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1. 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**

2. 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**.

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4. 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.

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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**

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8. 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**

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10. 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**.