

❖ Gujarat's Garba dance enters UNESCO's list of 'Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)'

➤ The UNESCO approved the inclusion of "Garba", Gujarat's most popular folk dance form, in its Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity.

➤ A decision to “**inscribe**” the dance form as “**intangible heritage**” was taken at the 18th session of the UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage held in Republic of Botswana.

➤ The popular dance form is the 15th cultural item from India to make it to the UNESCO list.

➤ Kolkata's **Durga Puja** was the last one added **two years ago**.

➤ The inclusion has been made under the provisions of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

➤ The International cultural body described the 'Garba' as a ritualistic and devotional dance performed India.

➤ **About Gujarat:**

➤ **Chief minister:** Bhupendrabhai Patel

➤ **Founded:** 1 May 1960

➤ **Governor:** Acharya Devvrat

➤ **Capital:** Gandhinagar

❖ **Madhavi Takes Charge as Commissioner of Railway Safety at SCR**

- Madhavi, IRSSE (Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineers) has taken charge as Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Railway (SCR), Secunderabad.
- She is an IRSSE officer of 1990 batch and holds B.Sc Engg. (Electronics) degree from Zakir Husain College of Engineering & Technology, Aligarh Muslim University.
- Madhavi worked in diverse positions in Railways mostly in construction, Railway PSU (RVNL) and also in Open Line.
- She has more than 20 years of experience in planning, management and execution of large Railway construction projects and executed Signalling and Telecommunication works of Automatic Signalling, Doubling, MRTS, Gauge conversions and Railway Electrification over Eastern, Southern and South Western Railways.
- She was recipient of General Manager Award during Railway Week in 2010 and also received RVNL Founders Day Award in 2016 & 2021.

❖ **Indian-origin media executive Samir Shah to head BBC Board**

- UK ministers are set to select seasoned TV executive Samir Shah as the new BBC chair, succeeding Richard Sharp (Goldman Sachs banker).
- Shah, currently the chief executive of the production company Juniper TV, was born in Aurangabad, India, and relocated to England in 1960.
- He holds a geography degree from the University of Hull and a doctorate from the University of Oxford.
- Shah, having a 40-year-long career in television, held roles such as a BBC non-executive director in 2007.

❖ **US and Sweden sign Defence Cooperation Agreement**

- The United States and Sweden signed a Defence Cooperation Agreement.
- The U.S. Department of State said, as the Nordic country strengthens military alliances while waiting for approval to join NATO.
- Sweden is a strong, capable defense partner that champions NATO's values, and will further strengthen the Alliance once its NATO accession is completed.
- Sweden's membership will strengthen our collective defense and enhance our ability to respond to security challenges in the Euro-Atlantic area.
- The Defense cooperation agreement will be a corner stone also in our bilateral defense cooperation and a sign of our mutual will to further develop this endeavor.

➤ **About US:**

➤ **Capital:** Washington, D.C.

➤ **Currency:** Dollar

➤ **President:** Joe Biden

➤ **About Sweden:**

➤ **Capital:** Stockholm

➤ **Currency:** krona

➤ **Prime Minister:** Ulf Kristersson

❖ **SEBI, RBI share concern about some credit funds masking bad loans**

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) share concerns over instances of Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs) being used to mask bad loans in the financial system.
- SEBI has seen "dozens of cases" of "egregious regulatory violations" by AIFs, such as to avoid recognition of Non-Performing Assets (NPA).

➤ Private credit funds fall under the broad category of AIFs for the purpose of regulations in India.

➤ SEBI is investigating cases involving Rs 15,000 crore to Rs 20,000 (\$1.8 billion to \$2.4 billion) where AIFs have been misused to circumvent rules, Reuters reported in October.

➤ **About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**

➤ **Founded:** 12 April 1988

➤ **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

➤ **Founder:** Government of India

❖ **Argentina's Messi named “Time's Athlete of the Year for 2023”**

➤ Argentina captain Lionel Messi has been named “Time magazine's Athlete of the Year for 2023” after winning the Ballon d'Or for a record-extending eighth time and elevating the profile of the sport in the U.S. with his move to Inter Miami.

➤ Messi played a key role in guiding Argentina to their first World Cup title in 36 years when they beat defending champions France in the final in December last year.

➤ Messi made an instant impact at Miami, scoring 10 goals in seven Leagues Cup appearances as he spurred them to victory in the tournament which features MLS teams as well as sides from Mexico.

➤ **About Argentina**

➤ **Capital:** Buenos Aires

➤ **Currency:** Peso

➤ **President:** Alberto Fernández

❖ **Max Life Insurance appoints Rajiv Anand as Chairman**

- Max Financial Services informed the stock exchanges that Rajiv Anand will take over as the Chairman of the insurance arm - Max Life Insurance Company Limited.
- He will be replacing Analjit Singh.
- Rajiv Anand, served as the Non-Executive Director of Max Life Insurance effective from April 2023 after being nominated by Axis Bank.
- Currently, he is the Deputy Managing Director of Axis Bank.
- He has also served as the Managing Director & CEO of Axis Asset Management Co. Ltd.
- Max Financial Services is the holding firm for Max Life Insurance Company.
- **About Max Life Insurance:**
- **CEO:** Prashant Tripathy
- **Founder:** Analjit Singh
- **Founded:** 11 July, 2000
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India

❖ **Union Bank collaborates with Accenture to boost operational efficiency**

- Union Bank of India has partnered with Accenture to design and develop advanced capabilities for consolidating data and use the same for analytics, customer insights, and decision-making using artificial intelligence and machine learning models.
- Accenture will help the bank design and develop a scalable and secure enterprise data lake platform with advanced analytics and reporting capabilities.
- An enterprise data lake platform is a comprehensive and flexible solution for managing and extracting insights from diverse datasets within an organization.
- This will also enhance its ability to offer customer-centric banking services and manage risk.

➤ Using predictive analytics, machine learning and artificial intelligence, this platform will leverage structured and unstructured data from within the bank as well as from external sources to generate business-relevant insights.

➤ **About Union Bank of India:**

➤ **MD & CEO:** A. Manimekhalai

➤ **Chairman:** Srinivasan Varadarajan

➤ **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

➤ **Founded:** 11 November, 1919

➤ **About Accenture**

➤ **Headquarters:** Dublin, Ireland

➤ **Founded:** 1989, Hamilton, Bermuda

➤ **CEO:** Julie Sweet

➤ **CFO:** KC McClure

❖ **Google launches Gemini, an AI model trained to behave more like humans**

➤ Google launched project Gemini, a highly intuitive AI model trained to behave in human-like ways, likely to intensify debates about the potential promises and perils of the technology.

➤ The phased launch will see less advanced versions immediately incorporated into Google's AI-powered chatbot and smartphones.

➤ Gemini is expected to be better at quickly summarising recordings and automated replies on messaging services, starting with WhatsApp.

➤ Its biggest advances come early next year in the form of Bard Advanced.

➤ The AI, at first, will only work in English, and is expected to have no problem eventually diversifying into other languages.

➤ Gemini is expected to outsmart Microsoft's most advanced OpenAI, ChatGPT 4.

➤ **About Google:**

➤ **CEO:** Sundar Pichai

➤ **CMO:** Lorraine Twohill

➤ **Founders:** Larry Page, Sergey Brin

➤ **Founded:** 4 September, 1998

➤ **Headquarters:** Menlo Park, California, United States

❖ **Mr Universe 1996 bodybuilder Shaun Davis passes at 57 years**

➤ Former Mr Universe bodybuilder Shaun Davis has died at the age of 57.

➤ In his bodybuilding career, he won a string of titles including Mr Britain and Mr Europe before being named Mr Universe in 1996.

➤ Mr. Davis hailed from Derbyshire (England) weighed a whopping 334lbs (151 kg) at the height of his Mr. Universe success and eared the title of 'Dinosaur'.

❖ **ATP Rankings: Novak Djokovic ends year at No.1 for record 8th time**

➤ Novak Djokovic capped off the 2023 ATP season by securing the year-end No. 1 spot for a record-extending eighth time.

➤ The 24-time Grand Slam champion showcased his unparalleled skills by winning three of the four Grand Slam tournaments in 2023 - claiming victory at the Australian Open, French Open and US Open.

➤ Djokovic's historic 24th Grand Slam title came in July at the US Open.

➤ The Serbian star engaged in a back-and-forth battle with Carlos Alcaraz at the ATP Finals in Turin and emerged victorious, marking his eighth ATP Finals title.

➤ Djokovic began his 400th week atop the ATP Rankings historic achievement only surpassed by Roger Federer.

❖ US President Biden nominates Indian American global venture capitalist to IDFC Board

- Joe Biden has nominated prominent Indian-American global venture capitalist Deven Parekh as a member of the Board of Directors of the International Development Finance Corporation, a development finance institution and agency of the US government.
- Parekh, the managing director at software investment firm Insight Partners, was nominated for the post last week.
- His nomination will be for a period of three years.
- The US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) Board of Directors includes four members recommended to the President from Senate and House leadership.
- In 2020, Parekh was nominated to the Board of Directors of the DFC by then-President Donald Trump.
- He has a BS in Economics from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

❖ Google Doodle celebrates 'Ahmed', the elephant known for his big tusks

- Google Doodle released a doodle dedicated to Ahmed the Elephant with illustrations of elephants and tourists.
- Ahmed was an elephant who was born in 1919 in the forests of Kenya in Mount Marsabit.
- Ahmed the elephant's early life is very little known about.
- Ahmed became the focus of attention after being spotted in the 1960s by hikers in the Northern Kenya mountains.
- Following this discovery of Ahmed for his big tusks, he gained world recognition and came to be known as “The King Of Marsabit.

❖ **Vijayveer Sidhu sweeps standard pistol gold medals**

- Vijayveer Sidhu won the men's and junior gold medals in 25 standard pistol in the 66th National shooting championships at the Madhya Pradesh Academy.
- Ankur Goel and Vijayveer Sidhu had tied at 575, but the latter took the gold on the basis of better score of inner-10s, 15-13.
- Vijayveer was joined on the podium by twin brother Udhayveer Sidhu with the bronze medal in the junior section.
- **25m standard pistol: Men** - 1. Vijayveer Sidhu 575 (15x), 2. Ankur Goel 575 (13x), 3. Mukesh Nelavalli 573
- **Junior** - 1. Vijayveer Sidhu 575, 2. Mukesh Nelavalli 573 (10x), 3. Udhayveer Sidhu 573 (10x)

❖ **Maharashtra government declares Mahaparinirvan Din a public holiday in Mumbai**

- Maharashtra government declares 'Mahaparinirvan Din' a public holiday in Mumbai.
- Mahaparinirvan Diwas pays tribute to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar on his death anniversary (6th Dec, 1956).
- This day has been declared as a public holiday in Mumbai and its suburbs as per official notification which states that government and non-government institutions will remain closed on account of Mahaparinirvan Diwas.
- **About Maharashtra**
- **Governor:** Ramesh Bais
- **Founded:** 1 May 1960
- **Chief Minister:** Eknath Shinde
- **Capital:** Mumbai

❖ **Delhi Government Launched Motor Vehicle Aggregator Scheme**

- Delhi Government has introduced the Delhi Motor Vehicle Aggregator and Delivery Service Provider Scheme.
- The scheme mandates a complete transition to Electric Vehicles (EVs) for all cab aggregators and delivery service providers by 2030.
- The policy applies to all aggregators offering passenger transport services in Delhi.
- It also includes those engaged in delivery services, including e-commerce vehicles.

❖ **Nagaland Marks 5th Honey Bee Day Celebrating Apicultural Tradition**

- The 5th Nagaland Honey Bee Day was celebrated under the theme- '**Bee & Honey Trials**' at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama.
- Under the guidance of the Nagaland Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM), traditional beekeeping has transformed into a sustainable source of income for many in the state, contributing to economic sustainability.
- Nagaland currently has over one lakh beekeepers and total honey production in the state stands at 440 Metric Tonnes per annum.
- **About Nagaland:**
- **Capital:** Kohima
- **Chief Minister:** Neiphiu Rio
- **Governor:** La. Ganesan