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Daily Current Affairs - 03 May 2023

Important days

03 may 2023: World Press Freedom Day

- ❖ Every year on May 3, World Press Freedom Day is marked to bring attention to the significance of press freedom and the obstacles that journalists encounter worldwide.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly declared World Press Freedom Day in 1993.
- ❖ This declaration came after a recommendation made in 1991 at the twenty-sixth General Conference session of UNESCO.
- ❖ This year marks the 30th anniversary of World Press Freedom Day.
- ❖ The idea of celebrating World Press Freedom Day was first proposed by African journalists in 1991 during a UNESCO seminar in Namibia.
- ❖ They wanted to draw attention to the vital role that the press plays in promoting democracy and highlight the many dangers that journalists face while carrying out their work.
- ❖ **Theme: “Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for all other human rights”**



Persons in news

SBI Chennai Circle: New Chief General Manager takes charge

- ❖ Ravi Ranjan has taken charge as the new Chief General Manager of State Bank of India (S) PI Chennai Circle.
- ❖ In this regard, a press release issued by SBI Bank's Chennai regional head Alu Valakam said: Ravi Ranjan has worked in the banking industry for more than 30 years.
- ❖ He joined State Bank of India in 1991.
- ❖ Later, he held various positions as Vice President of Hong Kong Branch, Deputy General Manager of Corporate Center, General Manager of Bengaluru, Chairman and Principal Director of SBI Capital Markets Ltd.



Miss Coovagam...

K Niranjana (centre) from Chennai who was selected as 'Miss Koovagam 2023' in the beauty pageant held at Villupuram on the occasion of Koovagam Kuthandavar Temple Chitra



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Festival, Kallakurichi district, G. Tisha from Chennai who won the second place (left) and E. Sadhana from Salem who won the third place.



Defence and security

ASEAN India Maritime Exercise, AIME-2023

- ❖ Indian Naval Ships Satpura and Delhi are participating in the Inaugural ASEAN India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2023) from May 2 to May 8 in Singapore.
- ❖ On 01 May 2023, Indian Naval Ships under the command of RADM Gurcharan Singh, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, arrived in Singapore.
- ❖ The harbor phase of the exercise is being conducted from May 2 to May 4 at the Changi Naval Base.
- ❖ The Sea Phase will be conducted in the South China Sea from May 7 to 8.
- ❖ The Indian Navy would have an opportunity to collaborate with the ASEAN Navies and carry out seamless maritime operations under AIME 2023 exercise.
- ❖ INS Delhi, India's first indigenously built guided missile destroyer and INS Satpura, an indigenously built guided missile stealth frigate, are a part of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ Both the ships function under the operational command of the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.
- ❖ These ships are equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors.
- ❖ These ships will also participate in the International Maritime Defense Exhibition and International Maritime Security Conference organized by Singapore.





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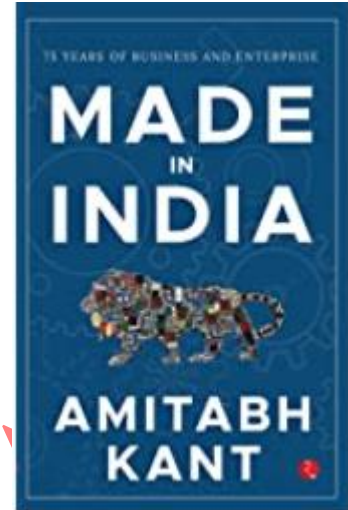
Books and authors

A book titled “MADE IN INDIA: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise” by Amitabh Kant

Amitabh Kant has authored a new book titled “Made in India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise” published by the Rupa Publications India.

The essence of the book:

- ❖ The book coincides with India reaching a significant milestone by becoming the 5th largest economy in the world, surpassing its former colonial master, the United Kingdom (UK), after 75 years of independence.
- ❖ Seventy-five years after India attained freedom at the stroke of the midnight hour, the Indian economy has emerged as one of the largest in the world, with a vibrant start-up ecosystem.
- ❖ It has certainly come a long way since the time economic performance, shackled by socialist policies and the License-Permit-Quota Raj, was christened the ‘Hindu rate of growth’.
- ❖ In an attempt to understand this remarkably robust and resilient growth story of Indian business and enterprise, Amitabh Kant offers a multi-faceted survey of the nation’s business heritage and culture in Made in India.



Amitabh Kant’s other books: Branding India-An Incredible Story, Incredible India 2.0, Editor of “The Path Ahead- Transformative Ideas for India”, and the author of over 500 published articles in leading Indian newspapers.

Awards & honours

Socialist Pandit Ramkishan Becomes Man of the Century At 97

- ❖ Former Lok Sabha MP Pandit Ramkishan was recently awarded the title of “Shatabdi Purush” (Man of the Century) in New Delhi in recognition of his contributions as a socialist leader.
- ❖ The honor was bestowed on him during the birth centenary celebrations of Madhu Limaye, a renowned socialist ideologue and parliamentarian.
- ❖ Ramkishan is considered the most senior and iconic figure in Indian socialism and has been recognized as the “Socialist Shatabdi Purush”.
- ❖ The event was attended by senior politicians including former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik, CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechuri, INLD leader Abhay Singh Chautala and JDU leader KC Tyagi.





Three imprisoned Iranian female journalists win top UN prize

UNESCO Awards Press Freedom Prize to Imprisoned Iranian Female Journalists:

- ❖ On May 3, UNESCO marked World Press Freedom Day by awarding its annual World Press Freedom Prize to three imprisoned Iranian female journalists.
- ❖ The winners, Niloufar Hamedei, Elaheh Mohammadi, and Narges Mohammadi, were recognized for their work in reporting on human rights abuses in Iran and their commitment to truth and accountability.



Political parties and political system in India

Sharad Pawar's resignation as NCP president: Request for reconsideration of decision

- ❖ Sharad Pawar has suddenly resigned from the post of Nationalist Congress party president. Senior party leaders have appealed to him to reconsider his decision.
- ❖ Sharad Pawar, who started the Nationalist Congress Party in 1999, has served four terms as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and the Union Minister of Defence and Agriculture.

Nationalist Congress party

- Founder : Sharad Pawar, P. A. Sangma, Tariq Anwar
- Founded: 10 June 1999

Economics and banking

India's GST Revenues

- ❖ In the month of April, 2023, the gross GST revenue collected is Rs 1,87,035 crore.
- ❖ It includes CGST Rs 38,440 crore, SGST Rs 47,412 crore, IGST Rs 89,158 crore (including Rs 34,972 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess Rs 12,025 crore (Rs 901 crore collected on import of goods).
- ❖ Amounts of Rs 37,959 crore and Rs 45,864 crore in SGST and CGST from IGST have been settled by the government.
- ❖ After regular settlement, the total revenue of the Center and the States for the month of April 2023 is Rs 84,304 crore for CGST and Rs 85,371 crore for SGST.
- ❖ The revenue for April 2023 is 12% higher than the GST revenue for the same month the previous year.
- ❖ Domestic transactions revenue for the month (including import of services) increased by 16% compared to the same period last year.



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- ❖ Gross GST collection for the first time has crossed the Rs 1.75 lakh crore mark.
- ❖ The total number of e-way bills generated in the month of March 2023 was 9.0 crore, which is 11 percent higher as compared to 8.1 crore e-way bills generated in the month of February 2023.
- ❖ On 20 April 2023, the highest ever tax collection was done in a single day in this month.
- ❖ Rs 68,228 crore has been paid through 9.8 lakh transactions on 20th April, 2023.
- ❖ On 20th April, 2023, the highest single day payment last year was Rs 57,846 crore through Rs 9.6 lakh transactions.

NHAI FASTag daily collection

- ❖ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) informed on Tuesday that the daily toll collection through FASTag system has reached at an all-time high of Rs 193.15 crore on April 29.
- ❖ In the statement, NHAI further added that since FASTag was mandated by the government in February 2021, the number of toll plazas under FASTag programme have risen from 770 to 1,228, including 339 state toll plazas.
- ❖ The consistent and progressive adoption of the FASTag by highway users has not only enhanced the efficiency of toll operations but also led to a more precise valuation of road assets, attracting further investment in India's highway infrastructure, it informed, and added that FASTag has also facilitated seamless and secure contactless payment for parking fees at over 140 parking lots in over 50 cities across the country.



HDFC Bank launches digital distribution platform

- ❖ HDFC Bank Launches Digital Platform to Boost Financial Inclusion.
- ❖ HDFC Bank, one of India's leading private sector banks, has introduced its digital distribution platform, HDFC Bank Smart Saathi, to connect business correspondents (BCs) and business facilitators (BFs) to the bank.
- ❖ The platform aims to take banking products and services to the last mile, and contribute to the development of the country.





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Tamilnadu news

'makkalai thedi meyor' project begins today: Mayor receives petitions in Rayapuram

- ❖ Mayor R. Priya is going to take action by receiving petitions directly from the people of Rayapuram region today in the 'makkalai thedi meyor'
- ❖ Chennai Municipal Corporation Mayor R. Priya announced in the financial report for the year 2023-24 that the 'Mayor in search of the people' program will be implemented in order to find out the grievances of the public and take immediate action to resolve them.
- ❖ Currently, the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has a helpline, 1913, to resolve civic issues. Residents are also requested to call 1913 to resolve the civic issues in their neighbourhoods.
- ❖ The helpline was launched during the previous DMK regime to mark the construction of Ripon Buildings, the headquarters of the Greater Chennai Corporation, in the year 1913. More than 100 residents are utilising the helpline 1913 every day, as per the GCC.
- ❖ Residents may also send petitions on the 'Namma Chennai' app to resolve civic issues.



Electromagnetic Kidney Stone Removal Center at Kilpauk Hospital

- ❖ Health Minister M. Subrahmanian inaugurated a Rs 2.30 crore kidney stone removal treatment center at Kilpakkam Government Hospital.
- ❖ Here the minister said that kidney stone can be removed without surgery, bleeding or anesthesia.
- ❖ Under Mobis India Foundation Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Fund at Rs.2.30 Crore, 'Electro Magnetic Resonance Kidney Stone Removal Treatment Center' has been set up at Government Medical College Hospital, Kilpakkam, Chennai.

State news

After Bihar, Backward Classes Survey started in Odisha.

- ❖ The other backward classes (OBCs) survey was started across Odisha on 1 May 2023. It will continue till May 27.
- ❖ It is being conducted by the Odisha State Commission for Backward Classes in both online and offline modes.
- ❖ It will be carried out in all 314 blocks and 114 urban local bodies of the state.
- ❖ Odisha is the second state after Bihar to conduct OBC survey.
- ❖ The survey comprises various indicators of backwardness such as occupation, educational qualification, type of educational institutions attended by members of the households, and educational conditions of the backwardness in Odisha.



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- ❖ The Odisha State Commission will open centres in all the Anganwadi kendras.
- ❖ During the survey, information on the social and educational conditions of 208 OBC communities will be gathered.
- ❖ The survey is being carried out under the provisions of section 9 of the Odisha State Commission for Backward Classes (OSCBC) Act, 1993 and OSCBC (Amendment) Act, 2020.
- ❖ Under the survey, families will have to give details of their ration and Aadhaar cards or voter identity cards of their members.

National news

New Delhi: Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) celebrates Diamond Jubilee on its 60th Foundation Day

- ❖ Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi celebrated its Diamond Jubilee on its 60th Foundation Day today. On the occasion, Vice-Chancellor of IIFT Prof.
- ❖ Satinder Bhatia released the commemorative issue of Foreign Trade Review (FTR) Journal.
- ❖ IIFT was established in 1963

Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)

- Established 2 May 1963
- Director Manoj Pant
- Location New Delhi, Kolkata, Kakinada, India

UGC Launches CU-Chayan Portal to Recruit Faculty in Central Universities, Fast-track Hiring

- ❖ The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Tuesday launched CU-Chayan, a unified faculty recruitment portal for central universities, aimed at fast-tracking and streamlining the process, as a large number of faculty posts remain vacant each year.
- ❖ The centralised portal will now be the only place where aspirants will have to send their applications, making the process entirely online.



University Grants Commission

- Formation : 28 December 1956
- Founder : Maulana Azad
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Official language : English, Hindi
- Chairman : Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar



Ministry of Jal Shakti organizes workshop on Sludge Management and 'Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems'

- ❖ National Mission for Clean Ganga (NGMC) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti today organized a workshop on Sludge Management and 'Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems' in New Delhi.
- ❖ Presiding a session in the workshop Director General of NGMC G. Asok Kumar emphasized the importance of the workshops in terms of getting reliable and replicable data.
- ❖ He mentioned that there are projects worth more than 35 thousand crore rupees that are going on under Namami Gange. He added, out of projects worth more than 29 thousand crore rupees are for sewerage management.
- ❖ Mr. Kumar said that the world is looking at India as exemplified by the recognition of Namami Gange as one of the top 10 world's restoration flagships to revive the natural world.



International news

Climate finance for India with additional benefits

- ❖ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has requested the Asian Development Bank President to provide climate finance to India with additional concessions as India's economic growth can have a major impact on the international level.
- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is in South Korea to attend the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank. There he met and talked with the chairman of the bank, Masat Suku Asagawa.
- ❖ He asked the Asian Development Bank President to support India in developing innovative financing schemes to strengthen the lending capacity of the Asian Development Bank and to formulate programs related to providing more assistance to developing countries.
- ❖ Its chairman informed the minister that the Asian Development Bank has committed to provide USD 10,000 crore in financing to developing countries.
- ❖ He also thanked India for playing an important role in the bank's operations.





Asian Development Bank

- Formation : 19 December 1966
- Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Philippines
- Membership countries : 68
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa (from 17 January 2020)

Ajit Doval meeting with Iranian President

- ❖ National Security Adviser Ajit Doval is on a 2-day official visit to Iran. During this trip, he had separate meetings with President Ibrahim Raisi, Iran's National Security Adviser Ali Shamkhani, and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdullah Hian in the capital Tehran.
- ❖ During the meeting between Ajit Doval and President Ibrahim Raisi, the President insisted on taking bilateral relations to new levels in the economic and trade sectors;
- ❖ The President also said that considering the current geo-political changes, it is necessary for associations like Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and 'BRICS' (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Korea) to work efficiently.
- ❖ Similarly, in the meeting between Ajit Doval and Hussain Amir Abdullahian (Minister of External Affairs), the development of Chabhar port in Iran with India's cooperation, methods to counter terrorism, bilateral issues related to banking sector and the situation in Afghanistan were discussed in detail.



Indo-Maldives Relations Special: Rajnath Singh

- ❖ Rajnath Singh has visited Maldives for the first time as Defense Minister.
- ❖ In an event held in the country's capital, Male, he handed over a Coastal Fast Patrol Vessel and a Landing Craft to the country as a gift from India. Subsequently, the country's President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih added a coastal patrol vehicle to the Maldivian National Defense Force.
- ❖ India, Maldives and other like-minded countries need to expand their relationship to address common challenges arising in the Indian Ocean region.





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- ❖ He said joint efforts are necessary to ensure that the Indian Ocean is peaceful and the marine resources in it are utilized optimally to ensure the development of the region.

Schemes

Ministry of Finance launches scheme "Vivad se Vishwas I-Relief to MSMEs".

- ❖ As per the announcement made in Union Budget 2023-24, the government has launched the Vivad se Vishwas Scheme for relief to Medium, Small or Micro Enterprise for COVID-19 period.
- ❖ The scheme commenced on 17 April 2023 and the last date for submission for claims is 30 June 2023.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the ministries will refund performance security, bid security and liquidated damages deducted during the COVID-19 pandemic.



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