

(25<sup>th</sup> April 2024)

## International

### Indonesia EC declares Prabowo Subianto president-elect after court rejects rivals' appeal

Indonesia's Electoral Commission has formally declared Prabowo Subianto President-elect in a ceremony after the country's highest court rejected challenges to his landslide victory lodged by two losing presidential candidates. Mr. Subianto, who is currently defence minister, won the election with 58.6% of the votes, or more than 96 million ballots, more than twice the amount received by either of the other two candidates. His rivals alleged that his victory had depended on large-scale fraud and widespread state interference.

### EU Parliament adopts new rules to improve air quality by 2030

The European Parliament has adopted stricter legally binding air pollution limits that must be complied with by 2030. The new rules set stricter 2030 limits and target values for pollutants with a severe impact on human health, including particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10), NO<sub>2</sub> (nitrogen dioxide), and SO<sub>2</sub> (sulphur dioxide). Air pollution leads to around 300,000 premature deaths per year in the EU. The World Health Organization (WHO) tightened its air quality guidelines last year, hoping to push countries toward clean energy and prevent deaths caused by dirty air.

### Floods kill 38 in Kenya, destroy farmlands, property

The death toll from the ongoing floods in Kenya has hit 38, with over 110,000 people displaced. Property, including farmlands and road networks worth millions of shillings, have been destroyed. The floods have resulted in the bursting of rivers, damage to key infrastructure like hospitals, loss of livestock and restricted access to some major highways/roads across the country.

### Papua New Guinea appoints first defence adviser to India

In an important step in taking forward defence cooperation between India and Papua New Guinea (PNG), PNG appointed its first defence

adviser, Col Edison Napyo, to India. He will serve as a crucial link between the Papua New Guinean Government and Military in their interactions with India.

### India, Japan discuss developments in areas of disarmament, non-proliferation

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has said that the 10<sup>th</sup> Round of India-Japan Consultations on Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Export Control was held in Tokyo. Top officials of India and Japan have exchanged views on developments in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation relating to nuclear, chemical and biological domains, outer space security, non-proliferation issues, conventional weapons and export control.

## National

### Patanjali Ayurved issues another 'bigger' public apology after Supreme Court rap

Baba Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna of Patanjali Ayurved have issued a fresh apology in leading newspapers for misleading advertisements of Patanjali's medicinal products. This time, the apology was bigger in size after the Supreme Court pulled up the duo for not "prominently" displaying it earlier.

### Health Ministry constitutes task force on brain healthcare

The Union Health Ministry has constituted a national task force to devise effective strategies for surveillance, prevention, and treatment of brain diseases. The country, in the past three decades, has seen a rising burden of stroke, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, and dementia, especially among the urban population. The formed task force will recommend ways to improve accessibility and quality of brain healthcare at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels.

## Business and Economy

### RBI bars Kotak Mahindra Bank from onboarding new customers online, issuing credit cards

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has barred private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank

from onboarding new customers through its online and mobile banking channels and from issuing fresh credit cards. However, the bank will continue to provide services to its existing customers, including its credit card customers. These actions were necessitated based on significant concerns arising out of the RBI's IT examination of the bank in 2022 and 2023 and the bank's continued failure to address these concerns in a comprehensive and timely manner.

### **Private banker IndusInd Bank successfully executes RBI's programmable CBDC pilot**

Private sector lender IndusInd Bank has announced the successful execution of the Reserve Bank of India's programmable Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) pilot, marking the first such instance by any bank in the country. The pilot project, done in collaboration with Circularity Innovation Hub India Private Limited (CIH), involved an alternate form of CBDC wherein the bank can program the end use of funds, specifically targeting farmers for carbon credit generation. As a part of this pilot, IndusInd Bank has initiated the programmable CBDC disbursement to 50 farmers in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra and will cover around 1,000 farmers going forward.

### **AU Small Finance Bank launches multiple products like credit cards with exclusive features**

In a bid to increase fee income, AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) launched an array of products, including Rupay credit cards and ATM insurance. Among the latest offerings are two innovative credit cards: the AU SPONT Rupay Credit Card and Secured Credit Card – NOMO (No Missing Out), developed in collaboration with NPCI and VISA, respectively. The NOMO Credit Card marks AU SFB's debut into the realm of secured credit cards, backed by a fixed deposit. For the first time in the Indian banking industry, AU SFB has launched ATM Insurance for the convenience of customers buying insurance through AU SFB's ATMs with their debit card.

### **Razorpay enters the UPI infrastructure space, offers UPI Switch**

Fintech major Razorpay, in partnership with Airtel Payments Bank, has entered the UPI infrastructure service by offering UPI Switch to its customers. The company will now provide its UPI Switch service to Airtel Payments Bank, enabling it to manage UPI transactions on the payments bank's platform.

### **Sports**

#### **International Cricket Council names Usain Bolt as T20 World Cup ambassador**

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named sprint legend Usain Bolt as the ambassador of the upcoming T20 World Cup to be played in the West Indies and USA from 1<sup>st</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Jamaica-born Bolt created history at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing where he won the 100m, 200m and 4x100m races in world record times. He currently holds world records in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m with times of 9.58 secs, 19.19 secs and 36.84 secs.

#### **Real Madrid beats Barcelona moves closer to La Liga title win**

Spanish football club Real Madrid took a huge step towards winning the Spanish league title after beating Barcelona 3-2 with a stoppage-time goal by Jude Bellingham in the final. Barcelona twice took the lead at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, but Real Madrid came back to win for a comfortable 11-point cushion over its second-place rival entering the final six rounds.

#### **ASIAN U-20 ATHLETICS: Deepanshu claims gold, Rohan wins silver**

India's Deepanshu Sharma and Rohan Yadav won gold and silver in the men's javelin throw at the Asian under-20 athletics championships in Dubai. Deepanshu threw a distance of 70.29m, while Rohan had a best of 70.03m.

#### **Indian golfers Aditi, Diksha set to participate in Paris Olympics**

Indian women golfers, Aditi Ashok ranked 46 and Diksha Dagar ranked 138, are set to participate in the 2024 Paris Olympics while

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Shubhankar Sharma and Gaganjeet Bhullar also have a strong chance of making it to the Games. While it will be a third appearance for Aditi at the Olympics, which is also the most for an Indian, Diksha will be competing for the second time. For Sharma and Bhullar, it would be their maiden appearance at the Olympics.

**Narsingh Yadav elected chairman of WFI's seven-member athletes' panel**

Former wrestler Narsingh Pancham Yadav has been elected chairman of the Wrestling Federation of India's Athletes' Commission, completing a process that was mandated by the sport's world-governing body. A total of eight candidates were in fray for the seven positions and after polling, conducted on ballot paper, seven members got elected. They then chose Narsingh as chairman of the commission.