

Current Affairs search results for tag: international-news

1. 6th Indian Ocean Conference- 2023 (May 12, 2023)

6th Indian Ocean Conference- 2023

The **6th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC)** is taking place in **Dhaka, Bangladesh** from May 12-13, 2023.

An overview of the news

- The sixth edition of the conference is being organized by the **India Foundation** in collaboration with the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh** and the **S Rajaratnam School of International Studies**.
- The theme of this year's conference is '**Partnership for Peace, Prosperity and a Resilient Future**'.
- The conference was inaugurated by Bangladesh **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina**.
- According to Bangladesh Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaha ryar Alam, around **150 foreign guests** including representatives from D8, SAARC and BIMSTEC will participate in the conference.
- The IOC is expected to provide a forum for discussion on a wide range of issues related to the Indian Ocean including **trade, security, climate change and regional connectivity**.
- The summit is an important event for Bangladesh, as it showcases t he country's growing role in regional affairs and highlights efforts to promote **peace, stability and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region**.

Aim of the conference

- The aim of the conference is to bring together high-level government delegations and think tanks from around 25 countries to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation among countries in the Indi an Ocean region.

About Indian Ocean Conference

- It has been launched by the Delhi-based think tank **India Foundation** along with its partners from **Singapore, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh**.
- The aim of the conference is to bring together Heads of States/Governments, Ministers, thought leaders, scholars, diplomats, bureaucrats and practitioners from across the region on a single platform.

2. Exercise Ajeya Warrior-23 (May 11, 2023)

The **7th edition** of the joint military exercise “**AJEYA WARRIOR-23**” between **India and the United Kingdom** was conducted at **Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom** from **27 April to 11 May 2023**.

An overview of the news

- Indian Army soldiers chanted '**Bajrang Bali Ki Jai**' along with '**Bharat Mata Ki Jai**' during the 7th edition of Ajeya Warrior-23.
- Army soldiers were seen shouting these slogans loudly with guns in their hands.
- The exercise is part of an initiative to develop **interoperability and share expertise with friendly foreign nations**.
- Military forces of both countries participate in this **joint military exercise**.

About Exercise Ajay Warrior 2023

- It is a bilateral training exercise between the armies of **India and UK**.
- The exercise saw the participation of an infantry company from India and a unit of **similar strength from the British Army**.
- The armies of both countries practiced each other's **weapons, battle tactics, equipment and procedures** to conduct joint military operations under difficult conditions.
- In addition, expert academic discussions were also held on several topics of common interest such as joint weapon concepts, operation logistics, experience sharing of joint forces, etc.

Aim of the exercise

- It aims to improve interoperability between the two forces while working in accordance with the mandate of the United Nations.
- Its objective is to provide training to soldiers of both countries in counter-terrorist operations.

3. Pakistan and China agree to extend CPEC to Afghanistan (May 11, 2023)

Pakistan, China and Afghanistan have agreed to forge **closer economic ties** by extending the **Beijing-backed China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** to **Afghanistan** to fully exploit the country's potential as a hub of **regional connectivity**.

An overview of the news

- Pakistan's Foreign Minister **Bilawal Bhutto Zardari**, his Chinese counterpart **Qin Gang** and Taliban-appointed Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan **Maulvi Amir Khan Muttaki** held the **5th China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Talks**.
- The ministers held in-depth talks on various issues and agreed on **good neighbourhood, mutual trust, security cooperation, counter terrorism, connectivity and trade and investment**.

- The three countries reiterated their resolve to fully utilize the potential of **Afghanistan as a hub of regional connectivity**
- The three countries reaffirmed their commitment to further trilateral cooperation under the "**Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**" and to jointly extend the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan**.

About China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

- **Launched in 2015**, CPEC is the flagship project of the **multi-billion dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, launched by Chinese **President Xi Jinping**.
- It aims to increase **Beijing's influence around the world** through China-funded infrastructure projects.
- The **3,000 km long China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** comprises **highways, railways and pipelines**.
- The CPEC aims to eventually link the city of **Gwadar in southwest Pakistan with Xinjiang**, the northwestern region of China, through a vast network of **highways and railways**.
- The proposed project will be financed by heavily **subsidized loans**.
- India has objected to the CPEC as it passes through **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)**.

4. 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**

5. 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**

6. Petersberg Climate Dialogue 2023 (May 9, 2023)

Petersberg Climate Dialogue 2023

The **Petersberg Dialogue on Climate Change** was held in **Berlin from May 2-3, 2023**.

An overview of the news

- The Petersberg Climate Dialogue (PCD) was **hosted by Germany** and the **United Arab Emirates**, which is hosting the 28th **Conference of the Parties (COP28)** to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**.
- Ministers from **40 countries attended** the conference to discuss the way forward towards COP28.
- The main topics of discussion at the event were **renewable targets, climate finance and global stocktake**.

Key points of the summit

- To limit **global warming to 1.5°C**, the world needs to cut its greenhouse gas emissions at a rapid pace.

- The conference agreed to focus on phasing out **fossil fuel emissions** while phasing out **viable, affordable zero-carbon alternatives**.
- It calls for tripling renewable energy capacity by **2030 and then doubling it by 2040**.
- 2023 is the year of **Global Stocktech**. The Global Stocktake is essentially a periodic review of global climate action aimed at assessing whether current efforts will enable us to reach the objectives set out in the Paris Agreement.

Conference of Parties(COP)

- Every year, the United Nations organizes a climate summit where the main agenda of the parties is **to limit global temperature rise**.
- These summits are called **Conference of the Parties (COPs)**.
- Participants come from **197 countries** that have signed the **1992 United Nations Climate Accord**.
- Its purpose is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere to prevent dangerous interference from human activity on the climate system.
- The agreement seeks to limit global warming to well **below 2 °C, preferably 1.5 °C**, compared to pre-industrial levels.
- It was signed in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Since 1994**, COPs have been organised every year. **Year 2023 marks the 28th summit, called the COP28 summit**.
- The **COP28** conference will be held in **Dubai** from 30 November to 12 December 2023.

7. Border Haat between India and Bangladesh inaugurated at Bholaganj in Sylhet (May 7, 2023)

Border Haat between India and Bangladesh inaugurated at Bholaganj in Sylhet

On 6 May a new **border-haat** was inaugurated between **India and Bangladesh at Bholaganj under Companyganj Upazila of Sylhet**.

An overview of the news

- Bangladesh's Minister for Migrant Welfare and Overseas Employment **Imran Ahmed** and India's Assistant High Commissioner **Neeraj Kumar Jaiswal** jointly inaugurated the border-haat.
- The opening of the border haat at Bholaganj on the **border between Sylhet in Bangladesh and the East Khasi Hills of Meghalaya** was greeted with great enthusiasm by people on both sides of the border.
- This is the **fourth border haat in Sylhet division**, out of which **three are currently functioning**. There are plans to open three more border haats in Sylhet division.

- The Border Haat will open from **10 am to 4 pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays.**
- The Bholaganj Border Haat will have 26 stalls from India and 24 stalls from Bangladesh, where traditional items from both the countries will be sold duty free.
- The **first border haats were inaugurated in 2011 at Kalaichar in West Garo Hills district of Meghalaya and Kurigram in Bangladesh.**

8. Indian-origin Neera Tandon becomes domestic policy advisor in Biden administration (May 6, 2023)

Indian-origin Neera Tandon becomes domestic policy advisor in Biden administration

On 5 May 2023, an **Indian-American Neera Tandon** has been appointed as the **domestic policy advisor in US President Joe Biden's team.**

Important Point:-

- Tandon's appointment has been made keeping in mind the presidential election to be held in the US in 2024.
- Following Biden's decision to appoint Neera Tandon, she became the first Asian-American to lead the White House Advisory Council.
- Prior to this, Tandon served as Biden's staff secretary during this term.
- Neera Tandon responsibly processed all the paperwork that arrived on the President's desk.
- According to the White House, Neera Tandon oversaw decision-making processes in the domestic, economic and national security teams.

Neera Tandon:

- Neera Tandon was born in Massachusetts to Indian immigrant parents. Tandon studied at the University of California Los Angeles and Yale University.
- With over 25 years of experience working in public policy, Neera Tandon has worked with three US presidents, and also headed one of the country's largest think tanks for nearly a decade.
- Neera Tandon is the former US Secretary of State and a close aide of Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate in the 2016 presidential election.
- **Neera also helped pass the Affordable Care Act in the Obama administration.**

9. Ukraine apologises for 'Devi Kali' tweet (May 5, 2023)

Ukraine apologises for 'Devi Kali' tweet

Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister **Emin Zhaparova** expressed regret over the "**misrepresentation**" of **Goddess Kali** by the country's Defense Ministry.

An overview of the news

- Apologizing for this act, he said that this country and its people respect the '**unique Indian culture**'.
- In this illustration, a distorted picture of Goddess Kali was written '**Work of Art**' amidst the smoke of the explosion.
- This picture was tweeted on April 30, about which objection was expressed on the social media platform.
- Jhaparova visited India on 9 April. This was the first official foreign trip by a minister from the Eastern European country (Ukraine) since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began in February last year.

About Ukraine

- Ukraine is a country located in **Eastern Europe** and the **second largest country in the continent after Russia**.
- Its **capital is Kiev**, located on the **Dnieper River in north-central Ukraine**.
- Prime Minister: **Denys Shmyhal**
- President: **Volodymyr Zelensky**
- Capital: **Kyiv**
- Official Language : **Ukrainian**
- Currency : **Rryvnya (UAH)**

10. 21st meeting of Bangladesh-India Joint Steering Committee on Cooperation in Power Sector (May 5, 2023)

21st meeting of Bangladesh-India Joint Steering Committee on Cooperation in Power Sector

The **21st meeting of the Bangladesh-India Joint Steering Committee (BIJSC)** on the power sector was held on 4th May at **Khulna, Bangladesh**.

An overview of the news

- Bangladesh's Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary **Habibur Rahman** and his Indian counterpart **Alok Kumar** led their respective sides at the meeting.
- The meeting reviewed the progress of ongoing activities related to **mutual cooperation in the power sector** between Bangladesh and India.

- The meeting also examined the **possibility of power generation projects** in India
- through **BIFPCL** including power export from Bangladesh to India and setting up of solar power projects.
 - The delegation also discussed the signing of an agreement to **import 500 MW of hydro power from Nepal by GMR to Bangladesh** through India.
 - The progress in the management of the first unit and the implementation of the second unit of the **1320 MW Maitri Super Thermal Power Project** construction project was also reviewed.

People's Republic of Bangladesh

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