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1. Minister of State Dr L Murugan to lead delegation to Cannes Film Festival (May 15, 2023)

Minister-of-State-Dr-L-Murugan

Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting **Dr L Murugan** will lead the **Indian delegation** to the **Cannes International Film Festival** from May 16 to 27.

An overview of the news

- They will also be joined by filmmaker **Guneet Monga** of The **Elephant Whispers** fame, Indian actresses **Manushi Chhillar, Esha Gupta** and acclaimed Manipuri actor **Kangabam Tomba**.
- The India Pavilion is being conceptualised and designed by **National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad** with the theme - '**Showcasing India's Creative Economy**' to the global community.
- The pavilion design has been inspired by the **Saraswati Yantra**, the abstract representation of goddess Saraswati.
- Four Indian films, including **Kanu Behl's Agra** and **Anurag Kashyap's Kennedy**, have made it to the official selection in the Cannes Film Festival.
- Apart from these, many Indian films will be screened in **Marche du Films**.
- A Manipuri film '**Ishanhau**' will be showcased in the '**Classics**' section.

About Cannes Film Festival

- The Cannes Film Festival is one of the most prestigious international film festivals held annually in Cannes, France.

History and significance

- The festival was first established in 1946 and has since become a prominent event in the global film industry.
- It serves as a platform for showcasing and promoting a wide range of films from different countries and cultures.

Film screenings and competitions

- The festival includes various competitive sections, such as the Palme d'Or for the best film, which is one of the most coveted awards in the industry.

Impact on filmmakers and films

- The Cannes Film Festival serves as a launching pad for many acclaimed films and emerging talents.

- Winning an award or receiving critical acclaim at Cannes can significantly boost a filmmaker's career and bring global recognition to their work.

2. G7 Ministerial Meeting on Health Innovation in Nagasaki, Japan (May 15, 2023)

G7 Ministerial Meeting on Health Innovation

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya** addressed the **G7 Health Ministerial meeting on Global Health Architecture in Nagasaki, Japan** on 13th May.

An overview of the news

- The meeting was organized to discuss the **global health challenges** and ways to ensure preparedness, prevention and response to future health emergencies.
- The health ministers of the G7 countries and the "**Outreach 4**" countries of **India, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand** were invited to the meeting.

Objectives of the meeting

- To foster collaboration and exchange ideas on health innovation.
- Addressing global health challenges, and promoting advancements in healthcare research, technology, and policies.

Topics discussed

- The G7 health ministers discuss various pressing health issues such as infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, vaccine development, healthcare accessibility, digital health, and the use of artificial intelligence in healthcare.

Sharing best practices

- The meeting provides an opportunity for G7 countries to share best practices, success stories, and lessons learned in healthcare innovation and delivery.

About G7

- The G7 is a group of seven major industrialized countries, including **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States**.
- The G7 holds annual meetings to discuss various global issues, but these meetings are usually held in different locations each year.
- The **48th G7 summit** was hosted by Germany in 2022.

3. UAE's Sharjah Police launches 'Stay in your lane' campaign (May 14, 2023)

On 11 May, the **UAE's Sharjah Police** launched a **traffic campaign** called "**Stay in Your Lane**" to tackle road violations.

An Overview of the News

- The campaign aims **to improve traffic culture among drivers and other road users** by increasing awareness and promoting adherence to traffic rules and instructions.
- The campaign includes the dissemination of awareness messages in three different languages through the social networking sites of Sharjah Police.

About United Arab Emirates (UAE)

- **Location:** It is located in **Western Asia**.
- **Geographical Boundaries:** It shares borders with Oman and Saudi Arabia.
- **Maritime Borders:** It also has maritime borders with Qatar and Iran in the Persian Gulf.
- **Religion:** Islam is the dominant religion in the UAE, with the majority of the population being Sunni Muslim.

Capital - **Abu Dhabi**

Official language - **Arabic**

Government - **Federal Islamic parliamentary elective semi-constitutional monarchy**

President/Crown Prince - **Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

Prime Minister - **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

Vice President - **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

4. 1st Ministerial meeting of India-EU Trade and Technology Council (May 13, 2023)

The first ministerial meeting of the **India and the European Union Trade and Technology Council (TTC)** will be held in **Brussels** on 16 May.

An overview of the news

- The meeting will be co-chaired by the **Ministers of External Affairs**, Commerce and Industry and Communications, Electronics and Information Technology from the Indian side.
- **India is only the second country after the US with which the European Union (EU) has a TTC**, and the two sides agreed to launch the strategic mechanism during the visit of European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen** to India in April 2022.

- The TTC aims to deepen trade and investment ties between India and the European Union, as well as foster greater cooperation on technology and innovation.

About India-EU Trade and Technology Council

- The trade and technology council was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen during Ms Leyen's visit to India in April 2022.

Three Working Groups under the TTC

1. A Working Group on Strategic Technologies, Digital Governance and Digital Connectivity
2. A Working Group on Green and Clean Energy Technologies
3. A Working Group on Trade, Investment and Resilient Value Chains

India-EU Trade relation

- **India is the 10th largest trading partner** of the European Union, accounting for **2.1% of the total trade in goods.**
- **The EU is India's third largest trading partner,** accounting for **€88 billion in goods trade in 2021** or a little over 10% of total Indian trade.
- Trade in services between the two sides reached **€30.4 billion in 2020.**

About European Union

- The European Union is a group of **27 European countries.**
- The United Kingdom which was the founding member of the European Union has left the organisation.
- It was **founded on 1 November 1993**
- Headquarters: **Brussels, Belgium**

5. Monkeypox no longer a global health emergency: World Health Organization (May 12, 2023)

Monkeypox no longer a global health emergency: World Health Organization

The **World Health Organization** declared the **end of a global health emergency** on 11 May for the rare but potentially serious disease **mpox**, formerly known as **monkeypox.**

An overview of the news

- 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**.
- According to WHO, **since January 2022**, there have been more than **87,000 mpox cases and 140 deaths in 111 countries**.

What Is Monkeypox?

- It is a **viral zoonotic disease** that is transmitted from **animals to humans**.
- Monkeypox virus is an **orthopoxvirus** similar to **smallpox**.
- It has been identified as a **smallpox-like disease in monkeys**, hence it is called **monkeypox**.
- 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.
- The monkeypox virus mutates at a high rate but is treatable once symptoms appear.

Symptom of disease

- Fever, intense headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, swollen lymph nodes and a skin rash or lesions.
- Infected people develop a rash resembling smallpox.
- In the early stages of the disease, monkeypox and smallpox can be differentiated because the monkeypox lymph gland enlarges.

Transmission of disease

- It spreads through close face to face, skin to skin and direct contact.
- The disease can be spread through contact with bodily fluids, sores on the skin or internal mucous surfaces, such as the mouth or throat, respiratory droplets and contaminated objects.

Treatment and Vaccine

- There is no specific treatment or vaccine available for monkeypox infection.
- The anti-smallpox vaccine has been shown to be **85% effective in preventing monkeypox**.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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)**.

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**