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1. PM Modi attended second Global Covid virtual summit (May 12, 2022)

PM Narendra Modi participated in the Second Global COVID Virtual Summit on 12 May at the invitation of US President, Joseph Biden.

- The summit aims to promote new actions to address the challenges of the pandemic and build a strong global health security framework.
- The theme of the summit is 'Preventing Pandemic Fatigue and Prioritising Preparedness'.
- Secretary General of the United Nations, Director General of World Health Organisation and other dignitaries participated in the summit.
- The Prime Minister had also participated in the first Global COVID virtual Summit hosted by President Biden on 22 September 2021.
- India is playing a key role in the ongoing global effort to combat the pandemic by developing safe and affordable vaccines, drugs, low-cost indigenous technologies and capacity building of health care workers.
- India is also actively participating in multilateral fora with the World Health Organisation aimed at strengthening and improving the global health security framework.
- **Current status of COVID in India**
- According to health ministry data India recorded 2,505 new Covid-19 cases and 52 deaths on 11 May 2022.
- While the total number of cases stands at 43,112,690, the total deaths reported are 522,864.
- According to the ministry data the total number of recoveries stands at 42,557,939.

2. Bhupender Yadav leads Indian delegation at COP15 summit on desertification (May 10, 2022)

The Indian delegation led by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has reached Abidjan, Cote D Ivoire to attend the Conference of Parties, 15th meeting of the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD COP15) from 9th to 20th May 2022.

- India had hosted the fourteenth session of this Conference from 2nd to 13th September 2019, in New Delhi.
- The COP15 theme is 'Land, Life, Legacy from scarcity to prosperity'.
- It is a call to action to protect land which is the lifeline on this planet, and continues to benefit present and future generations.
- Land is the cornerstone of a healthy, productive society, and COP15 will explore the relationship between land and other key issues.

Agenda of the Conference

- Drought, land restoration, land rights, gender equality and youth empowerment are the top subjects on the Conference agenda.
- Through its decisions adopted by UNCCD's 197 Parties, COP15 is expected to galvanise sustainable solutions for land restoration and drought resilience.

• About UNCCD

- It stands for United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
- It was established in 1994.
- Its aim is to combat desertification and the ill effects of drought.
- It is a legally binding convention that links development and the environment with sustainable land management.
- The Convention obliges national governments to take measures to deal with the issue of desertification.
- India ratified the Convention to Combat Desertification in December 1996.
- India is the COP president for 2019 - 2021.

• About COP

- The conference of the parties (COP) is the meeting of the ratifying governments.
- The Prime Minister of India at COP14 announced that the country will resettle an additional 50 lakh hectares of land by 2030.

3. Webinar on "Challenges in Thalassemia 2022" (May 9, 2022)

On the occasion of World Thalassemia Day on 9 May Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda addressed the webinar "Challenges in Thalassemia 2022" in New Delhi.

- It was jointly organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs along with various ministries and Thalassemia Association.
- Experts from different parts of India and the world participated in the conference.

• About Thalassemia

- Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder that causes the human body to have less haemoglobin than normal.
- World Thalassemia Day is observed every year on 8 May to spread awareness about this condition.
- This year, it is celebrated with the theme 'Be Aware. Share, Care: Working with the global community as one to improve thalassaemia knowledge.'
- Iron deficiency is the most common and can cause extreme tiredness, shortness of breath, weakness and cold hands and feet.

- Iron is a mineral that our body needs for growth, development and making haemoglobin.
- Haemoglobin is a protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen from the lungs to all parts of the body.
- Iron is a cofactor for neurotransmitters and is important for the synthesis and metabolism of hormones.

4. National Conference on PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Park (PM MITRA) Scheme (May 7, 2022)

Recently a National Conference on PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Park (PM Mitra) Park Scheme was organised by the Ministry of Textiles.

- The conference was inaugurated by U.P Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles.
- The conference provided a platform for presentations by officials of 13 state governments.
- 13 states viz Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh participated in the conference.
- Each state government showcased its strengths in the textiles sector.

• About PM MITRA Park Scheme

- Under the project, PM Mitra Parks will be set up by a special purpose vehicle owned by the State Governments and the Centre in a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- Seven Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM Mitra) parks will be set up at greenfield or brownfield sites located in different states.
- It is motivated by PM Modi's 5F vision of farm to fibre, fibre to factory, factory to fashion and fashion to foreign.
- This integrated vision will help drive the growth of the textile sector in the economy.

• Aim of the scheme

- To create a world class industrial infrastructure that will attract cutting edge technology and promote FDI and local investment in the sector.
- The objective of this scheme is to generate about 1 lakh direct and 2 lakh indirect jobs per park.

• Funding

- The Centre will provide capital support for common infrastructure development of Rs 500 crore for each greenfield Mitra park and Rs 200 crore for each brownfield.

5. Enterprise India National Coir Conclave 2022 (May 6, 2022)

Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Shri Narayan Rane inaugurated the 'Enterprise India National Coir Conclave 2022' organised under the "Amrit Mahotsav of Independence" at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

- On this occasion, the Coir Industries Awards were distributed to 44 units producing/exporting/exporting coir and coir products.
- On this Absar, the Care Board has introduced new coir products such as Care Composite Fruit Bowl, Jio-Textile Shadow Lamp, Care Fores, Care Flattened Auto Mirror Cover, Flat Rectangular Train, Certificate Holder as well as technology manuals for coir along with introducing new coir products. Books related to furnishing of floor-made floor-made floor-made floors were also released.
- The 'Run for Care' is also being organised on May 6, 2022 as a natural, disabled and environmentally friendly product to promote the use of coars.
- **About Care Board -**
- The Coir Board is a statutory body by the Government of India under the Coir Industry Act 1953.
- The headquarters of the Coir Board is in the city of Cochin.
- Coir is a fibre made from the outer husk of the coconut.
- Coir is used to make ropes, mattresses, brushes, doormats, etc.
- Coir is a good example of 'Waste to Wealth', which provides a sustainable solution by being eco-friendly and helpful in conserving water and soil.
- The coir industry provides employment to more than seven lakh people in the rural areas of coconut producing states.

6. PM Modi to address inaugural session of Jain International Trade Organisation's - JITO Connect 2022 (May 6, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the inaugural session of Jain International Trade Organisation's - JITO Connect 2022 through video conferencing.

· JITO Connect 2022 is a three-day event that is being organized in Pune from May 6-8 and will consist of several sessions on various issues related to business and economy.

· About Jain International Trade Organization (JITO)

· JITO is a worldwide association of businessmen, industrialists, knowledge workers and professionals that reflects the glory of ethical business practices.

· It is a global organization formed for socio-economic empowerment, value based education, community welfare, practice of compassion, spreading global friendship and spiritual upliftment of fellow beings.

· Mission of JITO

· Creating a world class body of influential and powerful Industrialists, Entrepreneurs, Businessmen and Professionals to come together for noble causes of Economic Empowerment, Knowledge and Service.

· **Objectives of JITO**

- Create managed knowledge Institutions and Value Based Education.
- Growth in business by mutual cooperation, avoidance of criticism and opposition.
- Create Platform for young entrepreneurs for right Business contacts.
- Promote governance and politics & value based people.

7. Prime Minister to take part in second India-Nordic Summit in Denmark (May 4, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the 2nd India-Nordic Summit today along with the Prime Ministers of Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Sweden and Norway.

- The summit is being hosted by Denmark.
- The India Nordic Summit will help expand India's multifaceted cooperation with the Nordic region.
- It will focus on topics such as post-pandemic economic recovery, climate change, innovation and technology, renewable energy, evolving global security landscape and India-Nordic cooperation in the Arctic region.
- Nordic countries are important partners in sustainability, renewable energy, digitization and innovation for India.
- The main focus of the summit is how to take forward the agenda of bilateral engagement between India and the Nordic countries.

• **About India-Nordic Summit**

- Nordic countries include Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Iceland.
- India had earlier proposed the idea of the Nordic Summit, which was held in 2018 at Stockholm.
- The second summit was scheduled to take place in June 2021, but was postponed amid fears of Covid.
- The Nordic countries together have an economy of over \$1.6 trillion.
- The total bilateral trade between India and the Nordic states is worth \$13 billion.

8. 4th edition of the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (May 4, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today addressed the inaugural session of the 4th edition of the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) via video message.

- The fourth edition of ICDRI was organised in a hybrid format in New Delhi from 4-6 May 2022.
- ICDRI 2022 will engage with decision makers, practitioners and communities around the world to discuss challenges, identify good practices, develop collaborations and promote concrete actions.
- This will include multi-sectoral and multi-country discussions around ecologically sensitive design for infrastructure transition, risk governance and finance, innovation and building human-centred, resilient.

- **About ICDRI**

- The International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) is the annual conference of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- It brings together member states, organisations and institutions to strengthen global discussion on disaster and climate resilient infrastructure.
- In 2018 and 2019, the first and second international workshops on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure took place in New Delhi, India.
- ICDRI 2021 was hosted virtually.

9. PM Modi, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz co-chair sixth edition of IGC in Berlin (May 3, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz co-chaired the 6th edition of the India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations-IGC in Berlin.

- The two leaders highlighted key aspects of bilateral relations as well as shared perspectives on regional and global issues.
- PM Modi emphasised that the India-Germany partnership can serve as an example of success in a complex world.
- He also invited German participation in India's Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- It was the prime minister's first IGC with Chancellor Scholz and also the first government-to-government consultation of the new German government, which took office in December last year.
- The biennial IGC is a unique dialogue format with the participation of several ministers from both sides.
- Earlier, Prime Minister Modi held bilateral discussions with the German Chancellor.
- The two leaders reviewed the full range of bilateral relations between India and Germany, including promoting trade as well as cultural ties.

10. PM Modi addresses inaugural session of Joint Conference of CMs, Chief Justices of High Courts (April 30, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a joint conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on April 30.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the government considers the potential of technology in the judicial system as an essential part of the Digital India mission.
- He said, the e-court project is being implemented in the country in mission mode.
- He said, the judiciary is the custodian of the constitution and the legislature represents the aspirations of the citizens.
- He said, this balance will prepare the roadmap for an effective and time bound judicial system in the country.
- He said that the central government has abolished 1,450 laws that have become irrelevant, but the states have abolished only 75 laws.
- **About joint conference**
- The Joint Conference brings together the executive and judicial branches of government to develop a framework for the delivery of justice in a simple and convenient manner.
- It examines the actions required to address the challenges of the system.
- This joint conference has been organised after a gap of six years, it was last held in 2016 under the e-courts mission mode project.
- Since then the government has taken several measures to improve infrastructure and integrate digital technology into judicial processes.
- Chief Justice of India NV Ramana presided over the 39th conference.