

May 6th News:

International:

Hawaii's Kilauea volcano erupts, forcing hundreds to evacuate

The Kilauea volcano in Hawaii erupted in on the Pacific Island on 3rd May. Thick smoke coming out of the Kilauea's Pu'u 'O'o vent

The volcano, one of five on the island, erupted after a series of earthquakes over the last couple of days, including a 5.0 tremor earlier in the day, the U.S. Geological Survey reported on its website.

National:

Exhibition on Indian Civilisation inaugurated at National Museum

A first-of-its-kind exhibition on Indian civilisation was inaugurated at the National Museum in New Delhi on 5th May, according to a statement by the Culture Ministry.

Over 200 objects from the British Museum in London and 20 other museums and private collections from across India will be on display at the exhibition.

The exhibition marks an unprecedented collaboration between the British Museum-London, National Museum-New Delhi and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya-Mumbai and is actively supported by the Culture Ministry

The exhibition chronologically encapsulates the evolution of Indian civilisation since antiquity and its interconnectedness with the outside world through a raft of exquisite artefacts from India and abroad.

India and the World: A History in Nine Stories' offers insights into two million years of history. It was planned as part of commemoration of 70 years of India's Independence and a year of major cultural exchange between India and the UK.

Dakota aircraft joins IAF again

A restored Dakota joined the Indian Air Force on 5th May in an induction ceremony at Hindan air force station, more than four decades after the aircraft fleet was phased out following an illustrious service record.

The Dakota DC-3 VP 905 was formally inducted into the IAF at a grand ceremony at Hindan where a key was received by the Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal B S Dhanoa from Air Commodore (retd) M K Chandrasekhar whose son and Rajya Sabha MP Rajeev Chandrasekhar bought and restored the aircraft.

Dhanoa dubbed Dakota as a "special" aircraft in the history of the Indian Air Force and added that its "reliability and ruggedness" were proved by its journey back home from the UK where it was restored.

The Dakota was accepted by the Chief of Air Staff from the Rajya Sabha MP Rajeev Chandrasekhar on February 13 this year. The aircraft was bought by the MP from "scrap" and got restored in the UK.

The restored Dakota rechristened as 'Parashuram' will join the 'Vintage Fly' of one each of Tiger Moth and Howard raised at Hindan air force station. The aircraft commenced its journey from the UK on April 17 to India with a joint crew of IAF and Reflight Airworks.

It flew a total of 9,750 km during its ferry en-route halts in France, Italy, Greece, Jordan, Bahrain and Oman, and finally landed on Indian soil at air force station Jamnagar on April 25.

It reached its final destination Hindan on April 26. Air Commodore(retd) MK Chandrasekhar was granted special permission by the Defence minister to fly on board the aircraft from Jamnagar to air force station Hindan.

The Dakota popularly known as the Gooney Bird was the first major transport aircraft inducted in the fledgling Indian Air Force. It was at the forefront of operations from 1947 to 1971. The aircraft played crucial role in Kashmir operations in 1947 war and Bangladesh war. After 1971, the Dakota was replaced by Avro HS-748.

The Dakotas were phased out and some of them were handed over to the BSF that used them up to 1978.

Bilateral:

Sri Lanka, India hold 29th International Maritime Boundary line meeting

The 29th International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) meeting between Sri Lanka and India was held onboard Indian Naval Ship 'Sumithra' at the Indo-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary Line off Kankasanthurai

The Sri Lankan delegation consisted of Sri Lanka Navy and Sri Lanka Coast Guard officials headed by Commander North Central Naval Area, Rear Admiral Muditha Gamage.

Among the 11 officials represented Sri Lanka were Deputy Area Commander (North), Commodore Senarath Wijesooriya, Director Naval Operations, Commodore Sanjeewa Dias and Deputy Director and Director Operations of Sri Lanka Coast Guard, Captain Ravindra Thisera as well.

Meanwhile, the Indian delegation was comprised of 9 officials headed by Flag Officer Commanding Tamil Nadu Naval Area, Rear Admiral Alok Bhatnagar. Defence Attaché to the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka Captain Ashok Rao also attended this event.

The IMBL meeting is held to strengthen relationship and operational readiness between the navies and Coast Guard personnel of two neighboring countries. During its 29th sitting, matters related to maritime security in the region were discussed at length. Mementoes were also exchanged to mark the significance of this occasion.

Economy:

India tops list of fastest growing economies for coming decade: Harvard study

India tops the list of the fastest growing economies in the world for the coming decade and is projected to grow at 7.9 per cent annually, ahead of China and the US, according to a Harvard University report.

The Centre for International Development at Harvard University (CID) said in new growth projections that countries that have diversified their economies into more complex sectors, like India and Vietnam, are those that will grow the fastest in the coming decade.

India tops the list as the fastest growing country for the coming decade, at 7.9 per cent annually, in the economic complexity growth projections. India has made inroads in diversifying its export base to include more complex sectors, such as chemicals, vehicles, and certain electronics

It said that India's productive capabilities far exceed expectations for its current income level, which contributes to the projection of rapid growth for the coming decade.

The researchers also find India ranks the best on the criteria termed the Complexity Opportunity Index (COI), which measures how easy it is to redeploy existing knowhow to enter new complex products. "India's existing capabilities have not only diversified its exports, but also allow for easy redeployment into related products that depend on those capabilities, making further diversification relatively easy," it said. China is projected to grow at 4.9 per cent annually to 2026, the US three per cent and France 3.5 per cent.

The top ranking in COI means India has many "unrealised opportunities" to diversify into related, high-value sectors to continue to drive productivity growth and job creation. "Up to now, that potential remains unrealized, however, as India's complexity has not changed over the past decade. The rapid growth that is predicted is effectively capitalizing on previous gains in complexity," the report added.

It stressed that ensuring the long-run potential of India's economic growth will rely on realizing diversification into related products. The other major challenge will be to ensure the inclusive nature of this productive transformation, as the gains made in new chemical, vehicle and electronics exports are highly concentrated in specific localities of the subcontinent. "Whether that knowhow can be disseminated into new areas of India will in part determine whether rapid growth can be sustained in the long-term," it said.

Uganda comes second on the list of the fastest growing economies to 2026, predicted to grow at 7.5 per cent annually.

The growth projections are based on economic complexity, a single measure of each country's economy which captures the diversity and sophistication of the productive capabilities embedded in a country's exports. The report further noted that after a decade of growth driven by record oil and commodity prices, the researchers find a landscape that has shifted in favor of more diversified economies.

In sub-Saharan Africa, growth is shifting eastward from commodity-driven West Africa to East Africa, with Uganda, Tanzania (4th), and Kenya (10th) in the top 10 predicted fastest growing countries globally for the coming decade.

The researchers further point out that many low-income countries, including Bangladesh, Venezuela, and Angola have failed to diversify their knowhow and face low growth prospects. "Others like India, Turkey, and the Philippines have successfully added productive capabilities to enter new sectors and will drive growth over the coming decade," said Sebastian Bustos, a lead CID researcher in trade and economic complexity methods

Sports:

Neeraj Chopra shatters own record, finishes 4th at IAAF Diamond League in Doha

Indian javelin thrower and the Commonwealth games gold medalist Neeraj Chopra has shattered his own national record at the IAAF Diamond League, beng held in Doha.

He cleared a distance of 87.43m to finish fourth in the season opening League series. Chopra had recently won the gold medal in XXI Commonwealth Games at the Gold Coast with a throw of 86.47m.

It is the first time in history that three athletes recorded 90m plus throws in at any competition.

Thomas Rohler took the top spot with a 91.78m throw with compatriots Johannes Vetter (91.56m) and Hofmann Andreas (90.08m) finished second and third respectively. The next leg of the elite event will take place in Shanghai, China on May 12.

Neeraj first entered the records book in 2016 with the a world record throw of 86.48 m at the World U20 Championships in Poland. Since then he has been steadily progressing with consistent performances.

Indian Athletes win 11 gold, 10 silver, 3 bronze on opening day

Indian Athletes won 11 gold, 10 silver and 3 bronze medals on the opening day of the South Asian Junior Athletics Championships in Colombo on 5th May

Arshdeep Singh provided India the first gold medal of the day in the junior men's javelin throw event with a new meet record of 71.47 metre. A new meet record was also registered in the junior women's shot put event by India's Kiran Baliyan who won the gold with a 14.77 metre throw.

Lokesh Sathyanathan won the gold for India in the long jump final while in 100m hurdles Sapna Kumari bagged the gold. Durga Deore in 1500 metre race added one more gold to India's tally. In the 4x100m relay races, Indian junior men won gold while the women's team delivered a silver medal. Other Indian gold medallists were Punitha Ramasamy, Ajay, Kunal Choudhary, Prajwal Ravi and Ankit.

