

PM MODI FLAGGED OFF WEST BENGAL'S FIRST VANDE BHARATA EXPRESS TRAIN

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has virtually flagged off **Vande Bharat Express** from **Howrah Railway Station** connecting **Howrah** to **New Jalpaiguri**.
- It is the **first Vande Bharat Express** to operate in **West Bengal** and on the Eastern parts of the country. Also, it is the **seventh Vande Bharat train** by Indian Railways in the country.
- Covering a distance of **564 km** in **7.45 hours**, this train will save three hours in travel time as compared to other trains on the route.
- He also inaugurated the **Joka-Taratala Stretch** of the **Joka-Esplanade Metro Project** (Purple Line) of **Kolkata Metro**.

Recent Inauguration by PM Modi

- PM Modi flagged off **6th Vande Bharat train** in **Nagpur, Maharashtra**
- PM Modi inaugurated **4th Vande Bharat Express** in **Himachal Pradesh**
- PM Modi participated in the historic programme marking '**Veer Bal Diwas**' in **Delhi**
- PM Modi addressed **75th Amrut Mahotsav of Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul Rajkot Sansthan**
- PM Modi inaugurated projects worth **Rs 6,800 crore** in **Tripura, Meghalaya**
- PM Modi launched projects worth **Rs 75,000 cr** in **Maharashtra**

INDIA'S FIRST UNDERWATER METRO TO BECOME OPERATION BY DECEMBER 2023

- According to the **Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation**, India's **first underwater metro service**, the East-West Metro Corridor project is expected to be **completed by December 2023**.
- The East-West corridor of the Kolkata Metro is 15 Km-long and spans from Salt Lake Stadium to Howrah.
- This metro line between Salt Lake Sector-5 to Salt Lake Stadium has Karunamayi, Central Park, City Center, and Bengal Chemical metro stations.
- It costs about ₹120 crore per kilometre to build the tunnel but the manufacturing cost of the tunnel underwater, which is deep in the Hooghly river costs increased to around 157 crores by per kilometre.
- First metro in India, Kolkata Metro which started its operation 24 October 1984 between Dum Dam to Tollygunge. It was started with the help of the Soviet Union.
- Largest metro rail in operation in India, Delhi Metro (390.14 km). It started operation on 24 December 2002.
- Smallest Metro- Ahmedabad metro, 6 km
- The metro rail systems in operation in India are in the cities of Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Gurugram, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kanpur, Kolkata, Kochi, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Noida, and Pune.

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT LAUNCHED PRAJWALA CHALLENGE

- **Rural Development Ministry** has launched **Prajwala Challenge** inviting ideas, solutions, and actions to transform the rural economy.
- It was launched under **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.

- It is one of the platforms where ideas are invited from individuals, Social Enterprises, Start Up, Private Sector, Community Based organizations, Incubation centres, and Investors having the potential to transform the rural economy.
 - Focus areas under challenge are Inclusive Growth, Value Chain Interventions, and Enhanced Women Entrepreneurship.
 - The top 5 ideas will be rewarded with Rs 2 Lakh each.
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ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK PROVIDES \$100 MILLION LOANS TO SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED

- Non-banking financial company **Shriram Finance Ltd.** has secured **long-term funding of \$100 million from Asian Development Bank (ADB)** to finance its purchase of **new and used vehicles across India.**
- The loan amount will be used by Shriram Finance to provide loans to customers to buy new or used BS VI-compliant vehicles and electric vehicles”, besides providing financial support to women entrepreneurs and under-developed states.
- Shriram Finance Limited is the largest retail NBFC in India. It was formed after the merger of mainly Shriram City Union Finance and Shriram Transport Finance.
- Headquarters – Chennai
- MD & CEO – Y S Chakravarti

About Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- **Founded** – 19 December 1966
- **Headquarters** – Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- **President** – Masatsugu Asakawa

- **Vice President** – Ashok Lavasa
- **Director of ADB for India** – Takeo Konishi
- **Executive Director** – Sameer Kumar Khare
- **Member Countries** – 68 (Nuie)

Recent Loan approved by ADB

- Asian Development Bank provides \$100 million loans to Shriram Finance Limited
 - ADB approved \$125 million loan to improve Urban Services in Tamil Nadu
 - ADB approved USD 350 million loan to Maharashtra for road connectivity
 - ADB approved USD 96 million loan to HP for safe drinking water project
 - ADB approves \$112 million loan to establish Assam Skill University.
 - ADB approves \$150 million loan for urban poor housing project in Tamil Nadu.
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N CHANDRASEKARAN APPOINTED AS HEAD OF MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

- The Maharashtra government has appointed **Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran** as the **head of the new Economic Advisory Council of Maharashtra.**
- This was announced by deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis in the state Legislative Council in Nagpur.
- The Maharashtra government has set up the Economic Advisory Council, to make Maharashtra a trillion-dollar economy.

- The new advisory council will function as a private research organization that will focus on issues related to agriculture, banking, engineering, and education, among others.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target of India becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25.

Recent Appointment

- Captain of Indian team at the FIH men's world cup 2023 – Harmanpreet Singh
 - CEO of Air India Express – Alope Singh
 - Chairperson of New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) – Former SC Justice Hemant Gupta
 - Chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) – Dinesh Kumar Shukla
 - CEO of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games – Cindy Hook
 - First black president in Harvard University – Claudine Gay
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KONERU HUMPY WON SILVER AT THE WORLD CHESS BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP

- Former world rapid champion **Koneru Humpy** has won **India's first-ever Silver medal in the FIDE World Blitz Chess Championships** in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
 - Humpy defeated China's Zhongyi Tan to win Silver in the 17th and final round.
 - Fourth-seeded Humpy scored an impressive 12.5 points, just half a point behind the gold medal winner Bibisara Balabayeva of Kazakhstan.
 - Humpy is the second Indian to win a medal at World Blitz, after Viswanathan Anand.
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HOCKEY MADHYA PRADESH CLINCHED KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES 2022

MEN'S U-18 TITLE

- In hockey, **Madhya Pradesh clinched** the title by defeating Odisha 6-5 in the **Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Men's Under-18 qualifier title** in Bhubaneswar.
 - Jamir Mohammad was the star of the final, scoring a hat-trick, while Ali Ahmed, Mohammad Zaid Khan, and Captain Ankit Pal scored one goal each for Madhya Pradesh.
 - Haryana claimed third place in the competition with a win against Jharkhand 2-0 in the 3rd and 4th place clash. Amandeep and Roshan scored goals for Haryana.
 - With this, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Haryana, and Jharkhand have qualified for the Khelo India Youth Games to be held in Madhya Pradesh next year.
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HOCKEY HARYANA WOMEN'S U-18 TEAM WON KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES

2022

- Hockey **Haryana's women's team** has won the **Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Women's Under 18 Qualifiers** after defeating Madhya Pradesh 2-0 in the final at Bhubaneswar.
 - In the final match, Pooja and Gurmail Kaur scored a goal each for Haryana to end the contest in their favour.
 - Odisha stepped up to claim third place after beating Hockey Jharkhand 2-1 in the 3rd and 4th place encounter.
 - Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand have qualified for the Khelo India Youth Games to be held in Madhya Pradesh next year.
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MANDHANA & SURYAKUMAR NOMINATED FOR THE ICC T20 CRICKETER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2022

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has announced the **shortlisted cricket players for its year-end awards**.
- Four players are shortlisted in the men's and women's category for its various annual awards taking into account the performance of the players in the calendar year.

ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2022 for overall performer (Tests, ODIs, and T20Is)

- Babar Azam (Pakistan)
- Ben Stokes (England)
- Sikandar Raza (Zimbabwe)
- Tim Southee (New Zealand)

ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2022 for overall performer (Tests, ODIs, and T20Is)

- Nat Sciver (England)
- Smriti Mandhana (India)
- Amelia Kerr (New Zealand)
- Beth Mooney (Australia)

ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year 2022

- Ben Stokes (England)
- Jonny Bairstow (England)

- Usman Khawaja (Australia)
- Kagiso Rabada (South Africa)

ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2022

- Babar Azam (Pakistan)
- Adam Zampa (Australia)
- Sikandar Raza (Zimbabwe)
- Shai Hope (West Indies)

ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2022

- Shabnim Ismail (Pakistan)
- Amelia Kerr (New Zealand)
- Nat Sciver (England)
- Alyssa Healy (Australia)

ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2022

- Suryakumar Yadav (India)
- Sikandar Raza (Zimbabwe)
- Sam Curran (England)
- Mohammad Rizwan (Pakistan)

ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2022

- Smriti Mandhana (India)
- Nida Dar (Pakistan)
- Sophie Devine (New Zealand)



CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- Tahlia McGrath (Australia)

ICC Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year 2022

- Marco Jansen (South Africa)
- Ibrahim Zadran (Afghanistan)
- Finn Allen (New Zealand)
- Arshdeep Singh (India)

ICC Women's Emerging Cricketer of the Year 2022

- Renuka Singh (India)
- Darcie Brown (Australia)
- Alice Capsey (England)
- Yastika Bhatia (India)

About International Cricket Council (ICC)

- **Formation** – 15 June 1909
 - **Headquarters** – Dubai, UAE
 - **Chairman** – Greg Barclay (New Zealand)
 - **Deputy Chairman** – Imran Khwaja (Singapore)
 - **CEO** – Geoff Allardice (Australia)
 - **General Manager** – Wasim Khan
 - **Membership** – 108 members
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