

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—JUNE 2, 2023**

### **NATIONAL**

- **Eight more cheetahs - would be released into the wild in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) in the next few weeks**
- ✓ This was announced by Cheetah Steering Committee chairperson Rajesh Gopal on June 1.
- ✓ As of now, seven cheetahs have been released in the wild, and 11, including a cub, are kept in the six square km enclosure
- ✓ According to the committee, at least 50 cheetahs are required for the success of the Cheetan Translocation Project.
- ✓ Earlier, on May 25, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had constituted an 11-member steering committee and appointed Dr Rajesh Gopal, secretary general of Global Tiger Forum, as its chairman
- ✓ The NTCA, an authority under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, holds the responsibility of overseeing Project Cheetah.
- ✓ The committee was formed following the death of three cheetah cubs in three days last week.
- ✓ The Steering Committee shall be in-force for a period of two years and will hold at least one meeting every month.
- ✓ In September 2022, eight cheetahs airlifted from Namibia — five females and three males — were released in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP)
- ✓ It is said to be the world's first inter-continental large wild carnivore translocation project.
- ✓ In a second such translocation, 12 cheetahs were flown in from South Africa and released into Kuno on February 18.

### **INTERNATIONAL**

- **The US House of Representatives - has passed a bipartisan Bill raising the government's \$31.4 trillion debt ceiling.**

- ✓ The Bill was passed 314-117 in the 435-member Republican-controlled House (by a narrow 222-213 majority)
- ✓ It will now be sent to the Senate and later to President Joe Biden before a June 5 deadline



- ✓ On the final vote, 149 Republicans and 165 Democrats backed the measure, while 71 Republicans and 46 Democrats opposed the Fiscal Responsibility Act.
- ✓ Overall, the 99-page Bill restricts spending for the next two years, suspends the debt ceiling into January 2025 and changes policies by allowing the government to borrow unlimited sums as necessary to pay its obligations
- ✓ The last time the U.S. came this close to default was in 2011, with a Democratic president and Senate majority and a Republican-majority House.

## INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **India and Nepal – signed seven agreements and launched six projects, including inauguration of new railway services.**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' held a bilateral meeting on June 1



- ✓ The seven agreements cover areas such as connectivity, hydro-electric power, petroleum infrastructure, cross border payment mechanism and construction of integrated check posts.

- ✓ It included a revised treaty of transit, which expired in 2019, that would provide Nepal access to inland waterways of India for cargo transportation to sea ports for the first time
- ✓ This is expected to contribute very significantly to expansion of trade and investment linkages.
- ✓ The two sides also extensively discussed ways to launch air connectivity to various towns in Nepal from India besides strengthening railway networks.
- ✓ During the meeting, both the countries have decided to amicably resolve the long-standing boundary issues.
- ✓ The two sides also discussed the completion of projects under the 'Ramayan circuit', which will help in cultural, religious and people-to-people connect.
- ✓ Following the talks, PM Modi and Prachanda remotely unveiled the Kurtha-Bijalpur section of railway line, virtually flagged off a Indian cargo train from Bathnaha (India) to Nepal Customs Yard that operated on a newly constructed rail link under Indian grant.
- ✓ The two leaders also inaugurated Integrated Checkposts (ICPs) at Nepalgunj in Nepal and Rupaidiha on the Indian side.
- ✓ They also remotely joined the ground breaking ceremonies for ICPs at Bhairahawa (Nepal) and Sonauli (India), phase-II project under Motihari-Amlekhgunj petroleum pipeline and kick started the project for construction of the Indian portion of Gorakhpur-Bhutwal transmission line.
- ✓ In a significant development, India has agreed to permit the first trilateral power transaction from Nepal to Bangladesh via India for up to 40 MW of power
- ✓ India has also decided to fund three major transmission corridors in Nepal - Bheri corridor, the Nijgadh-Inaruwa corridor and the Gandak-Nepalgunj corridor - under the line of credit support of about \$680 million.
- ✓ Prachanda began his four-day visit to India on May 31.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

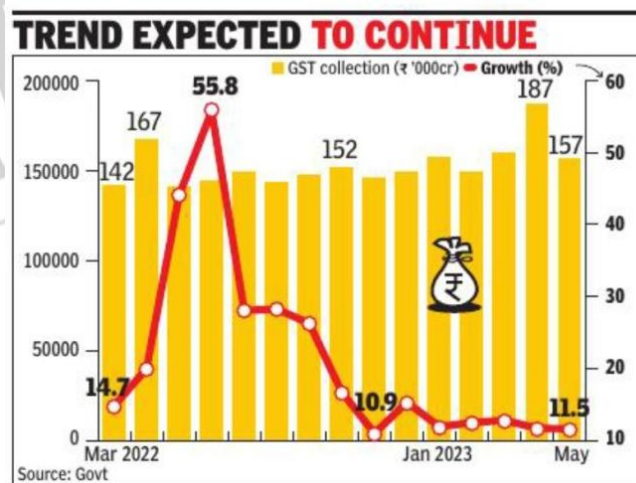
- **India - conducted a “successful launch” of the medium-range Agni-1 missile from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast on June 1**



- ✓ The “training launch” of the Agni-1 was conducted by the tri-service Strategic Forces Command (SFC), responsible for the management and administration of the country's tactical and nuclear assets.
- ✓ The user training launch successfully validated all operational and technical parameters of the missile.
- ✓ The Agni-1 missile is part of the Agni series of missiles, which includes the Agni-1 (700km), Agni-2 (2000), Agni-3 (3000), Agni-4 (4000) and the Agni-5 with a range of 5,000 km.
- ✓ Earlier in December 2022, India successfully carried out the launch of the Agni-5 missile.
- ✓ In October last year, India successfully fired ‘Agni Prime’ - a new generation of ballistic missiles which are developed to gradually replace the Agni-I missiles - from off the coast of Odisha
- ✓ The nuclear-capable Agni series of missiles are surface-to-surface missiles developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)

## BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **The goods and services tax (GST) collections for the month of May 2023 - stood at Rs 1.57 lakh crore, a growth of 12% over the collections during May 2022**



- ✓ Of the total GST collections, CGST stood at Rs 28,411 crore, SGST at Rs 35,828 crore, IGST is Rs 81,363 crore and cess is Rs 11,489 crore
- ✓ With this, the monthly GST revenue stands at over Rs 1.4 lakh crore for the 14th consecutive month and Rs 1.5 lakh crore crossed for the fifth time
- ✓ In the previous month of April 2023, GST collections had hit its highest-ever level of Rs 1,87,035 crore.
- ✓ The GST collections for May month pertain to business transactions done in April month.



- ✓ Ladakh (113%), Mizoram (52%), and Arunachal Pradesh (47%) are among the leaders in terms of growth rates, even as collections declined in Manipur (17%), Punjab 9%) and Chhattisgarh (4%).
- ✓ Among larger states, Maharashtra reported a 16% rise, while Tamil Nadu (13%), UP (12%) and Karnataka (12%) grew around the national average.
- ✓ Further, UPI transactions crossed the 900-crore mark for the first time in May 2023.
- ✓ According to the government data, transactions in May stood at 941 crore, a year-on-year growth of 58% and 5.8% higher than 890 crore in April 2023.
- ✓ In value terms, transactions for May stood at Rs 14.9 lakh crore — a 43% increase year-on-year and a 5.8% increase over Rs 14-lakh-crore payments in April 2023.

## SPORTS

- **India – defeated Pakistan to retain the Junior Asia Cup hockey title in Salalah, Oman, on June 1**



- ✓ With this victory, India has created a new record of winning the maximum titles at the Men's Junior Asia Cup
- ✓ This is the fourth time India has bagged the Junior Asia hockey title, while Pakistan has won it three times
- ✓ India had won the tournament three times previously, in 2004, 2008, and 2015, while Pakistan has won the tournament three times - in 1987, 1992, and 1996.
- ✓ This was the fourth clash between the two teams in the final of the Junior Asia Cup and the second successive after the Indians defeated Pakistan in Kuantan, Malaysia to win the title in 2015.
- ✓ The two teams had met in the league stage of the competition and played out a draw.
- ✓ With the victory, India has qualified for the FIH Men's Junior World Cup in Malaysia
- ✓ Further, the Hockey India Executive Board announced a cash award of Rs 2 lakh for each player and Rs 1 lakh for each support staff member.

- ✓ The 2021 edition of the competition in Dhaka was cancelled due to Covid.
- **Two Indian triple jumpers - won bronze medal in two separate events in Europe on May 31.**



- ✓ Abdulla Aboobacker won the bronze medal in men's triple jump in the Montreuil International Meeting in France while Karthik Unnikrishnan finished in third spot in a meet in Greece.
- ✓ Twenty seven-year-old Aboobacker produced a season's best of 16.80m to finish third, and compatriot Unnikrishnan too won a bronze medal in the Papaflessia International Athletics Meet in Ethnikon Stadium, Kalamata, Greece.
- ✓ Aboobacker is going to make his Diamond League debut at Florence on June 2.