

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 23, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **Rajasekar Pachai from Tamil Nadu - scaled Mount Everest, the world's tallest mountain on May 19**



- ✓ The 27 year-old from Kovalam becomes the second person from Tamil Nadu to scale the 8,848m tall peak
- ✓ Having begun his training in October 2022, Pachai started climbing peaks that were 5,000 metres tall.
- ✓ Sivakumar, an Indian Army soldier from Ooty, was the first person hailing from the State to climb Mt. Everest
- **The State Transport Department - has approved the implementation of 42 additional contactless services to provide convenient and hassle-free services to citizens through 'online' mode.**
 - ✓ The 42 services would be in addition to the existing six contactless services.
 - ✓ The contactless services that can be availed online, eliminating the need to visit the RTO, are related to driving licence, conductor licence, vehicle registration, and permit.

KNOW NEW CONTACTLESS SERVICES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Change of address, name, photo and signature in learner's/driving licence ■ Issue of duplicate learner's licence and driving licence ■ Issue of the international driving permit ■ Renewal of conductor licence ■ Application for temporary registration of motor vehicles ■ Change of address in RC ■ Issue of fresh permit, duplicate permit and transfer of permit 	EXISTING CONTACTLESS SERVICES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Learner's licence ■ Renewal of driving licence ■ Change of address in driving licence ■ Surrender of a class of vehicle from DL ■ Notice of transfer of ownership of the non-transport vehicle ■ Endorsement of hire-purchase agreement

- ✓ Of the proposed 42 contactless services, 22 are related to the drivers and conductor's licence while the rest deal with motor vehicles and permits.
- ✓ The new contactless services to be introduced include change of address, name, photo and signature in learner's licence, issue of duplicate driving licence, change of name, biometrics, and date of birth in DL, issue of duplicate learner's licence and driving licence, issue of the international driving permit, and renewal of conductor licence.
- ✓ Other services to be made online include the application for temporary registration of motor vehicles, application for issue of duplicate certificate of registration (RC), grant of NOC for RC, change of address in RC, issue of the fresh permit, duplicate permit and transfer of the permit.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The United States and Papua New Guinea - have signed a new bilateral defence cooperation agreement to limit China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region.**



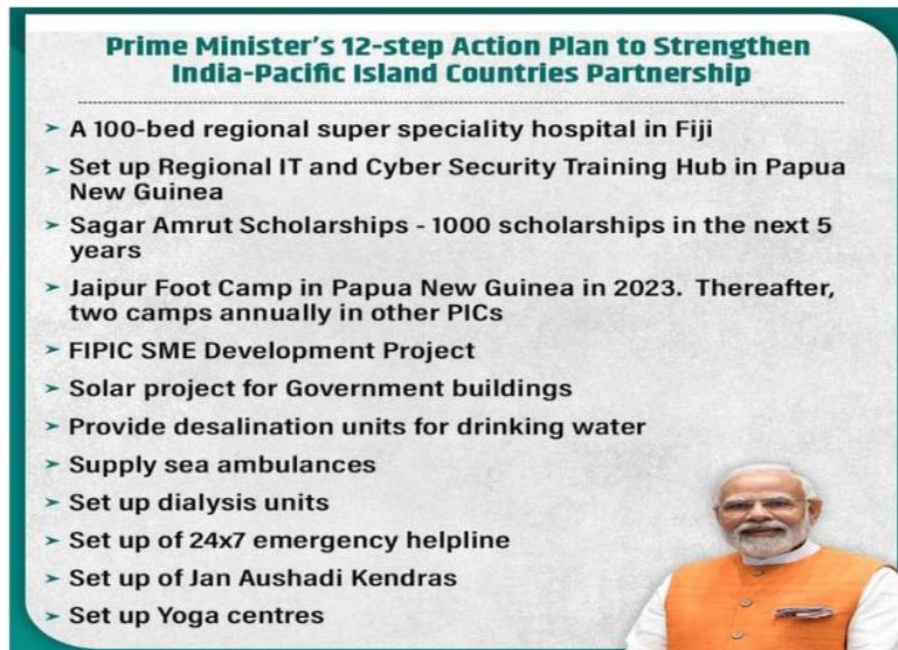
- ✓ US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Papua New Guinea (PNG) Prime Minister James Marape signed the pact and a maritime security agreement on May 22 during Blinken's visit to the capital Port Moresby.

- ✓ The defence agreement would expand the Pacific island nation's capabilities and make it easier for the U.S. military to train with its forces.
 - ✓ According to the agreement, the PNG would be giving the American forces access to the island country's airfields and ports
 - ✓ On May 19, the U.S. Department of Defence provided the PNG Defence Force (PNGDF) with \$5.4 million worth of personal protective equipment (PPE) funded by the Department of State's Foreign Military Financing (FMF) program.
 - ✓ The PPE includes ballistic helmets, flak vests with armour plates, elbow pads, knee pads, and eye protection, and will be provided to PNGDF members deployed in the border and in domestic security operations
 - ✓ The US also signed a maritime surveillance deal with Papua New Guinea which will allow the US Coast Guard to partner with the Pacific nation to counter illegal fishing and drug smuggling.
 - ✓ The US and PNG militaries already have a cooperative security assistance relationship focused primarily on joint humanitarian exercises and the training of PNG military personnel
 - ✓ Further, the U.S. Department of Defense also intends to provide PNGDF \$7 million in support to procure dress uniforms and name tags for the upcoming PNG 50th Independence Celebrations in 2025
 - ✓ The United States will provide \$45 million to PNG to strengthen economic and security cooperation, including protective equipment for the PNG defence force, climate change mitigation and tackling transnational crime and HIV/AIDS,
 - ✓ India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier pledged support for the 14 Pacific Islands at a summit in the capital Port Moresby.
- **The European Union (EU) - slapped Meta with a record \$1.3 billion privacy fine on May 22**
- ✓ This is the biggest fine imposed since EU's strict data privacy regime came into effect five years ago.
 - ✓ This surpasses Amazon's €746 million (\$865 million) fine in 2021 for data protection violations
 - ✓ The EU also asked Meta to stop transferring users' personal information to the US by October
 - ✓ The decision applies to user data like names, email and IP addresses, messages, viewing history, geo-location data and other information that Meta — and other tech giants like Google — use for targeted online ads.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - co-chaired the 3rd Summit of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC III Summit) with Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape at Port Moresby on May 22**

- ✓ At the FIPIC III Summit, PM Modi laid out a 12-step action plan to boost India's partnership with the Indo-Pacific island nations.



- ✓ Among the 12-Step action plan, the PM announced the setting up of a super-speciality cardiology hospital in Fiji to boost healthcare in the Pacific region,
 - ✓ In addition, the PM revealed plans to supply sea ambulances to all 14 Pacific island countries.
 - ✓ He also announced to establish a 24x7 emergency helpline for Fiji's citizens and extend support to set up similar facilities in all Pacific Island Countries (PIC).
 - ✓ The PM proposed the establishment of Jan Aushadhi Centres and yoga centres in the region as well.
 - ✓ Further, the PM announced India's decision to organise a Jaipur foot camp in Papua New Guinea this year, followed by two such camps every year from 2024.



- ✓ Besides, the PM declared that the Centre of Excellence for IT in Papua New Guinea would be upgraded into a “Regional Information Technology and Cybersecurity Hub”
- ✓ The Indian government will also convert at least one government building into a solar-powered structure in all FIPIC countries.
- ✓ Additionally, the PM revealed plans to offer 1000 ITEC training opportunities within the next five years through the “Sagar Amrut Scholarship” scheme for Pacific Island countries.
- ✓ PM Modi stated in his speech at the forum that the Pacific island nations should be considered "large ocean countries" rather than "small island states."
- ✓ PM Modi's visit to Papua New Guinea on the second leg of his three-nation tour is the first ever by any Indian prime minister.
 - ✓ A total of 14 countries from the Pacific Islands (PICs) attended the summit.
- ✓ During the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Fiji in November 2014, the Forum for India–Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) was launched.
 - ✓ The Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu are among the 14 island nations that include FIPIC.
 - ✓ During the launch, India offered significant projects to these island nations, which includes the setting up of a unique \$1 million fund for adjusting to climate change and clean energy, establishing a trade office in India, Pan Pacific Islands e-network to work on digital connectivity and broadening visas on arrival in Indian air airports
 - ✓ Later, FICCI launched the Business Accelerator for Forum for India- Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) on September 7, 2015 by launching the site (www.ficci-fipic.in) of the Accelerator Program.
- ✓ The first FIPIC Summit was held in November 2014 in Fiji, while the second one was held in Jaipur in August 2015.
- ✓ During the day, Indian PM Narendra Modi and his counterpart from Papua New Guinea participated in a bilateral meeting in Port Moresby
 - ✓ The conversations include different areas of cooperation like business, technology, medical services, and climate change



- ✓ In addition, Tamil classic "Thirukkural", translated into the Papua New Guinean 'Tok Pisin' language, was released by both leaders.
 - ✓ The book was co-authored by Subha Sasindran and Governor Sasindran Muthuvel of West New Britain Province.
- ✓ Fiji and Papua New Guinea (PNG) in the Pacific conferred their highest civilian honour on Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Port Moresby in PNG on May 22.
 - ✓ Both countries highlighted PM Modi's efforts to give voice to issues related to the Global South from multilateral forums.
 - ✓ The Global South refers to Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Oceania.
 - ✓ The recipients of PNG's award are titled 'chief'.
 - ✓ In a special ceremony at the Government House, Bob Dadae, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea (PNG) conferred PM Narendra Modi with the Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu (GCL).
 - ✓ Fiji PM Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka, on behalf of the Fijian President, bestowed on PM Modi the highest honour of the Republic of Fiji the Companion of the Order of Fiji (CF)
- **The third G20 tourism working group meeting – will be held in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir from May 22 to 24.**



- ✓ This will be the first major international event to be held in the Union territory since the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh in August 2019.
- ✓ The meeting, under India's presidency, will be held at Sheri Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) on the banks of the Dal Lake.
- ✓ More than 180 delegates, including 60 from G20 countries, are expected to attend the event.
- ✓ The Jammu and Kashmir government had set up a special food stall 'Millet Hub' for foreign delegates in the meeting.

- ✓ Notably, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets in March 2021.
- ✓ Earlier, China has said that it will not attend any meetings in Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir
- ✓ Later, Turkey, Egypt and Saudi Arabia have also chosen to distance themselves from the G20 meeting in Kashmir to avoid any controversy
- ✓ The final meeting of G20 tourism ministers will be held in Goa in June

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Saudi Arabia's Rayyanah Barnawi - is set to make history as the first Arab woman astronaut to travel to the International Space Station (ISS) as part of the private Axiom Mission 2 (Ax-2) mission.**

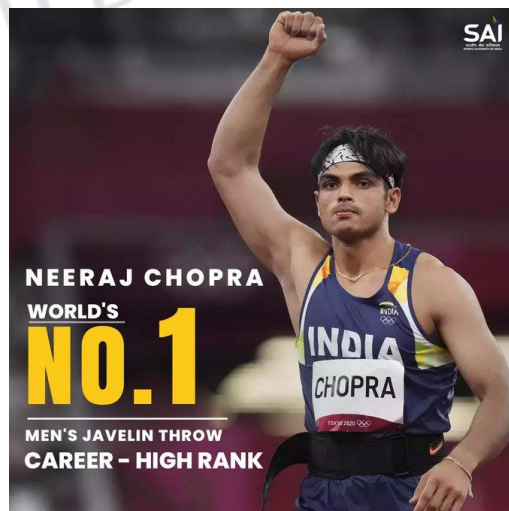


- ✓ American private space habitat company, Axiom Space's has successfully launched its second mission to the ISS on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida on May 21.
- ✓ The Ax-2 mission is the first commercial human spaceflight mission to include both private astronauts and astronauts representing foreign governments, as well as the first private mission commanded by a female
- ✓ Axiom Space's Director of Human Spaceflight Peggy Whitson, a former NASA astronaut and ISS commander, will lead the mission, and aviator John Shoffner, a businessman from Tennessee, will serve as pilot of the chartered multimillion-dollar flight
 - ✓ Peggy Whitson, the station's first female commander who will be making her fourth flight to the ISS, holds the U.S. record for most accumulated time in space - 665 days and counting.
- ✓ Sponsored by the Saudi Arabian government, the mission includes two specialists - Ali Alqarni, a fighter pilot with the Royal Saudi Air Force and Rayyanah Barnawi, a stem cell researcher, from Saudi Arabia.

- ✓ They're the first from their country to ride a rocket since a Saudi prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, an air force pilot, launched aboard shuttle Discovery in 1985
- ✓ The kingdom established the Saudi Space Commission in 2018 and launched a program last year to send astronauts into space.
- ✓ The four astronauts will join seven others already on board the ISS - three Russians, three Americans and Emirati astronaut Sultan al-Neyadi, who was the first Arab national to go on a spacewalk last month.
- ✓ The multinational astronaut crew of Ax-2 will conduct more than 20 different experiments while aboard the space station.
 - ✓ The four astronauts, during their stay in the zero-gravity lab, will conduct key experiments to study how microgravity affects stem cells and thick tissue constructs.
 - ✓ Their work is aimed at detecting diseases and developing therapies for people on Earth
- ✓ Axiom Space astronauts are expected to depart the space station on May 30 for a return to Earth at a landing site off the coast of Florida.
- ✓ Axiom Space carried out its first private astronaut mission to the ISS in April 2022, sending three businessmen and former astronaut Michael Lopez-Alegria to spend 17 days in orbit as part of Ax-1.

SPORTS

- **Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra - became the world number one for the first time in his career in the latest men's javelin throw rankings issued by the World Athletics.**



- ✓ Chopra topped the charts with 1455 points, 22 ahead of Grenada's reigning world champion Anderson Peters (1433).
- ✓ Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic was third with 1416 points.

- ✓ The 25-year old Chopra rose to world number two on August 30 last year but was ranked behind Peters since then.
 - ✓ In September last year, Neeraj Chopra won the Diamond League 2022 finals in Zurich, becoming the first Indian to win the prestigious trophy.
 - ✓ He won the title at the season-opening Doha Diamond League on May 5 with a throw of 88.67m.
- **German sportswear multinational Adidas - has been signed as the new kit sponsor for the Indian cricket team**
- ✓ This was announced by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah on May 22.



- ✓ Adidas will replace clothing brand Kewal Kiran Clothing Ltd, maker of Killer Jeans, Integriti, and Lawmanpg3
- ✓ Kewal Kiran came in as an interim sponsor after the then-sponsor Mobile Premier League Sports (MPL Sports) pulled out of the deal midway, even though its contract was set to expire in 2023
- ✓ MPL was paying the Indian board Rs 65 lakh per match and Rs 9 crore as royalty for a three-year deal.
- ✓ The current sponsor, Killer Jeans' contract will expire on May 31, post which the Adidas deal will take effect.
- ✓ The Adidas deal will begin with the ICC World Test Championship next month and end in March 2028

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Turtle Day – May 23**



- ✓ The day is observed every year to raise awareness about the need to maintain turtles, tortoises, and their increasingly disappearing habitats.
- ✓ The celebration of World Turtle Day was initiated by the non-profit American Tortoise Rescue organisation in the year 2000.
 - ✓ The organisation was founded in Malibu, California in 1990 by Susan Tellem and Marshall Thompson.
- ✓ India has about 29 species of freshwater turtles in its lakes.
- ✓ Theme 2023 - 'I Love Turtles'

