

05-05-2024

International Sun Day

Why in News?

- The Government of India joined the global community in commemorating International Sun Day on 3rd May, 2024, as an annual reminder of the significant benefits of solar energy in fostering a greener and healthier planet.



More About the News

- On this day, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, organized a 'Run for Sun' Marathon at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.
- The 'Run for Sun' Marathon, featuring 3 km and 5 km races, was designed to raise awareness about the pivotal role of solar power in mitigating climate change and promoting a cleaner and healthier future for all.
- The Marathon expressed the nation's steadfast commitment to solar energy and environmental sustainability.
- The Marathon aligns perfectly with the Government's vision to promote physical fitness and well-being, wherein we

encouraged citizens to embrace an active lifestyle while championing the cause of renewable energy.

World Press Freedom Index 2024

Why in the News?

- The World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF, short for Reporters sans frontières in French) on the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day 2024 (May 3).

More About the News

- India's score in the World Press Freedom Index fell over the last year, from 36.62 to 31.28, according to Reporters Without Borders (RSF for Reporters sans Frontières), which puts together an annual index of freedom enjoyed by journalists in 180 jurisdictions.
- India's rank improved from 161 in 2023 to 159 in 2024, but this was because other countries had slipped in their rankings. The government has in the past dismissed international rankings of freedoms in India as propaganda.



- Norway and Denmark topped the RSF table while Eritrea was at the bottom, with Syria just ahead of it.

- The press freedom questionnaire covers five categories - political context, legal framework, economic context, sociocultural context and security. Scores for India dropped (worsened) in all but the security indicator.
- Meanwhile, Pakistan ranked seven spots above India at 152. It had ranked 150 in 2023.
- The press freedom situation has worsened in the Asia-Pacific region, where 26 of the 32 countries and territories have seen their scores fall in the 2024 World Press Freedom Index.

India's First Vande Metro train

Why in the News?

- India's railway sector achieved a significant milestone as it unravelled the country's first

More About the News

- On April 30, the Vande Metro was unveiled as a shorter-distance version of the Vande Bharat Express.
- This metro will provide service to urban commuters while covering distances of up to 250 km.
- The Vande Bharat Express variant- a sleeper train- is in development and will span routes exceeding 1,000 km.
- Vande Metro train trials are scheduled to begin in July this year, followed by subsequent testing of the sleeper variant.
- The Railway Ministry rolled out the Vande Metro trains to connect 124 cities nationwide.
- As per the initial routes, Chennai-Tirupati, Bhubaneswar-Balasore, Agra-Mathura, Delhi-Rewari, and Lucknow-Kanpur will be covered by the Vande Metro.



Vande Metro train to transform the intra-city transportation system, at the Integral Coach Factory in Chennai after bringing in several superfast Vande Bharat trains.

7th India-Indonesia Joint Defence Cooperation Committee Meeting

Why in the News?

- The 7th India-Indonesia Joint Defence



Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting in New Delhi on May 03, 2024.

More About the News

- During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction at the expanding scope of defence cooperation between the two countries.
- The progress made on various bilateral defence cooperation initiatives deliberated in meetings of Working Groups on Defence Cooperation and Defence Industries Cooperation was also reviewed by the co-chairs.
- In addition, the dignitaries identified means to enhance existing areas of collaboration especially in the field of defence industry ties, maritime security and multilateral cooperation.
- India and Indonesia have a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and have arrived at a shared vision of the Indo-Pacific.
- In current times, this partnership is characterised by closed cooperation in bilateral and multilateral arena, including frequent high-level interactions.
- Indonesia is an important partner in India's Act East Policy and the Indo-Pacific region.

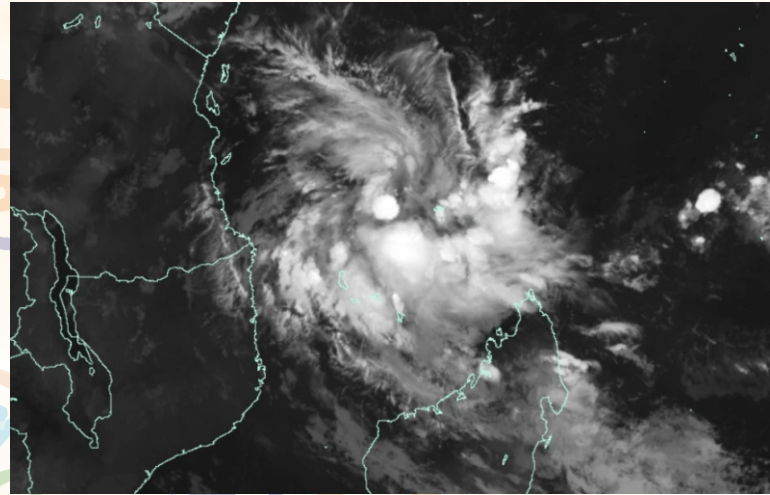
Cyclone 'Hidaya'

Why in the News?

- Cyclone 'Hidaya' ('Guidance' in Arabic and 'Gift' in Swahili), a severe storm, is expected to slam into the Tanzanian coast south of Dar es Salaam from the Indian Ocean on May 4, 2024.

More About the News

- Kenya, which has never seen a cyclone before, may witness one now, President William Ruto announced on May 3 at the State House in Nairobi, while putting East Africa's largest economy on high alert.
- The cyclone comes even as three countries (Kenya, Tanzania and Burundi) in East Africa have witnessed flood havoc since March this year.



- Cyclone Hidaya is said to have developed over the South Indian Ocean, east of Tanzania and north-northeast of the Comoros, an archipelago in the Indian Ocean.
- It was designated the name 'Hidaya' by the French meteorological service.
- Hidaya will decrease in strength in the next 12 hours as it continues to move very close to the coast of Tanzania.
- It is expected to continue to exist until May 5 and will decrease in strength after that, said the Authority.

About Cyclone

- Cyclones are caused by atmospheric disturbances around a low-pressure area distinguished by swift and often destructive air circulation.
- Cyclones are usually accompanied by violent storms and bad weather.
- The air circulates inward in an anticlockwise direction in the Northern hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern hemisphere.
- Cyclones are classified as : (i) extra tropical cyclones (also called temperate cyclones); and (ii) tropical cyclones.

- The word Cyclone is derived from the Greek word Cyclos meaning the coils of a snake.
- It was coined by Henry Peddington because the tropical storms in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea appear like coiled serpents of the sea.

Meteor Shower

Why in the News?

- The Eta Aquariid meteor shower, which has been active since April 15, will peak on May 5 and 6.

More About the News

- Meteor showers come from comets, which are frozen leftovers from the formation of our solar system, some 4.6 billion years ago.
- Comets are composed of dust, rock and ice, and orbit around the Sun in highly elliptical orbits which can, in some cases, take hundreds of thousands of years to complete.
- According to NASA, a total of 3,910 comets

are currently known, although billions more are theorised to be orbiting the Sun beyond Neptune, in the Kuiper Belt and even more distant Oort cloud.

- Meteors are simply grains of dust or rock that burn up as they enter the Earth's atmosphere. This burning also creates a brief tail.
- A meteor shower can be observed when Earth passes through the clouds of dust left behind in a comet's orbital plane.
- The sky lights up with small and large meteor tails as the debris left behind by the comet interacts with Earth's atmosphere.
- The Eta Aquariid meteor shower is formed when Earth passes through the orbital plane of the famous Halley's Comet, which takes about 76 years to orbit the Sun once.
- The meteor shower is likely to be visible across the sky. More specifically, the shower seems to be originating from the Aquarius constellation - hence 'Eta Aquariid'.



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