

Daily Current Affairs

14 May 2024

Kohima Peace Memorial And Eco Park

- The **Kohima Peace Memorial and Eco Park** in Nagaland hold profound significance, celebrating the collaborative effort between the Government of Japan, the **Japanese International Cooperation Agency**, and the Government of Nagaland.
- The inauguration of these projects represents not only historical importance but also serves as a **symbol of peace, reconciliation**, and educational value.

Japan's Ambassador Inaugurates Kohima Peace Memorial And Eco Park With Nagaland CM.



- **Ambassador Hiroshi Suzuki**, the Japanese Ambassador to India, acknowledged that the Japanese people remembered the **Battle of Kohima**, along with the **“Battle of Imphal,”** as one of the most disastrous battles of World War II.
- Ambassador Suzuki offered prayers for the souls of all people of Nagaland, Japanese soldiers, Indian National Army soldiers, and those who fought on the British Commonwealth side, who lost their lives in the battle.
- Expressing happiness at witnessing the inauguration of the Kohima Peace Memorial, Ambassador Suzuki stated that the monument enables everyone to stand in solemn silence and offer sincere prayers to all the victims of the battle.
- Ambassador Suzuki acknowledged the generosity of the people of Nagaland, which has fostered a new friendship between Japan and Nagaland.
- He expressed hope that the **Eco-Park will become** a new landmark in Kohima, symbolizing the friendship between the two regions. Furthermore, the

Ambassador highlighted the growing cultural exchange between Japan and Nagaland, with many young people from Nagaland traveling to Japan for skill training and job opportunities.

- He informed that in December last year, a Japanese sending organization called **ARMS signed an MoU with Nagaland University** to establish a Japanese language course in Kohima, encouraging more Naga youths to learn the language and seize opportunities in Japan.



Dr. Soumya Swaminathan

- **Dr. Soumya Swaminathan**, a globally renowned leader in public health and infectious diseases, has been named among the 10 exceptional individuals to receive an **honorary degree from Canada's prestigious McGill University** during the Spring 2024 Convocation ceremonies.



- Swaminathan, 65, has had an illustrious career spanning over 40 years in clinical care and research. She joined the **World Health Organization (WHO)** in 2017 as the Deputy Director-General (Programmes) and was appointed as the organization's first Chief Scientist in March 2019, a role she served through the COVID-19 pandemic until late 2022.
- **McGill University**, a public research institution in Montreal with a history spanning more than two centuries, grants honorary degrees to individuals "who have **lifetime records of outstanding scholarly**, scientific, or artistic achievement, or of exceptional contributions to the public good through professional or philanthropic activity."

UN Counter Terrorism Trust Fund

- India has reaffirmed its dedication to the **global fight against terrorism** by contributing **\$500,000 to the UN Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund (CTTF)**.
- Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, delivered the contribution to Under Secretary General Vladimir Voronkov.



- This financial support adds to India's ongoing commitment, **totaling \$2.55 million**, aimed at bolstering multilateral efforts against terrorism. India's donation to the CTTF will aid in financing crucial programs under the United Nations Office of **Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)**, particularly the Countering Financing of Terrorism (CFT) and Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CTTP).

- These initiatives focus on enhancing the capabilities of member states in **eastern and southern Africa to combat terrorism** financing and prevent terrorist movements and travel.
- In response to the **9/11 attacks**, the **UN Security Council** established the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) to monitor the implementation of relevant resolutions.



- The committee addresses various aspects of **counter-terrorism, including strategies**, financing, border security, law enforcement, human rights, and countering violent extremism. The UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CTTP) assists member states in developing their capacities to detect and counter terrorist activities.
- Similarly, the **Countering Financing of Terrorism (CFT)** initiative supports countries in implementing coordinated strategies to combat terrorism financing effectively. The UN Security Council, one of the primary organs of the United Nations, is responsible for maintaining international peace and security. Comprising 15 members, including five permanent and ten non-permanent members, the Council addresses global security issues and adopts resolutions to address emerging threats.

Srishti Khandagale

- In Trampoline, **India's Srishti Khandagale** scripted history by becoming the **first ever Indian** to win a medal at the **Asian Trampoline Gymnastics Championships**.
- She clinched the silver medal in Women's Individual Age group category at the 6th Asian Trampoline Gymnastics Championship held in Hong Kong, China,

yesterday. However, she did not qualify for the upcoming Paris Olympics, as she was competing in an age group event. Kazakhstan's Dolgopolova secured the gold medal, while Hong Kong's S Hung won the bronze.



Operation Of Shahid Beheshti Port

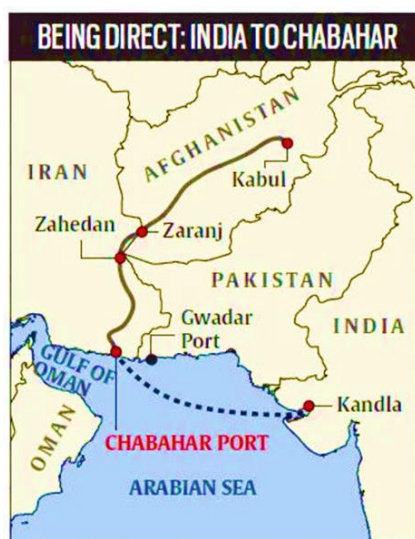
- India and Iran signed the long-term contract for the **operation of the Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar**.
- Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal witnessed the signing of the agreement between India Ports Global Ltd. and Ports and Maritime organisation of Iran.



- Mr Sonowal said that with this agreement, foundations have been laid for **India's long-term involvement at Chabahar**. He said the signature of this contract will have a **multiplier effect** on the viability and visibility of Chabahar port.
- Chabahar is not only the closest Iranian port to India, but it is also an excellent port from nautical point of view.



- External Affairs Ministry spokesperson **Randhir Jaiswal** said this agreement will script a new chapter in bilateral partnership. The contract will give a boost to **regional connectivity and India's linkages** with Afghanistan, Central Asia and Eurasia. Our correspondent reports that it will enable India to lease for a long-time Chabahar port situated on Iran's **coast along the Gulf of Oman**.



- It will also open up a new trade route between South Asia and Central Asia via Iran, bypassing Karachi as well as Gwadar ports in Pakistan.
- The agreement also opens up a new vista of economic opportunities for business communities to explore an alternative transit route from the sensitive and busy Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz.

19th Session of the UNFF

- India said important things at the **19th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)** in New York in May 2024. The country emphasized the progress it had made in protecting forests, which it said was due to careful management and policy application.
- The amount of forest land in India has steadily grown over the last 15 years, according to sources. **India will have the third-largest net gain** in forest area each year from 2010 to 2020 thanks to this growth.



UN FORUM ON FORESTS

19th session - UNFF19
6-10 MAY 2024

- The session made it clear that India places a high value on protecting nature and wildlife. It was stated that a **network of more than** a thousand protected areas, such as wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, tiger reserves, and biosphere reserves, had grown. Conservation efforts like **“Project Tiger”** and **“Project Elephant”** are celebrating important birthdays at key points in this growth.
- India brought attention to the creation of the International Big Cat Alliance, a world group working together to protect seven species of big cats. This project shows how important India is to protecting wildlife around the world.
- **The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) was established in October 2000** by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.



United Nations FORUM ON FORESTS

- UNFF's main objective is to promote the management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests.
- It has its **headquarters** at the United Nations in New York.
- The Forum includes all member states of the United Nations and operates under the jurisdiction of the Economic and Social Council.
- The UNFF follows a **multi-year program of work**, with each year focusing on specific aspects of forest policy.
- The Forum's activities are guided by the Forest Instrument, adopted by the UNFF in 2007, which outlines a set of principles for sustainable forest management.



— GLOBAL — FOREST — GOALS —

- UNFF engages in facilitating cooperation and coordination on forest issues with various international and regional organizations and processes.
- The forum holds **biennial sessions to assess progress** and set future directions in global forest policy.

- UNFF produces a **Global Forest Resources Assessment report** periodically, which provides comprehensive data on forest conditions worldwide.
- The forum also contributes directly to the objectives of other key international environmental agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

25th May As World Football Day

- **United Nations General Assembly** has proclaimed 25th May as the World Football Day, by adopting a resolution during the 80th plenary meeting of the General Assembly in New York.
- The year 2024 marks the **100th anniversary of the first international football** tournament in history with the representation of all regions as part of the 1924 Summer Olympic Games, held in Paris.



- The resolution was passed unanimously by the 193-member General Assembly. **Taher M. El-Sonni**, Permanent Representative of the State of Libya to the United Nations, introduced the draft resolution under Sport for development and peace: building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal during the meeting. The Assembly later adopted the resolution proclaiming 25 May as World Football Day.

Sahitya Akademi Fellowship

- The prestigious **Sahitya Akademi Fellowship** has been given to Ruskin Bond, a renowned **British-Indian author**.
- This honor was given to him on a Saturday at his home in Mussoorie. At first, Bond was named the winner of this **prestigious award in September 2021**. The

official presentation had to be pushed back because of health problems, but it was finally done recently.



- The Sahitya Akademi Fellowship is the **top award that India's National Academy of Letters, the Sahitya Akademi, gives out.** The winner of this award has made "exceptional contributions towards enriching Indian literature." Winners are chosen based on how much they have done in the writing world throughout their careers.
- **Ruskin Bond is a famous author** who was born on May 19, 1934, in Kasauli, India. He is both British and Indian. Bond is well-known for supporting children's literature in India. His work is mostly about nature, nostalgia, and the human spirit, which comes from his strong connection to the hill stations of India, especially Mussoorie, where he has lived for many years.
- **"The Blue Umbrella," "Rusty, the Boy from the Hills," and "The Room on the Roof,"** which won the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize, are some of his most famous works. People praise the beauty, simplicity, and elegance of his stories, as well as the way he describes the Indian scenery. Bond has won many awards, including the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan, for his work in Indian writing.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. World Football Day Celebrated On

- A. 22 May
- B. 23 May
- C. 24 May
- D. 25 May

ANSWER: D

2. Shahid Beheshti Port Management Deal between India & Iran Signed For

- A. 5 Years
- B. 10 Years
- C. 15 Years
- D. 20 Years

ANSWER: B

3. United Nations Forum On Forests (UNFF) Was Established In

- A. 2000
- B. 2001
- C. 2010
- D. 2020

ANSWER: A

4. Mahamat Idris Deby Has Been Elected As President Of Which African Country

- A. Gabon
- B. Chad
- C. Rwanda
- D. Angola

ANSWER: B

5. Hopen Island Is Located In Which Ocean

- A. Southern Ocean
- B. Atlantic Ocean
- C. Arctic Ocean
- D. Indian Ocean

ANSWER: C

6. What Is The Causative Agent Of 'Foot Rot Disease'

- A. Bacteria
- B. Virus
- C. Fungus
- D. Protozoa

ANSWER: C

7. What is 55 Cancri e

- A. Invasive Weed
- B. Super-earth
- C. Ancient Irrigation Technique
- D. Submarine

ANSWER: B

8. World's Largest Direct Air Capture Plant – Mammoth- Has Started Operations In Which Country

- A. Iceland
- B. Ireland
- C. France
- D. Indonesia

ANSWER: A

9. Kattupoovamkurunnila Tree Species, Rediscovered In Which Region Of India

- A. Western Ghats
- B. North Eastern Region
- C. Himalayan Region
- D. Andaman & Nicobar

ANSWER: A

10. What Is 'Kawasaki Disease'

- A. A rare heart disease
- B. An eye disorder
- C. Fungal disease
- D. Bacterial disease

ANSWER: A

11. What Is 'Hermes-900'

- A. Unmanned Aerial System
- B. Nuclear Ballistic Submarine
- C. Invasive Weed
- D. Ancient monument

ANSWER: A

12. Which Space Organization Successfully Tested A Liquid Rocket Engine Made With The Help Of 3D Printing

- A. 1892
- B. 1910
- C. 1956
- D. 1884

ANSWER: D

13. In Which Year Was The Explosives Act Proposed To Be Replaced With The New Explosives Bill 2024

- A. 1892
- B. 1910
- C. 1956
- D. 1884

ANSWER: D

14. In Which Indian State Did The Indian Army And Indian Air Force Conduct A Joint Exercise Titled "Gagan Strike-ii"

- A. Punjab
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Haryana
- D. Uttarakhand

ANSWER: A

15. Who Has Been Appointed As Director In The Ministry Of Ayush

- A. Ramesh Sharma
- B. Subodh Kumar
- C. Anjali Gupta
- D. Manoj Kumar

ANSWER: B

16. Which Country Is Home To World's Deepest Blue Hole, Taam Ja' Blue Hole

- A. China
- B. Brazil
- C. Canada
- D. Mexico

ANSWER: D

17. Which Bank Has Introduced UPI For NRI's Using International Mobile Numbers

- A. HDFC Bank
- B. Axis Bank
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. South Indian Bank

ANSWER: C

18. Which Financial Institution Has Partnered With Infibeam Avenues' CCAvenue To Expand Merchant Access

- A. Shivalik Small Finance Bank
- B. Equitas Small Finance Bank
- C. Fincare Small Finance Bank
- D. Jana Small Finance Bank

ANSWER: A

19. Which Country Is Planning To Use "Orangutan Diplomacy"

- A. Indonesia
- B. Thailand
- C. Philippines
- D. Malaysia

ANSWER: D

20. The Conversation Between Nagasena And Menander-I Related To Buddhism Is Recorded In Which Book

- A. Milindapanho
- B. Panhomenanda
- C. Nagapanho
- D. Menandapanho

ANSWER: A