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World Tuna Day: May 2nd



- **World Tuna Day** is observed every year on **May 2nd**.
- The main aim of this day was to preserve the tuna fish from crashing and to spread awareness about tuna fish regarding sustainable fishing practices and how they become an endangered practice due to the high demand for their meat.
- Tuna fish has several rich qualities such as **Omega 3, Vitamin B12, proteins, and other minerals**.
- This day was established by the **United Nations (UN) General Assembly** and the day was first observed in **2017**.
- Tuna is a large wild animal. The population of Tuna fish has **declined by more than 97 percent** due to overfishing and illegal fishing.
- **Thailand** is one of the largest tuna producing countries in the world.

Krishna Swaminathan appointed as the Vice Chief of Indian Navy



- **Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan**, known for his expertise in communication and electronic warfare assumed charge as **Vice Chief of the Naval Staff**.
- He was serving as **Chief of Personnel** at the naval headquarters in his previous assignment.
- **Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi**, who took charge as the **26th Chief of the Naval Staff**, was serving as the Vice Chief of the force.
- The Vice Admiral was commissioned into the Indian Navy on **July 1, 1987** and is a specialist in communication and electronic warfare.

- In his illustrious career, he commanded missile vessels INS Vidyut and INS Vinash, the missile corvette INS Kulish, guided missile destroyer INS Mysore and the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.
- He was the recipient of Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal, Vice Admiral Swaminathan has held several key operational, staff and training appointments.
- On promotion to the rank of Rear Admiral, he served as the Chief Staff Officer (training) at headquarters, Southern Naval Command, Kochi and played a key role in the conduct of training for the Navy.

IIT Guwahati has developed a 3D-printed dummy ballot unit

- The Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation of **Kamrup Election District in Assam** has **partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati** to develop an **inventive 3D-printed dummy ballot unit**.
- The 3D-printed dummy ballot unit's main objective is to inform citizens, mainly first-time voters and senior citizens, about the voting process.
- This dummy ballot unit was created using **3D printing technology and PLA**, a biodegradable material derived from corn starch.
- It was created by researchers at IIT Guwahati in merely 48 hours.
- The dummy ballot seeks maximum voter participation by offering a practical experience.
- It has unique interactive elements such as sound and light output indicators to assist users during the voting process.

About Assam:

Capital: Dispur

Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma

Governor: Gulab Chand Kataria



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U.S. novelist Paul Auster passed away

- **U.S. novelist and screenwriter Paul Auster** passed away at the age of 77.
- **The New Jersey-born writer** was known for a string of acclaimed works including **‘The New York Trilogy’** and **‘The Book of Illusions’**.
- He was the Booker Prize shortlistee, whose work touched readers and influenced writers all over the world, and whose generosity was felt in just as many quarters.
- **The literary body shortlisted his book ‘4 3 2 1’ for its award in 2017.**
- The author of more than 30 books, including poetry and memoirs, told Reuters in 2011 he liked to write by hand in notebooks and then produce the finished copy on a typewriter rather than a computer.
- He was named a chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French government in 1991.
- His awards are Independent Spirit Award for Best First Screenplay (1996), Prix Médicis étranger (1993) and Princess of Asturias Award for Literature (2006).

About United States of America:

Capital: Washington D.C.

President: Joe Biden

Currency: Dollar



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GST collection hits record high of Rs 2.10 lakh crore in April



- **The Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections** hit a record high in **April 2024** at **Rs 2.10 lakh crore**, data released by the **Union Finance Ministry**.
- This represents a significant **12.4% year-on-year growth**, driven by a strong increase in domestic transactions (up 13.4%) and imports (up 8.3%).
- In the previous month GST revenue had risen by **18.4 per cent to Rs 1.65 lakh crore** and on a gross level rose 11.5 per cent to Rs 1.78 lakh crore in March.
- For the full financial **year 2023-24**, **net GST revenue** had stood at **Rs 18.01 lakh crore**, a growth of **13.4 per cent**.
- State-wise data for April showed that out of 38 states/Union territories (including Centre's jurisdiction), 19 states/ UTs recorded higher growth in GST collections than the national average of 12.4 per cent growth rate.
- In absolute terms, **Maharashtra** was at the top with collection of Rs 37,671 crore (13 per cent growth), followed by Karnataka, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

DRDO successfully tested a long-range 'SMART'
anti-submarine missile system



- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** conducted a flight test of the **Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART)** from **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha**.
- Its main aim is to enhance the Navy's anti-submarine warfare capabilities.
- It is equipped with several advanced subsystems, including a **two-stage solid propulsion system, electromechanical actuator system, and precision inertial navigation system**.
- The capability of the missile was successfully demonstrated during the test.

About SMART (Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo):

- **The SMART is a next-generation missile-based lightweight torpedo delivery system.**

- It comprises a long-range supersonic missile carrier that can travel up to **643 km**, a lightweight torpedo with **a range of 20 km and a 50 kg** high explosive warhead as the payload.

About DRDO:

Established: 1958

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairman: Samir V Kamat

Indian Army and Punit Balan Group develop Constitution Park in Pune

- **Constitution Park**, jointly developed by **Indian Army and Punit Balan Group**, was inaugurated in **Pune**.
- The park was inaugurated by **GOC-in-C, Southern Command, Lt Gen Ajai Kumar Singh**.
- In order to propel India towards **development by 2047**, every citizen must honor the duties outlined in the Constitution. Constitution of India bestows upon us both Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties.
- The inauguration ceremony was attended by Punit Balan, President of Punit Balan Group, Janhavi Dhariwal-Balan, President of Manikchand Oxyrich and Manikchand Group, and Maj. Gen. Vikrant Naik, General Officer Commanding of Dakshin Maharashtra and Goa Sub Area.

About Indian Army:

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS): General Anil Chauhan

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS): General Manoj Pande

Army Day: 15th January



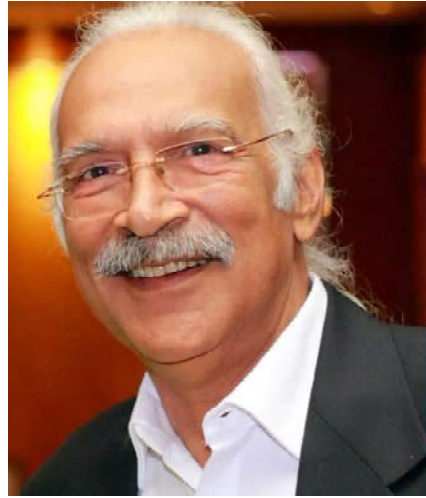
UPI transactions dip marginally in April to Rs 19.64 trn



- **Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions declined in volume and value in April by 1 per cent and 0.7 per cent, compared to March 2024.**
- **Transactions stood at Rs 19.64 trillion in value terms, down from Rs 19.78 trillion in March. There were 13.3 billion transactions in April, compared to 13.44 billion in March.**
- **Y-o-Y, UPI transactions increased by 50 per cent in terms of volume and 40 per cent in value. In February 2024, transactions stood at 12.10 billion and Rs 18.28 trillion, respectively.**
- **Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) transactions declined by 7 per cent in value and 5 per cent in volume in April compared to March. Transactions decreased from 581 million in March to 550 million in April**

- **In April, FASTag transactions** decreased 3 per cent in volume and 6 per cent in value. FASTag transactions declined to Rs 5,592 crore in April from Rs 5,939 crore in March.
- **In April, the Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS)** experienced a decline of 13 per cent in volume and 10 per cent in value, compared to March. AePS transactions amounted to Rs 25,172 crore in April, down from Rs 27,996 crore in March.
- **UPI** was introduced in the year of **2016**.

Renowned Journalist Vinay Vir passed away at 72



- **Vinay Vir**, a renowned **journalist, publisher, and editor of the Daily Hindi Milap**, passed away at the age of 72.
- He was a **champion for the Hindi language in South India** and a respected figure in **the journalism community**.
- **Vinay Vir** took over **the editorship of the Daily Hindi Milap in 1991** after his father's passing.
- He was **secretary & trustee of Yudhvir Foundation**, established to commemorate his father's life. The foundation rewards prominent individuals for lifetime achievement.

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.
- **Mwaniki** pulled away from his compatriot **Hillary Chepkwony (28:33)** at the **7.5 km** mark, displaying a burst of speed that left his fellow Kenyan trailing.
- **Kasait** distanced herself from her closest rival, **Emmaculate Achol (31:17)**, by surging ahead at the **7.1 km mark**.

Indian Elite Honors:

- In the Indian elite categories, **Kiran Matre (29:32)** etched his name in the record books by breaking the event record for **Indian men's elite athletes**, surpassing the previous milestone of 29:49 set by **Suresh Kumar** in 2015.
- Meanwhile, **Sanjivani (34:03)** continued her impressive run, securing the top spot in the **Indian women's elite** field for the **third consecutive time**.

About Kenya:

Capital: Nairobi

Currency: Kenyan Shilling

President: William Ruto

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The first 'National Women's Hockey League 2024' started in Ranchi, Jharkhand

- **Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey believes National Women's Hockey League is a monumental step forward for women's hockey in India.**
- **The inaugural edition of the tournament will begin at Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Astroturf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi.**
- **Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Bengal, Mizoram, Manipur and Odisha will take part in the tournament whose first leg will carry on till May 9.**
- **The eight teams will face off against each other once in the round-robin format as 28 matches will be held.**
- **The opening day of the tournament will see four exciting games with Haryana taking on Odisha in the opener. Next up, Maharashtra will face off against Manipur.**
- **In the last day tournament in Jharkhand will take on Mizoram.**

About Jharkhand:

Capital: Ranchi

Chief Minister: Champai Soren

Governor: C. P. Radhakrishnan

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India to train Bangladeshi's civil servants for the next 5 years



- **The government of India** has signed an agreement with the government of Bangladesh to renew the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to **train 1500 Bangladeshi officers from 2025 to 2030**.
- The agreement was signed by **the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**, the government of India and **the Bangladeshi Ministry of Public Administration**, Government of Bangladesh.
- The agreement was signed during the 3-day (28-30 April 2024) visit of a 4-member DARPG delegation to Bangladesh, which focused on mid-career capacity-building programs in field administration for Bangladesh Civil Servants.
- **The Indian delegation** was led by **V. Srinivas, Secretary, DARPG**

- An MoU was signed between the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), India and the Bangladesh Ministry of Public Administration in **2014** to train the Bangladeshi civil servants.
- The MoU has been periodically renewed, and the current MoU will **end in 2025**. **The latest agreement has extended the MoU by five more years to 2030.**
- V. Srinivasan reiterated the Government of India's commitment to collaborate in **fulfilling Vision Bangladesh@2041** and **SMART Bangladesh** through the conduct of capacity-building programs for a future-ready Bangladesh Civil Service.

About Bangladesh:

Capital: Dhaka

Currency: Taka

Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina Wajed

President: Mohammed Shahabuddin

India to host the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting



- **India** will host the **46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46)** and the 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP 26) from May 20 to 30, 2024 in **Kochi, Kerala**.
- **The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Union Ministry of Earth Science**, will host the meeting.
- Over 350 delegates from more than 60 countries are expected to attend the 46th ATCM and 26th CEP meetings.
- The Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting is a forum where the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties and other stakeholders meet to discuss the environmental, scientific, and governance issues affecting Antarctica.

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About Antarctic Treaty:

- The Antarctic Treaty was signed in **1959 in Washington D.C.**, by **12 countries** and came into force in **1961**. At present, **56 countries have signed the Antarctic Treaty**.
- **The Committee for Environmental Protection** was established under the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (the Madrid Protocol) **in 1991**.
- The permanent secretariat of the **Antarctic Treaty is in Buenos Aires, Argentina**.
- India signed the Antarctic Treaty in **1983**. India enacted the Antarctic Act in 2022.
- The government of India established the **first Antarctic research station, Dakshin Gangotri, in 1983** to facilitate research expeditions in the area.
- At present, **India operates two research stations: Maitri (1989) and Bharati (2012)**.
- **Headquarters of (NCPOR):** Vasco Da Gama, Goa.

BWF World Junior Badminton Championships will be hosted by
Guwahati, Assam in 2025



- **The Badminton World Federation** allotted the hosting rights of the **2025 BWF World Junior Championships** to **Guwahati, Assam**.
- This was announced during the **BWF Annual General Meeting in Chengdu** on the sidelines of the **BWF Thomas & Uber Cup 2024**.
- India's image as one of the leading centers of world badminton will be further boosted.
- The prestigious tournament, which **India will host for the second time**, will be held at the new state-of-the-art **National Centre of Excellence**.

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- In August 2023, the National Centre of Excellence has also earned acclaim globally from all quarters for its facilities and stadium capacity since its inauguration.
- The National Center of Excellence in Guwahati has **14 badminton courts**, an international standard gymnasium, and a seating capacity of about 4000 spectators.
- In **2008**, the last time **India hosted the BWF World Juniors in Pune**, where **Saina Nehwal** became the **first Indian to win the World Junior title**.
- **In 2009**, India hosted the BWF World Championships in **Hyderabad**.
- **In 2014**, India successfully hosted the **Thomas and Uber Cup finals in New Delhi**.

Kathmandu is the most polluted city in the world: IQAir



- According to **IQAir**, an organization that measures real-time pollution in **101 cities worldwide**, **Kathmandu** has been **ranked as the most polluted city globally**.
- **Kathmandu tops** the list of cities with **‘unhealthy air’** in the world.
- New Delhi, Chiang Mai (Thailand), Hanoi (Vietnam), Bangkok (Thailand), and Dhaka (Bangladesh) follow in the ranking for most polluted cities.
- **Air pollution affects** the heart and blood vessels, lungs, brain, eyes, nose, ears, and throat and also increases the risk of asthma, cancer and other diseases.
- Mostly children under five years old, pregnant women, chronically ill people and the elderly account for a high number of annual deaths due to air pollution in Nepal.
- Air pollution has reduced the **average life expectancy of Nepalese by 4.1 per cent**.
- As there is a high possibility of heat waves in the **Terai (Nepal)** during summer and heatstroke.

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China's advanced third aircraft carrier begins sea trials



**CHINA RAMPANT
CHINA'S THIRD ADVANCED AIRCRAFT CARRIER BEGINS SEA TRIALS
AMID SOUTH CHINA SEA TENSIONS**

- **China's third aircraft carrier, the Fujian**, the most advanced homemade warship, began its maiden sea trials, as Beijing ramped up its naval power amid increasing tensions with the US in the disputed South China Sea and Taiwan Strait.
- **The ship left Shanghai Jiangnan Shipyard** for the sea trials, primarily to test the reliability and stability of the aircraft carrier's propulsion and electrical system.
- Since its launch in **June 2022**, the **Fujian has completed its mooring trials**, outfitting work and equipment adjustments. It has met the technical requirements for sea trials.
- Ahead of the trials, China has imposed maritime traffic controls around the mouth of the Yangtze River where the Jiangnan shipyard ship is located for "military activities".

- **China plans to have five to six aircraft carriers by 2035** for strategic deployment in the disputed South China Sea.
- Currently, the Chinese navy is involved in a standoff with the US-backed Philippines naval ships in the South China Sea.
- China names its aircraft carriers after its provinces. **Fujian** borders the **Taiwan Strait**. The other **two carriers** were named after **Liaoning (2012) and the Shandong (2019) provinces**.

About China:

Capital: Beijing

PM: Li Qiang

President: Xi Jinping

Currency: Yuan

Indian Space Situational Assessment Report (ISSAR) for 2023



- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has released the **Indian Space Situational Assessment Report (ISSAR) for 2023**.
- **ISSAR 2023** was compiled by the **ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operations Management (IS4OM)**.
- IS4OM has been **operational since 2022**, tasked with protecting ISRO's space assets.
- The report was released by **ISRO Chairman S. Somanath**.

Key Highlights:

Global:

- 3,143 space objects were added to **orbit in 2023**, stemming from **212 launches and on-orbit breakup events**.
- There were **five major on-orbit break-up events in 2023**, contributing to the growth of space debris.

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- A net addition of **69 fragmented objects** to the space debris population was recorded by the end of 2023.

India:

- As of **December 31, 2023**, a total of **127 Indian satellites** have been launched.
- There are **22 operational satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** and **29 in Geostationary Orbit (GEO)** owned by the Government of India.
- **Three active Indian deep space missions: Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter, Aditya-L1, and Chandrayaan-3 Propulsion Module.**
- **21 Indian satellites** have re-entered the atmosphere till the end of 2023, including **eight in 2023** alone with a controlled re-entry of **Megha-Tropiques-1**.
- There are 82 rocket bodies from Indian launches still in orbit as of 2023, of these, 35 have re-entered, including five in 2023.
- **All seven ISRO launches in 2023**, including missions like Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya L-1, were successful.

About Risks to Space Assets:

- The risk of collision has increased, necessitating **23 Collision Avoidance Maneuvers (CAMs) in 2023** to protect Indian space assets.

- **Kessler syndrome** is a growing concern, describing a scenario where the accumulation of space debris leads to an uncontrollable cascade of collisions.

About ISRO:

Established: 15th August 1969

Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka

Chairman: S Somanath

Groww & Worldline join growing club of India's online payment aggregators (PA)

- **Financial services platform Groww and digital payment processing company Worldline ePayments** have secured RBI licence to operate as online **payment aggregators (PA)**.
- The number of firms getting the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) nod to operate as payment aggregators** has touched **20 in the first four months of calendar year 2024**.
- **Groww** has secured the licence for its UPI payments platform **Groww Pay**.
- Similarly, **Worldline ePayments** India, received the licence enabling the company to provide payment services for merchants including e-commerce firms or online businesses.
- **This year major Fintech companies** such as Amazon Pay, Digio, CCAvenue, Decentro, MSwipe, Tata Pay, Zoho, Zomato, among others received a final nod from the banking regulator to operate as payment aggregators (PA).
- There are total **28 companies** have received an in-principle approval from the RBI to operate as a payment aggregator.



India to grant full cost of Sri Lanka's Northern Port development



- **The Sri Lankan Cabinet** decided to implement the **renovation of the Kankesanthurai Port in the Northern Province** with **India agreeing to grant USD 61.5 million** (entire cost of the project).
- Situated in the northern region of **Sri Lanka**, the **Kankesanthurai Port** or the **KKS Port**, with an area of approximately **16 acres**, is located **at a distance of 104 kilometres (56 nautical miles) from Karaikal Port in Pondicherry**.
- The direct passenger ship service connecting **Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu** to **Kankesanthurai port near Jaffna** covers a distance of **111 kilometres (60 nautical miles) in approximately three and a half hours**.
- It added that the project implementation had been delayed as the **Economic Value of Equity (EVE)** estimated cost provided by consulting service agencies was higher than the relevant loan amount.

- The original cabinet approval for the **project** was given **on May 2, 2017**.
- Thereafter, the approval for offering Project Management Consultant Services was given on **December 18, 2019**.
- It was announced in **March** this year that the project's full cost was **USD 61.5 million**.

About Sri Lanka:

Capital: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte

Currency: Rupee

PM: Dinesh Gunawardena

President: Ranil Wickremesinghe

China to Launch Chang'e-6 Lunar Probe Carrying Pakistan's ICUBE-Q Mission



- **China** is set to launch **the Chang'e-6 lunar probe on a round trip to the Moon**, marking a significant advancement in their space exploration.
- **The mission aims to gather soil and rock samples from the far side of the Moon**, providing crucial insights into its early evolution and the inner solar system.

Key Features of Chang'e-6 Mission:

- **Exploring the Far Side:** This will be the first-ever attempt to retrieve lunar samples from the far side of the Moon, a region hidden from Earth's view.

- **Relay Satellite Communication:** Due to the lack of direct communication with Earth, a relay satellite orbiting the Moon will facilitate communication during the **mission's 53-day duration**.
- **Historic Ascent from Far Side:** The return journey to Earth will involve the first-ever ascent from the Moon's far side.

Pakistan's Involvement:

- **Pakistan is set to launch its maiden lunar mission, ICUBE-Q, aboard China's Chang'e-6 probe.**
- Developed in collaboration with **China's Shanghai University and Pakistan's Institute of Space Technology (IST)**, ICUBE-Q carries optical cameras to capture images of the lunar surface.
- This historic collaboration between Pakistan and China not only marks a milestone for Pakistan's space program but also enhances international cooperation in lunar exploration.

About Pakistan:

Capital: Islamabad

Currency: Rupee

PM: Shehbaz Sharif

President: Asif Ali Zardari

RBI announces 8% interest rate on Floating Rate Bond 2034



- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced an 8 percent interest on Government of India Floating Rate Bond 2034 (GOI FRB 2034) for the half year April 30, 2024 to October 29, 2024.**
- It may be recalled that **FRB 2034 carries a coupon**, which has a base rate equivalent to the average of the **Weighted Average Yield (WAY) of last three auctions** (from the rate fixing day i.e., April 30, 2024) of **182 Day T-Bills**, plus a fixed spread (0.98 per cent).
- In this bond's the interest rate is adjust every six months.
- The interest rate is based on the average yield of recent auctions for short-term government debt (called Treasury Bills). Basically, it moves with market conditions.

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- FRBs have a **maturity period of seven years**. The **minimum investment** amount for **FRBs is Rs 1,000**, while there is **no maximum limit**.
- FRBs are backed by the government of India, making it one of the safest investments.
- Interest on these bonds is paid semi-annually on January 1st and July 1st each year, with no provision for cumulative interest payments.

About RBI:

Formation: 1st April 1935

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Governor: Shaktikanta Das (25th)