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World Thalassemia Day 2024: May 8th



- **World Thalassemia Day** is observed every year on **May 8th**.
- It is celebrated to create awareness regarding Thalassemia and to encourage those who struggle to live with this disease.
- **Theme:** “Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassemia Treatment for All.”
- **In 1994**, World Thalassemia Day was established and organized by the **Thalassemia International Federation (TIF)**.
- Thalassemia is a genetic disease that is passed from parents to their offspring.
- People suffering from Thalassaemia have less hemoglobin than normal, which leads to anemia.
- Normally, red blood cells have a lifespan of 120 days. However, due to this disease, the age of red blood cells remains for only 20 days.

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Nepal to Introduce New Currency Note Featuring Indian Territories



- Nepal recently announced the printing of a new Rs 100 currency note featuring a map that includes the Indian territories of **Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura, and Kalapani**.
- The Nepal government has authorized the **Nepal Rastra Bank** to replace the current map with the updated version on the currency note.

Key Points

- Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura, which India earlier had **included in its November 2019 map**.
- **Tensions between New Delhi and Kathmandu** emerged after Nepal issued a **political map in May 2020**, which **included the same territories**.

- Diplomatic relations came under further strain when Nepal handed over a diplomatic note to India **objecting to the inauguration of a road linking Kailash Mansarovar via Lipulekh** in 2020.
- India's **Ministry of External Affairs** had responded to Nepal's objection, stating that the road, passing through **Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district**, fell entirely **within the Indian territory**.
- Nepal has asserted its claim based on **the Sugauli Treaty of 1816**. According to the treaty **all territories east of the Kali (Mahakali) river, including Limpiyadhura, Kalapani, and Lipulekh, belong to Nepal**.
- The **Sugauli Treaty, signed on 4th March 1816**, between the **East India Company and Guru Gajraj Mishra**, delineated the boundary line of Nepal following the **Anglo-Nepalese War of 1814–16**.

About Nepal:

Capital: Kathmandu

Currency: Nepalese Rupee

President: Ram Chandra Poudel

Prime minister: Pushpa Kamal Dahal

Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers launched the MEDITECH STACKATHON

- The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers launched the **MEDITECH STACKATHON in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in New Delhi.**
- Its goal is to transform the rapidly expanding **MedTech industry** in India by carefully examining the value chain of certain medical products.
- Its objective is to address significant issues, encourage domestic production, reduce dependency on imports, and eventually position India as a world leader in medical technology.
- The STACKATHON included a number of topics, including critical care, imaging, and cancer therapy.
- The event demonstrated India's enormous potential in the **MedTech sector**, with growth rates of up to **28% per year** projected.
- **By 2030**, the Indian MedTech market is predicted **to grow to \$50 billion.**
- Presently, India is one of the top 20 global markets for medical equipment and the **fourth largest market in Asia.**
- **India's MedTech** exports have already increased to more than **4 billion dollars.**



Tripura launches its first International Cricket Stadium by 2025

- **Tripura's First International Cricket Stadium** is being constructed in **Narsingarh**, located in the **West Tripura district**.
- The stadium is expected to be operational for hosting major cricket events by **February 2025**.
- It will be the **northeastern state's first stadium**. It is being constructed with a **budget of Rs 200 crore**.
- BCCI and Tripura Cricket Association have joined hands to construct this stadium. **Its construction** was started in **2017**.
- This stadium will have a capacity of more than 25,000 spectators. Tripura will witness international and T20 matches next year.

About Tripura:

Capital: Agartala

Chief Minister: Manik Saha

Governor: N. Indrasena Reddy



'Cool Summers of India' campaign was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in Dubai

- **The 'Cool Summers of India' campaign** highlighting lesser-known but refreshing destinations was also launched by the **Ministry of Tourism at the Arabian Travel Mart 2024**.
- **The Ministry of Tourism** is participating in the **Arabian Travel Mart 2024** to be held in **Dubai** to strengthen India's presence in the Middle East tourism market.
- The **'Incredible India' pavilion** was inaugurated, which aims to capture the entire market of the UAE.
- This digital campaign challenges the perception of India being too hot for travel in summer and highlights offerings in hill resorts, including the Himalayas.
- In the Arabian Travel Mart 2024, India's participation increases immense potential for the tourism industry and the economy at large.
- The event provides a platform for Indian tourism players to showcase their offerings, build alliances within the industry, and attract visitors from the MENA region.
- **Minister of Tourism:** G. Kishan Reddy



World's wealthiest cities report 2024 by Henley & Partners



- **Henley & Partners**, an international wealth migration specialist, in collaboration with **New World Wealth**, a global data intelligence firm, recently published the **World's Wealthiest Cities Report 2024**, which highlights the richest cities globally for the year 2024.
- The report highlights **New York City (349,500 Millionaires)**, which has continued to maintain its position as the **world's wealthiest city**, and **The Bay Area (349,500 Millionaires)** is at **second position** with 11 other US cities joining the top 50 list.
- **Tokyo (298,300 Millionaires)**, which held the top spot a decade ago, has fallen to **third place** due to a decline in its high-net-worth individual population.

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- **Singapore (244,800 Millionaires)** and **London (227,000 Millionaires)** ranked **fourth and fifth** respectively.
- While **Los Angeles (212,100 Millionaires)** has climbed to **sixth place** with substantial growth in its wealthy population.
- In the Middle East, **Dubai** has emerged as the wealthiest city, **ranking 21st** in the top 50 list.
- Notably, **India** has made significant progress, with **two of its cities** breaking into **the top 50 list**. **Mumbai and Delhi rank 24th and 37th**, respectively, indicating a growing presence of wealthy individuals in the country.

Indian Contingent bags 43 medals at ASBC Asian U-22 and Youth Boxing Championships in Asthana, Kazakhsta



- In boxing, the Indian contingent wrapped up their electrifying journey at the **ASBC Asian U-22 and Youth Boxing Championships** with a remarkable haul of **43 medals in Astana, Kazakhstan**.
- This includes **12 gold, 14 silver, and 17 bronze medals** from both categories.
- **The Indian U-22 team** finished with **21 medals**, including **seven gold, five silver, and nine bronze medals**.
- While the **youth section** bagged **22 medals**, including **five gold, nine silver, and eight bronze medals**.
- India finished with the **second-highest medal count**, only behind the hosts, **Kazakhstan**, who have won **48 medals**.

- Among the Indian boxers claiming the gold was Paris Olympics-bound **Preeti** who staged a great comeback in the **54kg weight category**. Down 0-5 in the first round, Preeti posted a 3-0 win over **Kazakh boxer Bazarova Elina**.
- **Nagpur's (Maharashtra) Alfiya Khan Pathan** claimed a **silver medal by defeating Diana Magauyayeva** in 81kg category at the **Asian U-22 Boxing Championships**
- Alfiya currently trains at the **Sports Authority of India (SAI), National Center of Excellence (NCOE), Rohtak**. In her last international outing, the **2022 Asian Junior Boxing Championship** Alfiya had claimed the gold medal.

India became the first country to get \$100 billion in remittances: UN's World Migration Report 2024

- According to the **United Nations International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, India received **\$111 billion** in remittances in 2022 in UN's World Migration Report 2024.
- **India, Mexico, China, the Philippines, and France** were the **top five countries** to receive remittances in 2022.
- India led in remittance receipts in **2010 (\$53.48 billion)**, **2015 (\$68.91 billion)**, and **2020 (\$83.15 billion)**, with **\$111.22 billion** in 2022.
- **Pakistan and Bangladesh** are also ranked among the **top ten** recipients of international remittances.
- The Gulf States remain favourite destinations for migrant workers, particularly from India, Egypt, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Kenya
- Globally, India has the largest number of international migrants.
- India also attracted **immigrants**, ranking **13th globally** as a destination country for **international migrants**.
- The remittance of China has declined due to demographic shifts and its zero-COVID policy.



Urdu litterateur and educationist, Salam Bin Razzaq passed away



- **Shaikh Abdussalam Abdurrazzaq (Maharashtra)**, the renowned **Urdu litterateur and academician**, popularly known by his **pseudonym Salam Bin Razzaq** passed away at the age of 83.
- He was the recipient of the prestigious **Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu literature** in **2004** for his acclaimed short story collection '**Shikasta Buton Ke Darmiyan**'.
- Throughout his six-decade literary career Razzaq was honored with awards like **the Ghalib Award, Maharashtra Urdu Sahitya Akademi Award**.
- Over four dozen of his stories were broadcast on All India Radio, and more than a dozen were included in the syllabi of schools, colleges, and universities.

Visa appointed Sujai Raina as Indian Country Manager



- Digital payments platform **Visa (American firm)** has appointed **Sujai Raina** as the **country manager for India**.
- Additionally, **Sandeep Ghosh** will continue in his role as **Group Country Manager for India and South Asia**, overseeing Visa's operations in India and other markets across the subcontinent, including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives.
- Raina joined **Visa in 2020** and previously served as Vice President and Head of Business Development, India.

About Visa:

Founded: 18th September 1958

Headquarters: California, United States of America

CEO: Ryan McInerney

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Indian Army and Indian Air Force conducted joint exercise “Gagan Strike-II” in Punjab



- **The Indian Army’s Kharga Corps**, under the aegis of the Army’s Western Command, successfully conducted a **three-day joint exercise Gagan Strike-II** with the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** at **multiple locations in Punjab**.
- Gagan Strike-II,” incorporated various force multipliers, including **Apache and ALH-WSI helicopters, Unarmed Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)**, and Special Forces of the Indian Army.
- The primary objective was to validate the use of these assets in support of ground offensive operations by strike corps, along with live firing by helicopters as demanded by mechanized forces during offensive maneuvers.
- General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Command: **Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Katiyar**.

ISRO conducts successful ignition test for boosting LVM3's capacity



- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted the first ignition trial of a semi-cryogenic pre-burner at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
- This achievement marks a crucial step in the development of a 2,000 kN thrust semi-cryogenic engine, which is set to enhance the payload capability of ISRO's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III (LVM3) and power future launch vehicles.
- The **semi-cryogenic engine**, being developed by ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), utilizes a propellant combination of liquid oxygen (LOX) and refined kerosene (IsroSENE).

- The successful ignition test, conducted at the newly dedicated **Semi-Cryogenic Integrated Engine and Stage Test (SIET) facility**.
- The ignition was achieved using a start fuel ampule, which combines **Triethyle Aluminate and Triethyle Boron**, a novel ignition system developed by **Isro's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**.
- This is the first time this technology has been employed in ISRO's semi-cryogenic engine development.
- This engine is designed to provide heavy-lift capability to ISRO's upcoming launch vehicles, including the **Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV)**.

About ISRO:

Founded: 15th August 1969

Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka

Chairman: S Somanth

RBI lifts curb on boarding of new customers on Bob World app after 6 months

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** allowed **Bank of Baroda** to **onboard new customers** through the **‘Bob World’** application, more than **six months after** it imposed restriction following material supervisory concerns.
- The RBI had imposed restriction on state-owned **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** on **October 10, 2023** from onboarding new customers on its mobile app **‘Bob World’**.
- The **RBI had lifted restrictions on Bajaj Finance** on sanctioning and disbursement of loans through **eCOM and Insta EMI Card**.
- Earlier, the RBI had imposed restriction on **Kotak Mahindra Bank** from onboarding new customers via online and mobile banking platforms and to stop issuing fresh credit cards with immediate effect following scrutiny.

About Bank of Baroda (BOB):

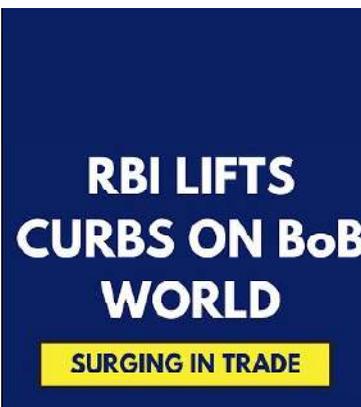
Founded: 20th July 1908

Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat

Chairman: Dr. Hasmukh Adhia

MD& CEO: Devdutt Chand

Tagline: India’s International Bank.



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Kerala reported five West Nile cases in three districts

- **The Kerala government's** health department has confirmed **five cases of West Nile fever** in the state's three districts, **Kozhikode, Malappuram and Thrissur.**
- **The first case of West Nile fever** was detected in **Kerala in 2011.** The first death due to West Nile Virus was reported in 2022 when a 47-year-old man from the Thrissur district died of West Nile viral infection,
- **According to the World Health Organisation (WHO),** the first case of West Nile Virus in world was reported in the **West Nile district of Uganda in 1937.**
- The virus was later found **in birds** in the **Nile Delta region in 1953.** Birds are considered to be the natural host of the West Nile Virus.
- **West Nile Virus** is a member of the **flavivirus genus.**
- The human infection is mostly due to the **bites of infected mosquitoes.** **Culex species of mosquitoes** are the main carriers of the virus.
- No Vaccine has been developed for humans against the West Nile Virus however, vaccines are available for use in horses.

About Kerala:

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

Governor: Arif Mohammed Khan

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Russia's Vladimir Putin took oath as President for a fifth term



- **Vladimir Putin** was sworn as the **President of Russia** for a **six-year term**
- Putin has been in power as **president or prime minister since 1999.**
- In March, Putin got a landslide victory in the elections.
- If Putin completes his full six-year term, he will overtake Soviet leader **Josef Stalin** and become **Russia's longest-serving leader** since **the eighteenth-century** Empress Catherine the Great.
- **Mikhail Mishustin** is the current **Prime Minister of Russia.**
- The type of government in Russia is a federal semi-presidential republic.
- **Capital:** Moscow and **Currency:** Ruble

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