



CURRENT AFFAIRS 8th May 2023

National News

1. Wakefit signs Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana as brand ambassador.



- Manufacturer of mattresses, Wakefit Innovations Private Limited, has signed actor Ayushmann Khurrana as Wakefit.co's brand ambassador.
- The company has roped in the actor to create resonance with the local community.
- Besides being the face of the brand and spearheading upcoming campaigns, the actor will also help the brand in spreading awareness about sleep health and its importance in the modern context.
- Khurrana, in the digital ad films does a commentary the company has titled 'Sleep India Sleep' on sleep deprivation in the country.
- "With his dynamism and youthful energy, the actor can be seen urging the audience to prioritise their sleep health and take a pledge to sleep better.
- This video forms the initiation of the brand's partnership with him and is in tandem with its marketing philosophy

which aims to create meaningful conversations about improving the quality of sleep and home among Indians.

2. Praveen Chithravel sets a new triple jump national record.



- Indian athlete Praveen Chithravel achieved an extraordinary feat by winning the men's triple jump event at an athletics meet in Havana, Cuba, with a record-breaking national mark of 17.37m.
- He surpassed the previous men's triple jump national record of 17.30m, set by Renjith Maheswary at the third Indian Grand Prix in Bangalore in 2016.
- Praveen Chithravel achieved this exceptional mark with his fifth jump at the Prueba de confrontacion 2023, amidst a headwind reading of -1.5m/s , which is below the permitted wind assistance for official records ($+2.0\text{m/s}$).
- Nonetheless, all national records require ratification from the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).
- The outstanding accomplishment of Praveen Chithravel also qualifies him for the World Athletics Championships 2023, scheduled to take place in Budapest from August 19 to 27.
- Additionally, he comprehensively beat the Asian Games 2023 qualifying standard of 16.60m set by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), as he had already breached the mark in March with a 17.17m leap at the second Indian Open Jumps Competition in Bellary.

- Before Saturday, his personal best in the triple jump was recorded at 17.18m in Chennai last year.
- After narrowly missing out on a podium finish at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham, Praveen Chithravel has made an exceptional start to the 2023 season.

3. **INS Magar – Indian Navy’s Landing Ship Decommissioned After 36 Years of Service.**



- INS Magar, the oldest Landing Ship Tank (Large), was decommissioned by the Indian Navy after 36 years of service on May 06 at the Naval base in Kochi.
- The decommissioning ceremony was attended by Vice Admiral MA Hampiholi, Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command, as well as Air Marshal B Manikantan, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Air Command.
- Commander Hemant Salunkhe commanded the ship during its service.
- The event included the release of the ship’s timeline and a special postage cover.
- The Navy announced that a “Barakhana” was held by INS Magar to honor former Commanding Officers, Officers, and onboard veterans before the decommissioning ceremony.
- The ship was launched on November 16, 1984, by Meera Tahiliani and commissioned by late Admiral R H Tahiliani on July 18, 1987, at Garden Reach Shipyard and Engineers Limited, Kolkata.
- The Navy further shared that during its service, INS Magar was part of various amphibious exercises, humanitarian missions, and operations such as Samudra Setu during the

COVID-19 pandemic, wherein over 4,000 Indian nationals were repatriated.

- Moreover, the vessel played a significant role in the evacuation of more than 1,300 survivors after the Tsunami in 2004, and had also conducted joint military exercises with the Indian Army.

4. Rajnath Singh inaugurates IAF Heritage Centre in Chandigarh.



- India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh opened the country's first Indian Air Force Heritage Centre in Chandigarh on 8 May, under a memorandum of understanding between the Indian Air Force and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.
- The centre spreads over 17,000 square feet and celebrates the Indian Air Force's role in previous conflicts such as the 1965, 1971, and Kargil Wars, as well as the Balakot air strike, through murals and memorabilia.
- Last year, the Union Territory of Chandigarh and the Indian Air Force entered into a memorandum of understanding to establish the Centre.
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5. 'M.V. MSS Galena' the vessel flagged off by Shantanu Thakur.



- The Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Shantanu Thakur, presided over a ceremony where he inaugurated the Direct Shipping Service between Tuticorin and Maldives by flagging off the vessel 'M.V. MSS Galena' from V.O. Chidambaranar Port.
- During his visit to Maldives in June 2019, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and President of Maldives discussed the need for better connectivity and infrastructure to improve bilateral trade between the two nations.
- As a result, the Ministry of Port, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India, and the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, Government of Maldives signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish passenger and cargo services by sea.
- This aligns with India's 'Neighbourhood-First Policy' and the vision of Security and Growth for all in the Region.
- The service commenced on 4th May 2023, with the vessel 'M.V. MSS Galena', provided by the Shipping Corporation of India, carrying 270 TEUs of containers from PSA SICAL Container Terminal in Tuticorin.

- The rotation of this shipping service is Tuticorin – Male – Tuticorin, and is scheduled to make 3 calls a month.
- The launch of this service reflects India's commitment to enhancing connectivity and promoting maritime trade links with Maldives, leading to greater trade and economic opportunities between the two countries.
- Previously, bulk cargo was sent through barges and sail ships, and containers were routed through Colombo.

6. Neera Tandon, Indian-American, appointed as Domestic Policy Advisor in Biden Administration.



- On May 5, 2023, Neera Tandon, an Indian-American, was appointed as the Domestic Policy Advisor in the Biden administration.
- This move was made with the presidential election in mind, which is set to take place in 2024.
- Tandon's appointment is historic, as she became the first Asian-American to lead the White House Advisory Council.
- Neera Tandon was born in Massachusetts to Indian immigrant parents.
- She studied at the University of California Los Angeles and Yale University.
- Tandon has over 25 years of experience working in public policy and has worked with three US presidents.
- She also headed one of the country's largest think tanks for almost a decade.
- Tandon is the former US Secretary of State and a close aide of Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate in the 2016 presidential election.

- She also played a key role in passing the Affordable Care Act during the Obama administration.

7. Uttar Pradesh to get its first Pharma Park in Lalitpur district.



- The Uttar Pradesh government has approved the establishment of the state's first Pharma Park in Lalitpur district of Bundelkhand.
- The project will require the transfer of 1500 hectares of land from the Animal Husbandry Department to the Industrial Development Department.
- The government has allocated a budget of Rs 1560 crore for the development and provision of necessary facilities to investors in Lalitpur Pharma Park.
- To begin with, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) will be prepared soon after selecting a consultant for the development of the Pharma Park.
- Entrepreneurs setting up units in the Pharma Park will receive several benefits, including a 100% exemption in stamp duty on land purchase, capital subsidy, construction of houses for laborers, and employment generation.
- Apart from the Pharma Park, the Uttar Pradesh government is also setting up a Medical Device Park on 350 acres of

land at the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YIDA) in Gautam Buddha Nagar. The park is located in Sector 28 of YIDA, where plots have been allotted to 50 entrepreneurs so far.

- **The government has made complete preparations to connect the Medical Device Park with metro, expressway, transport city, and bullet train.**
- **A flatted factory with a common hydrant facility will also be constructed in the Medical Device Park. Additionally, a proposal has been made to set up a police station in the area to help entrepreneurs.**

PLUTUS ACADEMY