

Daily Current Affairs 29 May 2018

India

IGI Airport Delhi to Get India's First AI Robot 'RADA' to Assist Flyers, Courtesy Vistara

- Vistara has come up with a unique robot using Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology that can assist customers, address their queries and entertain them. Named 'RADA', the robot is aimed at helping the airline offer an enhanced on-ground service to its customers.
- During its initial stage, RADA will be placed at Vistara's Signature Lounge at Delhi Airport's Terminal 3 from July 5, 2018, to assist customers using the lounge before they board their flights.
- Vistara states that 'RADA' will be further developed over a period of time in terms of functionality and features for future use cases, after gauging customer feedback.
- At present, the robot can scan boarding passes and further provide information on the terminal, departure gates, weather conditions of destination city, real-time flight status as well as information about Vistara's products and services.
- It greets customers and interacts with them using basic hand movements, and is capable of moving around in the lounge on predefined pathways. Additionally, it can engage with kids and adults alike by playing games and other multimedia content such as songs and videos.

UP govt signs MoU to fast-track work on Jewar international airport

- The Uttar Pradesh government today signed a pact with Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), Noida and Greater Noida Industrial Development Authorities to monitor and fast-track the work on the much awaited greenfield Jewar International Airport.
- The signing of the MoU will kick off the process of land acquisition, officials of the state government said. At present, the public hearing for land acquisition is being monitored by the sub divisional magistrate of Jewar.
- The nodal agency, YEIDA, will start the process of preparing the bid document for selecting of the concessioner and the bidding process is likely to commence by July end this year, they said.

Archaeological Survey of India signs MoU with Yatra and BookMyShow

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), an organisation under the Ministry of Culture for archaeological researches and protection of cultural heritage has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Yatra.com and BookMyShow.
- This MoU is aimed at enabling overseas and domestic tourists and visitors to book their tickets online for 141 historical monuments, museums and sites in India, such as Taj Mahal, Qutub Minar, Ajanta and Ellora caves, Red Fort, Sun Temple, which fall under the purview of ASI.

- The move, aimed at supporting Government of India's 'Digital India' initiative, will facilitate digitization of ASI's service offerings. Yatra said the online booking services come at no additional cost to a customer.

IPS Officer Krishna Prakash, India's First Civil Servant To Become An 'Ultraman'

- The Maharashtra cadre IPS officer becomes India's first and only uniformed service officer in Military, Naval, Air-Force and para-military forces to win the 'Ultraman World Championship' title at Australia in May 2018.
- Triathlon is a three-day 515 km (320 mile) multisport race held in Australia every year.
- This multisport race is divided into three stages over three days, wherein the participant is required to complete 10 km (6.2 mile) open ocean swimming, followed by 421 km (261.4 mile) cross-country bike ride and lastly 84 km (52.4 mile) ultra-marathon run. All these races should be completed within a prescribed time limit, else the participant gets disqualified.

DAC approves procurement of equipment for Defence Forces

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved the procurement of equipment for the Defence Forces valued at over Rs 6900 crore.
- DAC approved procurement of Thermal Imaging (TI) Night Sights for the Rocket Launcher (RL) used by the Army and the Air Force under 'BUY(Indian) IDDM' category through established Indian Vendors.
- The TI sight for 84mm RL will be used by troops in operations to facilitate accurate and continuous engagement of moving and static enemy targets and destruction of field bunkers during hours of complete darkness.

4th International Yoga Day's main event to be organised in Dehradun

- The main event of 4th International Yoga Day celebrations (IDY-2018) will be held on June 21, 2018 at Dehradun in Uttarakhand.
- Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary of Ministry of AYUSH, is in Dehradun to initiate the preparations regarding this mega event.
- The 2017 main Yoga Day event was held in Lucknow with PM Modi sharing the stage with Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath.

Akshay launches ad campaign for Swachh Bharat Mission

- Akshay Kumar launched an advertisement campaign for the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) at a Collectors Convention for Toilet Technology.
- The campaign focuses on promoting the twin pit toilet technology in rural India.
- The advertisement campaign is supported by the World Bank.

Sangeeta Bahl: Oldest Indian woman to scale Mount Everest

- Sangeeta Bahl, at the age of 53, has become the oldest Indian woman to scale the Mount Everest.
- She scaled the peak on May 19, 2018, with the help of 2 Sherpas.
- She carried a banner to the peak advocating early detection of breast cancer in women & funding for the same.
- She has already conquered 6 out of the 7 highest peaks of the world.

Himachal Pradesh Government to promote Organic Farming

- The Himachal Pradesh government recently launched the 'Prakritik Kheti Khushhaal Kisaan Yojana' (PKKKY) to promote organic farming.
- The government will undertake an integrated approach for promoting organic and zero budget natural farming system.
- PKKKY will enhance agricultural income through the adoption of low-cost climate-resilient farming system.

Tripura Government to phase out plastic carry bags

- The Tripura government has set August 15 as the deadline to phase out plastic carry bags completely from the state, as part of the 'Himalayan Cleanup' programme.
- The government urged people to replace their plastic bags with biodegradable ones.
- The Himalayan Cleanup campaign was launched in 12 mountain states in the country to end plastic pollution in the hilly areas.

Netherlands PM launches 'Clean Air India Initiative'

- Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte launched the 'Clean Air India Initiative' in Delhi.
- The Clean Air India Initiative is a project between 'Get In The Ring', a platform for start-ups, the Government of the Netherlands, Start-up India and INDUS Forum.
- The campaign aims to curb air pollution in Indian cities by promoting partnerships between Indian start-ups and Dutch companies.

Now, IRCTC will predict your waitlisted tickets will get confirmed or not

- The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) on May 28, 2018 launched its refurbished website that will let passengers know the probability of confirmation of wait-listed tickets.
- Though passengers may not get confirmed berths while booking train ticket every time, but, they can now find out whether their ticket stands a chance of being confirmed.
- The prediction regarding the confirmation of tickets will be based on a new algorithm developed by the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS).
- According to the new feature of wait-list prediction, one can predict the chances of a wait-listed or a RAC ticket getting confirmed on the basis of booking trends.

- For the first time, Indian Railways will be mining its own data of passenger operations and booking patterns for making wait-list prediction.
- The algorithm will take into account the past 13 years' data to arrive at a robust and workable model.

WHO adopts Resolution on Digital Health initiated by India: JP Nadda

- Union Health and Family Welfare Minister JP Nadda on May 29, 2018 announced that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has adopted the resolution on Digital Health, brought out by India, during the 71st World Health Assembly.
- The 71st World Health Assembly was held in Geneva and was attended by delegations from all WHO member states.
- The resolution recognises that Digital health technology has a huge potential for supporting Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and improving accessibility, quality and affordability of health services.
- The resolution urges Member States to prioritise the development and greater use of digital technologies in health as a means of advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.
- It is the first step towards mainstreaming digital interventions in health including use of deep machine learning, artificial intelligence, internet of things and other emerging disciplines like genomics.

Finance

India, World Bank sign USD 21.7 million loan agreement for Rajasthan Project

- India on May 29, 2018 signed a loan agreement with the World Bank for IBRD Credit of USD 21.7 million for the strengthening public financial management in Rajasthan Project.
- The agreement was signed by Sameer Kumar Khare, Joint Secretary (FB and ADB), Department of Economic Affairs, Union Ministry of Finance and Hisham Abdo, Acting Country Director of World Bank (India) in New Delhi.
- While, the Implementing Entity Agreement was signed by the Secretary, Finance (Budget) on behalf of the Rajasthan Government and Hisham Abdo on behalf of the World Bank.

Lists

HDFC Bank's Aditya Puri figures in Barron's top 30 global CEO list

- HDFC Bank's managing director Aditya Puri has figured in the top 30 global CEOs list published by Barron's.
- The international publication has included Puri in this prestigious list for the fourth consecutive year, HDFC Bank said in a statement.

- Puri's name figured with Jeff Bezos of Amazon; Warren Buffett of Berkshire Hathaway; Jamie Dimon of JPMorgan Chase; Larry Page of Alphabet; Reed Hastings of Netflix; Satya Nadella of Microsoft and Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook, it said.
- "He turned a start-up into a banking giant and helped bring Indians into the modern financial era.
- Even after 24 years at the helm, Puri, 67, elicits effusive praise from investors, with descriptions ranging from, one of the most impressive CEOs we have come across," the statement quoting Barron's said.
- The career banker methodically built a start-up into India's second-largest private-sector bank by market value, it said.

Days

International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2018 observed globally

- The International Day of UN Peacekeepers was observed across the world on May 29, 2018 with an aim to honour more than 3700 peacekeepers who have lost their lives while serving the United Nations since 1948, including 129 who died in 2017.
- The theme of the International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2018 was 'UN Peacekeepers: 70 Years of Service and Sacrifice'.
- This year, the United Nations celebrated the 70th anniversary of UN peacekeeping. The first UN peacekeeping mission was established on 29 May 1948, when the UN Security Council deployed a small number of UN military observers to the Middle East to form UNTSO to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) 2018 observed

- World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) 2018 was observed on 29 May, 2018.
- The theme of 2018 was Viral Hepatitis, B and C: Lift the Global Burden.

Appointments

Pankaj Saran appointed as deputy NSA

- The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Tuesday appointed current Indian envoy to Russia, Pankaj Saran, as deputy National Security Advisor (NSA) for a period of two years.
- Saran was appointed as India's ambassador to Russia in November 2015.
- The 1982 batch officer of Indian Foreign Service (IFS) has also served as country's High Commissioner to Bangladesh.
- He was the joint secretary in the Prime Minister's office between 2007 and 2012.
- Former director of the Intelligence Bureau, Ajit Doval, is the current National Security Advisor.