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World Laughter Day 2024: May 5th



- **World Laughter Day** is celebrated every year on **the first Sunday of May**. In 2024, it was celebrated on **5 May**.
- World Laughter Day was **first celebrated on 10 May 1998 in Mumbai**.
- World Laughter Day was started by **Dr. Madan Kataria, founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement, in 1998**.
- World Laughter Day is celebrated to raise awareness about laughter and its many healing benefits.
- Laughter decreases the cortisol level in the brain, which affects positively on the body.

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RBI Approves Appointment of Sanjeev Nautiyal as Next MD & CEO of Ujjivan SFB

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved the appointment of **Sanjeev Nautiyal** as the **managing director & CEO** of **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** from **July 1, 2024** for a **period of 3 years**.
- **Sanjeev Nautiyal** will be succeeding **Ittira Davis**, who has been serving as the **MD & CEO since 2018**.
- In his **36 years in banking**, he has served as the **Deputy Managing Director** (Financial Inclusion & Micro Markets) in **State Bank of India (SBI)** and has also served as the **MD & CEO of SBI Life Insurance**.
- He currently is an **independent director** of **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** and acts as an advisor in various organisations.
- He will be the **third MD & CEO** of the **Ujjivan SFB** bank in five years.

About Ujjivan SFB:

Founded: 1 February 2017

Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka

Chairman: Banavar Anantharamaiah Prabhakar



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Ukraine launches world's first AI diplomat 'Victoria Shi'



- **The Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs** introduced **Victoria Shi** an AI-generated spokesperson, marking the first use of an AI avatar for official government statements in history.
- **The AI spokeswoman** has been created to deliver **pre-pared official statements on behalf of the Ministry**, and **this is done using a visual avatar generated by AI**.
- **Victoria Shi is based on a real person Ukrainian singer and influencer Rosalie Nombre**, who agreed to participate in the project.
- The Ministry asserted that Shi and Nombre are two different people and that only the AI figure gives official statements.

- Moreover, the Ministry has taken adequate measures to combat issues like deepfake.
- Each of Victoria's statements will include a unique QR code linking to the official text version on the Ministry's website.
- Shi was created by a team called **The Game Changers** who had previously made content related to the war in Ukraine.
- Reportedly, the main objective behind the creation of Shi was to save time and resources for diplomats.
- The adoption of AI diplomat is a significant moment as it shows the early adoption of such technologies by the government will inspire more countries to follow suit.

About Ukraine:

Capital: Kyiv

Currency: Ukrainian hryvnia

Prime Minister: Denys Shmyhal

President: Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Designer Bhavi Mehta wins Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize 2024 for 'The Book Beautiful'



- **The Oxford Bookstores** named **Bhavi Mehta** as the **winner of the 9th edition of Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize 2024**.
- The event was held at the India Habitat Centre and celebrated Mehta's work on **“The Book Beautiful”** by **Pradeep Sebastian**, published by **Hachette India**. Mehta received a trophy, certificate, and a cash prize of INR 1 lakh.
- Three other designers were also recognised for their exceptional work, namely: **Gunjan Ahlawat** for **‘The Penguin Book of Indian Poets’**, **Saurav Das** for **‘Azad Nagar’**, and **Saurabh Garge** for **‘The Adornment of Gods’**.

- On the same day, the longlist for **the second Oxford Bookstore Art Book Prize** was announced. **Dr. Alka Pande and H.E Ms. May-Elin Stener** revealed the **13 titles recognized for their artistic quality and overall design.**
- **The Oxford Bookstore Art Book Prize** was launched in **2022** with the Visual Arts Gallery, and recognises art across various genres in publications.
- The jury for this prize includes notable figures such as H.E Ms. May-Elin Stener, Ms. Priti Paul, Dr. Alka Pande, Mr. Anjani Kumar Singh, and Ms. Sunaina Anand.
- Both the Book Cover Prize and the Art Book Prize aim to celebrate and support artists, designers, and publishers in India.

Uttarakhand Tourism Announced India's First Astro Tourism Campaign Named 'Nakshatra Sabha'



- **The Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board and Starscapes, an astro-tourism company, have partnered to launch Nakshatra Sabha, an initiative designed to offer a comprehensive Astro Tourism experience.**
- This initiative is not just about observing the stars but aims to immerse participants in various activities such as stargazing, special solar observations, astrophotography contests, and camping under the stars.
- The goal is to create an engaging platform that brings together astronomy enthusiasts, adventurers, and travellers to marvel at the wonders of the cosmos while enjoying the natural beauty of Uttarakhand.
- **Nakshatra Sabha is set to commence in early June at George Everest in Mussoorie and will continue until mid-2025, featuring a series of immersive events at various locations across Uttarakhand.**

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- These events will not only provide opportunities for stargazing but will also explore **potential night sky sites** in districts like **Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh, Nainital, and Chamoli**.
- Accompanying these activities will be seminars and webinars led by experts in the field, enhancing the educational aspect of the initiative.
- Starscapes, in collaboration with local communities, travel and tourism partners, and homestay communities, will play a crucial role in providing training and ongoing support for these initiatives.
- Their close involvement will ensure the success and longevity of Nakshatra Sabha, benefiting both tourists and the local economy alike.

About Uttarakhand:

Capital: Dehradun (Winter), Bhararisain (Summer)

Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami

Governor: Gurmit Singh.

Official Anthem for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 released by
Sean Paul and Kes



- **The International Cricket Council (ICC)** has announced the release of the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Official Anthem, "Out of this World"**, by Grammy award winning artist **Sean Paul** and Soca superstar **Kes**.
- The release of the anthem sets the tone for what will be the biggest cricket carnival spectacle ever, with **20 international teams** playing **55 matches** across the **West Indies and USA from 1-29 June**.
- The anthem, produced by **Michael "Tano" Montano**, was launched along with the music video, which features cameos from eight-time Olympic gold-medallist Usain Bolt, cricket stars Chris Gayle, Ali Khan, Shivnarine Chanderpaul and other Caribbean personalities.

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Japan wins 2024 Men's AFC U-23 Title by defeating Uzbekistan



- **Japan defeated Uzbekistan** in the final to win **the Men's AFC U-23 Asian Cup** for the **second time**. Japan had earlier won the tournament **title in 2016**.
- Japan won by a **solitary goal** and also qualified for the **2024 Paris Olympics**. The **6th edition of AFC U-23** was held in **Qatar** from 15 April -3 May 2024. 16 teams from Asia participated in the tournament.
- **Japan won the gold medal** with the **solitary goal** scored by substitute Yamada. While the **silver medal** was awarded to the **Uzbekistan team**.
- In the semifinal, the **Iraqi team defeated the Indonesian team 2-1** to clinch the **bronze medal**.

- Uzbekistan also qualified for **the Paris Olympics** and has been placed in group C along with Spain, Egypt and Dominican Republic. Iraq has also qualified for the Paris Olympics.
- **Fair Play Award** - Uzbekistan. The award was received by Uzbekistan's captain Jaloliddinov.
- **Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament**- Uzbekistan's goalkeeper Nematov.
- **Top Goalscorer of the Tournament** - Ali Jasim of Iraq. He scored four goals during the tournament.
- **Most Valuable Player of the Tournament** - Japanese team captain Fujita

India and Nigeria soon to finalise Local Currency Settlement System Agreement



- **India and Nigeria** have agreed to an early conclusion of the **Local Currency Settlement System Agreement** to boost bilateral trade between the two countries.
- Under the **local currency settlement system**, the trade will be settled in **India's local currency and Nigerian local currency, Nigerian naira**. This was decided at the **2nd session** of the **India-Nigeria Joint Trade Committee held in Abuja, Nigeria**.
- The Indian delegation was led by **Amardeep Singh Bhatia, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

- Officials from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), EXIM Bank of India, and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) also accompanied the Indian delegation.
- Both countries agreed to resolve the market access issues.
- They also agreed to further cooperation in key sectors such as Crude oil and Natural Gas, Pharmaceuticals, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), the Power Sector and Renewable Energy, Agriculture and Food Processing, Education, Transport, Railway, Aviation, MSMEs, Development, etc.
- India established a Diplomatic House in **Lagos, Nigeria, in November 1958**; even before Nigeria gained independence, Nigeria gained independence from Britain in 1960.
- **Nigeria is the 2nd largest trading partner of India in the African continent.**

About Nigeria:

Capital: Abuja

Currency: Nigeria Naira

President: Bola Tinubu.

Hollywood actress Meryl Streep to be honoured with Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival

- **Oscar-winning Hollywood actress Meryl Streep** is all set to receive the **honorary Palme d'Or Award** at the **opening ceremony of the upcoming 77th Cannes Film Festival held annually in Cannes, France on May 14.**
- The actress has also been invited as a **Guest of Honour** at the event, set to take place on **May 14 at the Grand Theatre Lumiere, France.**
- This will mark her first trip to Cannes, **35 years after she won the Best Actress Award for A Cry in the Dark in 1989.**
- Previous recipients of the **Cannes honorary Palme d'Or** include **Jeanne Moreau, Marco Bellocchio, Catherine Deneuve, Jean-Pierre Leaud, Jane Fonda, Agnes Varda, Forest Whitaker, and Jodie Foster.**



Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace unveiled FWD-200B, India's First Indigenous Bomber UAV



- **India's first indigenous bomber UAV aircraft- FWD-200B** developed by **Flying Wedge Defence**, one of the pioneers in **India's defence and aerospace technology sector**.
- **The FWD-200B** has a **payload capacity of 100 kgs** and is **classified as a MALE Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (medium-altitude, long-endurance)**.
- **The Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)** consists of **optical surveillance payloads** and is integrated with **missile-like weapons for precision air strikes**.
- While having a max speed of **200 kts/370 kmph**, it has an endurance capacity of **12-20 hours**.

- The Flying Wedge Defence's state-of-the-art manufacturing unit where the FWD-200B was meticulously crafted, is over **12000 sq.ft built on 1.5 acre land** and is **located at Electronic City**.
- The company aims to position India as a global drone manufacturing and technology hub while equipping the nation with the right air defence resources and enhancing national security.
- For over 15 years, India's pursuit of combat unmanned aircraft remained a distant dream.
- The cost of **Rs 250 crores** indigenous **FWD-200B** built with state-of-the-art technology and manufactured in India.

Dr. Subhransu Sekhar Acharya Assumed charge as CMD of NSIC

- **Former Chief General Manager of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) Subhransu Sekhar Acharya** has taken over the charge of **Chairman- cum- Managing Director (CMD) of The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)** under the **MSME Ministry**.
- **He replaces Vipul Goel**, Joint Secretary (Agro and Rural Industry division) at the Ministry of MSME who assumed charge as CMD of NSIC in July 2023.
- Acharya has over **three decades of experience** in different areas of MSME financing and development including credit, SME rating, risk management, bills financing, new product development, business planning, entrepreneurship development, innovation financing, micro-finance, start-up mentoring etc.
- Acharya had joined **SIDBI back in 1992** and became Chief General Manager in September 2022.
- **NSIC works** towards the growth of the **MSME sector** in India through its countrywide network of offices and technical centres.
- It operates multiple schemes for MSMEs around credit facilitation, raw material assistance, digital marketing services, participation in exhibitions, skill development and more.



RBI approved setting up REC Limited subsidiary in Gift City, Gujarat

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has provided a ‘**No Objection Certificate**’ (NOC) to **REC Ltd** for setting up a **subsidiary in Gujarat International Finance Tech-City (GIFT) city**.
- **REC Limited** subsidiary will be involved in various financial activities, including lending, investment, and other financial services.
- The GIFT City will provide a conducive environment for international lending activities along with world-class infrastructure.
- REC provides financial assistance to state electricity boards, state governments, and central and state power utilities. It is engaged in projects related to generation, transmission, distribution, and renewable energy.

About REC Limited:

Established: 1969

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairman: Vivek Kumar Dewangan



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Largest ever global delegation to witness India's General Election



- As a beacon of electoral integrity and transparency, the Election Commission of India exemplifies its commitment to conduct general elections of the highest standards, offering a golden bridge for global **Election Management Bodies (EMBs)** to witness democratic excellence first-hand.
- The Election Commission of India continues fostering international cooperation by **organising the Election Visitors' Programme (IEVP)** during the ongoing Lok Sabha Elections 2024.
- The event will be a first in terms of the scale and magnitude of participation.

- **75 delegates** representing various **EMBs and organisations from 23 countries** namely - Bhutan, Mongolia, Australia, Madagascar, Fiji, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Moldova, Tunisia, Seychelles, Cambodia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Chile, Uzbekistan, Maldives, Papua New Guinea and Namibia will take part in the event.
- Members from the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), and media teams from **Bhutan and Israel** will also participate.
- The program seeks to familiarise **foreign Election Management Bodies (EMBs)** with the nuances of India's electoral system as well as the best practices used by the largest democracy in the world.
- **Chief Election Commissioner Shri Rajiv Kumar**, Election Commissioner **Shri Gyanesh Kumar** and **Dr. Sukbir Singh Sandhu** will address the delegates on the 5th of May 2024.
- Thereafter, **the delegates will embark on visits to six states**-Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh-in small groups to observe polls and related preparedness in various constituencies. The programme will **end on the 9th of May, 2024.**

Maharashtra government will translocate a few tigers to the Sahyadri Reserve to increase the population

- **The Maharashtra Forest Department** has decided to transfer a few tigers from the **Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Chandrapur to the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve.**
- The translocation plan was approved by **the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) in October 2023.**
- In the initial phase, a male tiger or a pair of male and female tigers would be translocated to Sahyadri Tiger Reserve.
- The Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (STR) is one of **only five tiger reserves with zero tigers.**
- **Kaval in Telangana, Kamlang in Arunachal Pradesh, Dampa in Mizoram, and Satkosia in Odisha** are the other **Tiger Reserves with Zero Tigers.**
- The main aim of the translocation of tigers is to increase the population of tigers in the northern Western Ghats forests.
- **Sahyadri Tiger Reserve** is spread over **1,165 sq km** and was notified in **2010** by merging **Chandoli National Park and Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary.**

About Maharashtra:

Capital: Mumbai

Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde

Governor: Ramesh Bais



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China secured a remarkable victory in the finals of the Thomas and Uber Cup



- **The Chinese men's team** clinched their **11th Thomas Cup** with a 3-1 win by **defeating Indonesia**.
- China's **He Ji Ting**, and **Ren Xiang Yu** defeated **Indonesia's Muhammad Shohibul Fikri and Bagas Maulana** in the finals.
- China had won their **first Thomas Cup** by defeating **Japan in 2018**.
- **The Chinese women's team** has also lifted their **16th Uber Cup** title by defeating **Indonesia** in the final by 3-0.

- **He Bingjiao's** thrilling three-set win against **Ester Nurumi Tri Wardoyo** sealed a perfect 24-0 tournament match record for the Chinese women.
- **In 2014**, India successfully hosted the **Thomas and Uber Cup finals in New Delhi**.

About Thomas & Uber Cup 2024:

- It was the **33rd edition of the Thomas Cup** and the **30th edition of the Uber Cup**.
- It is an international badminton championship for the men's and women's national teams of the member associations of the Badminton World Federation (BWF).
- It was held in **Chengdu, China**, from 27 April to 5 May 2024.

ICC Women's T20 World Cup will be held in Bangladesh



- **The Indian cricket** team will clash against **arch-rivals Pakistan** on **October 6** in the **Ninth edition of ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024**, scheduled in **Bangladesh from October 3rd to 20th**.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the draws, groups and the full Women's T20 World Cup 2024 schedule
- **The best 10 women's cricket** teams from around the world will play for the title this year.

Group A Qualifier 1: Australia, India, New Zealand, Pakistan

Group B Qualifier 2: Bangladesh, England, South Africa, West Indies

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- Qualifiers 1 and 2 will emerge from the ongoing ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifiers in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- The top two teams from the tournament who make the final on **May 7th** will claim the last two spots in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024.

About International Cricket Council (ICC):

Founded: 15th June 1909

Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

CEO: Geoff Allardice

Chairman: Greg Barclay