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02ND May 2023

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❖ **Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty won men's doubles at the Badminton Asia Championships gold medal**

- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty created history by becoming the first Indian men's doubles pair to win a gold medal at the Badminton Asia Championships.
- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty defeated Malaysian pair of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yee in a three-game match.
- This historic achievement is only the second gold medal India has won at the Badminton Asia Championships, the first gold medal being won by Dinesh Khanna in 1965 in the men's singles category.
- He won the Commonwealth Games gold medal in 2022 and was part of the historic Thomas Cup winning team.

❖ **Indian Army inducts five women officers into its Artillery Regiment**

- 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.
- 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.

❖ **India to join international climate action in civil aviation from 2027**

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

➤ 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 CORSIA 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 CORSIA.

➤ The financial impact caused by offsetting will be borne by individual airlines based on their international operations, and CORSIA only applies to flights originating from one country to another.

❖ **Devendra Fadnavis unveiled Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue in Mauritius**

- Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has unveiled a statue of Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Mauritius.
- The sculpture was created in India by a Delhi-based artist and sent to Mauritius in a container ship.
- During his visit, an MoU was signed between the Economic Development Board of Mauritius and the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation to establish a platform for investment between the Western State and the island nation.

❖ **A K Mohanty appointed as a new chairman of Atomic Energy Commission**

- Bhabha Atomic Research Centre director, Ajit Kumar Mohanty has been appointed as the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and the secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy for a tenure up to the age of 66 years (till 10.10.2025).
- He has replaced K N Vyas.
- He was appointed as the BARC director in March 2019.
- In 1983, he joined the Nuclear Physics Division of the BARC after graduating from the 26th batch of the BARC Training School.

❖ **India becomes Europe's largest supplier of refined fuels: Kpler**

- According to the Kpler report, India has become Europe's largest supplier of refined fuels, surpassing Saudi Arabia.
- Europe's reliance on Indian crude oil products has grown since the ban on Russian oil.
- It also showed that Europe's refined fuel imports from India are set to surge above 360,000 barrels a day.

➤ Russia was the largest exporter of crude oil to India by value in February in spite of the Western price cap of USD 60 per barrel.

❖ **The book ‘Collective Spirit, Concrete Action’ was launched**

➤ At the 100th episode of ‘Mann Ki Baat’, a book called ‘Collective Spirit, Concrete Action’ was launched.

➤ This book was written by the former CEO of Prasar Bharati Shashi Shekhar Vempati.

➤ According to the author, ‘Mann Ki Baat’ is a combination of the power of radio and the vision of a nation’s leader.

➤ Over the course of 15 chapters, the book special also offers insights and perspectives from grassroots change-makers and iconic personalities.

❖ **Russia’s Sberbank launches AI to compete with ChatGPT**

➤ The Russian-based company Sberbank launched its own AI chatbot 'GigaChat' to compete with Open AI’s ChatGPT.

➤ It was initially designed to support multimodal interaction and communicate in Russian more intelligently.

➤ The GigaChat architecture is based on the neural network ensemble model called NeONKA (Neural Omnimodal Network with Knowledge-Awareness).

➤ It includes several neural network models along with supervised fine-tuning and reinforcement learning with human feedback.

❖ **Kondh Tribals celebrates Bihan Mela**

➤ The Kondh tribe of Nayagarh district in Odisha celebrates Bihan Mela, which refers to a seed festival.

➤ The event is participated by farmers from as many as 40 villages in Dasapalla block, surrounded by hills and forests.

➤ The preparations begin as soon as farmers have harvested Kharif crops, which include both hybrid and indigenous varieties of paddy, millets, maize, and sorghum.

➤ Kondh tribes are a tribal group found in the hills and jungles of Orissa in eastern India.

❖ **HDFC Bank launches digital distribution platform for agents and partners**

➤ HDFC Bank has introduced a Digital Distribution Platform, 'Smart Saathi' for its agents and business correspondents to sell services, especially in rural areas.

➤ HDFC Bank Smart Saathi provides a secure and user-friendly experience to its users.

➤ The newly launched feature will use advanced technology solutions to connect Business Correspondents/Business Facilitators to the bank.

➤ Aim: To boost financial inclusion by taking banking products and services to the last mile

➤ Tagline of HDFC Bank : We Understand Your World

❖ **GST collection for April 2023 highest ever at Rs.1.87 lakh crore**

➤ The gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collection increased 12% in April 2023 to Rs.1.87 lakh crore.

➤ It is the highest monthly mop-up since the inception of the indirect tax regime in July 2017.

➤ The government has collected CGST of Rs.38,440 crore, SGST of Rs 47,412 crore and IGST of Rs. 89,158 crore (including Rs 34,972 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs.12,025 crore.

➤ The highest GST collection was recorded in April 2022 at Rs.1.68 lakh crore.

❖ IIT Madras researchers develop tool to detect tumours in brain, spinal cord

- Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) researchers has developed a machine learning-based computational tool for better detection of cancer-causing tumors in the brain and spinal cord.
- The web server known as 'GBMDriver' (Glioblastoma Mutiforme Drivers) is now publicly available online.
- The GBMDriver was developed specifically to identify driver mutations and passenger mutations (passenger mutations are neutral mutations) in Glioblastoma.
- In order to develop this web server, a variety of factors such as amino acid properties, di- and tri-peptide motifs, conservation scores, and Position Specific Scoring Matrices (PSSM) were taken into account.
- This method is completely dependent on the protein sequence.

❖ Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Ganemat Sekhon win Gold for India in ISSF Shotgun World Cup

- Shooters Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Ganemat Sekhon won India its first medal in the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Shotgun World Cup in Cairo, Egypt.
- They won the gold medal by defeating Mexicans Luis Raul Gallardo Oliveros and Gabriela Rodriguez 6-0 in the skeet mixed team event.
- Italy took bronze through their crack pair of two-time world championship silver medallist Simona Scocchetti and Rio Olympic champion Gabrielle Rossetti.
- Olympian Meraj Ahmad Khan shot 74/75 in the qualifying round to win his 5th Senior ISSF World Cup medal.
- The Indian pair combined for a score of 143 out of 150, equal to Mexico's score.

❖ Supreme Court confirms power to issue official decree of divorce in cases of irretrievable breakdown of marriage

- The Supreme Court is empowered to exercise its absolute powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to issue official orders of divorce to the consenting parties in cases of irretrievable breakdown of marriage.
- In such cases the period of six months prescribed under the Hindu Marriage Act may be waived.
- The judgement in a batch of petitions related to the exercise of absolute powers of the apex court to dissolve marriages between consenting parties without reference to family courts to wait for the mandatory period prescribed under Section 13-B of the Hindu Marriage Act I went.
- Article 142 empowers the apex court to pass such orders as may be necessary for "doing complete justice" in any matter pending before it.

❖ Tiger at Kalesar National Park in Yamunanagar caught on camera

- A tiger has been spotted in a camera trap at Kalesar National Park in Yamunanagar district of Haryana.
- Recently tiger sightings in the Kalesar area have happened after a gap of 110 years.
- Kalesar Park is adjacent to the Simbalbara National Park in the Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh.
- Both these parks are connected to Rajaji National Park of Uttarakhand through a dense forest. It appears that tigers are using this corridor for roaming.

❖ King Charles III confers Britain's Honorary MBE on Dr. M.N. Nandakumar

- King Charles III awarded an Honorary MBE to Dr MN Nandakumar, a renowned Sanskrit scholar and executive director of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Center in London, for his contribution to Indian classical arts in Britain.

- Dr. M.N. Nandakumar has been associated with the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Center in London for 46 years and has hosted Prince Charles on several occasions at the centre, which promotes Indian culture.
- Britain's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office confirmed the award.
- The Honorary MBE award is given to foreign nationals for their services in public life.
- Dr. Nandakumar originally hails from Mattur village in Karnataka and joined Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Kendra as a Sanskrit teacher while completing his PhD at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London in the 1970s.
- He has been the executive director of the building since 1995.

❖ **NTPC, NPCIL ink pact for joint development of nuclear power plants**

- NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation Limited) has signed a supplementary joint venture agreement with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) to develop nuclear power projects.
- The JV company shall develop two pressurized heavy-water reactors (PHWR) projects, Chutka Madhya Pradesh Atomic Power Project 2x700 MW and Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project 4x700 MW.
- Presently, NTPC has a total installed power generation capacity of 71.644 GW, of which 3.01 GW is renewable energy.
- The government is giving a push to nuclear power projects to meet its clean energy targets and diversify its electricity generation sources.

❖ **ASEAN-India maritime exercise (AIME-2023)**

- India recently sent two frontline warships to take part in the first-ever ASEAN-India maritime exercise (AIME-2023), which will take place in the South China Sea.

- This exercise is scheduled from May 2 to May 8, 2023, and will provide an opportunity for Indian Navy and ASEAN navies to work together closely and conduct seamless operations in the maritime domain.
- Aim: Enhancing interoperability and exchange of best practices among participating navies.
- With AIME-2023, India becomes the 4th ASEAN dialogue partner, after Russia, China and the US, to hold the ASEAN+1 maritime exercise.
- The maiden exercise will be conducted off the coast of Singapore and will feature harbour and at-sea events off the coast of Singapore.
- Two major Indian Navy warships-- the INS Delhi, an indigenously built destroyer, and INS Satpura, a Shivalik-class, recently built modern stealth frigate-- are part of the exercise.

❖ **Justice TS Sivagnanam Appointed As Chief Justice Of Calcutta High Court**

- Justice T S Sivagnanam was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court.
- The Department of Justice in the Union Law Ministry issued a notification announcing the appointment.
- Justice Sivagnanam originally belongs to the Madras High Court and was so far the senior-most judge after the chief justice in the Calcutta HC.

❖ **Government of India blocked 14 messenger mobile applications for spreading terror**

- The Government of India blocked 14 messenger mobile applications widely used in Jammu and Kashmir for spreading terror.
- The banned apps were primarily used as communication platforms to disseminate information in the field.

- The messenger applications that have been banned include Crypvisor, Enigma, SafeSwiss, Vikrame, Mediafire, Briar, Beechat, Nandbox, Conion, IMO, Elementor, Second Line, Jangi and Threema.
- The Indian government found that these apps were being used by terrorists to communicate with their supporters and on-ground workers.
- The Center had earlier also banned several Chinese apps for being prejudicial to India's sovereignty and integrity.
- The ban on these apps has been implemented under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, which empowers the government to block access to any website or mobile application that poses a threat to national security or public order.