors of explosive hazards with disabilities and those living with disabilities in conflict**.

Sports News

Indian Athletes Shine at 21st U-20 Asian Athletics Championship 2024

The Indian athletes continued their impressive medal-winning spree at the 21st U-20 Asian Athletics Championship 2024, with Harshit Kumar clinching a gold medal in the highly competitive Hammer throw event. His outstanding throw of 66.7 meters secured India's latest gold at the prestigious event.

MS Dhoni Sets New IPL Record in CSK's Dominant Win

The Chennai Super Kings (CSK) secured a resounding 78-run victory over the Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) on Sunday, potentially shaping the trajectory of both teams' 2024 Indian Premier League (IPL) campaigns. This emphatic win significantly boosted CSK's net run rate, propelling them to the third position in the league standings. Conversely, SRH suffered their second consecutive defeat, slipping to the fourth spot.

Kenyan Dominance at TCS World 10K Bengaluru

The 16th edition of the Tata Consultancy Services World 10K Bengaluru witnessed Kenyan runners Peter Mwaniki (28:15) and Lilian Kasait (30:56) emerging victorious in the international elite men's and women's categories, respectively.

Amul Becomes Lead Sponsor for USA and South Africa in T20 World Cup 2024

The renowned Indian dairy giant Amul has been named the Lead Arm sponsor for the USA and South Africa cricket teams during the highly anticipated T20 World Cup in June.

ICC Imposes Five-Year Ban on West Indies Cricketer Devon Thomas for Anti-Corruption Breaches

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has taken strong action against West Indies player Devon Thomas by imposing a five-year period of ineligibility from all cricket after he admitted to breaching multiple anti-corruption codes.

India to Host 2025 BWF World Junior Badminton Championships in Guwahati

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) has announced that India will host the prestigious 2025 BWF World Junior Championships at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati. This marks a significant milestone as India will be hosting this premier badminton event for the first time since 2008, when it was held in Pune.

Obituaries News**Renowned Journalist Vinay Vir Passes Away at 72**

Vinay Vir, a renowned journalist, publisher, and editor of the Daily Hindi Milap, passed away on Saturday, April 27th, 2024, at the age of 72. He was a champion for the Hindi language in South India and a respected figure in the journalism community.

Playback Singer Uma Ramanan Bids Adieu at 72

Renowned playback singer Uma Ramanan, who predominantly sang in Tamil, passed away at the age of 72 in Chennai. The veteran singer, known for her melodious voice and extensive repertoire, has left an indelible mark on the Indian music industry.

Acclaimed Author Paul Auster Passes Away at 77

Paul Auster, the renowned American novelist and filmmaker, has passed away at the age of 77. The prolific writer, best known for his acclaimed work "The New York Trilogy," died on Tuesday at his home in Brooklyn, New York, due to complications from lung cancer.

Veteran Politician and Former Union Minister V. Srinivas Prasad Passes Away at 76

The Indian political landscape has lost a seasoned leader with the passing of V. Srinivas Prasad, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament (MP) and former Union Minister. Prasad, who had an illustrious career spanning five decades, breathed his last at the age of 76 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Books & Authors News**A Book Titled "The Winner's Mindset," Authored by Shane Watson**

In his book, "The Winner's Mindset," Watson shares the insights and strategies that enabled him to conquer his fears and reach new heights in his cricketering career. While the book is not an autobiography in the traditional sense, it serves as a powerful self-help guide, offering readers a glimpse into the mindset that propels individuals to success.

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