

May - 30

INTERNATIONAL

Palestine at World bodies

- ❖ The Palestinians have joined two UN agencies and the global convention to halt the spread of chemical weapons.
- ❖ Palestinians had joined the Geneva-based UN trade organization UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) Vienna-based industrial development agency UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) and the chemical weapons convention or Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).
- ❖ At the United Nations, the Palestinians have the status of a non-member observer state that allows them to seek membership of agencies and become a party to international treaties.



OPCW

Organisation for
the Prohibition of
Chemical Weapons

- ❖ The move will raise the Palestinian profile in international diplomacy and comes amid a rift with the administration of President Donald Trump over its decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.
- ❖ The OPCW, UNCTAD, and UNIDO rely on voluntary contributions from UN member-states to fund its activities as well as its regular budget.
- ❖ The OPCW announced in The Hague earlier that the state of Palestine will become the 193rd state to join the chemical weapons convention.

- ❖ Only four countries — Israel, Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan — have yet to ratify the chemical weapons convention, which aims to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.
- ❖ In 2012, the United Nations upgraded the Palestinians to a non-member observer state.
- ❖ Interpol, the International Criminal Court, UNESCO, and now the OPCW all refer to the Palestinian territories as a state.

U.S. made F-35 stealth fighter in combat

- ❖ Israel is the first country to have used the U.S.-made F-35 stealth fighter in combat.



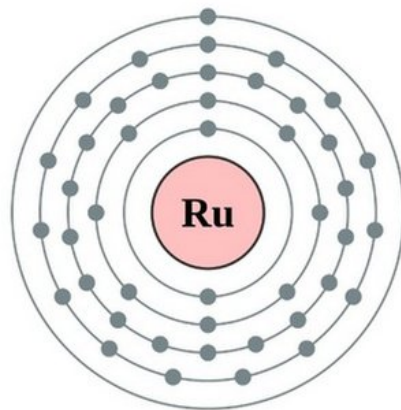
- ❖ Manufactured by Lockheed Martin Corp, the F-35, also known as the Joint Strike Fighter, is known as by its Hebrew name "Adir" (Mighty) in Israel.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Magnetic Properties – Ruthenium

- ❖ Scientists from the University of Minnesota, US have discovered that chemical element ruthenium (Ru) is the fourth element to have unique magnetic properties (ferromagnetism) at room temperature.
- ❖ So far only three periodic table elements Iron (Fe), Cobalt (Co), and Nickel (Ni) have been found to be ferromagnetic at room temperature.

- ❖ Researchers showed that Ru can be fourth single element ferromagnetic material by using ultra-thin films to force ferromagnetic phase.
- ❖ The discovery will help to improve sensors, devices in computer memory and logic industry or other devices using magnetic materials.
- ❖ From an application perspective, Ru is interesting because it is resistant to oxidation and additionally has high thermal stability – a vital requirement for scaling magnetic memories.



- ❖ Ruthenium is a chemical element with symbol Ru and atomic number 44.
- ❖ It is rare transition metal belonging to a platinum group of the periodic table.
- ❖ Like other metals of the platinum group, it is inert to most other chemicals.
- ❖ It was discovered in 1844 by Russian-born scientist Karl Ernst.
- ❖ It was named Ruthenium, after Latin name of Russia.
- ❖ Ruthenium is usually found as a minor component of platinum ores.
- ❖ It is used in wear-resistant electrical contacts and thick-film resistors.
- ❖ Its minor application is in platinum alloys and as a chemical catalyst.

STATES

World's Largest Bird Sculpture 'Jatayu'

- ❖ Kerala tourism will inaugurate the world's largest bird sculpture, Jatayu Earth's Centre at Chadayamangalam in Kollam district of Kerala.

- ❖ The replica of the bird 'Jatayu' - a character in the Ramayana -- is 200 feet long, 150 feet wide, 65 feet tall and is positioned right at the top of a rock situated 1,000 feet above sea level.
- ❖ The sculpture spread over 65 acres has been built at a cost of Rs. 100 crores.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Lt Gen Zorawar Chand Baksh

- ❖ Lt Gen Zorawar Chand Bakshi, one of India's most highly decorated generals, is passed away at New Delhi at the age of 97.

REMEMBER AND NEVER FORGET

LT GEN ZORAWAR CHAND BAKSHI PVSM, MVC, VrC, VSM
21 October 1921 – 24 May 2018 5 GORKHA RIFLES (FF)

ONE OF INDIAN ARMY'S GREATEST & THE HIGHEST DECORATED GENERAL

VIR CHAKRA: Awarded for his bravery in the Indo-Pak War of 1947-48
MAHA VIR CHAKRA: For the capture of Haji Pir Pass in the Indo-Pak War of 1965
PARAM VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL: For the capture of the crucial Chicken's Neck sector in the Indo-Pak War 1971
VISHISHT SEVA MADAL: Led his battalion in a United Nations Ops to undo the secession of the province of Katanga from Congo in the early 1960s

#FlagsOfHonour | #ServingOurNation

- ❖ Fondly called Zoru by his friends, he was decorated for gallantry with the Maha Vir Chakra, Vir Chakra, Mention-in-Despatches, besides being awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM) for distinguished service.
- ❖ His first major engagement was against the Japanese in Burma in World War II, where he was Mentioned-in-Despatches for overcoming a heavily fortified Japanese position.
- ❖ After Partition, he was transferred to the 5th Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army and soon after saw action during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1947-1948, where he was awarded the Vir Chakra in July 1948.
- ❖ In 1949, he received the MacGregor Medal, awarded to Indian armed forces personnel for valuable reconnaissance.
- ❖ Baksh was instrumental in the historic capture of the strategic Haji Pir pass from Pakistan army in 1965 war for which he was awarded Maha Vir Chakra.
- ❖ He was also instrumental in capturing the Chicken neck sector during the 1971 operations against Chinese Peoples' Liberation Army, for which he was awarded PVSM.

Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017

- ❖ Members of the Indian Navy Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini team were presented with the Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017 by union minister for women and child development Maneka Gandhi.



- ❖ The six-member all-women team comprising Lt Commander Vartika Joshi, Lt Commander Pratibha Jamwal, Lt Commander Swathi Patarpalli, Lt Aishwarya Bodapatti, Lt SH Vijaya Devi and Lt Payal Gupta received the award.

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind had conferred the Nari Shakti Puraskars on International Women's Day (March 8th) in Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ❖ As the INSV Tarini team was sailing then, the award could not be presented to the team.
- ❖ The crew of the INSV 'Tarini' is a part of the Indian Navy's unique project 'Navika Sagar Parikrama', an all-women team circumnavigating the globe, promoting ocean sailing activities in the Navy and depicting government of India's commitment towards women empowerment.
- ❖ Each crew member has a minimum of 20,000 nautical miles sailing experience.
- ❖ The project aims to demonstrate the thrust of Nari Shakti on the world platform.
- ❖ The voyage also showcased the Make in India initiative by sailing onboard the indigenously built INSV Tarini.
- ❖ The six-member all-women team, led by Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi circumnavigated and managed the whole operation in this first ever global journey.
- ❖ The voyage which lasted for 254 days, with 199 days at sea covered 21,600 nautical miles, had 5 port calls in Fremantle, Australia; Lyttelton, New Zealand; Port Stanley, Falklands; Cape Town, South Africa and finally at Mauritius before returning home to Goa.
- ❖ All six members of the crew were trained for over three years under Captain Dilip Donde, who is also the first Indian to successfully carry out solo-circumnavigation of the globe between 2009 and 2010.

ESPN World Fame 100 list

- ❖ Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo topped the ESPN World Fame 100 list for a third straight year, pipping American basketball player LeBron James and long-term Argentine rival Lionel Messi.



- ❖ Three-time NBA champion LeBron James retained his second spot on the list, while Messi came third on the back of his ninth league title with Barcelona.
- ❖ Brazil's Neymar, who became the world's most expensive footballer after his 222 million euros move from Barcelona to Paris St Germain last August, took the fourth spot.

SPORTS

UEFA Champion League

- ❖ The UEFA Champions League is an annual continental club football competition organized by the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) and contested by top-division European clubs.
- ❖ The 2018 UEFA Champions League was the 63rd season and the 26th season since it was renamed from the European Cup to the UEFA Champions League.
- ❖ Real Madrid of Spanish side won the final with the score of 3 –1 for their 3rd consecutive and 13th overall Champions League title and fourth in five years.



- ❖ Real Madrid became the first team since Bayern Munich in 1974–76 to win three consecutive UEFA Champions Leagues or European Cups.
- ❖ They defeated Liverpool of English side.
- ❖ It was played at the NSC Olimpiyskiy Stadium in Kiev, Ukraine on 26 May 2018

- ❖ Cristiano Ronaldo became the first player to win the Champions League five times, beating the record set by Clarence Seedorf in 2007 and by Andrés Iniesta in 2015.



- ❖ Gareth Bale became the first substitute to score two goals in a Champions League final and was named a man of the match.
