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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **Sharjah stadium stand named after Sachin Tendulkar**

- An iconic Sharjah cricket stadium stand has been renamed after Sachin Tendulkar in a special ceremony in the UAE, honouring the Indian cricket legend on his 50th birthday.
- The West Stand at the iconic stadium has been renamed the 'Sachin Tendulkar Stand.'
- Not only does it coincide with the Indian batting legend's birthday, but also with the 25th anniversary of his 'Desert Storm' back-to-back centuries against Australia in 1998 to a packed stadium.
- Sharjah Cricket Stadium holds the Guinness record for most One-Day Internationals played (244).
- The gate at the Sydney Cricket Ground was also named after Sachin Tendulkar on his 50th birthday.
- CEO of Sharjah Stadium: Khalaf Bukhatir.

❖ **India launches Operation Kaveri to evacuate stranded citizens from Sudan**

- India has launched a rescue operation named Operation Kaveri to evacuate its stranded citizens from Sudan.
- Two C-130s aircraft and the navy ship INS Sumedha is on standby to evacuate Indians.
- The name for rescue operations in Sudan has been kept Operation Kaveri for the same purpose that Prime Minister Modi chose to name rescue ops in Ukraine Operation Ganga.

➤ Kaveri is one of the major Indian rivers flowing through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

➤ According to the website of the Indian embassy in Khartoum, there are around 2,800 Indian nationals in Sudan. Along with this, there is also a settled Indian community of around 1,200 people - which has been in the country for nearly 150 years.

❖ **Pakistani-Canadian journalist Tarek Fatah passes away**

➤ Tarek Fatah, a Pakistani-Canadian journalist who referred to himself as a “Midnight’s Child” due to being born shortly after Pakistan’s independence in 1949, has passed away from cancer at the age of 73.

➤ Fatah was recognized for his critiques of Islamic extremism and the Pakistani establishment, as well as his support for queer rights. After his parents migrated from Bombay to Karachi, he was born and later attended the University of Karachi where he studied biochemistry and became a leftist activist before eventually transitioning into journalism. Fatah’s daughter confirmed his death on social media.

➤ Tarek Fatah began his career in journalism as a reporter for the Karachi Sun in 1970, and later worked as an investigative reporter for Pakistan Television. In 1977, he was charged with sedition by the Zia-ul Haq government, which led him to migrate to Saudi Arabia, and then to settle in Canada in 1987.

❖ **RBI imposes Rs. 44 lakh penalty on 4 co-op banks**

➤ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has levied penalties of Rs. 44 lakhs on four cooperative banks for violating various norms. The penalties are based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the banks with their customers.

➤ Chennai-based The Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank was penalized Rs. 16 lakh for failing to transfer eligible amounts to the Depositor Education and

Awareness Fund within the prescribed period and failing to report a fraud to NABARD within the prescribed timeline.

- Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank was penalized Rs. 13 lakh for not transferring the eligible amount to the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF) within the prescribed period and transferring the same with delay.
- Janata Sahakari Bank, Pune, was penalized Rs. 13 crore for non-compliance with directions on 'Interest Rate on Deposits'.
- Baran Nagrik Sahkari Bank, Baran, Rajasthan was penalized Rs. 2 lakh for violating certain norms.

❖ **Former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal passed away**

- Former Chief Minister of Punjab and senior leader of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) Parkash Singh Badal passed away at the age of 95.
- Parkash Singh Badal was born on 8 December 1927 at Abul Khurana near Malot. He entered the state assembly from Malout in 1957 as a Congress candidate.
- In 1969, entered the Vidhansabha from Gidderbaha seat on SAD ticket and was elected MLA 11 times, lost only twice. He became the Chief Minister of Punjab in 1970, leading a coalition government for the first time. However, the government did not complete its term.
- Badal was the Chief Minister of Punjab from 1977 to 1980, 1997 to 2002, 2007 to 2012 and 2012 to 2017. He was known for his role in the Punjab insurgency and peace talks with militants in the 1990s. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian award, in 2015.

❖ **Microsoft India head, Anant Maheshwari appointed as chairperson of Nasscom**

- IT Industry body Nasscom has appointed Anant Maheshwari, president of Microsoft India, as its chairperson for 2023-24.

- Maheshwari, who was Nasscom's vice-chairperson, succeeds Krishnan Ramanujam, the president of business and technology services at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).
- Nasscom also announced the appointment of Rajesh Nambiar, chairman and managing director of Cognizant India as its vice-chairperson for 2023-24.
- In addition, Nasscom announced its Executive Council for 2023-2025. The council will aim to play an important role in steering India's tech sector at a time when macroeconomic challenges have significantly dimmed the growth prospects for the current fiscal.
- The newly appointed leadership, along with President Debjani Ghosh, will spearhead the industry to carry out its wide array of objectives to achieve the vision of becoming a \$500 billion industry by 2030. Currently, the size of the industry is \$245 billion.

❖ **Uttar Pradesh received HUDCO award for cleanliness drive**

- The Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) Uttar Pradesh has been awarded the country's prestigious HUDCO Award for 2022-2023.
- It was awarded in the Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment 2022-23 category for cleanliness. An amount of ₹1 lakh was also given to the UP government as part of the award.
- This campaign was conducted by the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) Uttar Pradesh from January 14 to 24. In this, 75 tourist and historical places of the state were included. Special cleanliness drives were conducted at these places.
- Through activities like Nukkad Natak, puppet show, plog run inside the site, the general public was involved in cleaning ghats, ponds, markets and other commercial areas. This 10-day campaign concluded with Gau Puja. More than 11 lakh people across the state participated in this campaign.
- Entries were received from across the country for the prestigious award. After several rounds of testing, the jury board selected the 'Swachh Virasat' campaign for

field visits. A team of Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited, Lucknow Regional Office, also inspected several sites including Imambara, Residency in Lucknow.

❖ **Shreekant Bhandiwad appointed as Chairman of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank**

- Shreekant M Bhandiwad has taken charge as the new Chairman of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB). Prior to his joining as Chairman of KVGB, Bhandiwad was heading the Patna circle of Canara Bank.
- He has replaced the current chairman P Gopikrishna, who was repatriated to Canara Bank as Circle Head, Bengaluru, in Karnataka.
- He has an experience of 29 years in Canara Bank, having worked across India (Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, and Karnataka) in various capacities.
- A postgraduate in agriculture, he has worked as an Agricultural Extension Officer in rural branches of Canara Bank and also worked as a consultant in Agricultural Consultancy Services of Canara Bank at the Head Office.
- A native of Dharwad, Bhandiwad carries with him an experience of 29 years in Canara Bank. He has worked in states such as Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar and Karnataka in various capacities such as branch in-charge, regional head and circle head. Besides this, he was Deputy Managing Director of Canfin Homes Ltd for a period of three years.

❖ **20th anniversary of SWAGAT initiative**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the 20th anniversary of the State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology (SWAGAT) initiative in Gujarat on 27th of April via video conferencing.
- This scheme was started by PM Modi in April 2003 during his tenure as the Chief Minister of Gujarat.

- The Gujarat government is celebrating SWAGAT week to mark the successful completion of 20 years of this initiative.
- The main purpose of this programme was to act as a bridge between the citizens and the government using technology by solving their day-to-day grievances in a quick, efficient and time-bound manner.
- The launch of the program was inspired by his belief that the biggest responsibility of a Chief Minister is to solve the problems of the people of his state. With this resolve, along with harnessing the potential of technology to make life easier, the then CM Modi launched a first of its kind technology-based grievance redressal programme.

❖ **Y-20 Pre-Summit Meeting under G20 held in Leh**

- The Y 20 Pre Summit Meeting under G20 hosted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs is being organized from 26th to 28th April 2023 in Leh.
- It will bring together leading experts, decision-makers, and youth leaders from G20 Countries to discuss and formulate actionable plans for the growth and development of the people.
- The focus will be on the five Y20 themes. They are:-
 1. Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance;
 2. Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation & 21st Century Skills;
 3. Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life;
 4. Peace Building and Reconciliation: Ushering in an era of No War;
 5. Health, Wellbeing and Sports: Agenda for Youth.

❖ **Australia to host Quad leadership summit in Sydney**

- Australia will host the third in-person Quad Summit in Sydney on May 24, 2023.

- It will be the first time when Australia will host the meeting.
- The meeting will be attended by PM Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Japanese PM Kishida Fumio, and Australian PM Anthony Albanese.
- The leaders will discuss issues on critical and emerging technologies and high-quality infrastructure, etc.
- The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue comprises India, the US, Japan, and Australia.

❖ **RBI cancels Adoor Co-operative Urban Bank's banking licence**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the banking license of Kerala-based Adoor Co-operative Urban Bank, with effect from the close of business on April 24, 2023.
- RBI has allowed Adoor Co-operative Urban Bank to function as a non-banking institution.
- RBI has also stopped to conduct the banking business, including acceptance of deposits from non-members with immediate effect.
- The bank shall ensure to repay unpaid and unclaimed deposits of non-members held by it.