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1. 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**

2. PM Modi's 100th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast live at UN Headquarters (April 30, 2023)

The **100th episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's radio program 'Mann Ki Baat'** was **broadcast live** at the **United Nations Headquarters** here late on April 29, local time.

An overview of the news

- India's Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the United Nations **Ruchira Kamboj** said that Mann Ki Baat was aired at the **Trusteeship Council of the United Nations Headquarters in New York**.
- Indian missions in various countries including **UK, China, South Africa, Chile, Morocco, Mexico, Congo, Iraq** and Indonesia also made special arrangements to listen to the **100th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat'**.
- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is on an official visit to **Guyana, Panama, Colombia and the Dominican Republic**, also attended the special event organized by the Indian community.

'Mann Ki Baat' program

- The program 'Mann Ki Baat' **started on 3 October 2014** and is broadcast on the **last Sunday of every month**.
- **It inspires millions of people to participate in India's development journey.**
- On 30th April it completed its **100th episode**.
- The episodes aired **between 2014 and 2019** were **more general and motivational** in nature, with the latter episodes discussing a lot of **government policies and initiatives**.

3. 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.

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. Rajasthan Housing Board got National Award for Real Estate (April 30, 2023)

On April 26, 2023, the **National Real Estate Award** was presented to the **Rajasthan Housing Board** by the **Central Government Agency National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO).**

An overview of the news

- National Real Estate Development Council National President **Rajan Bandelkar** and RERA Delhi Chairman **Anand Kumar** presented the award to Rajasthan Housing Commissioner **Pawan Arora** at a national level function.
- The Rajasthan Housing Board was honored with the award for registering the **maximum number of housing projects in the country under RERA, selling the maximum number of houses and doing excellent work in the field of real estate.**
- Earlier in the function, Rajasthan Housing Commissioner was specially invited for a panel discussion on the topic '**Real Estate in the Era of RERA**'. He was also honored on this platform.

- Rajasthan Housing Board has become the **biggest organization to register 101 project RERA numbers.**
- Under the leadership of Housing Commissioner Pawan Arora, the board has received **a total of 15 awards in the last four years.**
- These include World Book of Records in house sales, Scotch Award-2021, Award of Excellence, Honor by National Real Estate Development Council, National Housing Award, I.B.C. and prestigious awards like 'Star of Governance-Gold Award'.

5. 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**.

6. 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.

7. Agriculture Minister launches 'Millets Experience Centre' at Dilli Haat (April 29, 2023)

Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** launched the first of its kind '**Millets Experience Centre (MEC)**' at **Dilli Haat in New Delhi** on 28th April.

An overview of the news

- India has an important role to play in the celebration of the **International Year of Millets 2023**.
- India is poised to become a '**Global Hub**' for **Millets** and setting up of MEC is a major step in that direction.
- The **United Nations General Assembly** has declared the year 2023 as the **International Year of Millets (IYM 2023)**.

About Millets Experience Centre

- The **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED)** in association with the **Ministry of Agriculture** has set up the **Millets Experience Centre**.
- It aims **to increase awareness about millet and encourage its adoption among the general public**.
- Setting up a consumer-oriented 'Millets Experience Centre' will not only promote the dietary benefits of millets but also popularize Shree Anna (Millets) as a nutritional powerhouse.
- In addition to the unique dining experience, customers can also purchase a variety of **ready-to-eat and ready-to-cook products** from local millet start-ups at MEC.

International Year of Millet (IYOM)-2023

- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** adopted India's resolution and **declared 2023 as the International Year of millets** in March 2021.
- India's proposal received the **support of 72 countries**.
- In 2021, NITI Aayog signed a letter of intent with the **United Nations World Food Program (WFP)**.
- The partnership focuses on mainstreaming millets and helping India take a global lead in promoting its health benefits.
- The objective of this partnership is to build **resilient livelihoods for smallholder farmers and to build adaptability** to climate change and changing food systems.

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. Summit on Farm Machinery Technology (April 28, 2023)

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare **Narendra Singh Tomar** on 27th April inaugurated the **Summit on Farm Machinery Technology**, organized by the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Tractor and Mechanisation Association (TMA) in New Delhi.**

An overview of the news

- In his address, Tomar said, there are about **85 percent of small farmers in the country**, who should get the **benefit of technology and machinery.**

- **From 2014-15 to 2022-23**, an amount of **six thousand 120 crore 85 thousand rupees** has been released to the states for various activities like **training, testing, establishment of CHCs, hi-tech hubs and farm machinery banks**.
- Apart from this, **15 lakh 24 thousand lakh agricultural machinery and equipment** have been distributed through state governments at subsidized rates, which include **tractors, power tillers and automated machinery**.
- The summit was attended by stakeholders including **original equipment manufacturers, policy planners, suppliers, and product development and design firms**.

About Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

- CII is a **non-profit and non-governmental organisation**.
- The objective of CII is **to achieve a conducive environment for the development of industry and civil society in India**.
- It was **established in 1895**.
- It has over **8,000 members from both the public and private sectors**.
- Headquarter : **New Delhi**
- President : **Sanjiv Bajaj**

10. 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.**