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1. Paraguay's Colorado Party's Santiago Peña wins presidential election (May 3, 2023)

Paraguay's Colorado Party's Santiago Peña wins presidential election

Santiago Peña, an economist from **Paraguay's ruling conservative Colorado party**, won the **country's presidential election**.

An Overview of the News

- The election was decided in a single round of voting, and with nearly all ballots counted, **Santiago Peña received over 42% of the vote**.
- His main challenger, **Efraín Alegre**, who represented the **Concertación Nacional coalition**, received about **28% of the vote**.
- The Colorado Party has been the dominant political force in Paraguay for more than 70 years, and Santiago Peña's victory solidified its hold on power.
- Despite an expected economic growth of more than 4% this year, Paraguay still struggles with high levels of poverty and corruption.

About Paraguay

- It is a country **located in the middle of South America**. It is a landlocked country, bordered by **Argentina, Brazil and Bolivia**.
- **Asuncion is the capital of Paraguay** and is situated on the banks of the Paraguay River.
- Official languages - **Paraguayan Guarani, Spanish**

2. Maiden ASEAN-India Maritime exercise begins in Singapore (May 2, 2023)

Maiden ASEAN-India Maritime exercise begins in Singapore

The first ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2023) began on 2 May in **Singapore**.

An overview of the news

- The maiden exercise is being conducted **off the coast of Singapore**.
- It aims **to enhance interoperability and exchange of best practices** among the participating navies.
- **INS Satpura and INS Delhi**, accompanied by RADM Gurcharan Singh, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, have reached Singapore to participate in the exercise.
- AIME 2023 will provide an opportunity for **Indian Navy and ASEAN navies** to work together closely and conduct seamless operations in the maritime domain.

- Indian Navy ships will also participate in the **International Maritime Security Conference (IMSC)** and the **International Maritime Defense Exhibition (IMDEX-23)**.
- The Philippine Navy has deployed its **missile frigate BRP Antonio Luna (FF-151)** with a 140-man crew of Naval Task Group 80.5 onboard in the exercise.

Phase of the exercise

- **Harbour Phase** - to be conducted at Changi Naval Base.
- **Sea Phase** - to be conducted in the South China Sea.

INS Delhi and INS Satpura

- **INS Delhi** is **India's first indigenously-built guided missile destroyer**.
- **INS Satpura**, is an **indigenously built guided missile stealth frigate** and are fitted with **state-of-the art weapons and sensors**.
- Both are part of the **Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam** and are under the operational command of the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.

3. India to hand-over fast Patrol Vessel ship & landing Craft to Maldives (May 2, 2023)

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** will hand over a **fast patrol vessel and a landing craft to the Maldives** as India's "**gift**" during his visit to the island nation from May 1 to 3.

An overview of the news

- It will be an "**important landmark**" in building "**strong bonds**" of friendship between the two countries.
- Maldives is one of India's major maritime neighbors **in the Indian Ocean region and overall bilateral relations** between the two countries, including in the areas of **defense and security**, have been on the rise over the years.
- Singh will also review the implementation of various **India-aided projects in the Maldives** and interact with the Indian expatriate.
- India and Maldives are working together to effectively address common challenges including **maritime security, terrorism, radicalism, piracy, smuggling**, organized crime and natural disasters.

About Maldives

- It is also called **Maldives Islands**, an independent island country in the **north-central Indian Ocean**.

- It extends more than **510 miles (820 km)** from north to **south** and **80 miles (130 km)** from east to west.
- Basis of economy - **fisheries, tourism**
- Industries - **handicraft or cottage including the making of coir (coconut-husk fibre) and coir products, fish canning, and boatbuilding.**
- Capital - **Male**
- President - **Ibrahim Mohamed Solih**
- Official Language - **Dhivehi (Maldivian)**
- Official Religion - **Islam**
- Currency - **Rufiyaa**

4. Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh visits Science Museum (May 1, 2023)

Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh visits Science Museum

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology **Dr Jitendra Singh** inspected the operations of the **175 year old London Science Museum.**

An Overview of the News

- The objective of setting up such museums in India is **to enable the citizens, especially the youth, to discover their hidden potential and abilities and develop their scientific temper, creativity and innovation.**
- The Science Museum, **established in 1857**, is located in **South Kensington, London** and is a major museum on Exhibition Road.
- The museum management was impressed by **India's success in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- The Science Museum became one of the city's most popular tourist attractions, **with 3.3 million visitors in 2019.**
- As a publicly funded national museum in the **UK, the Science Museum does not charge admission**, but visitors are encouraged to make a donation if possible.
- The Science Museum is part of a group of five museums known as the **Science Museum Group.**

About the United Kingdom (UK)

- It is a country in Europe made up of **England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.**

- It has a **constitutional monarchy** and a **parliamentary democracy** with the monarch as the head of state and the prime minister leading the government.
- The UK has a mixed economy and is known for its strengths in the **service sector, manufacturing and technology**.

Prime Minister- **Rishi Sunak**

Capital- **London**

Currency- **Pound Sterling (GBP)**

Emperor- **Charles III**

Government- **Parliamentary System, Unitary State, Constitutional Monarchy**

5. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to visit Maldives (April 30, 2023)

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** is set to embark on a **three-day official visit to Maldives** on 30th April.

An overview of the news

- During the visit, Rajnath Singh will hold **bilateral talks** with Maldivian Defense Minister **Ms. Maria Ahmed Didi** and Foreign Minister **Abdulla Shahid**.
- All aspects of defense relations between the two countries will be reviewed during the consultations.
- Rajnath Singh will also meet Maldivian President **Ibrahim Mohamed Solih**.
- In line with India's commitment to capacity building of friendly countries and partners in the region, Rajnath Singh will gift a **Fast Patrol Vessel ship and a landing craft to the Maldivian National Defense Forces**.
- India and Maldives are working together to effectively address common challenges including **maritime security, terrorism, radicalism, piracy, smuggling, organized crime and natural disasters**.
- India's vision of **SAGAR** (Security and Growth for All in the Region) along with its '**Neighbourhood First**' policy as well as Maldives' '**India First**' policy seek to work together to jointly develop the capabilities within the Indian Ocean Region.

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6. G7 should adopt 'risk-based' AI regulation (April 30, 2023)

Digital ministers from the **Group of Seven advanced nations (G7)** agreed on 30 April that they should adopt "risk-based" regulation on artificial intelligence.

An overview of the news

- **European lawmakers** hurry to introduce an AI Act to enforce rules on emerging tools such as ChatGPT.
- G7 ministers said in a joint statement issued at a two-day meeting in Japan that **such regulation should "preserve an open and enabling environment"** for the development of AI technologies and be based on democratic values.
- The ministers recognized that the policy tools to achieve the common vision and goal of trustworthy **AI among G7 members may differ.**
- The agreement sets a milestone for how major countries regulate AI amid **privacy concerns and security risks.**
- Governments in particular have taken note of the popularity of **generative AI tools such as ChatGPT.**
- A chatbot (ChatGPT) developed by **Microsoft Corp-backed OpenAI** has become the **fastest-growing app in history** since its launch in November.

What is ChatGPT?

- It is a **natural language processing tool** powered by **Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology** that allows chatbots to do much more than just have human-like conversations.
- This language model can answer questions and assist with tasks such as **writing emails, essays and code.**
- ChatGPT was created by **OpenAI, an AI and research company.**
- **A chatbot (ChatGPT) developed by Microsoft Corp-backed OpenAI** has become the fastest-growing app in history since its launch in November.

What is Artificial Intelligence?

- It is a **broad branch of computer science** that deals with building smart machines capable of performing tasks that would normally **require human intelligence**.

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**.

7. Dubai's airline Emirates unveils world's first robotic check-in assistant (April 29, 2023)

Dubai-based airline **Emirates** has unveiled the **world's first robotic check-in assistant** named '**Sara**'.

An overview of the news

- The system is part of a **new City Check-in and Travel Store** that is **set to launch in Dubai's Financial District**.
- In addition to the new check-in facility, Emirates passengers with a valid boarding pass will also have access to **select lifestyle amenities** at ICD **Brookfield Place**, as well as exclusive discounts and special offers at a range of **restaurants, gyms and luxury stores**.
- Passengers can connect directly to the airport via taxi or **Emirates Chauffeur Service**.
- This latest innovation from Emirates aims **to enhance the customer experience and make the check-in process more seamless and efficient**.

What is the world's first robotic check-in assistant 'Sara'?

- '**SARA**' will **match customers' faces with scanned passports**, check in passengers and guide them to the baggage drop area.
- This facility allows customers to **drop off their luggage at the airport up to 24 hours in advance** and up to 4 hours before their flight.
- Passengers can **check-in via self-check-in kiosks**, with Emirates agents at dedicated desks or with the help of Sara.
- The robot is equipped with **facial recognition technology** and can **print boarding passes** to make the check-in process more efficient. Sara is also portable and can move around to help those in need.

- Sources reveal that future iterations of the Sarah will also have weapons that can carry goods.

8. Germany and Britain intercepted three Russian military reconnaissance aircraft over the Baltic Sea (April 29, 2023)

Baltic Sea

The **German Air Force** on 26th April announced that it **intercepted three Russian military aircraft flying over the Baltic Sea.**

An overview of the news

- **Germany and UK Eurofighter** have been alerted to identify 3 military machines.
- The **two SU-27 flankers and one IL-20** from Russia flew again without a transponder signal in **international airspace over the Baltic Sea.**
- German and British forces were deployed to identify the two **Sukhoi Su-27 fighter aircraft and one Ilyushin Il-20 aircraft.**
- Germany handed over responsibility for **NATO's Baltic air policing mission to Britain earlier this month.**

About the Baltic Sea

- The Baltic Sea is an **arm of the Atlantic Ocean located in northern Europe.**
- It is a **shelf sea and marginal sea of the Atlantic**, with limited water exchange between the two, making it an inland sea.
- The Baltic Sea is **one of the largest brackish inland seas by area.**
- It is bordered by **Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Sweden, and the North and Central European Plain.**
- The **maximum depth is 459 m (1,506 ft).**
- The **Helsinki Convention** on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Region covers the Baltic Sea.

9. India-UK NET Zero Innovation virtual centre (April 28, 2023)

India and the United Kingdom have agreed to create an **India-UK Net Zero Innovation Virtual Centre.**

An overview of the news

- The center will provide a platform for stakeholders from both countries to work together in areas such as **manufacturing processes, transportation systems and decarbonization of green hydrogen as a renewable source.**

- This was announced by Science and Technology Minister **Dr Jitendra Singh** at a meeting of the **India-UK Science and Innovation Council meeting** in the presence of **United Kingdom Minister George Freeman**.
- India is fast marching towards becoming an economic powerhouse driven by its extraordinary technology and innovation.
 - India is committed to achieve its **climate change and environment goals within the stipulated time period**.
 - **Energy efficiency and renewable energy are the central pillars**, where India has already taken the lead through various initiatives like **Solar Alliance and Clean Energy Mission**.
 - Dr Jitendra Singh is leading a **high-level official Indian delegation** from the **Ministry of Science and Technology** on a six-day visit to the United Kingdom.

United Kingdom

- The inclusion of **Northern Ireland in Great Britain is called the United Kingdom**.
- That is, the United Kingdom is a kingdom consisting of **England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland**.
- The **Queen of England** is the **head of both the United Kingdom/Britain**.
- The **capital of the United Kingdom/Great Britain is London**.

10. Pennsylvania Recognizes Diwali as an Official State Holiday (April 27, 2023)

The **United States state of Pennsylvania** officially recognized the Hindu festival of **Diwali as a state holiday**.

An Overview of the News

- State **Senators Greg Rothman and Nikil Saval** introduced legislation to make **Diwali a state holiday in February this year**.
- The **bill was passed unanimously by the Senate**. According to My Twin Tears, there are approximately 200,000 South Asian residents in Pennsylvania, many of whom celebrate Diwali as a time to gather and reflect.

Pennsylvania:

- It is a state **located in the northeastern region of the United States of America**.
- It is one of the **original 13 colonies** that **declared independence from Great Britain** and **became a kingdom on December 12, 1787**.

- The state's capital is **Harrisburg**, and its largest city is **Philadelphia**, which is known as the **birthplace of the United States of America**.
- Pennsylvania is **bordered by six other states, including New York to the north, New Jersey to the east, Maryland to the south, West Virginia to the southwest, Ohio to the west, and Lake Erie to the northwest**.
- The state has a diverse geography, including the **Appalachian Mountains in the central and eastern parts of the state**, the Allegheny Plateau in the western part of the state, and a coastal plain in the southeastern part of the state.