

Current Affairs search results for tag: international-news

1. Ukraine and Britain (UK) have signed a preferential trade agreement (May 6, 2022)

Ukraine and Britain (UK) have signed a preferential trade agreement for the abolition of import duties and tariff quotas.

- By signing this agreement Ukraine and the UK have legally abolished import duties and tariff quotas in bilateral trade.
- The Preferential Trade Agreement will be valid for 12 months.
- The agreement is set to promote exports of high value-added goods such as flour, cereals, dairy products, poultry, tomato paste, honey, corn, wheat, juice, mushrooms and sugar from Ukraine.
- Recently the European Union also decided to abolish tariffs and quotas on Ukrainian industrial goods and food items.
- **About Ukraine-**
- Ukraine is a country located in Eastern Europe. It borders Russia in the east, Belarus, Poland, Slovakia in the north, Hungary in the west, Romania in the south and Moldova and the Black Sea in the south and the Black Sea and Azov Sea.
- Capital - Kyiv
- President- Volodymyr Zelensky
- Prime Minister- Volodymyr Groysman
- currency - hryvnia

2. North Korea fires ballistic missile (May 5, 2022)

North Korea has test fired an intercontinental ballistic missile. Regarding the test of this missile, Kim Jong Un, describing it as a display of his nuclear power, said that it has been prepared to prevent any kind of military action from the US.

- Pyongyang, which is the nuclear arsenal of North Korea, has conducted 14 weapons tests since January, including firing an intercontinental ballistic missile at full-range for the first time since 2017.
- Last week, Kim oversaw a huge military parade, vowed to rapidly expand and improve his nuclear arsenal, and warned of possible attacks.
- North Korea fired the ballistic missile from the Sunan Airfield near Pyongyang, the site of recent ICBM tests.
- The missile flew 470KM (300 miles) and reached an altitude of 780KM, it was a "blatant violation of UN Security Council resolutions."

- The name of this intercontinental missile of North Korea is known as Hwasong-17.
- This ballistic missile is the largest liquid-fueled missile ever launched by any country from a road mobile launcher.
- **About Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs)**
 - It is a land-based, nuclear-armed ballistic missile with a range of more than 5,600 km.
 - The first ICBMs were deployed by the Soviet Union in 1958, the US followed the next year.
 - India, Russia, the United States, China, Israel, the United Kingdom, France and North Korea are the only countries that have ICBMs.

3. India will be the official country of honour at Cannes Film Market (May 4, 2022)

India will take part as the official country of honour at the Cannes Film Festival to be held from May 17 to May 28.

- This is the first time a country will take part in the 'Honour of Country' at the Cannes Film Festival.
- The Cannes Film Festival, held annually in Cannes, France, is the 75th edition of Cannes.
- **India at Cannes Film Festival 2022-**
 - India's Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur will participate in the festival and deliver the welcome address.
 - Actress Deepika Padukone will be seen as a jury in the main feature film competition at this year's Cannes Festival.
 - Renowned Indian author Satyajit Ray's "Pratidwandi" (1970) and Aravindan Govindan's "The Circus Tent" will be screened at the Cannes Classics strand of the festival.
 - In addition, the festival will also see a special screening of Indian filmmaker Shaunak Sen's Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner "All That Breathes".

4. 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.

5. World Press Freedom Index : India slips to 150th position from 142nd (May 4, 2022)

India's ranking in the World Press Freedom Index has fallen down to 150th position from last year's 142nd rank out of 180 countries.

Highlights of the 2022 report

- **Best performing countries**

1. Norway- 1st
2. Denmark- 2nd
3. Sweden- 3rd
4. Estonia- 4th
5. Finland- 5th

- **Worst performing countries**

- North Korea remained at the bottom of the list.
- Russia is placed at 155th position, slipping from 150th last year.
- According to the global media watchdog, China climbed two places to the 175th position, from 177th place last year.

- **Performance of India;s neighbourhood countries**

- Apart from India, the ranking of its neighbouring countries has also declined except Nepal.
- While Pakistan is ranked 157th, Sri Lanka is at 146th, Bangladesh at 162nd and Myanmar at 176th.

About Press Freedom Index

- It has been published by Reporters Without Borders every year since 2002.
- This is based on the organisation's own assessment of countries' press freedom records in the last year.
- The index ranks 180 countries and territories according to the level of freedom available to journalists.
- The index is prepared on the basis of assessment of the level of pluralism, media freedom, media environment and self-censorship, legal framework, transparency as well as the quality of the existing infrastructure for news and information.

6. 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.

7. PM participates in unveiling of Sardar Patel's statue in Canada (May 2, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended a ceremony in Markham, Canada on May 1, where a statue of Sardar Patel was unveiled at the Sanatan Mandir Cultural Centre.

- PM Modi lauded the unveiling of the statue as a great initiative by the diaspora to deepen cultural ties with India.
- He said that the statue of Sardar Patel would not only strengthen the cultural values but would also become a symbol of relations between the two countries.
- He said, India is not only a nation, but also an idea and culture.

He said that India is that high level idea which talks of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

- **India-Canada relation**

- India-Canada bilateral relationship is based on the shared values of democracy, pluralism, and extended economic engagement.
- Relations between the two countries are based on shared democratic values, the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-religious nature of the two societies, and people-to-people ties.
- The visit of the Prime Minister of India to Canada in 2015 has transformed the bilateral relationship into a strategic partnership.
- Both the countries pursue bilateral relations through the following dialogue mechanisms-

1. Joint Working Group on Higher Education(Since 2019)
2. Ministerial Level – Strategic, Trade and Energy Dialogue
3. Other sector specific joint working groups
4. Joint Committee Meeting on Civil Nuclear cooperation
5. India-Canada Strategic Dialogue by the External Affairs Ministers of both nations

- Bilateral trade between India and Canada is worth US\$ 5 billion.
- More than 400 Canadian companies have a presence in India, and over 1,000 companies are actively trading in the Indian market.
- India exports pharma, iron and steel, chemicals, gems and jewellery, nuclear reactors and boilers to Canada.
- Imports include minerals, ores, vegetables, fertiliser, paper and pulp.

8. Pakistan gets \$8 billion in financial support from Saudi Arabia (May 2, 2022)

Saudi Arabia has agreed to provide a relief package of about 8 billion US dollars to Pakistan.

- This package is expected to give a big help to Pakistan in recovering its dwindling foreign exchange reserves and troubled economy.
- At present, Pakistan is beset with serious financial challenges due to high rate of inflation, dwindling foreign exchange reserves, severe current account deficit and weakening of its currency.
- The agreement was signed during the visit of Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif to Saudi Arabia.
- It provides for funding for oil, additional funds through deposits or succulents, and advances of \$4.2 billion in facilities.

- Pakistan had proposed to increase the funding for oil from \$ 1.2 billion to \$ 2.4 billion, which Saudi Arabia accepted.
- It was also agreed that the existing deposits of \$3 billion would be rolled over for an extended period up to June 2023.
- **Other Financial support of UAE to Pakistan**
- Saudi Arabia provided a \$3 billion deposit to the State Bank of Pakistan in December 2021.
- The Saudi oil facility became operational in March 2022, receiving \$100 million for Pakistan to purchase oil.
- This oil-rich Gulf country had given a package of \$ 7.5 billion to Pakistan during the last term of the PML-N government (2013-18).
- In the PTI-led government headed by former prime minister Imran Khan, Saudi Arabia provided a \$4.2 billion package, including a \$3 billion deposit and a \$1.2 billion oil facility for one year, and linked it to the IMF program
- Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have depleted by \$6 billion in the last six to seven weeks and nosedived to \$10.5 billion.
- Pakistan needs financial assistance of \$ 9-12 billion by June 2022 to prevent depletion of foreign exchange reserves.

9. FDA proposes ban on menthol cigarettes, flavoured cigars (April 30, 2022)

The US Food and Drug Administration issued a long-awaited proposal to ban menthol cigarettes and flavoured cigars.

- The proposal aims to ban menthol as a specific flavouring in cigarettes and all characteristic flavours in cigars.
- The proposed rule will help prevent children from becoming the next generation of smokers and help in quitting adult smoking addiction.
- The proposed rule will help prevent children from becoming the next generation of smokers and help in quitting adult smoking addiction.
- Brazil was the first country in the world to ban menthol cigarettes in 2012.
- In 2019, the Government of India banned electronic cigarettes and different states have their own rules for banning the consumption of hookah in public places.
- **Tobacco Consumption in India**
- As per the Global Youth Tobacco Survey, India has the second largest number (268 million) of tobacco users in the world.
- Every year 1.3 million people in India die due to tobacco-related diseases.
- One million deaths are caused by smoking.

- In India, about 270 million people above 15 years of age and 8.5% of school children in the age group of 13-15 years use tobacco in some form or the other.
- Tobacco consumption incurs an economic burden of Rs 1,77,340 crore annually in India.
- About 27 percent of cancers in India are caused by tobacco use.

10. Central African Republic adopted the cryptocurrency as legal currency (April 29, 2022)

The Central African Republic has recognized the world's largest and most popular cryptocurrency, bitcoin as its legal currency.

- It became the second country in the world and the first country in the continent of Africa to legalise bitcoin.
- In 2021, El Salvador became the first country in the world to legalise bitcoin.
- Now people there can pay tax in crypto currency through government recognized platforms.
- The Central African Republic is one of six countries in Africa that use the Central African CFA franc.
- The Central African CFA franc is a regional currency issued by the Bank of Central African States (BEAC).
- **About Central African Republic -**
- The Central African Republic is a landlocked country located in Central Africa.
- Despite being rich in diamonds, gold, oil, uranium, the Central African Republic is today counted among the poorest countries.
- It became independent from France in 1960.
- Capital- Bangui
- President- François Bozize
- Prime Minister- Faustin-Archange Touadera