

Weekly Current Affairs

21-27 May, 2023

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NATIONAL NEWS

1.India launches 'Operation Karuna' to provide aid to Myanmar

- India launched "Operation Karuna" to provide humanitarian assistance for people in Myanmar, which is affected by Cyclone Mocha. Three ships from India carrying relief material reached Yangon on 18th May.
- Indian Naval Ships Shivalik, Kamorta and Savitri were the first Naval ships to arrive at Yangon with relief material on 18th May. The ships are carrying emergency food supplies, tents, essential medicines, water pumps, portable generators, clothes, hygiene items, etc. Indian Navy Committed to Ensuring Security and Growth for All in the Region. India has always been at the forefront in providing assistance to its neighbors during such calamities.

2.Amit Shah lays foundation stone of campus of National Academy of Coastal Policing

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah on 20th May laid the foundation stone for the permanent campus of the National Academy of Coastal Policing (NACP) at Okha in Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka district. The NACP is the first national academy in the country to train police forces to effectively protect the coastline.
- It started functioning from the premises of Gujarat Fisheries Research Center in 2018. NACP was established to provide intensive and high level training to Marine Police of nine Coastal States, five Union Territories as well as Central Police Forces. The Center has sanctioned Rs 441 crore to develop NACP with modern infrastructure, latest technology and state-of-the-art training facilities to enhance the security of the coastal borders.

3.New Karnataka CM, Siddaramaiah, Sworn In as Chief Minister

- Siddaramaiah took oath as the chief minister of Karnataka for the second time following the party's resounding victory in the recently concluded assembly elections. Accompanying him, DK Shivakumar was sworn in as the cabinet minister and has been designated as the state's sole deputy chief minister.
- The oath-taking ceremony commenced about ten minutes later than the scheduled time of 12:30pm. Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar expressed their gratitude and support by waving at the sea of supporters and extending greetings to the VVIPs and ministers in attendance. At around 12:40pm, Siddaramaiah officially assumed the position of the new chief minister of Karnataka.

4.Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launched Farm Loan Interest Waiver Scheme

- Madhya Pradesh (MP) Chief Minister (CM), Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, has launched a CM Farm Loan Interest Waiver Scheme namely Mukhyamantri Krishak Byaaj Maafi Yojana-2023 (Chief Minister Farmer Loan Waiver Scheme).
- Under the scheme, the MP government will compensate defaulter farmers who have outstanding loans, including the principal and interest, of up to ₹2 lakh as of March 31, 2023, from Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies (PACS). The scheme covers short-term crop loans as well as loans that have been converted into medium-term loans due to natural calamities.

5.Mahatma Gandhi Scholarships awarded to 300 students in Sri Lanka

- Recently three hundred school students from all 25 districts of Sri Lanka have received the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship. Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay, Sri Lankan Education Minister Dr. Sushil Premjayantha and Minister of State for Education A.K. Arvind Kumar provided scholarships to the students.
- The scholarship provides 2500 Sri Lankan Rupees per student per month to the top six students from each district based on merit. This year, two batches of scholarships were awarded simultaneously to compensate for the disruptions caused by COVID-19 during the period 2021-2022.

6.First Urban Climate Film Festival to Begin in New Town, Kolkata

- The first-ever Urban Climate Film Festival is scheduled to take place in New Town, Kolkata from June 3rd to June 5th, 2023. The festival aims to utilize the medium of film to raise awareness about the environmental, social, and economic impacts of climate change on urban settlements.
- A total of 16 films from 12 countries will be screened during the festival. After each screening, there will be Q&A sessions with the filmmakers to facilitate discussions on building climate-resilient cities. The festival also aims to encourage the public to adopt environmentally responsible behaviors in line with the U20 priority areas and the Honorable Prime Minister's call through the LiFE Mission.

7.Kerala To Become Fully E-Governed State

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declares the state as fully 'e-governed' where delivery of government services would be digitised, transparent and fast. The declaration of Kerala as India's 'total e-governed state' would be a major step in the southern state's journey towards a knowledge based society and economy, besides achieving cent per cent digital literacy, a government release said.
- The achievement would enable online delivery of a whole range of government services by leveraging state-of-the-art technology and platforms

to build a single window service delivery mechanism called e-Sevanam which integrates more than 800 government services online.

8.GRSE launched GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS) 2023 in Kolkata

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd, one of India's premier defence shipyards and a Category 1 Mini Ratna Company, has embarked on a mission to identify and encourage the development of innovative solutions towards technological advances in shipbuilding by Startups.
- As part of this drive, the Company launched GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme – 2023 or “GAINS 2023” in Kolkata on 22nd May 2023 leverage the eco-system that addresses present and emerging challenges in the ship design and construction industry.

9.76th World Health Assembly held in Geneva

- The 76th World Health Assembly was inaugurated by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 21 May 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. This ten-day 76th World Health Assembly is being organized from 21 to 30 May 2023. In this, India is being represented by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. It serves as a platform for representatives of all WHO member states to come together and address health issues affecting people around the world.
- Appreciating India's health priorities, Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organisation, praised India's progress in chairing the G20 as well as its efforts to advance digital health and traditional medicine.
- Theme of the 76th World Health Assembly: **WHO at 75: Saving Lives, Driving Health for All.**

10.Kudumbashree becomes the largest network of women in Kerala for empowerment and poverty eradication

- Kudumbashree is the largest network of women in Kerala for empowerment and poverty eradication, which was completed 25 years ago. Kudumbashree was set up in 1997 following the recommendations of a 3 member Task Force appointed by the State government.
- The mission was launched with the support of the Government of India (GoI) and NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development). The name Kudumbashree in Malayalam language means ‘prosperity of the family’. Kudumbashree is the poverty eradication and women empowerment programme implemented by the State Poverty Eradication Mission (SPEM) of the Government of Kerala

11.Ministry of Civil Aviation launches UDAN 5.1

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation in India has launched UDAN 5.1 on 24 May, a special edition of the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme, with a special focus on helicopter routes.
- For the first time under Regional Connectivity Scheme RCS-UDAN, this round is designed specifically for helicopter routes. There will be an increase in the scope of operations for the operators, which will now also allow routes where one of the origin or destination points is in the priority zone. The airfare ceiling has been reduced by 25% to make flying in helicopters more affordable for passengers.

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12.Maharashtra CM launches 'Shasan Aplya Dari' Initiative

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde launched the 'Shasan Aplya Dari' (government at your doorstep) initiative, aimed at providing benefits of government schemes at one place.
- Shinde launched the scheme at an event in his home district Satara. District administrations have been asked to organise two-day camps as part of the initiative. The objective of the scheme is to take the government to the doorstep of the common people so that they can take benefits of various schemes without any hassle.

13.Uttar Pradesh surpasses Maharashtra in sugar production this season

- Uttar Pradesh has overtaken Maharashtra in sugar production in the current season, with 118 sugar mills operating in UP during the period as compared to 210 mills in the western state.
- According to UP's Sugarcane Development and Sugar Mills Minister Lakshmi Narayan Chowdhary, the total sugar produced by Uttar Pradesh in the sugar season 2022-2023 is 107.29 lakh tonnes, while the total sugar produced by Maharashtra is 105.30 lakh tonnes. The area under sugarcane cultivation in Uttar Pradesh is 28.53 lakh hectares (highest in India) as compared to 14.87 lakh hectares in Maharashtra.

14.Bhupendra Yadav Inaugurates CoE on Sustainable Land Management at ICFRE in Dehradun

- Union Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management (CoE-SLM) at the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) in Dehradun.
- In a significant step towards combating land degradation and promoting sustainable land management practices, Union Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management (CoE-SLM) at the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) in Dehradun.

15.Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shahar' mega campaign launched by Union Minister Hardeep S Puri

- Union Minister Hardeep S Puri launched the campaign 'Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shahar' in New Delhi. The campaign promotes the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (RRR) concept of waste management. This campaign will strengthen the resolve of the citizens under SBM-U 2.0 and also promote the purpose of Mission Life.
- RRR centres or one-stop collection centres were set up across the country on May 20. The centres will accept unused or used plastic items, clothing, shoes, books and toys. Citizens can donate used clothes, shoes, books, toys and plastic at RRR centres. The collected items will be recycled for reuse or turned into new products. The campaign will culminate with the resolution of LiFE on 5 June.

16.Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launches State dashboard & CM dashboard

- Odisha Chief Minister (CM) Shri Naveen Patnaik launched the State Dashboard, a data and analytics-powered platform which will streamline performance monitoring of government schemes, aiding data-driven decision-making.
- The launch of the integrated Dashboard will carry forward the 5T (teamwork, transparency, technology, timely completion leading to transformation) governance model. It will facilitate seamless data-driven decision-making to ensure time-bound outcomes aligned with our 5T governance model.

17.Andhra Pradesh CM launches Machilipatnam port project for economic growth

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy formally launched the Machilipatnam port works worth Rs 5,156 crore recently. The port, with an initial cargo capacity of 35 million tonnes, will be completed in two years. The capacity of the 4-berth deep water port will be increased to 116 million tonnes as cargo traffic gradually increases.

- The port will help develop Machilipatnam on the lines of developed port cities like Mumbai and Chennai as it will be connected by National Highway 216 and Gudivada-Machilipatnam railway line soon. This will increase the reach of the port and improve connectivity.

18.Telangana Home Minister Mohamood Ali launches ‘SAHAS’ an initiative towards making workplaces safer for women

- Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali launched the initiative called ‘Sahas’ in the presence of Director General of Police Anjani Kumar, Additional Director General of Police (DGP), Women Safety Wing Shikha Goel, Femina Miss India Manasa Varanasi and senior representatives from industry. SAHAS, is the first of its kind initiative in the country, involving collaboration.

19.Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launches Citizen Centric Portal named Sanchar Saathi Portal

- The Union Minister of Communications recently launched a citizen-centric Sanchar Saathi portal. The portal aims to provide various reforms and services related to mobile connections and telecommunications.
- It has been developed by C-DoT under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to prevent frauds such as identity theft, forged KYC, banking frauds etc.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1.China Overtakes Japan to Become World's Biggest Exporter of Cars

- China become the world’s biggest exporter of cars after overtaking Japan in the first three months of the year. China exported 1.07 million vehicles in the period, up 58 percent compared to the first quarter of 2022, the BBC reported.
- In 2022, China exported 3.2 million cars, more than Germany’s 2.6 million vehicle exports, and this number was boosted by increased demand for electric vehicles and sales to Russia.

2.Germany Unveils 2.7 billion euro military package to Ukraine

- Germany announced 2.7 billion euro (\$3.0 billion) of military aid to Ukraine, its biggest such package yet since Russia’s invasion, and pledged further support for Kyiv for as long as necessary. The package will include 30 Leopard 1 tank, 15 Gepard anti-aircraft tanks, over 200 reconnaissance drones and 4 Iris-T anti-aircraft systems.
- Germany was initially reluctant to provide heavy arms to Ukraine to help it counter Russia’s invasion, fearing it might escalate the fight. But in January,

2023 Berlin agreed to send Leopard tanks and would work with allies to send more.

3.Israel ties up with IIT-M to set up water technology centre

- The Government of Israel is partnering with India through Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) to establish an India-Israel Center of Water Technology (CoWT) in water resources management and water technologies at IIT-M.
- The key objective of this new centre is to ensure the implementation of best technologies of Israel, which is a leader in integrated water resources management, in a tailor-made context for the Indian requirements and work on sustainable management solution for Indian water sector.

4.India hands over 20 broad gauge locomotives to Bangladesh

- India handed over 20 broad gauge (BG) locomotives to Bangladesh, fulfilling the commitment made to PM Sheikh Hasina during her visit here in October 2019. These locomotives can be used for both running passenger and freight trains.
- The prime ministers of both countries are playing proactive roles to improve the bilateral relationship across social, economic and political sectors. Indian Railways are also playing a vital role in improving and strengthening rail connectivity across the border and improving trade between the two countries

5.Namdev Shirgaonkar elected unopposed as India Taekwondo chief

- Namdev Shirgaonkar was elected unopposed as the president of the executive committee of India Taekwondo in the election of the body. The election was attended by 25 affiliated state associations. All the office-bearers were elected unopposed. Bhagwatrao Gaikwad (Retired judge) was the Returning Officer in tandem with Sharad D Madakre (Retired Deputy Charity Commissioner).

6.Indian Prime Minister Modi strikes new agreements on migration and green hydrogen in Australia

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi struck new agreements with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese on migration and green hydrogen, while raising concerns about attacks on Hindu temples in Sydney.
- Prime Minister Modi emphasized that the India-Australia relationship is built upon mutual trust and confidence. During their constructive discussions, both leaders focused on enhancing strategic cooperation in the mining and critical minerals sector. The talks centered around taking the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries to new

heights. In a friendly gesture, Prime Minister Modi extended an invitation to Prime Minister Albanese and all Australian cricket fans to visit India for the upcoming Cricket World Cup this year.

7. Tipu Sultan's bedchamber sword creates new auction record in UK

- Tipu Sultan's fabled sword was found in the private bedchamber as it has now broken all auction records for an Indian object for Bonhams in London by fetching over GBP 14 million at its Islamic and Indian Art sale this week. The sword from Tipu Sultan's reign between 1782 and 1799, is described as a fine gold koftgari hilted steel sword referred to as sukhela, which is an emblem of authority.
- The sword was found in the private apartments of Tipu Sultan and the Army of the East India Company presented it to Major General David Baird as a "token of their high esteem of his courage and conduct in the assault" which resulted in the killing of Tipu Sultan.

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NEW APPOINTMENTS AND PERSON IN NEWS

1. Kiren Rijiju Replaced As Law Minister, Shifted To Earth Sciences

- The Union Government transferred Kiran Rijiju from the Ministry of Law and Justice to the Ministry of Earth Sciences. Arjun Ram Meghwal will replace Rijiju as the law minister.
- Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State has been assigned the independent charge as Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice in addition to his existing portfolios, in place of Kiren Rijiju. Rijiju was appointed as the law minister in July 2021, following the resignation of Ravi Shankar Prasad due to a cabinet reshuffle. Arjun Ram Meghwal is the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs as well as the Minister of State for Culture.

2. Amy Pope became the first woman Director-General of the United Nations Migration Agency

- Amy Pope of the United States has been selected as the first female Director-General of the United Nations Migration Agency. She will head the Geneva-based International Organization for Migration (IOM).

- Pope is currently serving as deputy to Director General Antonio Vitorino. Her five-year term as director general will begin on October 1, replacing Vitorino.

3. Dr K. Govindaraj Elected As New President of Basketball Federation of India

- Dr. K Govindaraj has been unanimously nominated to take over as President of FIBA Asia. This is the first time that an Indian has been nominated as the President of FIBA Asia. Dr. K Govindaraj is Karnataka MLC and current President of Basketball Federation of India
- Govindaraj has replaced Qatar's Sheikh Saud Ali Al Thani, who was serving his fourth five-year term as head of FIBA Asia since 2002. After confirmation of the post, Govindraj had stated that it's an honour for the entire Indian sports fraternity to get an opportunity and responsibility to be at the helm of affairs of Asian basketball, and help develop basketball in Asia.

4. IDBI Bank appoints Jayakumar S. Pillai as Deputy Managing Director

- The Board of Directors of IDBI Bank approved the appointment of Jayakumar S. Pillai as Deputy Managing Director (DMD) on the Bank's Board for 3 years.
- IDBI Bank has two Deputy Managing Director (DMD) positions. It currently has one DMD – Suresh Khatanhar. The other DMD – Samuel Joseph Jebaraj moved to the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) as Deputy Managing Director (Lending & Project Finance) in early April 2023.

5. Sourav Ganguly to be brand ambassador of Tripura tourism

- Former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly has accepted the offer of becoming the brand ambassador of Tripura tourism. Dr Saha held a telephonic conversation with Ganguly, known as 'Dada', and later expressed his confidence that Ganguly's participation would help in improving the tourism sector.
- The Tripura government is confident that Ganguly will be a successful brand ambassador for the state. They believe that his popularity and charisma will help to attract more visitors to Tripura and boost the tourism industry. The announcement came after Tourism Minister Sushanta Chowdhury met Ganguly at his residence in Kolkata along with state officials, and discussed the proposal.

6. Dream11 founder Harsh Jain elected IAMAI chairperson

- The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) announced that based on the governing council election, Harsh Jain - Co-founder, and CEO of Dream Sports - has been elected the Chairman of the association. Jain replaces Sanjay Gupta, Vice-President and Country Manager, Google India. Jain, whose tenure is for two years, completed his engineering from the University of Pennsylvania and his MBA from Columbia Business School.

BANKING

1.IDBI, BOB and SBI Capital to manage IREDA IPO

- The government has appointed IDBI Capital, BOB Capital and SBI Capital to manage the initial public offer (IPO) of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). IDBI Capital is the lead banker for the transaction.
- Separately, Saraf and Partners has been appointed as the legal adviser for the IPO. The IPO, which is expected in FY24, will likely consist of a 10% stake sale by the government and 15% fresh equity issuance by the renewable energy project financier to fund its business growth.

2.PSU banks' profit crosses Rs 1 lakh crore mark in FY23

- Public sector banks' cumulative profit crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark in financial year 2023, with market leader SBI accounting for nearly half of the total earnings.
- From posting a total net loss of Rs 85,390 crore in 2017-18, PSBs have come a long way as their profit touched Rs 1,04,649 crore in 2022-23. These 12 PSBs witnessed 57% increase in total profit compared to Rs 66,540 crore earned in 2021-22.

3.IRDAI relaxes norms for surety bonds to expand market for such products

- Regulator Irdai has relaxed norms for 'surety bonds', a type of insurance policy protecting parties involved in a transaction or contract from potential financial losses due to a breach of contract or other types of non-performance. The changes are aimed at expanding the surety insurance market by increasing the availability of such products.
- As per a circular issued by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), the solvency requirement applicable for such products has now been reduced to control the level of 1.5 times from 1.875 times previously prescribed.

4.Google Pay Expands Payment Options In India With UPI Payments Using RuPay Credit Cards

- Google Pay now accepts RuPay credit card payments thanks to a partnership with the National Payments Corporations of India (NPCI). Google Pay users may now link their RuPay credit cards and pay both online and offline merchants.
- Google Pay currently accepts Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, HDFC Bank, Indian Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Punjab National Bank, and Union Bank of India are among the credit card issuers that RuPay accepts.

5. Paytm Money launches bond investing on its platform

- Paytm Money Limited has launched India's most advanced bonds platform for retail investors. The company is simplifying bonds for retail investors and enabling them to invest in three types of bonds – government, corporate and tax-free.
- This new platform aims to provide investors with a comprehensive and user-friendly interface to invest in government, corporate, and tax-free bonds. With a focus on innovation and leveraging technology, Paytm Money aims to make bond investing more accessible and transparent for retail investors.

6. Axis Bank launches 'Sarathi', a Digital Onboarding Platform For POS Terminals

- Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India, has launched 'Sarathi', a first of its kind digital onboarding journey to enable Electronic Data Capture (EDC) or Point of Sale (POS) for merchants. Unlike the cumbersome traditional onboarding process that can take several days, Sarathi provides a seamless and hassle-free experience for merchants.
- The solution enables merchants to complete the onboarding process in just four simple steps which
- Includes Realtime database checks for faster application processing, Live video verification to authenticate merchant information at his/ her convenience. It eliminates the field verification process which helps in instant decision-making.

7. Sebi approves transfer of controlling stake of HDFC AMC to HDFC Bank

- HDFC Ltd market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has approved the proposed change of controlling stake in HDFC AMC to HDFC Bank as part of the scheme of amalgamation.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has granted approval for a change in control of HDFC Asset Management Company (HDFC AMC) due to the amalgamation of HDFC Ltd and HDFC Bank Ltd. This move paves the way for HDFC Bank to become the new owner of HDFC AMC, subject to compliance with applicable regulations.

8.Gupshup launches UPI payment for featurephone users

- Conversational engagement platform Gupshup has introduced UPI payments for people using feature phones via a native app called GSPay. The app, developed along with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), will use SMS or even IVR based payments system, and do away with the need of data or internet connectivity.
- This innovative approach allows seamless payment experiences using SMS, eliminating the need for internet connectivity. Leveraging the UPI 123 Pay system introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Gupshup.io is making digital payments accessible to a wider audience. In addition, users can conveniently scan QR codes to complete transactions, further enhancing the ease of use.

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SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1.Health Ministry unveils initiative of screening 75 M people with hypertension and diabetes

- The Union Health Ministry has launched an ambitious initiative of screening and putting 75 million people with hypertension and diabetes on Standard Care by 2025, to mark the World Hypertension Day, on 17 May.
- This was announced at the G20 co-branded event “Accelerating the Prevention and Management of Hypertension and Diabetes”, organised by Union Health Ministry and WHO by Dr V K Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog. This will be the largest expansion of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in primary healthcare programme in the world with a community based approach starting at the primary healthcare level.

2.Govt to set up 1,100 new Farmer Producer Organizations in cooperative sector

- The government has decided to form 1,100 new Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in the cooperative sector. The government has allocated these additional 1100 FPOs to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) under FPOs’ Scheme.

- Under the FPO Scheme, each FPO gets financial assistance of 33 lakh rupees. Further, the Cluster-Based Business Organizations are provided the financial assistance of 25 lakh rupees per FPO. The Ministry of Cooperation said Primary Agricultural Credit Societies can now engage in other economic activities including high-income generating activities such as bee-keeping and mushroom cultivation. Primary Agricultural Credit Societies are primarily involved in short-term credit and distribution of seeds and fertilizers.

3.INS TARKASH and INS SUBHADRA Arrive in Saudi Arabia, Kickstarting AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2023 Naval Exercise and Deepening Defense Ties

- Marking a significant milestone in the growing defense cooperation between India and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the INS TARKASH, the flagship frigate of the Indian Western Naval Fleet, along with the INS SUBHADRA, an offshore patrol vessel, arrived at Port Al-Jubail.
- The visit of these ships signifies the beginning of the harbor phase of the second edition of the naval exercise between the two nations, known as 'AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2023.' This year, the naval exercise also includes the participation of a maritime patrol aircraft. The inaugural edition of the exercise was successfully conducted in 2021.

4.India's AI supercomputer 'AIRAWAT' ranked 75th in Global Supercomputing list

- The AI Supercomputer 'AIRAWAT', installed at C-DAC, Pune has been ranked 75th in the world. It was declared so in the 61st edition of Top 500 Global Supercomputing List at the International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) in Germany. It puts India on top of AI Supercomputing nations worldwide. The system is installed under National Program on AI by Government of India.
- The AIRAWAT PoC of 200 AI Petaflops integrated with PARAM Siddhi – AI of 210 AI Petaflops gives a total peak compute of 410 AI Petaflops Mixed Precision and sustained compute capacity of 8.5 Petaflops (Rmax) Double Precision. The peak compute capacity (Double Precision, Rpeak) is 13 Petaflops.”

5.Microsoft unveils multilingual Jugalbandi AI chatbot to help users access govt schemes with ease

- Microsoft has unveiled a new WhatsApp chatbot called Jugalbandi, designed for farmers and other users living in rural India. Unlike other existing chatbots, Microsoft notes that Jugalbandi bot leverages ChatGPT-like generative AI technology to help users get better responses beyond India's 22 officially recognised languages.

- The WhatsApp chatbot is still at the nascent stages of development, though the company hopes that it could one day offer all Indians "easy access to information in local language through a mobile phone", instead of having to head to the local community service centre and stand in long queues. The bot currently supports limited Indian languages, but it is being trained with new languages through multiple collaborations.

6.Hindustan Unilever Limited and Genpact Launch Be.Seen to Scale Minority-Owned Businesses in India

- In a bid to give a fillip to diverse and sustainable sourcing, Hindustan Unilever (HUL) and Genpact have launched Be.Seen — a program to help scale businesses owned by minority and under-represented groups in India. HUL and Genpact aim to enable these businesses to eventually get absorbed into the supply chains of large consumer companies, including that of HUL.
- The program is implemented by Sattva, a social impact research and advisory firm. And in the pilot phase, the program will help shortlisted business owners to develop behavioural and technical skills over a period of six months.

7.JSW Steel to acquire 100% stake in National Steel and Agro Industries for Rs 621 crore

- JSW Steel announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary JSW Steel Coated Products Limited (JSWSCPL) will complete the acquisition of National Steel and Agro Industries (NSAIL) for a total consideration of 621 crore.
- JSW Steel Coated Products, a wholly-owned subsidiary, got approval in respect to the corporate insolvency resolution process of NSAIL. As per the approved plan, JSW Steel Coated Products proposes to pay ₹612.47 crore to the financial creditor of NSAIL, towards assignment of the financial debt owed by NSAIL to such financial creditor.

BOOKS & AWARDS

1.PM Modi conferred with highest civilian honours by Fiji, Papua New Guinea

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the highest honor by Fiji and Papua New Guinea on 21 May. PM Modi was honored with the island nation's highest civilian award during his visit to Papua New Guinea to attend the 3rd India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) summit.
- PM Modi was awarded "The Companion of the Order of Fiji" by his Fijian counterpart Sitweni Rabuka for his global leadership, a rare honor for a non-Fijian. Papua New Guinea conferred its highest civilian honour, Grand Companion of the Order of Loghu (GCL) on PM Modi for his efforts towards unity of the Pacific island nation.

2.Neeraj Chopra becomes World No.1 in men's javelin rankings

- Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra has claimed number one ranking in men's javelin for the first time. Neeraj Chopra has topped the charts with 1455 points, 22 ahead of Grenada's Anderson Peters. On 30 August, 2022, the Indian javelin throw ace rose to World No. 2, but was stuck behind Peters, the reigning world champion, since then.
- In 2022, Neeraj won the Diamond League 2022 finals in Zurich in September, which made him the first Indian athlete to do so. However, he was sidelined with an injury following his victory in Zurich. The Indian national record holder in men's javelin throw, competed in the season-opening Doha Diamond League on May 5 and finished first with a throw of 88.67m.

SPORTS

1.Daniil Medvedev defeats Rune, wins maiden clay court title

- In the Italian Open final, world number three tennis star Daniil Medvedev defeated Holger Rune on 21 May to win his first claycourt title. In the men's singles final, the Russian player defeated the 20-year-old Danish player 7-5, 7-5.
- This is Medvedev's fifth title of 2023 and the win has lifted him above Novak Djokovic to the second spot in the world rankings. He won his 20th career title. He will also be seeded second in the French Open, which begins on 28th of this month at Roland Garros.

2.BCCI ropes in Adidas as new kit sponsor of Indian cricket team

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced Adidas as the new kit sponsor of the Indian cricket team, replacing interim sponsor Kewal Kiran Clothing Limited. Adidas is a German multinational corporation best known for the design and manufacture of athletic footwear, apparel, and equipment.
- It is the largest sportswear manufacturer globally and has a significant presence in cricket, serving as the kit sponsor for the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA).The partnership with Adidas marks the commitment of a prestigious sponsor to support the athletes of the Indian Cricket Team.

3.Kabaddi competition begins in Uttar Pradesh

- The third Khelo India University Games will begin with a Kabaddi event on May 23 in Gautam Budh Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh.

- 15 teams representing different universities are participating in the Kabaddi competition. The matches will be held at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Stadium in Gautam Budh Nagar district.
- The official opening ceremony of the Khelo India University Games will take place on May 25 in Lucknow and will continue till June 3.

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4.Indian Long jumper Murali Sreeshankar wins gold at International Jumping Meeting in Greece

- Indian Long jumper Murali Sreeshankar won gold while compatriot Jeswin Aldrin finished bagged silver at the International Jumping Meeting 2023 at Kallithea in Greece on 24th May. Jeswin Aldrin claimed silver with an effort of 7.85m.
- Kerala's Murali Sreesankar won the gold medal in the International Jumping Meet with a jump of 8.31 metres. Sreeshankar, who has played in the Tokyo Olympics, holds the national record of 8.36 metres. Sweden's Tobias Montaller won the silver with a jump of 8.27m, while France's Jules Pommery won the bronze. This was Murali Sreesankar's third competition of the year and also won the third gold medal.

5.Hari Buddha Magar conquered Mount Everest with artificial legs

- Hari Budha Magar, a double-amputee ex-British Gurkha soldier from Nepal, scaled Mount Everest with prosthetic legs.
- Magar acknowledged the collective effort that made his achievement possible, including support from the Government of Nepal and people around the world. He joined the British Gurkhas in 1999 at the age of 19. Magar lost both his legs when he stepped on an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted by the Taliban during a mission in Afghanistan in 2010.

OBITUARIES

1.Actor Sarath Babu passes away at 71 in Hyderabad

- Actor Sarath Babu, known for his works predominantly in Tamil and Telugu cinema has passed away. After the sudden demise of Kollywood director-turned-actor and producer Manobala earlier, now actor Sarath Babu, known for his roles in Rajinikanth-starrer 'Annamalai' and 'Muthu' in Tamil has passed away.

2.Industrialist and Philanthropist Karumuttu T Kannan passes away at 70

- The renowned industrialist and philanthropist Karumuttu T Kannan has passed away, following a brief illness. He was 70. Mr. Kannan was the Chairman & Managing Director of Madurai-based Thiagarajar Mills Ltd. This mill was founded in 1936 by Kannan's father, late industrialist and philanthropist Karumuttu Thiagarajan Chettiar.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1.International Day for Biological Diversity 2023 observed on 22 May

- The International Day for Biological Diversity is observed every year on May 22 and aims to attract the attention of people all over the world on issues pertaining to biodiversity.
- The day marks the adoption of the day was first celebrated as the day on which Convention on Biological Diversity went into effect but was changed later on to celebrate the adoption of the Convention. In 2023, particular attention is given to moving beyond mere pledges and translating them into tangible measures that actively restore and conserve biodiversity.

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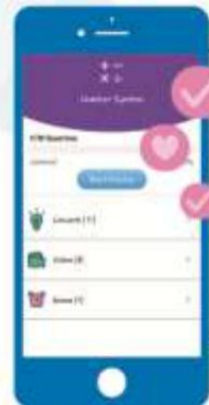
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