

May 30th and 31st news:

National:

4th International Yoga Day celebrations to be held at Dehradun

The 4th International Yoga Day celebrations will be held at Dehradun in Uttarakhand on 21st of June. According to the Secretary, AYUSH Ministry, Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, it is going to be a Mass Yoga Demonstration as the Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the event. Three places Forest Research Institute, Gorkha Training Centre and Maharana Pratap Stadium have been identified for the event.

The ministry is also planning to give two Yoga Awards known as PM Yoga Award to national and international participants.

Yoga Day celebrations will be also held in Indian embassies and 50 representatives will be sent to 50 countries on the occasion.

The Secretary said, 22 yoga representatives will be going to China because of high curiosity in Yoga among the people. Grand celebration has been planned throughout the country including Delhi, Kota and Bhopal.

Bilateral:

India & China agree to start talks on bilateral social security agreement

India and China have agreed to start formal negotiations on a bilateral social security agreement aimed at protecting Indian professionals and skilled workers abroad. The understanding was reached between the two sides during the two-day talks held in Beijing on 28th and 29th May.

Indian Embassy in Beijing said, during the talks, India and China carried out detailed and extensive discussions on the next steps towards the formal negotiation phase on the social security agreement that is expected to begin next year.

An official release said, so far, India has signed social security agreements with 18 countries from different parts of the world. India is currently engaged in discussions with a number of other countries.

The bilateral social security agreements are aimed at protecting the interests of Indian professionals and skilled workers working abroad by providing them benefits like avoidance of double social security contributions and facilitating remittances of accumulated social security contribution.

India, Indonesia ink 15 agreements in key areas

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with Indonesian President Widodo in Jakarta on Wednesday. They discussed economic and political issues. Both the leaders exhorted the confidence to further boost the ties between the two nations. In total 15 agreements were inked. A report...

The warmth and bonhomie evident at the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with Indonesian President Joko Widodo signifies the importance of growth in ties. During first leg of his three nation tour, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with president Widodo and underlined importance of boosting diplomatic, trade and economic ties between the two nations. Both the leaders reiterated the need for "free, open, transparent, rule-based, peaceful, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific region"

India is exploring new dimensions of development in collaboration with East Asian countries. That is the prime reason behind the Act east Policy initiated by Prime Minister Modi in 2014. During the talks, both sides agreed to set a target to enhance bilateral trade to 50 billion dollars by 2025.

15 agreements in various fields including defence, science and technological cooperation, railways and health were also signed.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the act east polict and S A G A R initiative blends perfectly with similar policies of indonesia .

The Prime Minister paid tribute to the martyrs in the Kalibata National Heros Cemetery located in the capital Jakarta.

This monument was built in memory of people who died in Indonesia's independence struggle.

The Prime Minister expressed deep concern over the growing terror attacks and condemned cowardly terrorists attack in Indonesia.

After this, a grand welcome ceremony was held at the presidential palace in the honour of Prime Minister Modi where President Widodo received the Prime Minister.

He was given customary guard of honor. Prime Minister also met the children at the Mardaca Palace.

Children of both the nations wearing traditional attire were all animated and excited while meeting the prime minister.

The bonhomie between PM Modi and President Widodo is testimony to the strong association of the two Asian power houses.

Prime Minister Modi's visit to Indonesia has opened a new chapter not only in the bilateral ties of the two countries but also for India's engagement with ASEAN region as a whole

Pakistan agrees to implement 2003 ceasefire agreement

Pakistan has agreed to fully implement the 2003 ceasefire Agreement. Director General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan have agreed to implement the 2003 pact in "letter and spirit". This means that cross border firings in Jammu and Kashmir will cease with immediate effect.

The two military commanders reviewed the prevailing situation along the Line of Control and International Border in J&K during a conversation over the hotline at 6 PM.

After that, the two armies issued identical statements saying both sides agreed to fully implement the 15-year-old ceasefire understanding.

This comes a day after External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj reasserted that talks and terror can't go hand in hand.

The Pakistan Army, in a statement, said both the DGMOs agreed to undertake sincere measures to improve the existing situation to ensure peace and avoidance of hardships to the civilians along the borders.

The LoC has been witnessing increasing hostilities in the last few months. India has been giving a befitting reply to these incidents.

A total of 908 incidents of ceasefire violations by Pakistan Army were reported till Tuesday in the current year as against 860 incidents during 2017.

Joint military exercise SURYA KIRAN-13 between India and Nepal

The joint military exercise SURYA KIRAN-13 between India and Nepal began at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand on 30th May.

The military exercise, which is set to conclude on 12th of June, is a biannual event which is conducted alternatively in Nepal and India every six months.

Over 300 soldiers from both the countries are taking part in the exercise. During the exercise, both nations will share their experiences gained during conduct of various counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations in the past.

The aim of this exercise is to conduct battalion level joint training with emphasis on counter terrorism operations in mountainous terrain. Aspects of disaster management and joint effort towards relief work have also been included.

Economy:

India signs Loan Agreement with the World Bank for USD 21.7 Million

India on 29th May signed a loan agreement with the world bank for 21.7 million dollars for strengthening the public financial management in Rajasthan project.

The agreement was signed by the Joint Secretary (FB and ADB), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government of India and Acting Country Director, World Bank (India). Whereas, the implementing entity agreement was signed by the Secretary, Finance (Budget) on behalf of the Government of Rajasthan, and the Acting Country Director (India) on behalf of the World Bank.

The project size is approximately 31 million dollars, of which 21.7 million dollars will be financed by the World Bank, and remaining amount will be funded out of the state budget. The project duration is 5 years.

The project aims to contribute to improve budget execution, enhanced accountability and greater efficiency in revenue administration in Rajasthan

Sports:

Virat Kohli emerged as International Cricketer of Year at CEAT ratings

India skipper Virat Kohli has emerged as the International Cricketer of the Year at the CEAT Cricket Ratings awards, which were presented in Mumbai on 29th May. Indian opener Shikhar Dhawan was presented the International Batsman of the Year Award, while New Zealand pace sensation Trent Boult won International Bowler of the Year Award.

Afghanistan leg spinner Rashid Khan, who impressed everyone with his skills in the recently concluded IPL grabbing 21 wickets, was presented with the T20 Bowler of the Year Award.

Woman cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur, who single-handedly took the team to the final of the ICC Women's World Cup with her breathtaking knock of 171 not out against Australia in the semi-final, won the Outstanding Innings of the Year Award. Lifetime Achievement Award was bestowed on former India wicket-keeper Farokh Engineer.

Persons in news:

Nasir Ul Mulk: Pakistan appointed former chief justice, Nasir Ul Mulk as interim Prime Minister until general elections are held on July 25.

The announcement was made by Leader of the Opposition Khursheed Shah at a press conference in Islamabad following a meeting between himself and Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi.

Prime Minister Abbasi was also present at the press conference along with National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq.

Ganeshi Lal: Prof Ganeshi Lal was sworn in as the Governor of Odisha at Raj Bhavan in Bhubaneswar on 29th May. Orissa High Court Chief justice Vineet Saran administered the oath of office to Prof Lal.