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MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS May 2023

India's 1st Underwater Sea Tunnel

- India's First Undersea Tunnel In Mumbai Set To Open By November 2023.
- The Tunnels Begin Close To Girgaon, Travel Under The Arabian Sea, Girgaon Chowpatty, And Malabar Hill, And Finally Terminate At Breach Candy's Priyadarshini Park
- The High-speed Coastal Route Aims To Reduce The 45-minute Peak-time Trip From Girgaon To Worli To Only 10 Minutes.
- The Diameter Of The Tunnels Is 12.19 Meters Which Is 17-20 Meters Below Sea Level.
- About 1 Kilometer Part Is Under The Sea



Neeraj Chopra Clinches Doha Diamond League Title 2023

- India's Neeraj Chopra Won The Javelin Throw Title At The Diamond League In Doha.
- The 25-year-old Chopra, Who Won The 2022 Diamond League Final Trophy In Switzerland Last September, Won With A Best Throw Of 88.67m.
- Czech Republic's Vadlejch Finished 2nd And Grenada's Peters Finished 3rd



Ajay Banga Appointed As New President Of World Bank

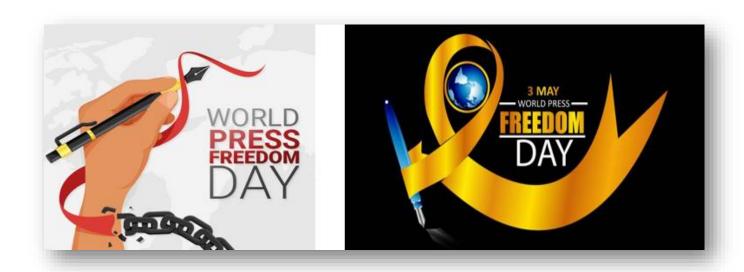
- Indian-origin Ajay Banga Has Been Officially Elected As The New President Of The World Bank.
- He Was Nominated For This Post By US President Joe Biden.
- The 25-member Executive Board Of The World Bank Elected Ajay Banga, Who Previously Served As The CEO Of Mastercard





World Press Freedom Day: 3 May

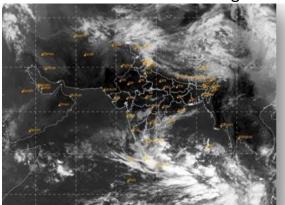
- It Is Observed Annually On 3 May To Increase Understanding About The Importance Of A Free Press.
- This Year's Theme Is "Shaping A Future Of Rights: Freedom Of Expression As A Driver For All Other Human Rights.
- World Press Freedom Day Was Proposed By UNESCO's General Conference In 1991

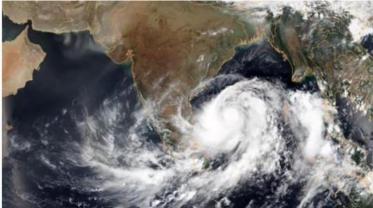


Cyclone Mocha

- The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) Has Said That A Low-Pressure
 Area Is Developing In The Bay Of Bengal & Can Lead To High Rainfall From May 8
 To May 12.
- The Weather System Was Likely To Form A Depression Over The Southeast Bay Of Bengal Around May 9, And Then Into A Cyclonic Storm.
- This Weather System Will Be Called Cyclone Mocha (Pronounced 'Mokha').
- Southern States Are Also Expected To Witness Rainfall.
- It Has Been Predicted That There May Be Moderate Rainfall At Most Places During These Days, With Scattered Heavy To Very Heavy Rainfall Likely Over Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- What Is A Cyclone And How Are They Formed?
- A Cyclone Is A Low-pressure System That Forms Over Warm Waters.
- As Air Gets Warms Over Hotter Regions It Ascends, Leading To Low Pressure At The Surface It Is Covering.
- When Air Cools In Colder Areas It Descends, Leading To High Pressure At The Surface.
- In A Low-pressure Situation, The Air Is Rising And Blows In An Anticlockwise Direction Around The Low In The Northern Hemisphere And In A Clockwise Direction In The Southern Hemisphere.
- The Is Because Of The Coriolis Effect, A Result Of The Earth's Rotation On Its Axis.
- How Are Cyclones Named?
- Cyclones Are Named By The Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres (RCMCS) And Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWCS).

- There Are 6 RSMCS In The World, Including The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, And Five TCWCS.
- The IMD Names The Cyclones Developing Over The **North Indian Ocean,** Including The **Bay Of Bengal** And The **Arabian Sea**, After Following A Standard Procedure.
- The IMD Is Also Mandated To Issue Advisories To **12 Other Countries** In The Region On The Development Of Cyclones And Storms.
- In 2000, A Group Of Nations Called WMO/ESCAP (World Meteorological Organisation/United Nations Economic And Social Commission For Asia & The Pacific), Which Includes Bangladesh, India, The Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka And Thailand, Decided To Start Naming Cyclones.
- After Each Country Sent In Suggestions, The WMO/ESCAP Panel On Tropical Cyclones (PTC) Finalised The List.
- This Cyclone Will Be Named Mocha (Mokha), A Name Suggested By Yemen
 After The Red Sea Port City, Which Is Known To Have Introduced Coffee To The
 World Over 500 Years Ago.





PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana Completes 8 Years

- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima
 Yojana And Atal Pension Yojana Completed Eight Years.
- These Schemes Are Playing A Vital Role In Providing **Social Security & Affordable Insurance** To The People.
- These 3 Schemes Were Started By PM On May 9, 2015, From Kolkata
- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana
- It Is A **1-year Life Insurance Plan** That Is Renewable From Year To Year To Offer Coverage For **Death Due To Any Reason**.
- This Plan Provides Life Cover Of Rs 2 Lakh In Case Of Death Due To Any Reason For A Premium Of Rs 436 Per Annum

- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana
- It Is A **1-year Accidental Insurance** Scheme Renewable From Year To Year Offering Coverage For **Death Or Disability Due To An Accident.**
- This Scheme Provides Accidental Death Cum Disability Cover Of **2 Lakh Rupees** Against A **Premium** Of **20 Rupees Per Annum**.
- Atal Pension Yojana
- The Subscribers Would Receive The Guaranteed Minimum Monthly
 Pension Ranging From 1000 To 5000 After The Age Of 60 Years, Based On The Contributions Made By The Subscribe





Monkeypox No Longer A Global Health Emergency: WHO

- The WHO Declared The End Of A Global Health Emergency For The Rare But Potentially Serious Disease Mpox, Formerly Known As Monkeypox.
- According To WHO Director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Countries Have Reported About 90% Fewer Cases In The Past Three Months.
- The **Emergency Declaration Was Issued In July 2022** Amid A Major Global Surge In Cases.
- Mpox Belongs To The Family Of Poxviruses, Which Also Includes Smallpox, And People With The Disease Often Develop A Rash On Various Parts Of The Body.
- What Is Monkeypox?
- It Is An **Orthopoxvirus** Similar To **Smallpox.**
- It Is A Viral Zoonotic Disease That Is Transmitted From Animals To Humans.
- It Was **First Observed In 1958**, In Monkeys In The **Democratic Republic Of The Congo (DRC)**, And In Humans In **1970**.
- The Disease Outbreak In Nigeria In 2017 Was The Largest Ever.



Praveen Sood Appointed As The New CBI Director

- A 1986 Batch Indian Police Service (IPS) Officer Of The Karnataka Cadre, Has Been Appointed As The Next Director Of The Central Bureau Of Investigation (CBI) For 2 Years.
- He Will Replace Current CBI Director Subodh Jaiswal When His Term Ends On May 25.
- About Central Bureau Of Investigation (CBI)
- It Was Established In **1941** As **Special Police Establishment** And Later Renamed As **Central Bureau Of Investigation** In **1963**.
- Its Objective Is **To Maintain The Integrity And Credibility Of Administration**, **Ensure Justice And Uphold The Rule Of Law**.
- Headquarters New Delhi





Pasang Sherpa Has Become The 2nd Person To Conquer Everest For The 26th Time

- 46-Year-Old **Pasang Dawa Sherpa**, Has Become The **2**nd **Person To Climb Mount Everest** For The **26th Time**.
- He Has Been Climbing Everest Almost Every Year Since His 1st Successful Climb
 In 1998. Kami Rita, A Climber Who Is The 1st Person To Conquer Mt Everest For
 The 26th Time.
- About Mount Everest
- It is Located in The Mahalangur Himal Sub-range Of The Himalayas.
- Its Summit Point Is Located On The China—Nepal Border With A Confirmed Elevation Of 8,848.86 M (29,031.69 Ft) In 2020.
- The Mountain Is Named After The Former Surveyor General Of India, **George Everest.**
- It Is Known In Tibetan As Chomolungma, Meaning "Goddess Of The World," And In Nepali As Sagarmatha, Meaning "Peak Of Heaven." In 1953, Edmund Hillary And Tenzing Norgay Became The 1st Climbers To Reach The Summit Of Mount Everest.





India, EFTA Steps Towards A New Trade And Partnership

Agreement

- India And The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Have Taken Important Steps Towards A New Trade And Partnership Agreement.
- Commerce And Industry Minister Piyush Goyal Held Discussions With Representatives Of EFTA To Work Towards A Comprehensive New Trade And Partnership Agreement.
- European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
- EFTA Has Established **Bilateral Relations & Cooperation** In The Field Of **Trade & Commerce.**
- The Objective Of This Cooperation Is To Strengthen **Economic Ties** And Promote Mutually **Beneficial Trade Between The Two Countries.** The EFTA Consisting Of 4 Member States: **Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, & Liechtenstein**



Manoj Soni To Take Oath As UPSC Chairman

- Educationist Manoj Soni Will Take Oath As The Chairman Of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- Soni, Who Joined The Commission As The Member On June 28, 2017, Has Been Performing The Duties Of The UPSC Chairman Since April 5, 2022.
- Soni Has Served 3 Terms As Vice-chancellor.
- These Include 2 Consecutive Terms From August 1, 2009, To July 31, 2015, As VC Of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU), Gujarat; And One Term As VC Of The Maharaja Sayajirao University Of Baroda (The MSU Of Baroda) From April 2005 To April 2008.





Sanchar Saathi Portal

- Union Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnav Launched The Sanchar Saathi Portal In New Delhi.
- It Is Developed By The **Department Of Telecom.**
- It Allows Citizens To Control The Connections Associated With Their Names. The Portal Consists Of 3 Modules To Enhance Security & Reduce Fraudulent Activities.
- The Purpose Of The Central Equipment Identity Register Is To Block Lost Or Stolen Mobiles.
- Knowing Your Mobile Connection Section Provides An Easy Way To Cut Unnecessary Connections.
- An **Artificial Intelligence And Facial Recognition Solution** Has Been Implemented To Identify Fake Customers.





Australia Cancels QUAD Summit In Sydney

- Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese Said A Quad Summit Would Not Go Ahead In Sydney Next Week Without US President Joe Biden, Who Postponed His Trip To Australia Due To Debt Ceiling Negotiations In Washington.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi Will Speak On Peace, Stability And Prosperity Of A Sustainable Planet While Participating In The G7's Outreach Sessions With Partner Nations During The Bloc's Summit In Hiroshima In Japan On May 19 To 21.
- The Prime Minister Will Also Speak On Food, Fertiliser, Energy Security, Health, Gender Equality, Climate Change And Environment, Resilient Infrastructure And Development Cooperation.
- The PM Will Travel To **Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea**, From **Hiroshima**.
- He Will Host The 3rd Summit Of The Forum For India—pacific Islands
 Cooperation (FIPIC III Summit) Jointly With The PM Of Papua New Guinea,
 James Marape, On May 22.
- Launched In 2014, It Involves India And 14 Pacific Island Countries.
- What Is The US Debt Ceiling?
- The Debt Ceiling Is The US Borrowing Limit The Amount Of Money That The Government Can Borrow To Meet Its Financial Obligations, Which Includes Payment To Federal Employees, The Military, Medical Care And Social Security. It Also Includes The Interest On The National Debt And Tax Funds.
- Quadrilateral Security Dialogue QUAD
- Quad Or Quadrilateral Security Dialogue Is A Group Of 4 Countries: USA, Japan, Australia & India.
- The Concept Of Quad Was Given By The **Former PM** Of **Japan Shinzo Abe** In The Year **2007**.
- It Is Now Seen Primarily As A Group **Countering Chinese Influence** In The Region.





India & EU Committed To Work Together On WTO Reforms

- The Union Minister For Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal & The European Commissioner For Trade Valdis Dombrovskis Emphasised The Need For Accelerating The Ongoing India-EU FTA Negotiations By Finding Convergence On All Issues.
- This Was Discussed During The **Bilateral Meeting** Between The Leaders On The Sidelines Of The **First Ministerial Meeting** Of **India-European Union Trade And Technology Council (TTC)** Held In **Brussels**.
- Both Sides Also Affirmed Their Commitment To Work Together On Common Priorities For WTO Reforms Including Issues Pertaining To Dispute Resolution Mechanism (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism), Subsidies On Agriculture And Fisheries, ICT Products, Ecommerce Moratorium & Domestic Legislations.
- The EU Side Had Representatives From Major European Industrial Bodies
 Including Business Europe, Digital Europe, Food Drinks Europe, Copa-Cogeca,
 EFPIA And ACEA. Working Group 3 Focuses On Trade, Investment And Resilient
 Supply Chains.
- The Delegation Of Indian Business Leaders Attending The Meeting In Person Represented Sectors Including Chemicals, Metals, Textiles, Digital Infrastructure, And Steel While Representatives Of Other Sectors Like Agri-food Industry, Marine/Logistics Were Present In Virtual Mode.
- About World Trade Organisation
- It Was Set Up On 1st January 1995 Replacing The General Agreement On Tariff And Trade (GATT).
- Its Main Purpose Is To Promote **Rule Based Trading Systems** In The World And It Also Settles **Trade Related Disputes** Between The Member Countries.
- HQ: Geneva, Switzerland, Members: 164 Member
- The European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
- It Is An Intergovernmental Organization Consisting Of Four Member States: **Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, And Liechtenstein.**
- These Countries Have A Strong Tradition Of Trade And Economic Liberalization.
- The Negotiations Cover Trade In Goods, Services, Investment, IP Rights, &
 Other Trade Issues.





Kiren Rijiju Removed As Union Law & Justice Minister

- Kiren Rijiju Has Been Removed As The Union Minister For Law And Justice After A Fiery Two-year Stint, With Prime Minister Narendra Modi Allocating The Ministry Of Earth Sciences Portfolio.
- Rijiju Has Been Replaced By Arjun Ram Meghwal As The Law Minister.
- Who Is Arjun Ram Meghwal
- Arjun Ram Meghwal (Born 20 December 1953) Is An Indian Politician Who Is
 The Current 35th Minister Of Law And Justice, Government Of India And
 Minister Of State For Parliamentary Affairs Since 2017 & Culture Since 2021.
- He Is Also The Member Of Lok Sabha Since 2009 Representing The Bikaner.
- What Is MoP?
- The MoP Is The List Of Rules And Procedures For The Appointment Of Judges
 To The Supreme Court And The High Courts. It Is A Document Framed By The
 Government And The Judiciary Together.

NJAC VS COLLEGIUM SYSTEM

WHAT'S COLLEGIUM SYSTEM

- O Collegium system based on Three Judges Cases
- Under it, appointment of judges are made by Chief Justice of India and four most senior Supreme Court judges.
- Has no constitutional backing.
- Constitution of India's Article
 124 says appointments to
 be made by President in
 consultation with judges
 as President may deem
 necessary.
- Critics say it is a closed-door system which lacks transparency

WHAT'S NJAC

- NJAC was a body created to end the twodecade-old Supreme Court Collegium system of judges appointing judges.
- Was passed by Lok Sabha on August 13, 2014. Was passed by Rajya Sabha a day later.
 - Will consist of six people CJI, two senior-most Supreme Court judges, Law Minister and two 'eminent' persons.
 - Critics say judges in NJAC will need support of others to push a name through. They fear judicial independence being compromised.

India Launches 'Operation Karuna'

- India Launched "Operation Karuna" To Provide Humanitarian Assistance For People In Myanmar, Which Is Affected By Cyclone Mocha.
- 3 Ships From India Shivalik, Kamorta And Savitri Carrying Relief Material Reached Yangon On 18th May.
- The Ships Are Carrying Emergency Food Supplies, Tents, Essential Medicines,
 Water Pumps, Portable Generators, Clothes, Hygiene Items, Etc.
- Cyclone Mocha Which Recently Hit Myanmar Has Been Classified As An Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm By The IMD





World AIDS Vaccine Day - 18 May

- World AIDS Vaccine Day Is Observed On 18 May And It Emphasises The Importance Of Making A Vaccine For HIV, An Incurable Disease.
- Pays Tribute To The Scientists And Researchers Working On The Hiv/Aids Vaccine And Raises Awareness.





PM Modi Will Co-Chair FIPIC III Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi Will Co-chair The 3rd Summit Of The Forum For India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC III Summit) Jointly With Prime Minister Of Papua New Guinea James Marape On May 22 In Port Moresby, Which Will Be The 1st Visit By An Indian PM.
- India's Engagement With The **14 Pacific Island Countries** Is Part Of Its **Act East Policy**. Most of the **India's Engagement With PICs** Is Through Development Assistance Under **South-South Cooperation** In The Form Of Capacity Building (**Training, Scholarships, Grant-in-aid** & **Loan Assistance**)
- What Is FIPIC?
- FIPIC Is A Landmark Initiative Launched In 2014. India & 14 Pacific Island Countries, Including Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Samoa, Vanuatu, Niue, The Federated States Of Micronesia, The Republic Of Marshall Islands, The Cook Islands, Palau, Nauru, & The Solomon Islands
- Development Partnership Has Been Extended To PICs For Socio-economic Progress, Through Community Development Projects Such As Solar Electrification, Supply Of Agricultural Equipment, Computers And LED Bulbs For Schools, Sewing Machines, Dialysis Machines, Portable Sawmills, Etc.
- All The PICs Countries Are Vulnerable To Climate Change And To The Effects Of Rising Sea Levels.
- Initiatives Like International Solar Alliance (ISA) And Coalition For Disaster
 Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) Compliment India's Relationship With PICs.

 Under The CDRI Framework, India, Along With Australia, The UK & Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Launched The 'Infrastructure For Resilient Island States' (IRIS) On 2 November 2021 To Assist The SIDS From Disasters And To Mobilize Technology, Finance, Necessary Information For Pacific Islands, Etc.



Italian Open: Elena Rybakina Clinches Singles Title

- In Italian Open Tennis, Elena Rybakina Of Kazakhstan Won The Women's Singles Title Defeating Ukraine's Anhelina Kalinina 6-4, 1-0, On 20th May At The Internazionali BNL D'italia In Rome.
- It Was Rybakina's 2nd Title Of The Year.
- With This, Rybakina Won The 5th Singles Title Of Her Career.
- About Italian Open
- The Italian Open Started In 1930.
- It Consists Of Five Main Draw Events: Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, And Mixed Doubles.
- The Tournament Is Held At The Foro Italico Sports Complex In Rome.
- It Hosts Both ATP (Association Of Tennis Professionals) & WTA.





Siddaramaiah Sworn In As CM Of Karnataka

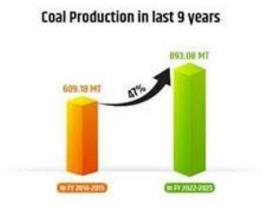
- Siddaramaiah Was Sworn In As The CM Of Karnataka For His 2nd Term And Karnataka Congress President DK Shivakumar Was Sworn In As The Deputy Chief Minister.
- The Swearing-in Ceremony Was Administered By Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot



India Achieves 47 % Growth In Coal Production

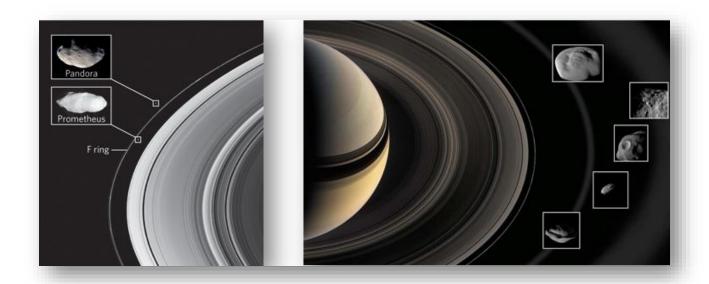
- During The Last Nine Years, India's Total Coal Production Has Increased By 47
 Percent To 893.08 Million Tonnes (MT) And Supply Has Reached 877.74 Million
 Tonnes, Registering A Growth Of 45.37 Percent.
- In FY2023, The Country Has Made A Huge Jump In The History Of Coal Production With 893.08 Mt
- As Per The Action Plan For 2023-24 Of The Ministry Of Coal, There Is A Target Of 1012 Million Tonnes Of Coal Production In The Financial Year 2023-24 By Increasing Overall Production, Efficiency, Stability And Adoption Of New Technologies.
- Mission 'Coking Coal'
- It Has Been Launched By The Government In August 2021 With A Roadmap That Will Suggest Ways **To Increase Production And Utilization Of Domestic Coking Coal In India By 2030.**
- It Is Related To New Exploration, Increasing Production, Increasing Washing Capacity, Auction Of New Coking Coal Mines.





Saturn Reclaims Its "Moon King" Title

- A Team Of Space Scientists Led By **The University Of British Columbia** Has Discovered **62 New Moons Of Saturn**, Taking The Official Tally To **145**.
- By Overtaking Jupiter, Saturn Has Also Become The First Planet To Have Over
 100 Discovered Moons.
- For Years, Ringed Planet Saturn Was The Planet With The Most Moons With 83.
- But It Was Dethroned As The 'Moon King' In February This Year After Astronomers Discovered 12 New Moons Around Gas Giant Jupiter, Which Took It's The Total Tally Of Its Moons To 95.
- The New Celestial Bodies Are Being Identified By **Numbers**, But Will Soon Be Given Names After **Gallic, Norse**, And **Canadian Inuit Gods**, In Keeping With The Convention For Saturn's Moons.
- By Analysing Data Gathered From Nasa's Cassini Spacecraft, Experts Have Concluded That The Colossal Rings Did Not Form Concurrently With The Planet Itself.
- Instead, They Estimate That The Formation Of These Majestic Rings Took Place No More Than 400 Million Years Ago.
- The Team That Discovered These New Celestial Bodies Around Saturn Used A
 Technique Called "Shift And Stack", Which Uses A Set Of Images Shifting At The
 Same Speed At Which A Moon Moves Through The Sky To Enhance The Signal Of
 The Fainter Object.
- Moons That Are Too Faint To Be Seen In Single Images Can Reveal Themselves
 In The Resultant "Stacked Image "The Team Used Data Collected By The
 Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope (CFHT) On Top Of Maunakea In Hawaii
 Between 2019 And 2021.



Italian Open: Daniil Medvedev Defeats Rune

- In The Italian Open Final, World Number Three Tennis Star Daniil
 Medvedev Defeated Holger Roon 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.
- About Italian Open
- The Italian Open Started In 1930.
- It Consists Of Five Main Draw Events: **Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, And Mixed Doubles.**
- The Tournament Is Held At The Foro Italico Sports Complex In Rome.
- It Hosts Both ATP (Association Of Tennis Professionals) & WTA.





PM Modi Receives Highest Civilian Honours In 3rd FIPIC Summit

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** Has Been Conferred With The **Highest Honours** By **Fiji** And **Papua New Guinea**.
- PM Modi Was Conferred With The Island Nations' Highest Civilian Awards
 During His Recent Visit To Papua New Guinea To Attend The 3rd India-Pacific

 Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) Summit.
- PM Modi Was Conferred With The "The Companion Of The Order Of Fiji" By His Fijian Counterpart Sitiveni Rabuka For His Global Leadership, In A Rare Honour For A Non-Fijian.
- PM Dedicated The Honor To The People Of India And To The Generations Of Fiji-Indian Community.
- Governor-General Sir Bob Dadae of Papua New Guinea Conferred Its Highest Civilian Order, Grand Companion Of The Order Of Logohu (GCL), On PM Modi For Championing The Cause Of Unity Of Pacific Island Countries And Spearheading The Cause Of Global South.





UP 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.**
- The Sugarcane Crushing Season Runs From October To June.

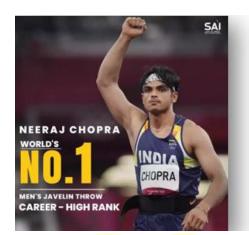




Neeraj Chopra Becomes World No 1 Player In Javelin Throw

- Tokyo Olympics Gold Medalist Neeraj Chopra On May 22 Achieved The Number One Ranking In Men's Javelin Throw For The First Time.
- This Is A Major Milestone In His Career.
- Neeraj Chopra Is On Top With 1455 Points, 22 Ahead Of Anderson Peters Of Granada
- Chopra Rose To World No. 2 On August 30, 2022, But Has Since Been Overtaken By The Defending World Champion, Peters.
- In 2022, Neeraj Won The Diamond League 2022 Final In Zurich In September,
 Making Him The First Indian Athlete To Do So.
- The Indian National Record Holder In Men's Javelin Throw, Took Part In The Season-opening **Doha Diamond League** On May 5 And Finished **First With A Throw Of 88.67m.**
- Anderson Peters Finished Third In Doha With A Throw Of 85.88m

- Men's Javelin Throw Top 5 Players:
- 1. Neeraj Chopra (India) -1455 Points
- 2. Anderson Peters (Granada) 1433 Points
- 3. Jakub Vadlejch (Czech Republic)- 1416 Points
- 4. Julian Weber (Germany)- 1385 Points
- 5. Arshad Nadeem (Pakistan) 1306 Points





SpaceX Sends 1st Saudi Arabian Astronauts In International

Space Station

- The Country's 1st Astronauts To The International Space Station (ISS) Sponsored By The Saudi Arabian Government, A Female Stem Cell Researcher Named Rayyanah Barnawi And A Royal Saudi Air Force Fighter Pilot Named Ali Al-Qarni Joined A Crew Led By A Retired NASA Astronaut.
- The Mission Was Organized By **Axiom Space**, A Houston-based Company, And Executed By **SpaceX**.
- The Last Saudi Astronaut To Journey Into Space Was A Prince Who Flew Aboard The Space Shuttle Discovery In **1985.**





New Species Of Flying Lizard Found In Mizoram

- Mizoram's Flying Lizard Species Has Been Officially Named As Gecko Mizoramensis.
- The Research For This Discovery Was Done Through A Collaborative Effort Between Mizoram University And The Max Planck Institute For Biology In Tübingen, Germany.
- The Study Detailing The Findings Of The Research On The Gliding Gecko Species
 Was Published In A Renowned German Journal On Herpetology.
- Specimens Of Gecko Mizoramensis Were Collected From Different Places Of Mizoram.
- It Include The Wildlife Sanctuary In Kolasib District, Dampa Tiger Reserve.

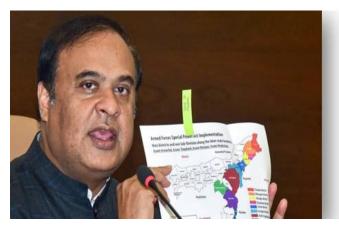




AFSPA To Withdraw Completely From Assam By December 2023

• Assam Chief Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma** Has Said That A Target Has Been Set To **Completely Withdraw AFSPA From Assam By The End Of 2023.**

- The Government Aims To Address Concerns Of Human Rights Violations And Promote **Accountability And Transparency**.
- AFSPA:
- AFSPA (Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act Provides Additional Powers To The Armed Forces To Maintain Law And Order In Areas Affected By Insurgency And Internal Disturbances.
- It Was Implemented In The Northeastern States Of India (Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Parts Of Arunachal Pradesh) And J&K.
- AFSPA Gives The Armed Forces Wide Powers Including **Arrest, Search** And **Shoot** On **Suspicion In "Disturbed" Areas**.
- Provides Legal Immunity To Armed Forces Personnel For Their Actions
 During Operations, Making Accountability For Human Rights Violations
 Difficult.
- Challenges
- It Faces Criticism For Human Rights Violations & Excessive Use Of Force By The Armed Forces.
- Concerns Were Expressed By Human Rights Organizations Regarding Abuses,
 Extrajudicial Killings And Torture.
- Lack Of Accountability & Transparency Due To The Wide Powers & Immunity
 Given To The Armed Forces
- Launched In 1958 To Address The Naga Insurgency In Nagaland, Later Expanded To Other Areas.
- In **2020, AFSPA** Was Repealed In **Jammu And Kashmir**, Which Is Now Governed Under The **Jammu And Kashmir Reorganisation Act.**





India's AI Supercomputer 'AIRAWAT' Ranked 75th In World

• The Al Supercomputer 'AlRAWAT', Installed At C-DAC, Pune Has Been Ranked 75th In The Top 500 Global Supercomputing List.

- The Announcement Was Made During The 61st Edition Of The International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) Held In Germany.
- The Proposed AIRAWAT System Is A 100+ Petaflop AI-Focused Supercomputer.
- There Are Parallels Drawn To Japan's Al Bridging Cloud Interface
 Supercomputer In The NITI Aayog Report.
- This System Is A 130 Petaflop Computer Focused On Providing Compute For AI,
 MI & Big Data Tasks
- What Are Supercomputers
- A Supercomputer Can Perform High-level Processing At A Faster Rate Than A Normal Computer.
- They Work Together To Perform **Complex Operations** That Are Not Possible With Normal Computing Systems.
- The Performance Of A Supercomputer Is Generally Evaluated In **Petaflops.**





India And Australia Signed A Migration Deal Pact

- India And Australia Signed A Migration & Mobility Pact To Open Up Opportunities For Students & Businesspeople As They Aim To Strengthen Their Economic Cooperation.
- The Announcement Came After Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi Met His Counterpart Anthony Albanese In Sydney.
- The Deal Aims To "Promote The 2-Way Mobility Of Students, Graduates, Academic Researchers & Businesspeople".
- Australia Already Has A Significant Number Of People Who Have Migrated From India.

- More Than A Million People Who Moved To Australia Since 2016, Almost A
 Quarter Were From India.
- The Finalised Migration Agreement Will Also Lead To The Creation Of A New Scheme Called MATES
- (Mobility Arrangement For Talented Early Professionals Scheme), Which Has Been "Specifically Created For India".
- Reiterated Their Commitment To Concluding A Comprehensive Economic
 Cooperation Agreement (CECA) By The End Of The Year To Build On An Interim
 Deal That Took Effect Last December.
- The Next Two Rounds Of Talks On CECA Are Scheduled For June And July
- PM Narendra Modi Interacted With Australian CEOs At A Business Roundtable In Sydney.
- The PM Highlighted The Economic Reforms And Policy Measures Undertaken
 To Enhance 'Ease Of Doing Business' In The Country Providing Investment
 Opportunities Offered By India In Domains Of Infrastructure Including Digital
 Infrastructure, IT, Fintech, Telecom, Semiconductors, Space, Renewable Energy
 Including Green Hydrogen, Education, Pharma, Healthcare Including Medical
 Devices Manufacturing, Mining Including Critical Minerals, Textile, Agriculture
 & Food Processing.
- Both Leaders Also Exchanged Views On India's Initiatives Under Its G20
 Presidency, UN Security Council Reform, And Regional Developments Including
 The Indo-Pacific Security, Trade & Investment, Defence & Security, Renewable
 Energy, Green Hydrogen, Critical Minerals, Education, Migration And Mobility.
- Harris Park Is Home To A Large Indian Community And Is Well- Established As A Unique Destination For Indian Cuisine, And Indian-Owned Businesses.
- According To The Australian Government Website, Harris Park Is A "Thriving, Dynamic, Multicultural Hub Known For Its Blend Of Cultures And Large Indian Population".
- Notably, The First Proposal For Officially Naming The Harris Park Area 'Little India' Was Made In 2015





Kerala Becomes India's 1st Fully E-Governed State

- The State Has Achieved This Feat Through **Policy Initiatives** Aimed At Transforming It Into A **Digitally Empowered Society.**
- The Government Focused On Setting Up A Knowledge-based Economy And Achieving **100% Digital Literacy.**
- Important Services Across Various Sectors Were Digitized To Ensure
 Transparency, Inclusiveness And Accessibility For All Citizens.
- E-governance In Kerala Has Streamlined Service Delivery, Reducing Bureaucratic Bottlenecks And Delays.
- Online Portals And Mobile Applications Have Been Launched For Citizens To Interact With Government Departments And Access Services Easily.
- Integration Of Technology In The Education And Healthcare Sectors Has Been A Priority, With Digital Learning Platforms And Telemedicine Services Being Implemented.





Himachal Pradesh To Start Green Hydrogen Policy

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu Announced On 20
 May 2023 That It Will Formulate A 'Green Hydrogen' Policy To Promote The Use
 Of Green Hydrogen And Establish The State As A Leading Center For Its
 Production.
- CM Sukhu Said That The **State's Abundant Renewable Energy Resources** Make The State An Ideal Location For Generating **Green Hydrogen**.
- This Initiative Of The State Will Not Only Contribute To The Global Fight Against Climate Change But Will Also Make The State A Leader In Sustainable Development.
- Agreement With OIL
- The State Government Has Signed An MoU With **Oil India Limited (OIL)** For The Production Of **Green Hydrogen.**
- OIL Has Shown Interest In Setting Up A Plant In The State That Will Produce Green Hydrogen For **Ethanol Production**



Ministry Of Civil Aviation Launches UDAN 5.1

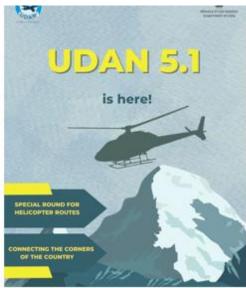
- The Ministry Of Civil Aviation In India Has Launched UDAN 5.1 On 24 May, A Special Edition Of The UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme, With A Special Focus On Helicopter Routes.
- This Round Is Designed Specifically For Helicopter Routes
- Increase In The Scope Of Operations For The Operators, Which 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
- The Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Cap For Single And Twin-engine Helicopter Operators Has Been Substantially Increased To Enhance The Financial Viability For Operating The Routes. So Far 46 Helicopter Routes Have Been Operationalized Under The Scheme.

• UDAN Scheme

- Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) Was Launched In 2016 As A Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) Under The Ministry Of Civil Aviation.
- Its Objective Is To Make Affordable, Economically Viable And Profitable Air Travel On Regional Routes Available To The Common Man Even In Small Towns.
- It Seeks To Improve Air Connectivity To Tier-2 And Tier-3 Cities Through Revival Of Unused And Underused Airports.
- The Scheme Will Be Jointly Funded By The Central Government And State Governments.





PM Modi Chairs The 8th Meeting Of The NITI Aayog

- The 8th Meeting Of The **Governing Council** Of **NITI Aayog** Was Held At The **New Convention Center** At Pragati Maidan, **New Delhi**.
- The Meeting Is Focused On The **Theme** Of "**Growth India @ 2047: Role Of Team India".**
- PM Narendra Modi Is Presiding Over The Meeting As The Chairman Of Niti Aayog
- Thrust On MSMEs (Micro, Small, And Medium Enterprises)
- Infrastructure And Investments
- Minimising Compliances

- Women Empowerment
- Health And Nutrition
- Skill Development
- Gati Shakti For Area Development And Social Infrastructure
- NITI Aayog
- NITI Aayog Is The Premier Policy Think Tank Of The Government Of India.
- The Government Of India Formed The Niti Aayog In Place Of The Planning Commission, Which Was Established In 1950.
- This Step Has Been Taken To Better Meet The Needs And Aspirations Of The People





The New Parliament House Was Inaugurated By PM Modi

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** Officially Inaugurated The New **Parliament House.**
- The New Parliament House Is Located In The Central Vista Area Of New Delhi.
- It Has Been Designed To Accommodate The Growing Size And Needs Of The Indian Parliament.
- **The** Building Has Seating Arrangements For 888 Members Of The Lok Sabha And 384 Members Of The Rajya Sabha.
- Covering An Area Of Approximately 65,000 Square Metres, The New Building Has A Triangular Shape To Optimise Space Utilisation.
- Sengol:
- Sengol Is Made Of Silver And Gold.
- It Is A Five Feet Long Sceptre Which Was Given By Lord Mountbatten To Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru On August 14, 1947 As A Symbol Of The Transfer Of Power.
- Sengol Is A Symbol Of Rule In The Tamil Kingdoms Of The Past.
- It Was Earlier Displayed In The Allahabad Museum





Finance Ministry Announces Launch Of Rs 75 Special Coin

- The Center Will Launch A New ₹75 Coin On May 28 To Mark The Inauguration Of The New Parliament.
- The Coin Unveiled By Prime Minister Narendra Modi On And Coincides With The Celebration Of 75 Years Of India's Independence.
- The Coin Has The Lion Capital Of Ashoka Pillar And "Satyamev Jayate"
- The Scheme Will Be Jointly Funded By The Central Government And State Governments.
- The Coin Also Bears The Inscription "Bharat" In Devanagari Script On The Left And "India" In English On The Right.
- The Image Of The **Parliament Complex** And The Reverse Bears The Inscription "**Sansad Sankul**" In **Devanagari Script** On The Upper Periphery And "Parliament Complex" In English On The Lower Periphery.



ISRO Launched Navigation Satellite, NVS-1

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Will Launch Its Next-generation Navigation Satellite, NVS-1, From Sriharikota. NVS-1 Weighs Approximately 2,232 Kg And Will Be Launched By A GSLV F12 Rocket From The Second Launch Pad At Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- The Spacecraft Is Part Of The Navigation With Indian Constellation (NavIC)
 Series.
- NVS-1 Is The First Of The Second-generation Satellites Envisaged For The NavIC Series. NavIC Provides Two Services: Standard Positioning Service For Civilian Users And Restricted Service For Strategic Users
- After This Mission, India Will Join Three Other Countries Of The World With Its Navigation System.
- The Satellite Will Carry An Indigenously Developed Rubidium Atomic Clock For Accurate GPS Location Timing
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
- It Was Established On 15 August 1969.
- It Is The National Space Agency Of India.
- It Launches Its Space Rocket From Satish Dhawan Space Center In Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. Headquarters: Bengaluru, Chairman: S Somnath





57th Jnanpith Award Was Given To Damodar Maujo

- Goan Writer Damodar Maujo Has Been Honoured With The 57th Jnanpith Award, India's Highest Literary Honour.
- He Is A Renowned Short Story Writer, Novelist, Critic And Screenwriter In Konkani Language.

- Damodar Maujo Is The Second Goan To Receive The Jnanpith Award After Ravindra Kelekar In 2008
- He Has Written 25 Books In Konkani And One In English, Many Of Which Have Been Translated Into Various Languages. Mauzo's Famous Novel 'Karmelin' Received The Sahitya Akademi Award In 1983. The Award Ceremony Took Place At The Raj Bhavan Near Panaji, The Capital Of Goa.
- Jnanpith Award
- It Is The **Oldest And Highest Indian Literary Award** Presented Annually By **Bharatiya Jnanpith**.
- It Recognizes Outstanding Contributions To Literature By Indian Authors Writing
 In English As Well As In The Indian Languages Listed In The Eighth Schedule To
 The Constitution Of India
- The **First Award** Was Given On **19 November 1966** To **G.K. Shankar Kurup** Was Awarded.
- The Award Was Established In 1961.
- Ashapurna Devi Became The First Woman Recipient In 1976 For Her Novel
 "Prothom Protishruti" (The First Promise)



REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. Courting India: England, Mughal India & the Origin of Empire Book Is Written By -
- A. M A Hasan
- B. Nandini Das

SSBCrack EXAMS

C. Piyush Babele
D. Karan Singh
Answer: B
2. "War And Women" Book Has Been Written By -
A. Vinod Kumar
B. Akash Chopra
C. MA Hasan
D. Piyush Babele
Answer: C
3 Crowned As Femina Miss India 2023.
A. Shreya Poonja
B. Nandini Gupta
C. Thounaojam Strela Luwang
D. None
Answer: A
4. The Theme Of World Earth Day 2023 Is
A. Earth Is Future
B. Save Earth
C. Earth Is My Mother
D. Invest In Our Planet
Answer: D
5. Lumilite-4 Satellite Belongs To Which Country.
A. Japan
B. Singapore
C. UK
D. USA
Answer: B
6. 1st Global Buddhist Summit Held In
A. Mumbai
B. Patna

C. New Delhi

SSBCrack EXAMS

D. Surat
Answer: C
 7. What Is The Theme Of 1st Global Buddhist Summit 2023? A. Buddhism: The Path Of Life B. Responses To Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy To Praxis C. Challenges For Buddhism D. None
Answer: B
 8. Where Is The HQ Of IRENA? A. Bonn B. Muscat C. Abu Dhabi D. Geneva ANSWER: C
9. India Became The Member Of IRENA In Year A. 2009 B. 2004 C. 2012 D. 2017 ANSWER: A
10.Puthandu Festival Is Celebrated In A. Kerala B. Karnataka C. Tamil Nadu D. Andhra Pradesh ANSWER: C
11.Manas National Park Is Located In State A. Arunachal Pradesh B. Tripura

C. West Bengal

D. Assam

SSBCrack EXAMS

ANSWER: D	
12.Thoughts On Linguistic States Book Was Written By - A. BR Ambedkar B. Sardar Patel C. JL Nehru	
D. Mahatma Gandhi	
ANSWER: A	
13.What Is The Capital Of Kazakhstan?	
A. Astana	
B. Muscat	
C. Almaty	
D. Tehran	
ANSWER: A	
14. Ranked 1st As The Most Criminal Country In The World. A. Guyana B. Somalia C. Afghanistan D. Venezuela ANSWER: D	
15.India Ranked In The World's Most Criminal Countries.	
A. 77	
B. 75	
C. 83	
D. 111	
Answer: A	
16.Renvat Hill Is Located In Which Of The Following States? A. Rajasthan	

B. Tamil NaduC. Uttar PradeshD. Maharashtra

Answer: A

17. Which Of The Following Is Also Knows As The White Gold?

- A. Tungsten
- B. Mica
- C. Lithium
- D. Silver

Answer: C

18. World Thalassemia Day Is Observed On -

- A. 1 May
- B. 8 May
- C. 10 May
- D. 7 May

Answer: B

19. What Is The Theme Of World Thalassemia Day 2023?

- A. Fight Against Thalassemia
- B. Be Aware, Share, Care : Strengthening Education To Bridge The Thalassemia
 Care Gap
- C. Educate To Eradicate Thalassemia
- D. Let's Be Aware About Thalassemia

Answer: B

20. The Name Of Cyclone Mocha Is Suggested By -

- A. India
- B. Yemen
- C. Saudi Arabia
- D. Bangladesh

Answer: B

21. The Name Of Cyclone Nivar Was Suggested By -

- A. India
- B. China
- C. Pakistan
- D. Iran

Answer: D



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