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1. Supreme Court gets two new judges (May 20, 2023)

Supreme-Court-gets-two-new-judges

CJI DY Chandrachud administered the oath of office to **Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra** and senior advocate **Kalpathy Venkataraman Viswanathan** as a judge of the Supreme Court on 19th May.

An overview of the news

- With this, the total strength of judges in the Supreme Court has gone up to the **sanctioned strength of 34.**
- However, the number of Supreme Court justices will remain at its highest level for only a short period as **three judges are due to retire in June.**
- Justice **KM Joseph, Justice Ajay Rastogi and Justice V Ramasubramanian** are set to complete their tenure next month during the summer vacation.
- Summer vacation of the apex court will run from **May 22 to July 2.**
- **Justice Vishwanathan**, the newly appointed Supreme Court judge, will become the **Chief Justice of India after the retirement of Justice JB Pardiwala on August 11, 2030**, and will hold office till May 25, 2031.
- The warrant of appointment of Justice Mishra and Justice Vishwanathan as judges of the apex court was issued by the office of President Draupadi Murmu on May 18.

Appointment of Judges : Collegium System

- The **collegium system in India refers to the process of appointment and transfer of judges** in the higher judiciary, which includes the Supreme Court and the High Courts.
- Under this system, a collegium of the Chief Justice of India and four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court recommend appointments and transfers to the President of India, who has the power to make the appointments.
- The system was **established by a 1993** judgement of the Supreme Court and has been the subject of controversy and criticism.
- Some have criticized it for **lack of transparency and accountability**, while others have defended it as necessary to ensure the independence of the judiciary.

National Judicial Appointments Commission

- The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) was a proposed body in India that was intended to replace the existing collegium system for the **appointment and transfer of judges to the higher judiciary.**
- The NJAC Act was passed by the Indian Parliament in 2014, but it was later struck down by the Supreme Court of India in 2015 on the grounds that it violated the **basic structure of the Indian Constitution.**

- The court held that the NJAC Act sought to undermine the **independence of the judiciary and the basic feature of separation of powers between the executive and the judiciary.**
- As a result, the collegium system was restored and continues to be used for the appointment of judges to the higher judiciary in India.

2. Big win for Twitter, Google at US Supreme Court in internet liability cases (May 20, 2023)

Big-win-for-Twitter

Recently social media platforms **Twitter and Google** have registered a **big victory in the US Supreme Court**. The court ruled that **Internet companies could not be held liable for content posted on their sites.**

An overview of the news

- The judges delivered their ruling on two cases in which families of victims of a **terrorist attack** claimed that Google and Twitter should be held accountable for aiding and abetting ISIS, which resulted in the death of their loved ones.
- The decision has far-reaching implications for the tech industry, intellectual property rights and freedom of expression.
- In particular, these judgments highlight the evolving legal landscape surrounding online platforms and their role in shaping public discourse.

3. PM Narendra Modi holds bilateral meeting with Japanese PM Fumio Kishida in Hiroshima (May 20, 2023)

PM-Narendra-Modi-holds-bilateral-meeting

On May 20, **PM Modi** held a bilateral meeting with his Japanese counterpart **Fumio Kishida** ahead of the **G-7 summit in Hiroshima, Japan.**

An Overview of the News

- Discussed enhancing India-Japan friendship in **trade, economy, culture and Indo-Pacific cooperation.**
- Emphasised efforts to synergize between the **G-7 and G-20 Presidencies and the voices of the Global South.**
- Prime Minister Modi unveiled a **statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Hiroshima as a symbol of friendship and peace.**
- G-7 summit priorities include **nuclear disarmament, economic resilience and security, regional issues, climate and energy, food and health, digitization and science and technology.**
- Later, Prime Minister Modi had a productive meeting with President of **South Korea Yoon Suk Yeol** to strengthen bilateral friendship in key developmental areas.

About G-7

- It is an **intergovernmental political forum**.
- It consists of seven member states: **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States**.
- In addition to the seven member states, the European Union is also part of the G7 as a non-enumerated member.

Formation - **25 March 1973**

First G6 Summit - **15 November 1975**

Japan:

- It is also called **Nihon or Nippon** and is an archipelago in the **western Pacific Ocean in East Asia**.
- It is made up of four main islands **Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu** and **Honshu** is the largest island of Japan.
- Its highest mountain is **Mount Fuji**.
- It is the third largest economy in the world after the **United States and China**.

Capital - **Tokyo**

Currency - **Yen**

Prime Minister - **Fumio Kishida**

4. NIA arrests 3 under 'Operation Dhvast' against terrorist-gangster-narco nexus (May 20, 2023)

National-Investigation-Agency-(NIA)

The **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** has recently arrested three people under '**Operation Dhvast**' against the **terrorist-gangster-drug-trafficker nexus**.

An overview of the news

- Following its searches at 129 locations in eight states, the NIA has detained one person each from **Moga (Punjab), Bhiwani (Haryana) and North-East district (Delhi)**.
- According to the NIA, the investigation of these cases pertains to conspiracies related to targeted killings, terror financing of pro-Khalistan organisations, extortion and other such criminal activities.

About National Investigation Agency (NIA)

- Its real name is National Investigation Agency, commonly known as National Investigation Agency. It was constituted under the **National Investigation Agency Act, 2008**.

- Realizing the need for a central agency to investigate terrorism and some other criminal acts after the **2008 Mumbai terrorist attack, the NIA was formed.**
- It acts as the central counter-terrorism law enforcement agency.
- The cases are assigned to the NIA by the Central Government in accordance with **Section VI of the NIA Act, 2008.**
- It is **headquartered in New Delhi** and has branches in **Hyderabad, Guwahati, Kochi, Lucknow, Mumbai, Kolkata, Raipur and Jammu.**
- The founding director general of NIA was **Radha Vinod Raju.**

5. Supreme Court upholds Tamil Nadu law allowing jallikattu (May 20, 2023)

Supreme-Court-upholds-Tamil-Nadu-law-allowing-jallikattu

The **Supreme Court** on May 18 **upheld the validity of a Tamil Nadu law that allowed Jallikattu, a bull-fighting sport.**

An overview of the news

- The Supreme Court has upheld the **constitutional validity of the amendment made by the Tamil Nadu** government to the **Central Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.**

About Supreme Court's Judgement

- In a unanimous judgement, a **five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice KM Joseph** noted that the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 2017, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Maharashtra Amendment) Act, 2017 and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Act, 2017** The **Prevention of Cruelty to Persons (Karnataka Second Amendment) Act, 2017** was enacted by the respective state legislatures and received the assent of the President.
- The SC held that these rules by the states **did not violate the Constitution and the Supreme Court's 2014 judgment** banning Jallikattu.

About Jallikattu

- Jallikattu is a **traditional sport** especially popular in Tamil Nadu.
- In this sport, a wild bull is released into a crowd of people, and the participants try to catch the bull's hump and ride it for as long as possible or try to bring it under control.
- It is celebrated every year during the Tamil harvest festival, **Pongal**, in the month of **January.**
- The state government argues that instead of banning this age-old practice, it can be regulated and reformed.

6. Under "Clean Note Policy" RBI decided to withdraw Rs 2000 note from circulation (May 20, 2023)

Under-Clean-Note-Policy

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to **withdraw Rs 2,000** denomination banknotes from circulation under the "**Clean Note Policy**".

An Overview of the News

- **Rs 2,000 notes will continue to be legal tender.**
- **Individuals can deposit the Rs 2,000 banknotes** into their bank accounts or exchange them for other denominations at any bank branch.
- **From May 23, 2023, Rs 2,000 notes can be exchanged** for other denominations up to a limit of Rs 20,000 at a time at any bank branch.
- RBI's 19 regional offices with issue departments will also provide the facility to **exchange Rs 2,000 banknotes up to a limit of Rs 20,000 at a time from May 23.**
- All banks to offer deposit and/or exchange services for **Rs 2,000 notes by September 30, 2023.**

Clean Note Policy:

- The clean note policy was **introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in **1999** to address the issue of soiled and mutilated notes.
- Banks are instructed not to give soiled, torn and mutilated notes to customers and instead deposit them with RBI.
- Stapling of currency notes/packets is prohibited as per the policy.
- The objective of the Clean Note Policy is **to provide good quality currency notes and coins to the customers.**
- Soiled and mutilated currency notes can be easily exchanged at teller counters under the **RBI's note refund rules of 2009.**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

Establishment - **1 April 1935, Kolkata**

Founder - **British Raj**

Headquarters - **Mumbai, Maharashtra, India**

Governor - **Shaktikanta Das**

7. Ministry of Civil Aviation organises curtain raiser event (May 19, 2023)

Ministry-of-Civil-Aviation-organises-curtain-raiser-event

The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** organised a **curtain raiser event for Wings India 2024** and it is **Asia's largest commercial, general and business aviation event** to be held in January 2024.

An Overview of the News

- Government is shifting focus from regulator to facilitator in capacity building for the **aviation market**.
- India aims to become the **largest aviation market globally by 2047**.
- Strategy for capacity building, removal of bottlenecks and simplification of procedures in the aviation sector.
- The **number of airports increased from 74 to 148** in the **last nine years** and the target is to have **more than 200 in the next few years**.
- The UDAN regional connectivity scheme is capable of adding new airports and connecting **tier-2 and tier-3 cities**.
- **Wings India 2024 will be held in Hyderabad from January 18 to 21, 2024**, to promote collaboration and showcase innovations in the aviation industry.

Ministry of Civil Aviation in India:

- It is the **nodal ministry** responsible for the formulation of national policies and programs for the development and regulation of civil aviation.
- It is responsible for formulating and implementing plans for the orderly development and expansion of civil air transport in the country.

Headquarter - **New Delhi**

Office holder - **Jyotiraditya Scindia**

8. India launches 'Operation Karuna' to provide aid to Myanmar (May 19, 2023)

Operation Karuna

India launched "**Operation Karuna**" to provide humanitarian assistance for people in **Myanmar**, which is affected by **Cyclone Mocha**.

An overview of the news

- Three ships from India carrying relief material reached **Yangon on 18th May**.
- Indian Naval Ships **Shivalik, Kamorta and Savitri** were the first Naval ships to arrive at Yangon with **relief material** on 18th May.
- The ships are carrying **emergency food supplies, tents, essential medicines, water pumps, portable generators, clothes, hygiene items, etc.**

- Indian Navy Committed to Ensuring Security and Growth for All in the Region
- India has always been at the forefront in providing assistance to its neighbors during such calamities.

About Cyclone Mocha

- Cyclone Mocha which recently hit Myanmar has been classified as an **extremely severe cyclonic storm by the IMD.**
- It has been classified as a '**Super Cyclone**' by the global weather website **Zoom Earth.**
- The name of the storm 'Mocha' has been suggested by **Yemen.**
- Mocha originated in the **Bay of Bengal.**
- With a recorded wind speed of **277 kmph, Mocha has become the strongest all-season cyclone** to form in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal **since 1982.**

9. 75/25 Initiative and Empowered Portal (May 19, 2023)

Union Health Ministry

The **Union Health Ministry** announced the "**75/25**" initiative to provide standard care to **75 million people with hypertension and diabetes** by 2025 through **Primary Health Centers (PHCs).**

An Overview of the News

75/25 Initiative:

- **40,000 primary health care medical officers** will be trained on standard treatment workflow for **non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** through the **SASHAKT portal.**
- India has the largest coverage of NCDs globally, aiming to reach 75 million people with hypertension under standard care in primary healthcare by 2025.
- The initiative was launched during the G20 co-branded event "**Accelerating Prevention and Management of Hypertension and Diabetes**".
- The scheme aims at the largest coverage of NCDs in primary healthcare across the world with a community-based approach.

SASHAKT Portal:

- The National Health Systems and Resources Center (NHSRC) has developed a web portal named SASHAKT (Systematic Assessment of Health care providers Knowledge and Training).
- The portal supports states in implementing and monitoring training for health workers.

The specific objectives of training monitoring software are as follows:

- Planning: To assist states in planning training for health workers.
- Quality Monitoring: Monitoring the quality of the training being conducted.
- Real-time Status: To determine the real-time status of training of health workers.
- Documentation and Reporting: Facilitates timely documentation and reporting on the status of training.

10. IGNCA organises Rabindra Jayanti in New Delhi (May 19, 2023)

Rabindra Jayanti was organised in **New Delhi** on 12 May by the **Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts (IGNCA)**.

An Overview of the News

- The event was organised in collaboration with **Sri Guru Gobind Singh Tricentenary University** and **Sanchara Foundation**.
- The '**Vigyan Vaibhav**' portal developed by IGNCA was launched during the event.
- This portal is dedicated to seventy five Indian scientists.
- Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi inaugurated the portal.
- The event included special cultural performances such as Rabindra Sangeet and a cultural presentation.

IGNCA:

- It is a major **government-funded arts organisation in New Delhi, India**.
- It is an **autonomous institute** under the **Union Ministry of Culture**.
- It was launched on **19 November 1985 by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi**.
- Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts was formed and registered on 24 March 1987 in New Delhi.