

07-05-2024

Panama elects Jose Mulino as President

Why in News?

- The Panama's electoral tribunal declared conservative candidate, Jose Raul Mulino as the winner of the country's presidential election on May 5, 2024.

More About the News

- Mulino, a former minister of public security, joins Javier Milei of Argentina (elected in November last year) and Nayib Bukele of El Salvador (elected in June 2019) as yet another rightwing populist elected to power in the region.
- Mulino won 34 per cent of the votes, compared to his nearest rival, Ricardo Lombana, who won 25 per cent. The president-elect has promised to solve the Central American country's array of problems including unemployment, inflation and corruption.



Strategic strip of land

- Panama is strategically placed in the Americas as it connects two big continents to its north and south.
- The Spanish conquistador, Vasco Nunez de

Balboa was the first to cross the isthmus in 1513 from the Caribbean Sea side and reach the Pacific Ocean.

- The Panama Canal, the artificial waterway that cuts across the isthmus and helps connect the Atlantic and Pacific, was built after unsuccessful attempts by the French and finally, a successful one by the Americans.
- From 1914 when it opened till 1979, the United States had sole control over the canal. Today, it is governed by the Panama Canal Authority, which answers to the Panamanian government.

4th Session of India-Ghana Joint Trade Committee

Why in the News?

- The 4th session of the India-Ghana Joint Trade Committee (JTC) recently concluded in Accra, with both nations resolving to enhance bilateral trade and investment cooperation.



More About the News

- During the two-day meeting from May 2-3, India and Ghana agreed to operationalize the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) of the National Payments Corporation of India.

(NPCI) on Ghana's Interbank Payment and Settlement Systems (GHIPSS) within six months.

- The two countries also explored the possibility of signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) on Digital Transformation Solutions and the local currency settlement system.
- Additionally, discussions were held on leveraging opportunities under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). Both nations identified key sectors for collaboration, including digital economy, textiles, renewable energy, and healthcare.
- Cooperation in pharmaceuticals, information and communication technology, agriculture, food processing, power sector, critical minerals, and textiles and garments were also highlighted for enhancing bilateral trade and investment.
- The Indian delegation included officials from the Geological Survey of India, EXIM Bank, and the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission, reflecting India's diverse interests in Ghana.
- A business delegation led by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) accompanied the official delegation, comprising representatives from various sectors such as power, fintech, telecommunications, electrical machinery, and pharmaceuticals.
- Ghana is a key trading partner for India in the African region, with bilateral trade amounting to USD 2.87 billion in 2022-23.
- India is one of the leading investors in Ghana, with investments spanning across sectors such as pharmaceuticals, construction, manufacturing, trade services, agriculture, and tourism.

Arabian Travel Market 2024

Why in the News?

- The 31st edition of the Arabian Travel Market kicked off recently in Dubai with the theme "Empowering Innovation:



Transforming Travel Through Entrepreneurship."

More About the News

- India is putting the spotlight on its lesser-known summer getaways at the Arabian Travel Market 2024, launching the 'Cool Summers of India' campaign to challenge perceptions and promote the country as an attractive 365-day destination.
- This digital campaign, aptly named "Coolcations," challenges the notion of India being too hot for summer travel, emphasizing its offerings in hill resorts, including the Himalayas.
- The campaign seeks to promote India as a holistic destination throughout the year.
- As one of the largest exhibitors at the 31st edition of the region's premier travel trade show, the Indian contingent is leveraging ATM's global platform to showcase not just iconic landmarks but refreshing hill stations, mountain retreats, and other summer escapes.
- The Incredible India Pavilion has drawn strong visitor interest, with over 100 participants including state tourism boards from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, as well as luxury hotels and wellness resorts.
- India's diverse cultural attractions and tourism offerings are being highlighted

through the sizable pavilion, one of the largest at the event.

- The country's participation comes as its inbound tourism sector experiences a remarkable revival, with foreign tourist arrivals in 2023 surging 64% compared to 2022 as pandemic impacts waned.
- India is focused on positioning itself as a 365-day destination in the strategic Middle East market through this ATM showcase. Tourism is a major economic contributor, with the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region comprising a key source market.

Karmayogi Bharat

Why in the News?

- The 12th Meeting of the Board of Directors of Karmayogi Bharat was held in Mumbai on May 3rd, 2024. The meeting was chaired by Shri. Ramadorai Subramanian.

More About the News

- Karmayogi Bharat's vision is to transform the Indian civil services capacity-building landscape by establishing a robust digital ecosystem enabling continuous anytime-anywhere learning to make the officials future ready.
- To fulfil the vision, the mission adopted the aim to guide civil service officials in their competency-based capacity building journey by enabling online, face-to-face, and blended learning, facilitating discussions through topical forums, managing career paths, and enabling reliable assessments that credibly signal competencies of officials.
- The meeting appreciated the integration of the e-HRMS platform with iGOT Karmayogi which will enable role-based governance by

enabling deployment of officers based on their competencies and capabilities.

- The Board also appreciated the Jan Karmayogi initiative aimed at empowering field officials in effectively implementing key development programs. Gyaan Karmayogi on iGOT, serving as a comprehensive knowledge repository for civil servants, was noted as a welcome addition to the platform.
- The team leads of Karmayogi Bharat also made individual presentations on broader strategic goals for the future, and were given feedback by the board members.
- The meeting concluded with a pledge to redouble efforts to play a transformational role in moving from rule-based to role-based governance.

President of the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)

Why in the News?

- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman administered the oath of integrity and secrecy to Justice (Retd) Sanjaya Kumar Mishra as the President of the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT), in New Delhi.

More About the News

- Justice Mishra's appointment marks the beginning of the operationalisation of the GSTAT, a crucial body for resolving GST-related disputes.
- The GSTAT is the Appellate Authority to hear various appeals under the Central Goods and Services Tax Act.
- It consists of a Principal Bench and various State Benches. As per the approval of the GST Council, the Government has notified the Principal Bench, to be located in New Delhi, and 31 States/UTs Benches at various locations across the country.
- The Tribunal will ensure swift, fair, judicious and effective resolution to GST disputes, besides significantly reducing the burden on higher courts.
- The establishment of the GSTAT would



further enhance the effectiveness of the GST system in India and foster a more transparent and efficient tax environment in the country.

- The GSTAT's first President, Justice (Retd) Mishra was a former Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court and was selected by a Search-cum-Selection Committee headed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India.



DAILY ONE LINERS:

1. Who among the following has been appointed as the first President of the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)?
- **Justice (Retd) Sanjay Kumar Mishra**
2. The 12th Meeting of the Board of Directors of Karmayogi Bharat was held in
- **Mumbai**
3. The 31st edition of the Arabian Travel Market started recently in
- **Dubai**
4. The 4th session of the India-Ghana Joint Trade Committee (JTC) recently concluded in
- **Accra**
5. The World Athletics Day is observed on
- **7th May**
6. Who is declared as the winner of the Panama's Presidential election?
- **Jose Raul Mulino**



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