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1. India to join international climate action in civil aviation from 2027 (May 1, 2023)

India will join the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA) and Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG) from 2027.

An Overview of the News

- This announcement was made in the meeting of the **Consultative Committee of the Parliament of the Ministry of Civil Aviation** under the **chairmanship of Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia**.
- ICAO has adopted several key ambitious targets, including a **two percent annual fuel efficiency improvement by 2050, carbon neutral development, and net zero by 2050, all covered under CORSA and LTAG**.
- India's Ministry of Civil Aviation stated that joining these measures from 2027 would help airlines from developing countries like India to achieve greater growth and avoid adverse **financial consequences due to CORSA**.
- The financial impact caused by offsetting will be borne by individual airlines based on their international operations, and CORSA only applies to flights originating from one country to another.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO):

- It is a **specialised agency of the United Nations** and its primary function is to **coordinate the principles and techniques of international air navigation**.
- The organisation is also responsible for promoting the **planning and development of international air transport**.
- ICAO's mission is to ensure the **safe and orderly development of the international aviation industry**.
- The organisation works with its member states to **develop and implement policies and regulations related to air navigation and air transport**.
- ICAO also provides technical assistance and training to help its member states meet international aviation standards and regulations.

Established - **7 December 1944**

Headquarters - **Montreal, Canada**

Carbon Offsetting and Mitigation Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA):

- It is a global plan developed by the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** to **reduce CO2 emissions from international flights**.

- It aims to achieve **carbon-neutral growth for international flights** by offsetting any increase in emissions through the purchase of carbon credits from eligible projects.
- The plan has a phased implementation and includes all international flights, except to **least developed countries, small island developing states and landlocked developing countries.**

2. Indian Army inducts five women officers into its Artillery Regiment (May 1, 2023)

The women officers, including **Lt Mehak Saini, Lt Sakshi Dubey, Lt Aditi Yadav, Lt Pavitra Moudgil and Lt Akanksha**, joined **major artillery units of the Army after completing their training at the Officers Training Academy in Chennai.**

An Overview of the News

- The move is a significant step towards **gender equality in the Indian Armed Forces** and reflects the **Army's commitment to** promoting diversity and inclusivity.
- According to military sources, out of the five women officers, three have been posted on the forward front along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** with China, while the other two have been posted at challenging positions near the **border with Pakistan.**
- The Artillery Regiment is a major combat support branch responsible for various gun systems including the **Bofors howitzer, Dhanush, M-777 howitzer and K-9 Vajra self-propelled guns.**
- Women officers are being posted in major artillery units of all types, where they will get adequate training and experience in handling rocket, area and surveillance, and target acquisition (SATA) systems, as well as major equipment.
- The decision to induct women officers into artillery units was announced by Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pandey in January and later approved by the government.

About Indian Army

Established- **26 January 1950**

Headquarters- **New Delhi**

Motto- **Seva Paramo Dharma: (Sanskrit); "Service Before Self" (translation)**

Colour- **Gold, Red and Black**

Part- **Indian Armed Forces**

Role- **Land War**

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4. 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**

5. 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**.

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7. 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)**
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9. 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'.

10. 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.**
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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.**