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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. Khongjom Day: 23 April (April 24, 2023)

Khongjom Day is an annual event celebrated on **23 April to commemorate the soldiers who fought in the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891.**

An Overview of the News

- The event was held at **Kheba Ching in Khongjom, Thoubal district of Manipur.**
- Manipur Chief Minister **N. Biren Singh** and Governor **Ms. Anusuiya Uikey** paid tribute to the martyrs in the programme.
- The observance of Khongjom Day commemorates the sacrifices made by the people of Manipur in the fight for freedom and independence.
- The **Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891** took place at Khongjom and marked the beginning of **colonial rule in the region.**

About Manipur

Formation (as a state) - **1972**

Capital and largest city - **Imphal**

District - **16**

Governor - **Anusuiya Uikey**

Chief Minister - **N. Biren Singh (BJP)**

Legislative Assembly - **Manipur Legislative Assembly (60 seats)**

Rajya Sabha - **1 seat**

Lok Sabha - **2 seats**

3. Tribal Affairs Minister launched Marketing, Logistics Development for PTP-NER scheme (April 18, 2023)

Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023 won by Utsa Patnaik

Tribal Affairs Minister **Arjun Munda** on 18th April launched a new scheme “**Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal Products from North -Eastern Region (PTP-NER)**” for the benefit of **Scheduled Tribes of Northeastern Region.**

An overview of the news

- The scheme has been introduced for the benefit of **Scheduled Tribes of the North-Eastern Region.**

- The objective of the scheme is to strengthen livelihood opportunities for tribal artisans through enhanced efficiency in **procurement, logistics and marketing of tribal products from North Eastern States.**
- The scheme will be applicable to the states of **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim.**
- As part of this plan, there is a plan to start a panel of tribal artisans from the North Eastern Region by organizing **68 Tribal Artisan Melas** in different districts of the region.

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)

- It came into **existence in 1987.**
- TRIFED is a national-level organisation functioning under the administrative control of the **Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs.**
- Its Head Office is located in **New Delhi and has a network of 13 Regional Offices.**
- It aims at **socio-economic development of tribal people** in the country through marketing development of tribal products.

About India's North-East region

- The **North Eastern Region (NER)** comprises eight States - **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.**
- The North Eastern region of India is a **landlocked region** with no access to the sea.
- It is geographically isolated from the rest of India and is connected to the mainland by a narrow strip of land called the **Siliguri Corridor (Chicken's Neck).**
- Sikkim - **the 'Brother' of the Seven Sisters**
- Assam- **World's largest 'Tea Producer'**
- Manipur- **Jewel of India**
- Arunachal Pradesh- **Land of Rising Sun**
- Meghalaya- **Scotland of India**
- Tripura- the most '**Literate' in the Northeast around 95% Literacy rate**
- Mizoram- **Molasses Basin**
- Sikkim- Sparsely Populated, the only state having world's largest '**Kanchenjunga Mountain'**
- Nagaland- **famous for Mon's Ethnicity**

4. Nandini Gupta crowned Femina Miss India 2023 (April 17, 2023)

Nandini Gupta crowned Femina Miss India 2023

Nandini Gupta of Rajasthan won the title of **Femina Miss India World 2023**.

The first runner-up of the competition was **Shreya Poonja** from **Delhi** and the **second runner-up was Thounaojam Strela Luwang** from **Manipur**.

An Overview of the News

- The **59th edition of India's most prestigious pageant marked the Grand Finale of Femina Miss India World 2023** in a historic ceremony at the **Indoor Stadium, Khuman Lampak, Imphal, Manipur**.
- Bollywood actors **Kartik Aaryan** and **Ananya Panday** gave a stellar performance at the Femina Miss India 2023 event.
- **Nandini Gupta will represent India at the 71st Miss World pageant**, which is going to be held in the **United Arab Emirates**.

About Femina Miss India

- It is a **national beauty pageant** held annually in India **since 1952** and is organized by **Femina**, a women's magazine published by **Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd**.
- **The winner represents India in the Miss World pageant.**

About Rajasthan

- It is a state in **northern India** and is the **largest Indian state by area and the seventh largest by population**.
- It is bordered by five other Indian states: **Punjab to the north; Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in the northeast; Madhya Pradesh in the southeast; and Gujarat in the southwest**.
- Rajasthan is also home to three national tiger reserves, **Ranthambore National Park in Sawai Madhopur, Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve in Kota**.
- The state was formed on **30 March 1949** when Rajputana was merged with the Dominion of India.

Formation - **30 March 1949**

Capital- **Jaipur**

District - **33**

Governor - **Kalraj Mishra**

Chief Minister - **Ashok Gehlot (INC)**

State Legislature - **Unicameral**

Legislative Assembly - **Rajasthan Legislative Assembly (200 seats)**

Rajya Sabha - **10 seats**

Lok Sabha - **25 seats**

Symbol of Rajasthan

Bird - **Godawan**

Flowers - **Rohida**

Tree - **Khejri**

5. First AIIMS inaugurated in the Northeast at Changsari near Guwahati (April 16, 2023)

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Changsari near Guwahati** on 14th April. It is the **first AIIMS in the Northeast.**

An overview of the news

- He announced **three other medical colleges in Assam.**
- The three medical colleges at **Nalbari, Nagaon and Kokrajhar** have been built at a cost of around Rs 615 crore, Rs 600 crore and Rs 535 crore, respectively.
- He also laid the foundation stone of **Assam Advanced Health Care Innovation Institute (AAHII) at IIT-Guwahati**
- The Prime Minister also launched a **healthcare scheme** to provide free medical treatment of **Rs 5 lakh each year to 11 million beneficiaries.**
- The AIIMS campus, built at a cost of **Rs 1,123 crore**, is a one-of-a-kind healthcare facility in the entire northeastern region.
- It will have an annual intake capacity of **100 medical students every year.**
- The foundation stone for the institute was laid by PM Modi in 2017.
- He distributed **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) cards** in all districts.

About Northeast India

- Northeast India comprises seven states : **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.**

- The northeast is bordered by **Bhutan, China, Myanmar and Bangladesh** with a total length of over **2000 km** and is connected to the rest of India by a narrow **20 km wide corridor of land**.
- Northeast India is also known as the **“Seven Sisters”**.

6. Bihu performance in Guwahati creates Guinness World Record (April 15, 2023)

Bihu, a beloved **cultural event in Assam**, was performed in front of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other dignitaries at the **Suraszai Stadium in Guwahati** on 14 April.

News Overview

- The festival is known for bridging differences and **symbolising harmony between human beings and nature**.
- More than **11,000 folk dancers and drummers** performed the **Bihu dance and played the dhulia (drum) at one place, creating two Guinness World Records**.
- The performance set a new record for the **largest Bihu dance** at a **single venue**, while the dhol players set a record for the highest number of drummers performing at a single venue.
- The Assam government announced an appreciation of Rs 25,000 for each artist.

About Assam:

- Location:** It is a state located in the northeastern region of India. It is bounded by Bhutan in the north, Arunachal Pradesh in the east, Nagaland in the northeast, Manipur in the southeast, Mizoram in the south and West Bengal in the west.
- Wildlife:** Contains Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park and Nameri National Park.
- Language:** Assamese is the official language of the state, but several other languages are also spoken, including Bengali, Bodo, and Hindi.

Formation (as a state) - **26 January 1950**

Capital - **Dispur**

Chief Minister - **Himanta Biswa Sarma**

Governor - **Gulab Chand Kataria**

Rajya Sabha - **7 seats**

Lok Sabha - **14 seats**

Official Animal - **Indian Rhinoceros**

Official Bird - **White-winged Duck**

Official Dance - **Bihu Dance**

Official flower - **Rhynchostylis retusa**

Official river - **Brahmaputra**

7. AFSPA removed from most areas of North Eastern states (March 26, 2023)

Centre has decided to further reduce the jurisdiction of '**disturbed areas**' under the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in Assam, Nagaland and Manipur.**

An overview of the news

- The decision has been taken in view of the significant **improvement in the security situation in North-East India.**
- **Compared to 2014, there has been a 76 percent reduction in extremist incidents in 2022.**
- During this period, there has been a **90 percent reduction in the deaths of security personnel and 97 percent in the deaths of civilians.**
- Earlier, in a historic move, the Center brought down the disturbed areas in **Nagaland, Assam and Manipur from April 2022** under AFSPA.

What is AFSPA?

- **Armed Forces Special Powers Act, (AFSPA),1958**, gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in "**disturbed areas.**"
- It came into force decades ago in the context of **insurgency in the northeastern states.**
- It provides "**special powers**" to the army, air force and central paramilitary forces.
- The Act provides that if "**reasonable suspicion exists**", the armed forces may also arrest any person without warrant; May enter or search premises without warrant and prohibit possession of firearms.

What are the Disturbed Areas?

- A disturbed area means which is declared by notification under **Section 3 of the AFSPA.**
- A region may be disturbed because of differences or disputes between members of different, **racial, religious, language or regional groups or castes or communities.**
- The Central Government or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory have power to declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.

8. Hekani Jakhalu became the first female MLA of Nagaland Assembly (March 3, 2023)

On March 2, **Hakani Jakhalu** of the **Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP)** became the **first female MLA** to be elected to the **Nagaland Legislative Assembly**.

An overview of the news

- Jakhu won the Dimapur III seat by defeating Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) leader Azheto Jhimomi by 1,536 votes.
- Another NDPP female candidate, **Salhunuonu Cruce** defeated her independent rival by just seven votes in the Western Angami constituency. Both became the first female MLA from Nagaland.

About Hekani Jakhalu

- She studied in Lady **Shri Ram College for Women and Law Faculty of Delhi University** and has done LLM from the University of San Francisco.
- He later worked in a law firm in Delhi.
- In 2005, she returned to Nagaland to start an NGO called **Youthnet**, with "Youth Empowerment".
- In 2019, she won the **Nari Shakti Puruskar** from the Ministry of Child and Women Development.

Nagaland State

- Nagaland was formally recognized as a separate state on **December 1, 1963**, with Kohima declared as its capital.
- It is bounded by Arunachal Pradesh in the northeast, Manipur in the south and Assam in the west and northwest and Myanmar (Burma) in the east.
- **Mithun (Gyal)** is the **state animal of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh**.
- **Blyth's Tragopan** is the state bird of Nagaland.
- The Konyaks are the largest tribe, followed by the Aos, Tangkhul, Semas and Angami.
- Other tribes include the Lotha, Sangtam, Phom, Chang, Khim Hungama, Yimchungar, Zeliang, Chakhesang (chokri) and Rengma.

9. Mizoram Statehood Day (Feb. 20, 2023)

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has greeted the people of **Mizoram** on the state's foundation day on **February 20**.

An overview of the news

- Every year 20 February is celebrated as the Statehood Day of Mizoram.
- The state of Mizoram was formed on **20 February 1987** following the **53rd Amendment to the Constitution** of India, 1986.
- At the time of independence, the **Mizo Hills region** became the Lushai Hills district within Assam.
- In 1954 it was renamed **Mizo Hills District of Assam**.
- Mizoram was granted **union territory status in 1972** following the signing of an important accord with the moderates of the **Mizo National Front (MNF)**.
- It became the **23rd full state of India on 20 February 1987**.

Geographical Situation

- International Border - **Myanmar and Bangladesh**
- State boundary - **Tripura (North-West), Assam (North) and Manipur (North-East)**.

Demography

- It is the **second least populous state** in India after **Sikkim**.
- **Sex ratio** - 975 females per 1000 males (at national level it is 943).
- **The literacy rate** of the state is 91.58%. (National rate - 74.04%).

Protected Areas

- Murlen National Park
- Phawngpui National Park
- Dampa Tiger Reserve
- Ngengpui Wildlife Sanctuary
- Tawi Wildlife Sanctuary

Important Festivals

- Chapchar Kut
- Christmas Festival
- Anthurium Festival

Lyuva Khutla Festival

10. President Draupadi Murmu appoints new governors in 13 states (Feb. 12, 2023)

President **Droupadi Murmu** appointed **13 new Governors** while accepting the resignations of **Bhagat Singh Koshyari as Governor of Maharashtra and of Radha Krishnan Mathur as Lt. Governor of Ladakh** on 12 February.

The fresh appointments

- Lt. General **Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik**, (Retired) Governor of Arunachal Pradesh
- **Lakshman Prasad Acharya**, Governor of Sikkim
- **C P Radhakrishnan**, Governor of Jharkhand
- **Shiv Pratap Shukla**, Governor of Himachal Pradesh
- **S. Abdul Nazeer**, Governor of Andhra Pradesh
- **Gulab Chand Kataria**, Governor of Assam

Change of states of some current governors

- **Justice (Retd) Biswa Bhusan Harichandan**, Governor of Andhra Pradesh appointed as Governor of Chhattisgarh.
- **Anusuiya Uikye**, Governor of Chhattisgarh appointed as Governor of Manipur.
- **La. Ganesan**, Governor of Manipur appointed as Governor of Nagaland.
- **Phagu Chauhan**, Governor of Bihar appointed as Governor of Meghalaya.
- **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**, Governor of Himachal Pradesh appointed as Governor of Bihar.
- **Ramesh Bais**, Governor of Jharkhand appointed as Governor of Maharashtra.
- **Brig (Dr) B D Mishra (Retd)**, Governor of Arunachal Pradesh appointed as Lt. Governor of Ladakh.

How are Governors appointed?

- **Article 153** of the Constitution says "There shall be a Governor for each State."
- According to **Article 155** "the Governor of a State shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal".
- Under **Article 156**, "the Governor shall hold office during the pleasure of the President", but his term shall be five years.

- **Articles 157 and 158** lay down the qualifications and terms of office of the Governor.
- The Governor must be a citizen of India and must have completed **35 years** of age.
- The Governor should not be a member of Parliament or State Legislature, and should not hold any other office of profit.
- The position of Governor is envisaged as a political head who has to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers of the State.

Related Constitutional Articles

- **Article 153**- Governors of states
- **Article 154**- Executive power of state
- **Article 155**- Appointment of Governor
- **Article 156**- Term of office of Governor
- **Article 157**- Qualifications for appointment as Governor
- **Article 158**- Conditions of Governor's office
- **Article 159**- Oath or affirmation by the Governor
- **Article 160**- Discharge of the functions of the Governor in certain contingencies
- **Article 161**- Power of the Governor to grant pardons and others
- **Article 162**- Extent of executive power of state
- **Article 163**- Council of ministers to aid and advise the Governor