

Daily Current Affairs- 24.05.2022

1. India joins US Indo-Pacific economic plan

India joined a dozen other nations to launch the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), a US-led trade initiative meant to counter China's aggressive expansion in the region.

Among the 13 countries backing the initiative are Australia, Brunei, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam, and the members jointly account for 40% of the global GDP.

The Indo-Pacific region is the centre of manufacturing, economic activity, global trade and investment. History is witness to the fact that India has been a major centre in the trade flows of the Indo-Pacific region for centuries. It is worth mentioning that the world's oldest commercial port was in Lothal in my home state of Gujarat, India.

2. Indian Railways and IIT Madras Partner To Develop India's First Indigenous Hyperloop

The Ministry of Railways has announced that it's going to collaborate with IIT Madras for the development of a made-in-India Hyperloop system. It has also announced that it'll be setting up a Centre for Excellence for Hyperloop technologies at the aforementioned institution.

India has shown interest in Hyperloop tech since 2017, by then Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu. In fact, the ministry also held talks with US-based Hyperloop One, but nothing quite materialised.

Hyperloop is a concept of high-speed transportation where pressurised vehicles (or pods) travel through a low-pressure tunnel allowing for movement through the atmosphere at almost no resistance, similar to air travel.

Imagine, an aircraft like speed on land, travelling through low-pressure tunnels from one terminal to another. The pods would move via mag-lev technology that would enable the frictionless ride.

Apart from being extremely quick, it's also eco-friendly as it consumes less power than an electric train and doesn't really have any emissions unlike an aircraft or a diesel locomotive.

3. Belgium becomes first country to make quarantine compulsory for monkeypox patients

4th May Daily Current Affairs 2022: Today GK Updates for Bank Exam_70.1

Belgium has become the first country to make a 21-day quarantine compulsory for monkeypox patients after four cases of the disease were reported. The Belgian health authorities took this decision, Saudi Gazette reported citing Belgian media.

The Belgian Institute of Tropical Medicine has said that the risk of a larger outbreak in the country is low. The World Health Organization reported that there were a total of 92 confirmed monkeypox cases in 12 different countries, with 28 suspected cases under investigation.

Cases of monkeypox have been confirmed in the UK, Portugal, Sweden, Italy, Spain, France, Belgium, Germany, the US, Canada and Australia, as reported by Saudi Gazette.

Monkeypox is a disease in the same family as smallpox and symptoms include a distinct bumpy rash, a fever, sore muscles, and a headache. Monkeypox is less deadly than smallpox, with a mortality rate below four per cent, but experts are worried about the unusual spread of the disease beyond Africa where it usually circulates.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Belgium Capital: Brussels;
- Belgium Currency: Euro;
- Prime Minister of Belgium: Alexander De Croo.

4. Jose Ramos-Horta sworn in as president of East Timor

Former independence fighter and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Jose Ramos-Horta has been sworn in as president of East Timor (Timor-Leste) ahead of celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of independence for Asia's youngest country.

He defeated incumbent Francisco "Lu Olo" Guterres, his fellow independence fighter, in the election. Ramos-Horta was prime minister from 2006 to 2007 and president from 2007 to 2012. East Timor is marking the 20th anniversary of independence for Asia's youngest country.

5. UP launches 'Sambhav' portal for disposal of public grievances related to energy

Minister for energy and urban development Arvind Sharma has launched the SAMBHAV (Systemic Administration Mechanism for Bringing Happiness and Value) portal for disposal of public grievances and monitoring programmes and schemes of the two departments in Uttar Pradesh.

The portal, www.sambhav.up.gov.in, will work as a platform for flagging grievances received from the public to officers who have been provided login IDs. The officers will have to feed their response and action taken report (ATR).

"SAMBHAV is a multi-modal platform which has been launched to dispose public grievances swiftly and effectively and provide good governance and make the public service delivery transparent and accountable.

SAMBHAV will work as an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) platform for flagging grievances received from the public to the concerning officers who have been provided login IDs.

The officers are required to feed their response and action taken report (ATRs) on the issues concerned. The portal will also have the facility of videoconferencing and teleconferencing for dialogue with the officials.

The portal will take grievances and issues from various sources, including pending cases and grievances under the chief minister's Jan Sunwai/ Integrated Grievance Redressal System (IGRS) system.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Uttar Pradesh Capital: Lucknow;
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath;
- Uttar Pradesh Governor: Anandiben Patel.

6. Khadi commission Chief Vinai Kumar Saxena is Delhi's new LG

Vinai Kumar Saxena will be the new lieutenant governor of Delhi, President Ram Nath Kovind's office announced. The President of India has been pleased to appoint Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena to be the Lt. Governor of the National Capital Territory of Delhi with effect from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

The President of India has accepted the resignation of Anil Baijal as Lt. Governor National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Saxena is the current chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, an organisation under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

He was born on March 23, 1958, and is a Kanpur University alumnus with a Pilot license. In March 2021, he was appointed by the Union government as a member of the national committee to commemorate 75 years of India's independence.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Delhi Chief minister: Arvind Kejriwal.

7. India-Jordan struck an agreement to cooperate in fertilisers sector

A high-level group led by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya visited Jordan in a first-of-its-kind endeavor with the goal of securing fertilizers and raw materials for the short and long term. The visit took place against the backdrop of the current global fertilizer crisis.

Dr. Mandaviya noted that the Jordan visit was historic in terms of assuring India's supply of phosphoric and potassium fertilizers. Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya called Jordan as India's chosen fertilizer partner during the meetings.

According to Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, there is no shortage of fertilizers in the country.

Government has taken proactive measures to assure adequate supplies for farmers ahead of the Kharif season, including increasing local production and forming cooperation with other countries.

Important Takeaways For All Government Exams:

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers: Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya
- King of Jordan: Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein

8. India launching Project WARDEC AI-powered wargame centre

The Army Training Command and Gandhinagar-based Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish a Wargame Research and Development Centre in New Delhi. The project, dubbed 'WARDEC' as a prototype, will be India's first simulation-based training centre, which will use artificial intelligence (AI) to create virtual reality wargames.

Soldiers will put their talents to the test in the metaverse, which will combine virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) to imitate their surroundings .

The Army plans to use the gaming centre to teach military strategy to its officers.

The Army will give data to form the backdrop of the game, according to RRU officials, so that participants have a genuine experience.

The BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP, and SSB, in addition to the armed forces, might benefit from metaverse-enabled simulation exercises for enhanced training.

9. Jet Airways Gets DGCA approval To Start Commercial Flights

The DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) has granted air operator's permit to Jet Airways. This will allow the airline to restart commercial flight operations after remaining grounded for more than three years.

The approval comes after the airline conducted proving flights for the safety regulator between May 15 and May 17. The airline aims to start operations in the second quarter, i.e. between July and September. It will be a full-service carrier with business and economy classes.

With the grant of the permit, Jet Airways has fulfilled all the pre-conditions laid down by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) as part of the insolvency process for the transfer of the ownership of the airline to the successful resolution applicant- the consortium of UAE-based NRI Murari Lal Jalan and U.K.-based Kalrock Capital Management in London.

Last June, the NCLT approved the Jalan-Kalrock consortium's resolution plan for the revival of Jet Airways. They had proposed a cash infusion of Rs 1,375 crores into the airline, which included Rs 475 crores for payment to creditors and Rs 900 crores for CAPEX and working capital requirements.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Jet Airways CEO: Sanjiv Kapoor (4 Apr 2022—);
- Jet Airways Founder: Naresh Goyal;
- Jet Airways Founded: 1 April 1992, Mumbai;
- Jet Airways Headquarters: Mumbai.

10. ONGC first Indian exploration and production firm to trade domestic gas

The state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has become the first gas producer to sell domestic gas on the Indian Gas Exchange, exchanging unidentified amounts from the KG-DWN-98/2 block off the coast of India.

ONGC stated in a statement that it will gradually raise output. ONGC has made history by becoming India's first exploration and production (E&P) company to trade domestic gas on the Indian Gas Exchange.

ONGC Director (Onshore) & In-charge Marketing Anurag Sharma made the first online trade on India's first automated national level Gas Exchange, IGX.

The gas exchanged came from the ONGC Krishna Godavari 98/2 block, but did not identify the quantity sold.

ONGC has geared itself to reap the benefits of the liberalization of the gas price ecosystem in 2000-21.