Rapid Fire Current Affairs

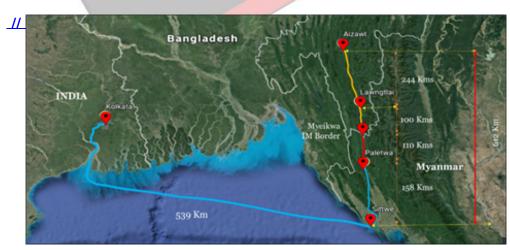## Rabindranath Tagore, Maharana Pratap, and Gopal Krishna Gokhale

On 9th May, the **Prime Minister** paid tribute to **Rabindranath Tagore, Maharana Pratap, and Gopal Krishna Gokhale** on their birth anniversaries.

Rabindranath Tagore, also **known as Gurudev**, was a **prolific literary figure and polymath**, known for his contributions to Bengali literature and music. As per Bengali Calendar, **'Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti' is observed on the 25th day of the Bengali month of Baishakh**, and this day is being celebrated today, May 9th, 2023. **Tagore's compositions of over 2000 songs**, called **"Rabindra Sangeet,"** and his renowned works like **Gitanjali** have left a lasting impact. As the first **non-European** Nobel Prize **laureate in Literature in 1913**, he became a symbol of **artistic excellence**. Tagore's philosophies and the establishment of **Vishwa-Bharati University** continue to inspire generations.

Maharana Pratap, born on 9th May 1540 in Kumbhalgarh, Rajasthan, was the **13th King of Mewar**. He is known for his valiant efforts in the **Battle of Haldighati** fought against the **Mughal forces in 1576**. Although he was defeated in the battle, his bravery and resilience are celebrated. Maharana Pratap's loyal horse, **Chetak**, is remembered for **sacrificing its life during the war.** Despite the defeat, Maharana Pratap later reclaimed parts of Mewar and made significant contributions to the region. He passed away on 19th January 1597, leaving behind a legacy of courage.

Gopal Krishna Gokhale, a prominent **social reformer** and **educationist**, was born on **9th May 1866** in present-day Maharashtra. Gokhale played a crucial role in **India's freedom movement.** He advocated for **social empowerment, education, and peaceful methods to achieve independence.** Gokhale was associated with the **Moderate Group of the** Indian National Congress and played a key role in framing the **Morley-Minto reforms of 1909.** He established the Servants of India Society, worked on various publications, and mentored **Mahatma Gandhi,** who considered him his political guru.

Read more: Rabindranath Tagore, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Birth Anniversary of Maharana Pratap

Sittwe Port

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Recently, India and Myanmar jointly inaugurated the Sittwe Port in Myanmar's Rakhine State, marking an important milestone in enhancing **bilateral and regional trade** while also contributing to the local economy of the state.

The port's operationalization is expected to provide **greater connectivity and leads to employment opportunities**, as well as enhance growth prospects in the region. The project aims to provide an alternative connectivity route for **Mizoram with Indian ports through the Kaladan River in Myanmar.**

It includes segments such as **shipping from Haldia to Sittwe port, inland water transport from Sittwe to Paletwa via the Kaladan River, road transport from Paletwa to the Indo-Myanmar border, and further road transport to NH.54 in India**.

The Sittwe Port is part of the **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project**, funded by the Indian government, and will play a crucial role in linking India's **East Coast to the** North-eastern states through waterways and roads.

Read more: India-Myanmar Relations, Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project

Fertilizer Flying Squads

The **Department of Fertilizers (DoF)**, under **Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**, has implemented a range of measures **to combat malpractices and ensure the availability of quality fertilizers for farmers** in India. These initiatives have **successfully prevented the diversion and black marketing of fertilizers** across the country.

Specialized teams called **Fertilizer Flying Squads (FFS)** have been formed to **keep a strict vigil and crack down on activities such as diversion, black marketing, hoarding, and the supply of sub-standard fertilizers.** Stringent actions – surprise inspections conducted across states/UTs and seizure of suspected urea bags – have been taken. Additionally, sample testing has been intensified to address the misuse of urea for non-agricultural purposes.

For the first time, 11 persons have been jailed under **Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies (PBM) Act 1980** for diversion and black marketing of urea in the last one year. Several other legal and administrative proceedings have also been **exercised under Fertilizer Control Order-1985.**

The measures have not only benefitted the farmers but have also **generated cross-country demand for Indian fertilizers**. By preventing the smuggling of urea across borders, neighboring countries have approached India for urea imports. DoF has also encouraged innovative practices such as the **Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS)** to raise **awareness among farmers about fertilizer quality.**

Read more: Fertiliser Consumption in India

IBM and NASA Create Geospatial Model

Recently, **NASA** and IBM, an American MNC, have introduced a **new geospatial model to convert satellite data into high-resolution maps of floods, fires, and other landscape changes,** providing insights into the **planet's history and future.** This collaboration aims to offer a preview of the **geospatial platform in the second half of this year,** with potential applications including assessing **climate-related risks, monitoring forests for** carbon-offset **initiatives, and developing predictive models to tackle** climate change, emphasizing that foundation models like this enhance the scalability, affordability, and efficiency of deploying artificial intelligence.

Geospatial technology, utilizing tools like **GIS (Geographic Information System),** GPS (Global Positioning System) and Remote Sensing **enables geographic mapping and analysis. It captures spatial information about objects, events, and phenomena, either static or dynamic.** Static data includes

road positions, earthquake events, or regional malnutrition, while dynamic data involves moving vehicles, pedestrians, or the spread of diseases. This technology aids in creating intelligent maps to **identify spatial patterns in large datasets and supports decision-making regarding the allocation of scarce resources.**

Read more: [Geospatial technology](https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/rapid-fire-current-affairs-112)

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