## Collins

## General Awareness

## The week from April 24, 2023 to April 30, 2023

PM Modi flagged off Kerala's first Vande Bharat Express from the Thiruvananthapuram Central Railway Station. The semi-high-speed, fully-air conditioned train will cover 11 districts, linking the capital Thiruvananthapuram in the south to Kasaragod in the north.

MV Gemini Sankaran, the founder of Gemini Circus and a pioneer of Indian circus passed away aged 99 in Kerala due to age-related ailments. He had purchased 'Vijaya Circus Company' in 1951 and renamed it 'Gemini Circus'.

Mohammed Shahabuddin took oath as the 22nd President of Bangladesh, succeeding Abdul Hamid whose tenure ended on 23 April. He was elected as President unopposed in February 2023 as a candidate of the ruling Awami League.

'Pele', the nickname of the only footballer to have won 3 FIFA World Cups, was added to the Portuguese dictionary as a synonym for 'incomparable', and 'unique' following a campaign by the footballer's foundation.

A penumbral lunar eclipse will be observed on 5 May from parts of Europe, Africa, Australia, Asia and the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans. A penumbral lunar eclipse occurs when the moon passes through the penumbra – the slender, outer area of Earth's shadow. UAE's Amal spacecraft captured the clearest image of the Martian moon 'Deimos' under the 'Emirates Mars Exploration Project'. The spacecraft approached 100 km from the surface of 'Deimos', which is named after the Greek God of 'dread and terror'.

American singer, activist and actor Harry Belafonte passed away in New York aged 96 due to congestive heart failure. He is one of the few artists to have won the 'EGOT' honours – Emmy, Grammy, Oscars and Tony awards.

Jharkhand launched its first air ambulance service, which will operate from Ranchi and six other cities. This is expected to boost medical transport facilities in the state by improving connectivity in emergency cases.



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