

**May 13<sup>th</sup> news:**

**International:**

**Around 7.6 million babies are not breastfed each year: UNICEF**

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) released a report titled 'Breastfeeding: A Mother's Gift, for Every Child', claiming that over 7.6 million babies are not breastfed each year.

Despite the fact that breastmilk saves lives, protects babies and mothers against deadly diseases and leads to better intellectual and educational outcomes, 21 percent of babies are never breastfed in high-income countries and in low-and-middle-income countries, the rate is 4 percent.

The report was launched just before the Mother's Day that will be held on May 13, 2018.

Babies are much more likely to be breastfed at least once in low- and-middle-income countries like Bhutan (99 percent), Madagascar (99 percent) and Peru (99 percent) than those born in Ireland (55 percent) the United States (74 percent) or Spain (77 percent).

**Pak Terrorists behind 26/11 attacks: Ex Pak PM Sharif**

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharief has confirmed that the 26/11 Mumbai attacks was carried out by terrorists from Pakistan. He tacitly admitted in an interview that Pakistan played a role in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

Speaking to Pak Daily, Dawn, Sharif stated that terrorist organisations were thriving in Pakistan and "non-state actors" were responsible for the series of coordinated attacks in Mumbai on November 26, 2008 which claimed over 160 lives.

The trial for the 26/11 attacks are stuck in a court in Rawalpindi and have made little progress despite volumunuos evidence forwarded by Indian in dossiers to Pakistan including the intercepts between the terror masterminds and the terrorists in Mumbai.

Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed is the mastermind of the 2008 Mumbai terror attack in which 166 people were killed. His organisation Jamaat-ud Dawa was declared as a foreign terrorist organisation by the US in June 2014

**Bilateral:**

**MEA Sushma Swarajs visit to Myanmar envelops landmark deal enabling legal land border crossing**

Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj's two-day visit to Myanmar concluded with a range of bilateral issues discussions and signing seven agreements.

During the visit, Swaraj called on H.E U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and met H.E. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

During the bilateral meetings, boundary, and border-related issues, peace & security matters, developments in the Rakhine State, including the return of displaced persons, India's development assistance to Myanmar, ongoing projects, and other issues of mutual interest were discussed. The Minister also met the Commander in Chief of the Myanmar Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, during the visit.

### **India, Nepal to increase people-to-people contact**

India and Nepal on 12<sup>th</sup> May expressed common intent to revise key trade and transport agreements that may allow Kathmandu greater access to the Indian market.

The bilateral understanding came during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to the Himalayan country where he held discussions with all sections of Nepali politics and set a September 2018 deadline for his officials to address bilateral issues.

Both sides agreed to intensify land, air and water connectivity and increase people-to-people contact, the declaration said.

Nepal has been demanding a change in the way it conducts its diplomacy and trade with India and the common understanding reached during the visit indicates a forward movement in these matters. Both the Prime Ministers set a deadline of September 2018 for officials to address outstanding bilateral issues in all areas.

The focus of Prime Minister Modi's latest visit to Nepal was more on connectivity and trade, in comparison to earlier emphasis on ensuring relief and rehabilitation of the people affected by the devastating earthquake of 2015. The joint statement described connectivity as "catalytic" in triggering economic growth.

### **Economy:**

#### **Indian Tea Industry Records Highest Ever Production, Export In FY18**

Indian tea industry recorded the highest ever production as well as exports in FY18. The total tea production was 1325.05 million kgs, an increase of 74.56 million kgs as compared to 2016-17.

In percentage terms, the increase is around 6%. Similarly, the total quantity of tea exported during the financial year 2017-18 stood at 256.57 million kgs, while the foreign exchange realized from exports of Indian tea was \$ 785.92 million. The number of tea exports increased by 12.71% to 28.94 million kgs during 2017-18.

The growth in exports was majorly driven by the following countries: Egypt (increased by 7.49 million kgs), Iran (increased by 6.95 million kgs), Pakistan (increased by 4.96 million kgs), China (increased by 2.91 million kgs) and Russia (increased by 2.89 million kgs).

### **Sports**

## **AFI declares strict 'no-needle policy' at all national camps and training centres**

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has decided to implement a strict 'No-Needle' policy at all the national camps and training centres in the country. The policy has come into effect immediately after it was declared

The Athletics Federation's action comes a month after 20- kilometre race walker KT Irfan and triple jumper Rakesh Babu were sent back home from the recent Commonwealth Games at Gold Coast on charges of possession of needles, in violation of the organisers' strict 'No-Needle' policy.

The AFI, one of the first among National Sports Federations (NSFs) to declare a 'No-Needle' policy, has drawn up a protocol, which will be circulated to all the athletes at national camps and training centres across the country.

In order to implement this policy, the AFI has formed a three-member committee of coaches, which has been empowered to search the rooms of the athletes.

Chief coach Bahadur Singh will head the committee while the other two members will be deputy chief coach Radhakrishnan Nair and chief coach (juniors) Sanjay Garnaik

### **Awards:**

**Muhammad Yunus:** Nobel laureate and noted economist Muhammad Yunus was honored with the 11th KISS Humanitarian Award 2018 at a function held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Yunus is the founder of Grameen Bank and is known as the Father of Microfinance.

### **Persons in news:**

**General Bipin Rawat,** Chief of Army the Staff released the book 'Across the Bench - Insight into the Indian Military Judicial System' by Lt Gen Gyan Bhushan, former Army Commander, and Member 'A', Armed Forces Tribunal, Lucknow Bench.

The book deals with military judicial system vis-a-vis command and management issues within the military establishments besides the whole gamut of issues relating to veterans, their families, and dependents

**Tero Varjoranta:** The UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency said its top inspector, Tero Varjoranta, has quit with immediate effect. Varjoranta, who was in the role for almost five years, will be replaced by Massimo Aparo, an Italian nuclear engineer.

The agency did not give any reason for the sudden resignation of the inspector. The move comes just days after US President Donald Trump announced the United States would withdraw from the 2015 Iran nuclear accord designed to keep Tehran's atomic weapons program in check.