

Current Affairs search results for tag: international-relations

1. India and Australia sign agreements in the field of migration, mobility partnership and green hydrogen (May 24, 2023)

mobility-partnership-and-green-hydrogen

The **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was exchanged after a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and his Australian counterpart **Anthony Albanese** in **Sydney**.

An Overview of the News

- Prime Minister Modi invited Prime Minister Albanese and Australian cricket fans to India for the Cricket World Cup.
- Prime Minister Albanese announced the establishment of a new **Australian Consulate General** in Bengaluru to link Australian businesses to India's digital and innovation ecosystem.

About Australia

It is a sovereign country located in the **Southern Hemisphere** and is geographically isolated from the rest of the world.

Capital - **Canberra**

Government - **Federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy**

Emperor - **Charles III**

Governor-General - **David Hurley**

Prime Minister - **Anthony Albanese**

2. India-US Working Group on Education and Skill Development virtually launched (May 23, 2023)

India-US-Working

The **Ministry of Education, Government** of India and US Department of State on 22 May launched the **India-US Working Group on Education and Skill Development** in virtual mode.

An overview of the news

- Its aim is **to enhance cooperation and collaboration between the two countries** in the field of education and skill development.
- Both sides acknowledged the importance of **skilling and vocational education** in an industry-centric era.
- Recognizing the need to align skill training programs with industry requirements, both sides agreed to promote partnerships between educational institutions, industry stakeholders and relevant government agencies.

- The collaboration aims to bridge the skill gap, increase employability and promote entrepreneurship in both the countries.
- The delegations from both sides expressed their commitment **to strengthen cooperation in education and skill development between India and the United States.**
- The establishment of an India-US Working Group on Education and Skill Development was **announced during the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue** held between India and the US in **Washington DC** in April 2022.

Topic of discussion

- Skilling and vocational education
- Certification and recognition
- Matchmaking between U.S. and Indian higher educational institutions
- Engaging with the Private Sector

3. AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2023 Naval Exercise (May 23, 2023)

AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2023 Naval Exercise

Indian Navy ships **INS TARKASH** and **INS SUBHADRA** arrived at **Port Al-Jubail in Saudi Arabia** on 21st May.

An overview of the news

- The visit of these ships marks the beginning of the **harbor phase of the second edition of the naval exercise** between the two countries, known as '**Al-Mohad Al-Hindi 2023**'.
- This year the naval exercise also includes the **participation of a Maritime Patrol Aircraft.**
- During the exercise, naval forces from both countries will engage in **joint maneuvers, training activities, and exchange of expertise.**
- The exercise will focus on enhancing maritime security capabilities and promoting interoperability between the two navies.
- The **inaugural edition** of the exercise was **successfully conducted in 2021.**

About Al-Mohed Al-Hindi Exercise

- The decision on this bilateral exercise between India and Saudi Arabia was taken at the **Riyadh summit held in 2019.**
- Its aim is to carry out **tactical maneuvers, search and rescue operations, and an electronic warfare drill** to enhance interoperability.
- It aims to strengthen the **defense ties between India and Saudi Arabia.**

Importance of the Exercise

- AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2023 signifies the **growing strategic partnership between India and Saudi Arabia** in the defense sector.
- The exercise will provide an opportunity for both navies to learn from each other's experiences and improve their **operational capabilities**.
- The naval exercise also serves as a platform for fostering diplomatic relations and strengthening regional security cooperation.
- The successful conduct of **AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2023** may pave the way for future collaborations in defense technology, intelligence sharing, and joint defense projects.
- The exercise contributes to maintaining **stability and security in the region** by promoting cooperation and mutual understanding between the Indian and Saudi Arabian navies.

4. PM Narendra Modi holds bilateral meeting with Japanese PM Fumio Kishida in Hiroshima (May 20, 2023)

PM-Narendra-Modi-holds-bilateral-meeting

On May 20, **PM Modi** held a bilateral meeting with his Japanese counterpart **Fumio Kishida** ahead of the **G-7 summit in Hiroshima, Japan**.

An Overview of the News

- Discussed enhancing India-Japan friendship in **trade, economy, culture and Indo-Pacific cooperation**.
- Emphasised efforts to synergize between the **G-7 and G-20 Presidencies and the voices of the Global South**.
- Prime Minister Modi unveiled a **statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Hiroshima as a symbol of friendship and peace**.
- G-7 summit priorities include **nuclear disarmament, economic resilience and security, regional issues, climate and energy, food and health, digitization and science and technology**.
- Later, Prime Minister Modi had a productive meeting with President of **South Korea Yoon Suk Yeol** to strengthen bilateral friendship in key developmental areas.

About G-7

- It is an **intergovernmental political forum**.
- It consists of seven member states: **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States**.
- In addition to the seven member states, the European Union is also part of the G7 as a non-enumerated member.

Formation - **25 March 1973**

First G6 Summit - **15 November 1975**

Japan:

- It is also called **Nihon or Nippon** and is an archipelago in the **western Pacific Ocean in East Asia**.
- It is made up of four main islands **Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu** and **Honshu** is the largest island of Japan.
- Its highest mountain is **Mount Fuji**.
- It is the third largest economy in the world after the **United States and China**.

Capital - **Tokyo**

Currency - **Yen**

Prime Minister - **Fumio Kishida**

5. India, EFTA take significant steps towards new Trade and Partnership Agreement (May 16, 2023)

Partnership-Agreement

India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) states have recently taken important steps towards a **new trade and partnership agreement**.

An overview of the news

- At the ministerial meeting held in Brussels on May 15, Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** held discussions with representatives of EFTA to work towards a comprehensive new **Trade and Partnership Agreement (TEPA)**.
- The Ministerial meeting marked an important milestone in taking forward the negotiations on **TEPA between India and the European Free Trade Association**.
- Both sides stressed the importance of principles of good faith and respect for each other's sensitivities in order to achieve a fair, just and balanced settlement.

About India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

- EFTA has established **bilateral relations and cooperation in the field of trade and commerce**.
- The objective of this cooperation is to strengthen economic ties and promote mutually **beneficial trade between the two countries**.
- The EFTA 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**.
- India and EFTA have engaged in negotiations to establish a comprehensive trade agreement.
- The negotiations cover various aspects, including **trade in goods, services, investment, intellectual property rights, and other trade-related issues**.

6. India & Bangladesh launch '50 Start-ups Exchange Programme' (May 16, 2023)

'50-Start-ups-Exchange-Programme

India and Bangladesh have recently jointly launched the '**50 Start-up Exchange Programme**' to promote **collaboration and exchange between the start-up ecosystems of the two countries**.

An overview of the news

- The objective of the program is **to strengthen bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh** by promoting cooperation in start-up and innovation sectors.
- It provides a platform for **entrepreneurs, investors and stakeholders** from both the countries to connect and collaborate.
- The '50 Start-up Exchange Program' facilitates knowledge sharing and learning opportunities between **Indian and Bangladeshi start-ups**.
- It encourages exchange of ideas, best practices and expertise to foster innovation and growth.
- The program provides mentorship and guidance to participating start-ups, connecting them with experienced entrepreneurs, industry experts and investors.

People's Republic of Bangladesh

- Capital: **Dhaka**
- Prime Minister: **Sheikh Hasina Wazed**
- President: **Mohammad Shahabuddin**
- Currency: **Taka**

7. S Jaishankar meets Sweden's Defence, Foreign Ministers during his Stockholm trip (May 15, 2023)

S-Jaishankar-meets-Sweden's-Defence

During his visit to **Stockholm, Sweden**, External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar** held a meeting with the Defense Minister and Foreign Minister of Sweden.

Purpose of meetings

- Discuss bilateral relations
- Strengthen diplomatic ties
- To explore opportunities for cooperation between India and Sweden in defense and foreign affairs.

Highlights of the meeting

Bilateral Relations

- Discussion on enhancing overall bilateral relations between India and Sweden including areas such as trade, investment, defense cooperation and cultural exchanges.

Defence Cooperation

- Defense cooperation, joint military exercises, defense equipment procurement and sharing of defense technologies discussed in the meeting with the Defense Minister of Sweden.

Security Cooperation

- The discussions included issues of regional and global security concern, counter-terrorism efforts and information sharing to address common security challenges.

Foreign Affairs and Diplomacy

- Discussion on regional and global issues of mutual interest, multilateral cooperation and coordination on matters such as climate change, sustainable development goals and human rights.

Economic and trade relations

- Ways were explored to enhance economic and trade ties between India and Sweden including investment opportunities, technology partnership and trade facilitation.

Cultural and people-to-people exchanges

- The meetings emphasized the importance of cultural exchanges, academic cooperation and people-to-people interactions to deepen mutual understanding and strengthen ties between the two countries.

About Sweden

- It is located on the **Scandinavian Peninsula** in northern Europe.
- The ancient name of the country was **Svitiod**.
- Prime Minister - **Ulf Kristersson**

- Capital - **Stockholm**
- Currency - **Swedish krona**
- King - **Carl XVI Gustaf**

8. PM Modi meets Doug McMillan, CEO of Walmart (May 15, 2023)

PM-Modi-meets-Doug-McMillan

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** held a meeting with **Doug McMillan, CEO of American multinational retail corporation Walmart.**

An overview of the news

- The purpose of the meeting between PM Modi and Doug McMillan was **to discuss and explore potential areas of collaboration, investment and partnership between the Government of India and Walmart.**
- The meeting reflects the importance of the economic relationship between India and Walmart. The discussions covered topics such as trade, investment opportunities and promoting a conducive business environment in India.
- The meeting discussed opportunities to leverage **digital technologies and innovation in the retail sector.**
- The discussion centered around **sustainable business practices, environmental initiatives and social responsibility.**

Significance of the meeting

- The meeting between PM Modi and Walmart CEO Doug McMillan highlights the importance of promoting economic partnership and exploring investment opportunities between India and Walmart.
- It highlights the potential for cooperation in various sectors, **employment generation, economic growth and contribution to sustainable development in India.**

About Walmart

- It is an **American multinational retail corporation** that operates a chain of **hypermarkets, discount department stores, and grocery stores.**
- It was **founded in 1962 by Sam Walton.**
- It has grown to become one of the **world's largest retail chains.**
- It operates thousands of stores **globally, serving millions of customers.**
- It offers a wide range of **products, including groceries, apparel, electronics, household goods,** and more.

9. Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates Sittwe Port in Myanmar (May 10, 2023)

Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates Sittwe Port in Myanmar

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH **Sarbananda Sonowal** and Deputy Prime Minister of Myanmar **Admiral Tin Aung San** jointly inaugurated **Sittwe Port in Myanmar on 9 May.**

An overview of the news

- **Admiral Tin Aung San** also received the **first Indian cargo ship** which was flagged off from **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata.**
- The development of Sittwe port will **reduce the cost and time of movement of goods between Kolkata and Agartala and Aizawl** by 50 per cent.
- It will promote trade links and people-to-people ties between India and Myanmar and the wider region and help boost the economic development of the northeastern states.

About Sittwe port

- The project was envisaged to provide **alternative connectivity of Mizoram with Haldia, Kolkata** or any Indian port through **Kaladan River in Myanmar.**
- Sittwe Port has been developed as a part of the **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP)** funded under grant-in-aid assistance from the Indian government.
- Once the waterway and road components of the KMTTP are fully operational, the east coast of India will be **connected to the north-eastern states through the Sittwe port.**
- The commissioning of Sittwe port will increase **bilateral and regional trade** as well as boost the local economy of **Myanmar's Rakhine state.**
- The greater connectivity provided by the Port will **lead to employment opportunities and enhanced growth prospects in the region.**

About Myanmar

- It is a country located in **Southeast Asia** and is bordered by **India, Bangladesh, China, Laos and Thailand.**
- The capital city of Myanmar is **Naypyidaw**, which was officially designated as the **capital in 2005.**
- President - **Myint Swe (Acting)**
- Prime Minister - **Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing**
- Currency - **Myanmar kyat**

10. 6th India- Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment (May 9, 2023)

Sixth India- Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment (MDTI) held on 9th May in **Ottawa**.

An overview of the news

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, **Piyush Goyal** along with **Mary Ng**, Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development, Government of Canada co-chaired the discussions.
- The Ministers also reviewed the **India-Canada CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) negotiations**.
- In the last MDTI meeting in March 2022, the two ministers launched **CEPA negotiations** with the possibility of having an **interim agreement or EPTA (Early Progress Trade Agreement)**. Since then seven rounds of talks have taken place.
- Goyal participated in various events to promote trade and investment in Toronto from 9 to 10 May 2023.
- Piyush Goyal inaugurated the **India Pavilion at SIAL Canada-2023**, the largest food innovation trade show in North America with participation of over 1000 national and international exhibitors from 50 countries.

Topics of Dialogue

- Strengthening bilateral trade relations between India and Canada
- Investment Promotion and Cooperation
- Green transition - discussions on critical minerals and promotion of new areas of cooperation such as B2B engagement.

About Canada

- Canada, the **second largest country in the world in area (after Russia)**.
- Prime Minister - **Justin Trudeau**
- Capital - **Ottawa**
- Currency - **Canadian dollar**
- King of Canada (British Monarch) - **Charles III**
- Official Languages - **English; French**