

10th May 2023

INTERNATIONAL

1) Pakistan has made the decision to surrender its Hajj quota to Saudi Arabia

- For the first time in 75 years, Pakistan has made the decision to surrender its Hajj quota to Saudi Arabia.
- This move was prompted by the rising inflation in the country, which has caused thousands of Pakistanis to forgo the pilgrimage this year.
- In total, Pakistan has returned 8,000 unused seats, which will save the government a considerable amount of money totalling \$24 million.

2) The Supreme Court of Sri Lanka

- The Supreme Court of Sri Lanka has approved a bill seeking to decriminalize homosexuality, according to the Speaker of Parliament, in a move welcomed by LGBTQ+ rights campaigners.
- Under current laws, homosexuality is punishable by imprisonment and fines, but activists have long campaigned for change.
- After hearing submissions from both sides, the Supreme Court ruled that the proposed legislation was not unconstitutional.



3) India has decided to extend a \$1 billion credit line to Sri Lanka

- In the midst of an economic crisis, India has decided to extend a \$1 billion credit line to Sri Lanka for another year, providing the much-needed funds to pay for essential imports.
- The credit line is part of the \$4 billion emergency assistance extended by India to Sri Lanka during its peak crisis time last year.
- In April last year, Sri Lanka's reserves dropped to record lows, triggering its worst financial crisis since its independence from Britain in 1948. The country struggled to pay for essential imports such as fuel, cooking gas, and medicine, and defaulted on its foreign debt.













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NATIONAL

1) C295 aircraft for India has successfully completed

- The first C295 aircraft for India has successfully completed its inaugural flight, marking a significant achievement towards its delivery in the latter half of 2023.
- The tactical plane (used by Indian Air Force) took off from Seville, Spain, at 11:45 am local time on May 5th, landing three hours afterward at 2:45 pm.

2) Cashfree Payments and YES Bank

- Cashfree Payments and YES Bank have joined hands to launch 'Global Collections', an international collection service for exporters who hold an account with YES Bank.
- This partnership enables the bank's account holders to collect payments in over 30 foreign currencies using the Global Collections service. Additionally, the funds collected can be converted into INR and settled into their local bank account within one business day.



3) BharatPe, a leading fintech company in India

- BharatPe, a leading fintech company in India, has announced the rebranding of PAYBACK India, the country's largest multi-brand loyalty program, as 'Zillion.'
- This move aligns with the company's vision to make Zillion a ubiquitous loyalty and rewards program across the nation.
- Zillion aims to target customers of all age groups and add a new dimension to their shopping experience across various categories and brands.
- With the new brand identity, the loyalty program will offer customers a wide range of options to earn and redeem rewards at a network of offline and online partners, including groceries, fuel, entertainment, travel, apparel, and more.

4) Reserve Bank of India

- The Reserve Bank of India has increased its gold reserves by 4.5% to 794.64 metric tonnes in the fiscal year that ended on March 31, 2023.













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- The bank added 34.22 metric tonnes of gold during this period, which brought its total gold reserves up from 760.42 metric tonnes at the end of the previous fiscal year.
- The RBI has been building up its gold reserves for the last five to six years.

5) Reserve Bank of India

- The Reserve Bank of India imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.73 crore on the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd (HSBC Bank) for violating the Credit Information Companies Rules, 2006.
- The RBI stated that during their examination of the Risk Assessment Report and all related correspondences pertaining to the same, it was discovered that the bank had breached the aforementioned rules.



6) World Health Organization

- A new report from the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has highlighted the challenges faced in reducing maternal deaths, stillbirths, and newborn deaths globally.
- The report shows that, in 2020-2021, there were a combined 4.5 million deaths of this kind, with India leading a list of 10 countries that account for 60% of the total.

STATE NEWS

1) State Robotics Framework

- The Telangana government introduced a new policy known as the State Robotics Framework. It is designed to establish a self-sustaining robotics ecosystem and to position the state as a leader in robotics in India.
- The policy aims to provide support for research and development, encourage collaboration between academia and industry, and promote the adoption of robotics technology across various sectors.

2) Learning Management Information System

- The Learning Management Information System (LMIS) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) called SAKSHAM (Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management) was launched by the Union Health Secretary.













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- The digital platform was created by the National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW) in New Delhi. SAKSHAM is an integrated and specialized online learning platform aimed at providing medical education and training to all healthcare professionals in India.
- This digital system will guarantee comprehensive development of healthcare professionals, including those working in rural and remote areas at primary health centres, as well as those employed in tertiary care and corporate hospitals located in metropolitan cities.

3) G20 is a global platform comprised of 20 of the largest economies

- The G20 is a global platform comprised of 20 of the largest economies that prioritizes policy discussions and financial stability.
- Collectively, the G20 accounts for a significant portion of the world economy, with a combined GDP of approximately USD 82.8 trillion, representing 74% of the world's total GDP for 2020 according to data from the World Bank.



4) Petersberg Climate Dialogue

- The Petersberg Climate Dialogue, a forum for high-level international climate talks held annually before the United Nations Climate Change Conferences (COP), took place in Berlin, Germany from May 2-3, 2023.
- This year's conference was hosted by Germany and the United Arab Emirates, which is hosting the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- The conference was attended by delegates from more than 30 countries and international organizations, including the United Nations Secretary-General, the President of COP28, and the German Foreign Minister.

SPORTS

1) Badminton Asia has appointed Omar Rashid

- Badminton Asia has appointed Omar Rashid, the Joint Secretary of the Badminton Association of India (BAI), as the Chair of the Technical Officials Committee.
- Rashid's vast experience in his previous role with BAI makes him a valuable addition to the committee, ensuring further advancement of badminton in India.

2) International Cricket Council















- The International Cricket Council announced the winners of the ICC Player of the Month awards for April 2023.
- Fakhar Zaman of Pakistan wins the ICC Men's Player of the Month award, and Thailand skipper Naruemol Chaiwai secures the ICC Women's Player of the Month after both produced dominant match-winning performances for their countries in the One-Day International (ODI) format.

3) Andy Murray, a Scottish tennis player

- Andy Murray, a Scottish tennis player, has won his first tournament since 2019 by defeating Tommy Paul, the world No. 17, 2-6 6-1 6-2 in the final of the ATP Challenger event in Aix-en-Provence.
- This victory not only marks his first title since Antwerp in 2019 but also his first clay court title since the Rome Masters 1000 in 2016, which boosts his world ranking to No. 42, the highest in five years.
- Despite struggling with form and consistency, Murray has managed to defeat three top-20 players this year, and he aims to continue his winning streak as he prepares for the upcoming French Open, which will start on May 22.

Via Video Cours

4) Lionel Messi, who led Argentina

- Lionel Messi, who led Argentina to victory in the 2022 World Cup as their captain, was honored with the Laureus Sportsman of the Year award at a ceremony held in Paris.
- In addition to that, Messi accepted the World Team of the Year award on behalf of the Argentina men's football team, who won the championship in Qatar.
- Lionel Messi also became the first athlete to scoop both the World Sportsman of the Year Award and the World Team of the Year Award in the same year.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) Defence Investiture Ceremony

- On May 09, 2023, the Defence Investiture Ceremony (Phase-1) was held in New Delhi, during which the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, who is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, awarded 8 Kirti Chakras and 29 Shaurya Chakras to personnel of the Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces, and State/Union Territory Police. Five of the Kirti Chakras and five of the Shaurya Chakras were awarded posthumously.















- The gallantry awards were presented to individuals who demonstrated outstanding bravery, unwavering courage, and exceptional devotion to their duties.
- The names of the awardees were listed in the order in which they were presented with their respective awards.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1) International Day of Argania or International Day of the Argan Tree

- Every year on May 10, the International Day of Argania or International Day of the Argan Tree is observed to promote awareness and understanding of the argan tree's environmental importance worldwide. This holiday was established by UNESCO in 2021.
- In 1988, UNESCO declared the Arganeraie Biosphere Reserve, which is the endemic production area of the argan tree, as a designated area.
- Additionally, in 2014, UNESCO inscribed all the knowledge and know-how regarding the argan tree on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.











