

National News

"National AYUSH Mission Conference 2023" has been inaugurated by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in New Delhi.

- Union AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the two-day conference of the National AYUSH Mission (NAM), a flagship program of the Ministry of AYUSH, on 18th May.
- The conference will "facilitate better coordination among stakeholders and strengthen the functioning of AYUSH health and wellness centres," the Union minister said.

The Central Government approves signing of UDHR-WHO Technology Collaboration Agreement.

- The Central Government has approved the signing of an agreement between India's Department of Health Research (DHR) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to "Enhance project collaboration in Assistive Technology".
- The agreement aims to boost up research and innovation, and draw global attention to access to Assistive Technology.

The Union Ministry of Communications has launched a Test bed project called ORAN.

- The "Open Radio Access Network (ORAN)" test bed project was launched on May 17 in New Delhi by the Minister of State for Communications, Devsin Chauhan, to improve conformance, certification and interoperability of solutions.
- The trial aims to facilitate testing of ORAN components and build a complete domestic 5G radio network in India.

Union Cabinet approves ₹17,000 crore PLI scheme for IT sector hardwares.

- The Union Cabinet has approved a ₹17,000 crore PLI scheme for hardware in the IT sector to accelerate domestic manufacturing of advanced electronics.
- The scheme will help boost the production of high-tech electronics such as laptops, Personal computers (PC), all-in-one computers, servers and small form factor devices, by the central government.
 - PLI - Production Linked Incentive Scheme

India's economy will grow by 6.7% in 2024, according to a UN report.

- India's economy is expected to grow from 5.8% in 2023 to 6.7% in 2024, according to the UN's latest World Economic Status and Prospects report.
- This growth will be "boosted by strong domestic demand," by the UN report.

International news

"Mawlavi Abdul Kabir" took over as the Prime Minister of Afghanistan.

- In Afghanistan, the Taliban has announced the appointment of "Mawlavi Abdul Kabir" as interim prime minister and interim head of the cabinet.
- The decision was taken due to the ill health of Mullah Haibitullah Akhund, the current acting head of the Taliban regime, the statement from the Taliban.

Sri Lanka's cabinet approves the state-owned "enterprise reform policy".

- Sri Lanka's Cabinet has approved a policy to reform state-owned enterprises to strengthen government finances and facilitate economic recovery.
- With this policy, the Sri Lankan government said that to prevent bankruptcy due to selling products below the variable price, the government companies will be transformed into market-oriented companies that do not accept the country's budget.

Sri Lanka appointed for New governors in 3 provinces.

- Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has appointed new governors for 3 provinces.
- P. S. M. Charles has been appointed as the Northern Province Governor, Sri Lanka Labor Congress leader Senthil Thondaman as the Eastern Province Governor, and Sri Lanka Freedom Party member Laxman Yappa as the North-West Province Governor.

State news.

India's 17th Vande Bharat train service begins in Odisha.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated "India's 17th and Odisha's first Vande Bharat train service" on May 18.
- This train runs between Howrah and Puri. It will be the "first semi-high speed train for Odisha and the second for West Bengal".

Siddaramaiah takes over as Chief Minister of Karnataka.

- Senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah will be sworn in as the new Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister TK Sivakumar on May 20 to take an Oath, after the Congress won the recent elections in Karnataka.
- The Congress party has taken this decision with both these leaders agreeing to a "Rotation Basis". That means Siddaramaiah will serve as Chief Minister for 2.5 years and Sivakumar as Chief Minister for 2.5 years, the Congress party has said.

Project to connect seven religious places in Guwahati through waterways.

- The Sagarmala project has been constructed to connect the seven historical temples of Kamakhya, Pandunath, Ashwaktanta, Doulgovinda, Umananda, Chakreshwar and Auniati Satra located in Guwahati.
- This will reduce the overall travel time for passengers taking the ferry service to complete a complete round trip to less than 2 hours.

Awards

The Indian was awarded France's highest civilian award.

- Tata Sons Chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran has been awarded France's highest and most prestigious "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur"(Knight of the Legion of Honour).
- Chandrasekaran has been conferred with this award for his "Significant contribution in promoting and developing trade relations between France and India".

Sports news

Federation Cup 2023 - "Jyothi Yarraji" wins Gold in Women's 100m Hurdles.

- Jyothi Yarraji won gold medal in women's 100m hurdles at the "Federation Cup Athletics" held at Birsa Munda Stadium in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- Jyothi won 12.89 seconds and was followed by Nithya Ramraj (13.44s) and Sapna Kumari (13.58s), second and third in the 100m hurdles.

Obituary

Ambala MP Ratan Lal Kataria from Haryana passed away.

- Bharatiya Janata Party MP from Haryana's Ambala district Rattan Lal Kataria passed away on May 18 due to prolonged-illness.
- He has served as a three-time MP and State of the Minister in the Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment till July 7, 2021.

Important day

World AIDS Vaccine Day

- Every year on May 18, World AIDS Vaccine Day or HIV Vaccine Awareness Day is celebrated.
- The day commemorates the anniversary of the "Clinton speech" that spurred the vaccine research process around the world.