

### ❖ Maharashtra becomes the first state in the country to approve Good Governance Regulations

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde approved the first state to approve Good Governance Regulations in the country.
- The purpose of the rules is to enhance accountability, accessibility, dynamism and transparency in state administration.
- A separate cell will be set up to address the effects of climate change.
- The rules also include expanding the scope of 'Aaple Sarkar Seva Kendra' for end-to-end online services to citizens within the prescribed time limit. Citizens' complaints will be redressed at a speedy pace.
- The chief minister's direction to develop the rules was given in September last year. The rules were drawn up in consultation with ministerial officials, experts and NGOs.
- 161 department-wise indices have been prepared to evaluate the performance of good governance.

### ❖ 5000 year old tree from Chile recognized as the oldest tree in the world

- A giant tree in southern Chile, known as the "Great Grandfather" and this tree, a Patagonian cypress, located in the Alerce Costero National Park is the oldest tree in the world.
- The trunk of the tree has a diameter of four metres (13 ft) and it is 28 metres tall.
- It is over 5,000 years old, surpassing the oldest tree currently known as the Methuselah, which is 4,850 years old.

➤ It is located in a forest in the southern Los Ríos region, 800 kilometres (500 mi) south of the capital Santiago.

➤ This tree belongs to the species *Fitzroya cupressoides*, which is also known as Patagonian cypress.

➤ *Fitzroya cupressoides* is the largest tree species in South America.

### ❖ **Neeraj Chopra becomes World Number 1 in Men's Javelin Throw rankings**

➤ Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra has claimed number one ranking in men's javelin for the first time.

➤ Neeraj Chopra has topped the charts with 1455 points, 22 ahead of Grenada's Anderson Peters. On 30 August, 2022, the Indian javelin throw ace rose to World No. 2, but was stuck behind Peters, the reigning world champion, since then.

➤ In 2022, Neeraj won the Diamond League 2022 finals in Zurich in September, which made him the first Indian athlete to do so. However, he was sidelined with an injury following his victory in Zurich.

➤ The Indian national record holder in men's javelin throw, competed in the season-opening Doha Diamond League on May 5 and finished first with a throw of 88.67m. Anderson Peters finished third in Doha with a distance of 85.88m.

### ❖ **Government to provide 30% financial support for Green Shipping promotion**

➤ Union minister of ports, shipping & waterways (MoPSW) Sarbananda Sonowal announced that MoPSW will offer 30% financial support to promote green shipping.

➤ The move aims to bolster sustainable practices and propel India toward a green maritime sector.

➤ In addition, Green Hydrogen hubs will be developed at the Deendayal Port (Kandla) and Chidambaranar Port (Tuticorin).

➤ Under the Green Tug Transition program, two tugs each will be procured for the Jawaharlal Nehru, VO Chidambaranar, Paradip, and Deendayal ports.

➤ A portal will be designed for cruise bookings.

### ❖ **Actor Sarath Babu passes away**

➤ Veteran actor Sarath Babu has passed away at 71 from Multi-Organ failure.

➤ He has primarily worked in Tamil and Telugu films and was known for his roles in 'Annamalai' and 'Muthu'.

➤ He has appeared in more than 200 films, including Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi films.

➤ He started his career in 1973 through a Telugu film and later became popular through the Tamil film 'Nizhal Nijamagiradhu', directed by K Balachander.

➤ He was honored with eight state Nandi Awards.

### ❖ **India-US Working Group on Education and Skill Development launched**

➤ The Ministry of Education and the US Department of State launched the India-US Working Group on Education and Skill Development with an aim to enhance cooperation between the two countries in the field.

➤ Neeta Prasad, Joint Secretary for International Cooperation, Ministry of Education; and Donald Lu, Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, US Department of State, co-chaired the Working Groups from India and US respectively.

➤ The establishment of the India-US Working Group on Education and Skill Development was announced by the leaders on the sidelines of the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue held between India and US in Washington DC in April last year.

➤ Skilling and vocational education, certification and recognition, matchmaking between US and Indian higher educational institutions engaging with the private sector--- were among the themes discussed between the two sides.

## ❖ **Thalapathy Vijay wins Best Actor Award at Osaka Tamil Film Festival, Japan**

- Thalapathy Vijay received the Best Actor Award at the Osaka Tamil International Film Festival held in Japan.
- He was awarded for his performance in 'Master' (directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj), released in 2021.
- While Kangana Ranaut has bagged the Best Actress Award for her performance in Thalaivii.
- Other winners: Best Tamil Film: Sarpatta Parambarai ; Best Director: Pa. Ranjith (Sarpatta Parambarai) ; Best Supporting Actor: K. Manikandan ; Best Supporting Actress: Lijomol Jose.

## ❖ **TCS announces Generative AI partnership with Google Cloud**

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a leading global IT services company, has expanded its partnership with Google Cloud and unveiled a new offering called TCS Generative AI.
- This collaboration aims to leverage Google Cloud's generative AI services to develop customized business solutions that drive growth and transformation for clients across various industries.
- With its extensive domain expertise and investment in research and innovation, TCS has built a robust portfolio of AI-powered solutions, including AIOps, Algo Retail™, smart manufacturing, digital twins, and robotics.
- TCS Generative AI harnesses the capabilities of Google Cloud's Generative AI tools, such as Vertex AI, Generative AI Application Builder, and Model Garden, alongside TCS' own solutions.
- By combining client-specific contextual knowledge, design thinking, and agile development processes, TCS collaborates closely with clients to ideate, rapidly prototype, and build transformational solutions with accelerated time to value.

## ❖ **World Turtle Day 2023: 23rd May**

- World Turtle Day is an annual observance held every May 23rd. It began in 2000 and is sponsored by American Tortoise Rescue.
- The day was created as a yearly observance to help people celebrate and protect turtles and tortoises and their disappearing habitats, as well as to encourage human action to help them survive and thrive.
- The event was first celebrated in 2000, making 2023 the 24th anniversary of the observance.
- World Turtle Day is marked to raise awareness about the need to protect turtles and tortoises and their nesting sites around the world. The day also urges citizens, law enforcement agencies, policy members and governments to stop the illegal turtle trade.

## ❖ **Financial Times global ranking puts IIMK among top four schools in India**

- The Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIMK) has achieved recognition in the prestigious Financial Times Rankings 2023 (FT Rankings).
- The debut in FT Rankings places IIM Kozhikode at the 72nd position among the top 75 providers of open-enrolment executive programs globally.
- IIM Kozhikode is one of only three Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and four Indian B-Schools to be featured in the top 75 FT Open-enrolment Executive Education Rankings 2023.
- The rankings are based on surveys conducted with executive participants and respective institutes worldwide. The institute's expert faculty members design tailor-made courses to meet the specific requirements of open-enrolment participants.
- IIM Kozhikode's unique e-MDP (Management Development Programs), including the IIMK Kochi Campus, adopts participant-centered teaching methods and develops rigorous and relevant content for executive participants.

## ❖ **Paytm Money launches bond investing**

- Paytm Money has launched the most advanced bond platform for retail investors in India, simplifying debt investing for individuals.
- Investors can invest in three types of bonds – government, corporate and tax-free on Paytm Money.
- Bonds on Paytm Money app present investors with all relevant information in one place, and convert everything to yield so that investors can analyse and understand the returns they can earn.
- Investors can find all information related to coupon vs yield, clean price vs dirty price, coupon frequency, coupon record dates etc, on one dashboard on the Paytm Money app.
- The company further said it believes that investing in debt markets in India is still very new and the country has the potential to have 100 million investors, for whom bonds would be the best way to enter capital markets.

## ❖ **Assam Governor releases book 'Partitioned Freedom'**

- Assam Governor, Gulab Chand Kataria has released a book titled 'Partitioned Freedom' at an event in Guwahati.
- This book was written by Ram Madhav and published by Prabhat Prakashan Pvt. Ltd.
- This book offers great insights into the events that unfolded during 1905 and the pre-independence era.
- Ram Madhav is an Indian Politician, Author, and thinker.
- His other books: Uneasy Neighbours: India and China After 50 Years of the War and Asahaj Pados.

### ❖ Vizag dist launched health insurance scheme for special children

- In a first-of-its-kind initiative in state, Visakhapatnam district launched Niramaya Health Insurance scheme for children suffering from autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, and others.
- District collector Dr A Mallikharjuna launched the free health insurance scheme.
- The money for the scheme was arranged from Sanjivani Nidhi, funds for which were donated by government employees on New Year's Day.
- Collector said the objective of Niramaya scheme is to provide affordable health insurance cover to special children. The district has 1,404 children with special needs. The district is implementing the scheme with the help of The Ability People Organisation.
- The insured person would get 1 lakh a year for health-related issues.

### ❖ MP becomes first state in country to provide free air travel to pilgrims

- Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to conduct pilgrimage by air on government expenditure under the Mukhya Mantri Teerth-Darshan Yojana.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan flagged off a batch of 32 senior citizens on pilgrimage to UP's Prayagraj from Bhopal via flight under the 'Mukhya Mantri Tirath Yatra Yojana'.
- So far, 7, 82,000 elderly people have undertaken pilgrimage in 782 special trains under the scheme.
- Chief Minister Chouhan prepared an effective action plan for the month of May to July to make the benefits of Mukhya Mantri Tirth-Darshan Yojana by air easily available to the elders of the state, which will be launched on May 21 from Bhopal to Prayagraj.
- In the same sequence, on May 23 pilgrims of Agar-Malwa district will leave from Indore airport for Shirdi. While on May 25, pilgrims of Betul district will

leave from Bhopal airport via Agra airport for Mathura-Vrindavan. On May 26, pilgrims of Dewas will leave from Indore airport for Shirdi, and on June 3 pilgrims of Khandwa from Indore airport via Kolkata for Gangasagar.

### ❖ **GRSE's launched 'GAINS' Startup Challenge**

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd launched GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS) 2023 in Kolkata.
- It aim is to identify and encourage the development of innovative solutions toward technological advances in shipbuilding by Startups.
- It seeks participation from young entrepreneurs on themes of artificial intelligence in shipbuilding, renewable/green energy and energy efficiency and efficiency enhancement in shipyard.
- In the first stage of the competition, participants will be briefed about GRSE's business interests and expertise and will also be provided a tour of the shipyard besides brainstorming with the GAINS team.
- It was launched by G Surya Prakash, Assistant Manager (Finance) of GRSE. GRSE was established as a Category 1 Mini Ratna Company.

### ❖ **Himachal Pradesh government to formulate Green Hydrogen policy**

- The Himachal Pradesh government has formulated the 'Green Hydrogen' policy to promote the use of green hydrogen and establish the state as a leading hub for its production.
- The primary objective of the policy is to attract investments in large-scale renewable energy projects, ensuring a consistent and sustainable supply of green electricity for electrolysis.
- The government has already signed an MoU with Oil India Limited to enable the production of green hydrogen and green ammonia on a pilot basis.
- The state's abundant renewable energy resources, including ample sunlight, water and wind, make it an ideal location for generating green hydrogen.