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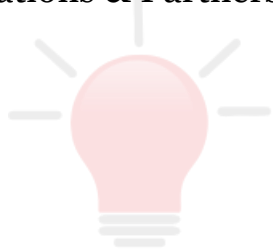
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National & States Affairs

451. On May 21, the Executive Committee under the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) held a 42nd Meeting and approved 11 water infrastructure projects worth around Rs 660 Cr. The meeting was chaired by G. Asok Kumar, Director General, NMCG. A big project for sewerage management for cleaning of River Hindon in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh was among the projects approved. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 577.23 Cr that includes construction of 135 MLD STP, creation of interception and diversion structures and laying of sewer line etc. For the upgradation of Shivna River in Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh, the committee approved Rs 28.68 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Executive Committee under NMCG held 42nd Meeting & approved 11 Water Infrastructure Projects worth Rs 660 Cr
- The meeting was chaired by – G. Asok Kumar
- [River Hindon – in Uttar Pradesh](#) | [Shivna River – in Madhya Pradesh](#)

452. On May 18, the Union Government announced the formation of the Cotton Council of India under the Chairmanship of renowned veteran cotton man Suresh Bhai Kotak. The Council will have representation from Textiles, Agriculture, Commerce, and Finance Ministries along with Cotton Corporation of India and Cotton Research Institute. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Government announced the formation of the Cotton Council of India
- Suresh Kotak – to be the Chairman of Cotton Council of India

453. In May 2022, West Central Railway has developed a battery-operated dual-mode locomotive named 'Navdoot'. This engine runs on both modes i.e. battery and electricity. This e-engine can pull 18 coaches at a speed of 30 kmph. It has 84 batteries and has a capacity to pull 400 tonnes at present. This Dual Mode Locomotive has also received the 'Best Innovation Award' from the Railway Board. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- West Central Railway – developed a battery-operated dual-mode locomotive named 'Navdoot'
- 'Navdoot' e-engine's capacity at present – 400 tonnes | Speed at present – 30 kmph *{Dynamic Data}*
- 'Navdoot' locomotive – also received the 'Best Innovation Award' from the Railway Board
- [HQs of West Central Railway – Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh](#) | [GM – Sudhir Kumar Gupta](#)
- [HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman & CEO – Vinay Kumar Tripathi](#)

454. On May 21, the Delhi Government has undertaken a unique initiative of using Robots for extinguishing fires in the UT. Initially, two robots are introduced into Delhi's firefighting fleet. These remote-controlled fire-fighting robots will have greater accessibility to places and will be able to navigate narrow lanes, reach spaces inaccessible to humans and perform tasks too risky for people. This machine can be operated remotely from a distance of 300 metres. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi – undertook a unique initiative of using Robots for extinguishing fires in the UT
- These robots can be operated remotely from a distance of 300 metres
- [Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal](#) | [Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar](#)



455. On May 18, the Supreme Court allowed Madhya Pradesh for the implementation of reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) in local body elections. A Bench led by Justice A. M. Khanwilkar modified the court's order directing the State Election Commission to notify the election programme for over 20,000 urban and panchayat local bodies in the State. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Supreme Court allowed Madhya Pradesh for the implementation of reservation for OBC in local body elections
- The bench was led by – Justice A. M. Khanwilkar
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel](#)

456. On May 21, the Delhi High Court put a halt on a scheme called “Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojna” in the national capital. In March 2018, the Delhi Cabinet approved a scheme for delivery of ration at the doorstep of beneficiaries under the ‘Targeted Public Distribution System’. From the moment the proposal was given a go-ahead by the Arvind Kejriwal government in 2018, it faced stiff opposition from the Lieutenant Governor as well as the central government on technical grounds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi HC – put a halt on a scheme called “Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojna” in Delhi
- The scheme was approved by Delhi Cabinet in March, 2018
- [Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar](#)

457. In May 2022, Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Pratima Bhaumik inaugurated ‘Samajik Adhikarita Shivir’ for distribution of 8454 aids and assistive devices to 1155 ‘Divyangjan’ under the ADIP Scheme and to 586 Senior Citizens under the ‘Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana’ of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Camp was organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) in association with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) in Bharatpur District, Rajasthan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DEPwD & ALIMCO – organized the ‘Samajik Adhikarita Shivir’ – in Bharatpur, Rajasthan
- Pratima Bhaumik – inaugurated the camp for distribution of 8454 aids & assistive devices to Divyangjan & Senior Citizens
- ‘ADIP Scheme’ & ‘Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana’ – belongs to Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
- [Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra](#)

458. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has issued guidelines easing norms for research into genetically modified (GM) crops and circumventing challenges of using foreign genes to change crops profile. The ‘Guidelines for Safety Assessment of Genome Edited Plants, 2022’ exempt researchers (who use gene-editing technology to modify the genome of the plant) from seeking approvals from the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC). The GEAC is an expert body of the Environment Ministry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dept. of Biotechnology – issued ‘Guidelines for Safety Assessment of Genome Edited Plants, 2022’ easing norms for research into genetically modified (GM) crops
- GEAC – an expert body of Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change

459. Greenko Group is setting up the world's largest Integrated Renewable Energy Storage Project (IRES) in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district with an investment of over \$3 billion. This 5,230 MW IRES will play a pivotal role in India attaining energy security and enabling global energy transition. This is a first of its kind single location energy storage project with wind and solar capacities. The project will help avoid 15 million tonnes of CO₂ annually. Greenko Group is the world's largest renewable energy storage and leading energy transition and decarbonisation solutions company. It has an installed renewable energy capacity of about 7.5 GW across wind, solar and hydro while 10 GW of projects are under development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Greenko Group – setting up the world's largest IRES in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh
- Investment – \$3 billion | The project will help avoid 15 million tonnes of CO₂ annually
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati](#) | [CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy](#) | [Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan](#)

460. On May 20, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur and his Bangladeshi counterpart Dr Hasan Mahmud have jointly released a 90-second trailer of the India - Bangladesh co-production feature film titled "Mujib - The Making of a Nation" made on 'Bangabandhu Shekh Mujibur Rahman'. The film is directed by Shyam Benegal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anurag Thakur + Hasan Mahmud = jointly released a 90-second trailer of the film "Mujib - The Making of a Nation"
- The film is co-produced by – India & Bangladesh | Directed by – Shyam Benegal

461. On May 20, the Supreme Court ruled that the recommendations of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council are not binding on either the Central Government or the State Governments. The bench was headed by SC judge Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud. The SC stated that recommendations of the GST Council, as enunciated under 'Article 279A' of the Constitution, must be construed as only recommendatory in nature. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The SC ruled that the recommendations of the GST Council are not binding on Central Govt or State Govts
- The bench was headed by – Justice D. Y. Chandrachud (SC judge)

462. In a first in the country, Kerala will launch a state-owned over-the-top (OTT) platform, CSpace, on November 1, offering film lovers an array of movies, short films and documentaries of their choice. CSpace will be managed by Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC) on behalf of the state government. Established in 1975, KSFDC is the first public sector corporation for film development in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala – to launch a state-owned OTT platform namely "CSpace" on November 1
- 'CSpace' will be managed by Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC) on behalf of the state government
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram](#) | [CM – Pinarayi Vijayan](#) | [Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

International Affairs

463. On May 21, Mozambique identified its first case of Wild Poliovirus Type 1 case in 30 years. It is the country's first such case since 1992 and the second imported case of wild poliovirus in Southern Africa this year. As of today, wild poliovirus is endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The virus multiplies in the intestine, from where it can invade the nervous system and can cause paralysis. There are three variants of the poliovirus, numbered 1 to 3. India launched the 'Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme' in 1995. India was declared polio-free in January 2014, after three years of zero cases. [{Read more}](#)

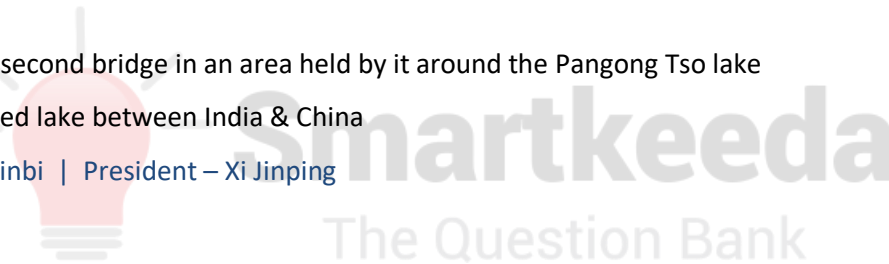
Key Points:

- Mozambique – identified its first case of 'Wild Poliovirus' case in 30 years (since 1992)
- As of today, 'wild poliovirus' is endemic only in Afghanistan & Pakistan
- India was declared polio-free in January, 2014
- [Mozambique – Maputo – Mozambican Metical](#) | [President – Filipe Nyusi](#)

464. China is constructing a second bridge in an area held by it around the Pangong Tso lake which is located in eastern Ladakh. It could help the Chinese military to quickly mobilise its troops in the region. China has recently completed the construction of the first bridge in the area. The new bridge is being built in an area that is over 20 km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Pangong Tso is a disputed lake between India and China. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China is constructing a second bridge in an area held by it around the Pangong Tso lake
- Pangong Tso – a disputed lake between India & China
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi](#) | [President – Xi Jinping](#)



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

465. On May 18, HDFC Bank has carved out rural banking as a separate vertical and will be opening 1,060 branches in mofussil areas and semi-urban pockets as part of the increased focus in FY23. The bank has appointed Anil Bhavnani, who has been working with it for 19 years, to head the newly-carved rural banking vertical. The bank has tied up with Institute of Rural Management, Anand to chalk its Rural Initiative Strategy. Last year, Axis Bank had announced the 'Bharat Banking' initiative aimed at the same market. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank – carved out Rural Banking as a separate vertical and will be opening 1,060 branches in rural areas
- Anil Bhavnani – will head the newly-carved Rural Banking Vertical
- HDFC Bank – partnered with Institute of Rural Management to chalk its Rural Initiative Strategy
- 'Bharat Banking' initiative – belongs to Axis Bank
- [HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH](#) | [MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan](#) | [Tagline – "We understand your world"](#)

466. In May 2022, Volopay, a Y Combinator-backed corporate cards and payable management company partnered with Visa's Fintech Fast Track Program to offer financial management solutions. The partnership program was founded by Visa in order to support innovative financial services and solutions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Volopay + Visa's Fintech Fast Track Program = partnered to offer financial management solutions
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly | Founded in – 1958

467. On May 20, RBL Bank, Amazon Pay and Amazon Web Services (AWS) announced a collaboration to offer UPI payments for peer-to-peer and peer-to-merchant transactions. With this integration Amazon Pay will issue NPCI's allocated UPI ID with the handle @rapl, to RBL Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBL Bank + Amazon Pay + AWS = collaboration to offer UPI payments for peer-to-peer & peer-to-merchant transactions
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – R. Subramaniakumar | Chairman – Prakash Chandra
- HQs of AWS – Seattle, Washington, US | CEO – Adam N. Selipsky
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle, US | CEO – Andy Jassy | Incorporated in – 1994
- HQs of Amazon India – Hyderabad, Telangana | Country Head – Amit Agarwal

468. On May 18, HDFC Ltd launched a 'Spot Offer' on WhatsApp, to provide an in-principle home loan approval to home buyers within two minutes. The platform, built by HDFC and Cogno AI, will offer a conditional home loan approval in a couple of minutes. HDFC is focused on an online digital platform for loans and retail deposits, and initiated 'HDFC Customer Connect' for all customer requests. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Ltd – launched a 'Spot Offer' on WhatsApp to provide an in-principle home loan approval within 2 minutes
- HQs of HDFC Ltd – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Deepak Parekh | VC & CEO – Keki Mistry
- HQs of Whatsapp – California, USA | CEO – Jan Koum | Founded in – 2009

469. On May 19, the RBI asked banks to provide the option of Interoperable Card-less Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) at their ATMs. This move is aimed at curbing frauds like skimming, card cloning and device tampering. Currently, cardless cash withdrawal through ATMs is offered by a few banks for their customers at their own ATMs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI asked banks to provide the option of "Interoperable Card-less Cash Withdrawal (ICCW)" at their ATMs
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

470. As on May 21, India recorded the highest ever annual foreign direct investment (FDI) of \$83.57 billion in 2021-22, exceeded the previous year's FDI by \$1.6 billion. In 2020-21, the inflows were \$81.97 billion. Singapore was the topmost investor in India, accounting for 27% of the FDI, followed by the US at 18% and Mauritius at 16%. Computer Software & Hardware emerged as the top recipient sector of FDI equity inflows with an around 25% share, followed by Services sector and Automobile sector, both at 12%. Karnataka was the top recipient state with a 38% share of the total FDI, followed by Maharashtra (26%) and Delhi (14%). [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- India – recorded the highest ever annual FDI of \$83.57 billion in 2021-22 (increased by \$1.6 billion from PY)
- Top investor of FDI: Singapore (27%) | followed by – US (18%) & Mauritius (16%)
- Top recipient sector of FDI: Computer Software & Hardware | followed by – Services (12%) & Automobile (12%)
- Top recipient state of FDI: Karnataka | followed by – Maharashtra (26%) & Delhi (14%)

471. On May 19, the RBI approved trade transactions between India and Sri Lanka to be settled in Indian rupee outside the Asian Clearing Mechanism. The approval is alongside a government-guaranteed \$1 billion term loan from State Bank of India (SBI) to the Sri Lankan government for purchasing essential goods from India. The Asian Clearing Union (ACU) was established in 1974 at the initiative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) for promoting regional cooperation. Besides, in May 2022, Sri Lanka defaulted on debt payment obligation for the first time in history as the grace period to repay \$78 million of debt interest payment expired. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI approved trade transactions between India & Sri Lanka to be settled in Indian Rupee outside the Asian Clearing Mechanism
- SBI – had provided a government-guaranteed \$1 billion term loan to Sri Lanka for purchasing essential goods
- HQs of ACU – Tehran, Iran

472. The New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS countries has announced plans to open its Regional Office of India at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) to cater to infrastructure and sustainable development needs of the country. The Indian Regional Office will be instrumental in enhancing NDB's engagement with borrowers and stakeholders. Headquartered in Shanghai, the NDB was established by BRICS nations, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The bank formally opened in July 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NDB – plans to open its Regional Office of India – at GIFT City, Gujarat
- HQs of NDB – Shanghai, China | President – Marcos Prado Troyjo (established by BRICS Countries - in 2014)

Sports & Games

473. In May 2022, Avinash Sable broke Bahadur Prasad's 30 year old national record in the 5000 metres, clocking 13 minutes and 25.65 seconds, in San Juan Capistrano, USA, finishing 12th in a high-quality field. Avinash is from Madhva village in Beed, Maharashtra. He holds the national half marathon record too. The oldest athletics record in India is Shivnath Singh's 1978 mark in the marathon, a road race. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Avinash Sable – broke Bahadur Prasad's 30 year old National Record in the 5000 metres – in San Juan Capistrano, USA
- Avinash (Maharashtra) – finished 5000m in 13 minutes & 25.65 seconds (12th)

474. On May 22, Red Bull's Max Verstappen claimed a hard-fought "Spanish Grand Prix" win at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya in Spain. Sergio Perez took second place and the final podium place went to Mercedes' George Russell. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc exited the race from a comfortable lead due to the power unit issue. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Max Verstappen ([Red Bull - Netherlands](#)) – won the “Spanish Grand Prix 2022”

475. Indian pistol pairs Esha Singh and Saurabh Chaudhary won a Gold medal in the ‘mixed team pistol’ event at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany. India’s Palak and Sarabjot Singh settled for the silver medal after losing to Esha and Saurabh. Ramita and Paarth Makhija also won Silver in the 10m air rifle mixed team competition. In all, India has so far won 10 medals, including four gold medals. Overall, the Indian Junior Shooting Team stood at the first position with 33 medals (13 Gold, 15 Silver & 5 Bronze). The Indian contingent was led by Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “ISSF Junior World Cup 2022” – held in Suhl, Germany
- Indian Junior Shooting Team – ranked first with 33 medals (13 Gold + 15 Silver + 5 Bronze)
- Indian contingent was led by = Manu Bhaker + Saurabh Chaudhary
- Esha Singh & Saurabh Chaudhary – won Gold medal in the ‘mixed team pistol’ event
- Palak & Sarabjot Singh – won Silver medal in the ‘mixed team pistol’ event
- Ramita & Paarth Makhija – won Silver medal in the ‘10m air rifle mixed team’ event

Science & Technology

476. On May 20, the James Webb Space Telescope, the world’s largest and most powerful space-based observatory, recently completed the first test to track a moving object, which verified that the telescope could conduct moving target science. The engineering team tested this capability on a small asteroid in the Main Belt: 6481 Tenzing, named after Tenzing Norgay, the famous Tibetan mountain guide who was one of the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- James Webb Space Telescope – completed the first test to track a moving object
- The test was done on a small asteroid in the ‘Main Belt: 6481 Tenzing’, named after ‘Tenzing Norgay’

477. On May 19, Hyderabad-based space technology startup Skyroot Aerospace successfully conducted a static fire test of its “Kalam-100” rocket that will power the “Vikran-1” launch vehicle. The third stage, named “Kalam-100” after former President APJ Abdul Kalam, was fired for a duration of 108 seconds. During the test, the rocket produced a peak vacuum thrust of 100 kN (about 10 tons). The test was conducted at a facility of one of the company’s investors Solar Industries India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Skyroot Aerospace – conducted a static fire test of its “Kalam-100” rocket that will power the “Vikran-1” launch vehicle
- [HQs of Skyroot Aerospace – Hyderabad, Telangana](#) | [CEO – Pawan Kumar Chandana](#)

478. On May 18, the NASA and Boeing launched the ‘Starliner’ spacecraft on the Second Orbital Flight (OFT-2), atop a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Space Launch Complex-41 on Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- NASA + Boeing = launched the 'Starliner' spacecraft on the Second Orbital Flight (OFT-2)
- It was launched with 'Atlas V' rocket (the rocket is being operated by United Launch Alliance)
- HQs of Boeing – Chicago, US | CEO – Dave Calhoun | Founded in – 1916
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded on – July 29, 1958

479. On May 20, AstroSat, India's first dedicated astronomy mission, which was launched in September 2015 by the ISRO, has detected the birth of a black hole for the 500th time. The AstroSat comprises 5 instruments that can simultaneously study the Universe in ultraviolet, optical, and X-ray radiation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AstroSat – detected the birth of a black hole for the 500th time
- "AstroSat" - India's first dedicated astronomy mission – launched by the ISRO (in Sep 2015)

480. On May 21, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched single national portal called "Biological Research Regulatory Approval Portal (BioRRAP)" for Biotech researchers and start-ups. The BioRRAP is an initiative of Department of Biotechnology. The Portal BioRRAP will cater to all those seeking regulatory approval required for biological research and development activity in India. The Minister of State (I/C) Ministry of Science & Technology also stated that India is poised to become a Global Bio-manufacturing Hub and will figure among the top 5 countries of the world by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jitendra Singh – launched single national portal called "Biological Research Regulatory Approval Portal (BioRRAP)"
- BioRRAP – an initiative of Department of Biotechnology
- India is poised to become a Global Bio-manufacturing Hub & will figure among the top 5 countries by 2025

481. On May 21, the herpetologists have discovered a new species of venomous snake named "Maya's Pit Viper", also recognised as "Trimeresurus mayaae" at the Umroi Military Station in Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya. It is also believed to allude to maya, meaning the supernatural powers, or the illusion related to local legends. The study was published in the recent edition of PLOS One, a peer-reviewed journal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Maya's Pit Viper" or "Trimeresurus mayaae" - a new species of venomous snake – discovered in Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

Appointments & Resignations

482. On May 19, Anil Baijal, who was appointed as the Delhi Lieutenant Governor in 2016, sent his resignation to the President of India. He has resigned for personal reasons. The 1969-batch IAS officer's tenure as L-G was 5 years and 5 months. He retired in 2006 as Union Urban Development Secretary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anil Baijal – resigned from the post of the Delhi Lieutenant Governor
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar



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Important Days & Dates

483. Every year on the third Friday in May, National Endangered Species Day is observed, and this year it is observed on May 20. The goal of the day is to raise public awareness of endangered species and the various efforts that may be taken to protect them. The 'Endangered Species Act' was enacted on December 28, 1973. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 20 (3rd Friday of May) – “National Endangered Species Day”
- 'Endangered Species Act' was enacted on – Dec 28, 1973

484. World Bee Day is observed annually by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on May 20 across the globe. The day is marked to raise awareness about the essential roles bees play in supporting people and the environment. In 2022, the theme is “Bee Engaged: Celebrating the Diversity of Bees and Beekeeping Systems”. The day also marks the birth anniversary Slovenian beekeeper Anton Jansa - the pioneer of modern beekeeping. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 20 – World Bee Day by – FAO (birth anniversary Slovenian beekeeper Anton Jansa)
- 2022's Theme – “Bee Engaged: Celebrating the Diversity of Bees and Beekeeping Systems”
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16th October, 1945

485. International Tea Day is observed on May 21 every year by the United Nations. The day aims to raise awareness of the long history and the deep cultural and economic significance of tea around the world. Tea is the world's most-consumed drink, after water. The United Nations had declared International Tea Day in 2020 to promote its health benefits due to its anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 21 – International Tea Day – by the UN (since 2020)
- Largest tea producer in India – Assam

486. The UN's International Day to End Obstetric Fistula is observed on May 23. In 2022, the theme is “End Fistula Now: Invest in Quality Healthcare, Empower Communities!”. The UN Member States adopted a resolution to end fistula by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 23 – International Day to End Obstetric Fistula – by UN
- 2022's Theme – “End Fistula Now: Invest in Quality Healthcare, Empower Communities!”
- UN Member States adopted a resolution to end fistula – by 2030
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Formed in – October 24, 1945

487. Anti-Terrorism Day is celebrated on May 21 in India every year. It aims to raise awareness about terrorism and violence and the way it affects the common people. It also aims to show how detrimental terrorism is to the nation. It was on 21 May, 1991 that former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated. This year marks the 31st death anniversary of 6th former Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- May 21 – Anti-Terrorism Day (31st death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi)
- Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated – on 21 May, 1991

488. The UN's International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) was observed on May 22 to create awareness about the importance of biodiversity and highlight the issues related to it. The theme in 2022 is "Building a shared future for all life". The day was first observed in 2001. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 22 – International Day for Biological Diversity by – UN (since 2001)
- 2022's Theme – "Building a shared future for all life"
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Formed in – October 24, 1945

489. In 2001, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted the "Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity" and in December 2002, the UN General Assembly, in its resolution, declared May 21 to be the "Diversity Day", officially known as "World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development". The day provides an opportunity to deepen the understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to advance the four goals of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted on 20 October 2005. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 21 – "World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development" – by UNGA (since 2002)
- UNESCO – adopted the "Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity" in 2001
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945 | Members – 193 Countries

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

490. In May 2022, the 15th World Forestry Congress (WFC 2021) was organised by the Korea Forest Service (KFS) and Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The theme of the Congress is "Building a Green, Healthy and Resilient Future with Forests". The last congress was held in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 15th "World Forestry Congress" – organised in Seoul, South Korea (by Korea Forest Service + FAO)
- Theme of the Congress – "Building a Green, Healthy and Resilient Future with Forests"
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16th October, 1945
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Yoon Suk-yeol

491. On May 20, China hosted the BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting virtually as it holds the chair of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) for 2022. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar participated along with his counterparts from the five-member bloc. The meeting was chaired by China's State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- S. Jaishankar – participated in the “BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting 2022” – hosted by China
- The meeting was chaired by – Wang Yi
- BRICS Member Countries: 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | Chairmanship in 2022 – China

492. Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs and India’s Governor for the New Development Bank (NDB), Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 7th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of NDB through video-conference in New Delhi. The meeting was also attended by Governors/Alternate Governors of Brazil, China, Russia, South Africa and the newly joined members Bangladesh and the UAE. This year’s theme for the Annual Meeting was “NDB: Optimising Development Impact”.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – chaired 7th “Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of NDB” virtually from New Delhi
- Theme for the Annual Meeting – “NDB: Optimising Development Impact”
- Nirmala Sitharaman – India’s Governor for the New Development Bank
- HQs of NDB – Shanghai, China | President – Marcos Prado Troyjo (established by BRICS Countries - in 2014)

493. In May 2022, the 10th Session of the India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held in New Delhi. It was co-chaired by Piyush Goyal & Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion of Oman. A 48-member high level multi-sectoral delegation headed by Mr. Qais had visited India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 10th Session of the India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held in New Delhi
- The meeting was co-chaired by Piyush Goyal & Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef
- Oman – Muscat – Rial | Sultan – Haitham bin Tariq Al Said

494. On May 18, Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan participated in a High Level Ministerial Meeting on ‘Global Food Security-Call to Action’ which was chaired by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in New York. MoS Muraleedharan also led the Indian delegation at the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), held by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- V. Muraleedharan – participated in a High Level Ministerial Meeting on ‘Global Food Security-Call to Action’ in New York
- The meeting was chaired by – Antony Blinken (US Secretary of State)
- V. Muraleedharan – also led the Indian delegation at the first ‘International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)’

Reliance Industries – topped in India & 53rd globally | SBI – second in India & 105th globally



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

495. The “Drought In Numbers, 2022” report was released to mark Drought Day at UNCCD’s 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) held during May 9-20 in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire. The report, an authoritative compendium of drought-related information and data, helps inform negotiations of one of several decisions by UNCCD’s 196 member states, issued on 20 May at the conclusion of COP15. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Drought In Numbers, 2022” report – released to mark Drought Day at UNCCD’s 15th COP15 held in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire
- [HQs of UNCCD – Bonn, Germany](#) | [Executive Secretary – Ibrahim Thiaw](#)

496. The report titled “Circular Economy in Municipal Solid and Liquid Waste” prepared by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has recommended complete ban on disposal of recyclable garbage. It has also recommended that the government reduce the GST and other taxes on products made from recycled materials to 5% to encourage recycling of waste. The report has estimated that proper treatment of municipal solid, wet and construction wastes can generate nearly Rs 30,000 Cr revenue per annum and create employment opportunities for more than 1 Cr people by 2025. Currently, India generates approximately 1.4 lakh tonnes of solid waste daily and 35% of this is dry waste. A major share of the dry wastes is plastic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Circular Economy in Municipal Solid and Liquid Waste” report – prepared by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
- Report recommended the Govt. reduce the GST & other taxes on products made from recycled materials to 5%
- Proper treatment of municipal wastes can generate Rs 30,000 Cr revenue per annum & create employment for over 1 Cr people by 2025
- Currently, India generates approx 1.4 lakh tonnes of solid waste daily

497. India has 57,72,472 children below 5 years affected by severe wasting, the most in the world, according to a child alert titled “Severe Wasting: An Overlooked Child Survival Emergency” released by the UNICEF. ‘Severe Wasting’, also known as ‘Severe Acute Malnutrition’, is defined as low weight-for-height. Indonesia ranked second with 812,564 children suffering from severe wasting. Severe wasting in a child can increase the risk of dying by pneumonia by 11 times. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNICEF – released “Severe Wasting: An Overlooked Child Survival Emergency” report
- India has largest number of children below 5 years affected by ‘Severe Acute Malnutrition’ | 2nd – Indonesia
- [Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah](#) | [President – Joko Widodo](#)
- [HQs of UNICEF – New York, US](#) | [Executive Director – Catherine Russell](#) | [Established in – 1946](#)

Acquisitions & Mergers

498. On May 19, edible oil major Ruchi Soya announced to acquire the food business of Patanjali Ayurved for around Rs 690 Cr. The name of Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd will be changed to Patanjali Foods Ltd after regulatory approvals. The acquired food business consists of 21 products. Ruchi Soya will pay an annual royalty to Patanjali Ayurved, estimated at 1% of the gross turnover. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Ruchi Soya – announced to acquire the food business of ‘Patanjali Ayurved’ for around Rs 690 Cr
- Name of Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd – will be changed to ‘Patanjali Foods Ltd’

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

499. On May 20, Just Transition Research Centre (JTRC) at IIT Kanpur joined the Energy Security and Climate Change Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Washington D.C., to work on just energy transition globally including in India. Through an MoU, IIT Kanpur and CSIS will co-organize a series of workshops and bilateral meetings between senior officials and other key stakeholders from coal-dependent states/provinces in India, the United States, and South Africa. Among Indian states, IIT-CSIS collaboration will engage with Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana. The first workshop will be held in June in Ranchi, Jharkhand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JTRC (at IIT Kanpur) + CSIS (Washington D.C.) = partnership to work on Energy Transition globally
- Director of IIT Kanpur – Abhay Karandikar

500. On May 20, Uttarakhand Government signed an MoU with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) for the development of new and renewable energy projects in the state. This step will take forward the state by balancing both, Energy & Tourism, the two major pillars of the state's development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand + BPCL = MoU for the development of new and renewable energy projects in the state
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman & MD – Arun Kumar Singh | Founded in – 1952





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