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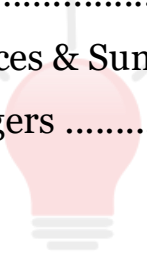
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National & States Affairs

501. On May 20, India's aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has granted Jet Airways the Air Operator Certificate (AOC), allowing the airline to resume commercial flight operations in India. The airline is expected to resume operations in the July-September period. With this, Jet Airways will be the first Indian carrier to revive operations under the country's insolvency and bankruptcy law. Jet Airways (under the previous Naresh Goyal management) was grounded in April 2019 when the company went bankrupt. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jet Airways – was granted the 'Air Operator Certificate' by DGCA & allowed to resume commercial flight operations
- Jet Airways – will be the first Indian carrier to revive operations under the India's Insolvency & Bankruptcy Law
- Jet Airways – went bankrupt in April 2019
- HQs of Jet Airways – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Sanjiv Kapoor

502. On May 23, Kolkata became the first major metropolitan city in India to prepare a detailed register of biodiversity called the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR). The PBR is a 520-page documentation of 399 plant and 283 animal species. Chandigarh and Indore are other important cities to have prepared the document. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kolkata – became the first major metropolitan city in India to prepare the "People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)"
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

503. On May 20, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) asked the Centre and the Arunachal Pradesh government to finalise the conferment of citizenship rights to the eligible people of Chakma and Hajongs tribes as ordered by the Supreme Court. The apex court in 1996 and 2015 ruled in favour of granting citizenship to the members of the two communities settled in Arunachal Pradesh in the 1960s after they were displaced by a dam in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). The Chakmas are Buddhists, and the Hajongs are Hindus. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHRC asked to finalise the conferment of citizenship rights to the eligible people of Chakma & Hajongs tribes
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra

504. On May 19, PM Narendra Modi addressed the "Yuva Shivar" organised at Karelibaug, Vadodara via video conferencing. Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kundaldham and Shree Swaminarayan Temple Karelibaug, Vadodara, both in Gujarat, organised the Shivar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – addressed 'Yuva Shivar' organised by Shree Swaminarayan Temple (Gujarat) – in Vadodara
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

505. On May 17, Election Commission of India (ECI) will lead Democracy Cohort on 'Election Integrity' in partnership with 100 Democratic Countries as part of the 'Summit for Democracy'. ECI has requested to also provide training and capacity building programmes to Election Management Bodies (EMBs) across the world and provide technical consultancy as per needs of other EMBs. The 'Summit for Democracy' was started as a two-day virtual event, hosted by the United States in December 2021, and is now a year-long activity. The US Government has also developed two platforms - 'Focal Groups' and 'Democracy Cohorts' to facilitate participation in the Year of Action. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- ECI – will lead Democracy Cohort on ‘Election Integrity’ in partnership with 100 Democratic Countries as part of the ‘Summit for Democracy’
- The ‘Summit for Democracy’ – started as a two-day virtual event, hosted by the US in Dec 2021
- US – developed two platforms - ‘Focal Groups’ & ‘Democracy Cohorts’ to facilitate participation in the Year of Action
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Rajiv Kumar (25th) | Formed on – 25th Jan, 1950
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

506. On May 21, Union Minister for Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal announced Ayush initiatives in Sikkim to boost the Medical Tourism sector in the northeast. As part of this, an International Yoga & Naturopathy College would be set up in Sikkim. He also announced other initiatives to boost the traditional medicinal practices, including Sowa Rigpa, Ayurveda and naturopathy, in Sikkim. Sowa Rigpa is a traditional and ancient medicinal practice of the Himalayan people. He also inaugurated a Sowa Rigpa college building at NIT in Deorali, Gangtok. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sarbananda Sonowal – announced Ayush initiatives in Sikkim to boost the Medical Tourism sector in the northeast
- International Yoga & Naturopathy College – to be set up in Sikkim
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad

507. On May 23, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin launched the Kalaigharin All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme, to be implemented at a cost of Rs 227 Cr aimed at benefiting over 9 lakh farming families in 1,997 village panchayats across the State. The Programme would be implemented in all 12,525 village panchayats across the State during 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. K. Stalin (Tamil Nadu) – launched the “Kalaigharin All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme”
- Cost – Rs 227 Cr
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

508. On May 25, Union Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, and state minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma unveiled the “Guwahati Declaration” during the ‘North East Research Conclave (NERC) 2022’, held from May 20-22, at IIT Guwahati. At least 100 start-ups are expected to be incubated with around 100 doctoral students to be added within the next 3 years. Under this declaration, a framework to achieve holistic and converging objectives and build targeted mission-mode collaborative efforts will be initiated. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dharmendra Pradhan + Himanta Biswa Sarma = unveiled the “Guwahati Declaration” during ‘NERC 2022’ at IIT Guwahati
- Director of IIT Guwahati – Dr. T. G. Sitharam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

509. On May 23, Redcliffe Labs, a unit of Redcliffe Lifetech in the U.S., started its first commercial drone flight in India’s Healthcare Sector. The company has recently opened its commercial drone corridor between Uttarakhand’s Uttarkashi and Dehradun. With this, Uttarakhand became the 1st Indian state to roll out drone in healthcare. The project was a part of Redcliffe and Skye Air tie-up. The diagnostic service provider aims to reach at least 500 million Indians by 2027. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Redcliffe Labs (US) – started its first commercial drone flight in India's Healthcare Sector
- Redcliffe Labs – opened its Commercial Drone Corridor between Uttarkashi & Dehradun
- Uttarakhand – became the 1st Indian state to roll out drone in Healthcare

510. Industrialist Gautam Adani, Supreme Court lawyer Karuna Nundy and Kashmiri rights activist Khurram Parvez are amongst the TIME Magazine's list of 100 Most Influential People of 2022. The list also includes an Indian American businessperson, Bela Bajaria, who is currently the head of the Global TV at Netflix. The 100 people were divided into categories such as Icons, Pioneers, Titans, Artists, Leaders and Innovators. Gautam Adani was listed under the Titans category, while Karuna Nundy and Khurram Parvez were listed under the Leaders category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "World's 100 Most Influential People of 2022" – by Time magazine
- Gautam Adani + Karuna Nundy + Khurram Parvez + Bela Bajaria = among World's 100 Most Influential People of 2022

511. On May 23, Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched several projects and laid the foundation stone of schemes worth Rs 1,180 Cr for the frontier state of Arunachal Pradesh. An MoU was exchanged on building Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) or National Defence University campus in Arunachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – launched several projects & laid the foundation stone of schemes worth Rs 1,180 Cr for Arunachal Pradesh
- Amit Shah – exchanged an MoU on building RRU or National Defence University campus in Arunachal Pradesh
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra

International Affairs

512. At the Quad Summit in Tokyo, the QUAD countries announced to launch a satellite-based Maritime Surveillance Initiative to counter illegal fishing in the Indo-Pacific region. The proposed initiative will use satellite technology to connect existing surveillance centres in Singapore, India and the Pacific region to create a tracking system for illegal fishing from the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia to the South Pacific. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- QUAD countries announced to launch a satellite-based Maritime Surveillance Initiative to counter illegal fishing
- QUAD countries – 4: India, US, Japan & Australia

513. On May 20, Britain-based NGO 5Rights launched 'Child online safety toolkit' to make the online experience safe for children. The toolkit provides a practical and accessible roadmap to create a digital world where children and young people "are safe and fulfilled". The toolkit can be downloaded for free from childonlinesafetytoolkit.org and by contacting info@5rightsfoundation.com. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 5Rights (NGO) – launched 'Child Online Safety Toolkit' to make the online experience safe for children
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

514. On May 18, IDBI Bank announced the divestment of its entire holding of 6.23 Cr equity shares in Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd (ARCIL) to Avenue India Resurgence Pte. Ltd. With the latest stake sale, IDBI Bank has now ceased to be the sponsor shareholder of ARCIL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IDBI Bank – announced the divestment of its entire holding of 6.23 Cr equity shares in ARCIL to Avenue India Resurgence
- IDBI Bank – now ceased to be the sponsor shareholder of ARCIL
- [HQs of IDBI Bank – Mumbai, MH](#) | [MD CEO – Rakesh Sharma](#) | [Chairman – M. R. Kumar](#) | [Established in – 1964](#)

515. On May 23, the RBI has set up a six-member committee headed by former Deputy Governor, B. P. Kanungo, to review Customer Service Standards in RBI Regulated Entities (REs). The committee will evaluate the efficacy, adequacy and quality of customer service in regulated entities (REs). The committee will identify best practices adopted globally and domestically in customer service and grievance redressal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – set up a 6-member committee to review Customer Service Standards in RBI Regulated Entities
- The committee is headed by – B. P. Kanungo (former Deputy Governor)
- [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](#)

516. On May 21, Digital financial services firm One97 Communications, which operates under Paytm brand, formed a joint venture general insurance company namely “Paytm General Insurance Limited (PGIL)”. Paytm has committed to invest Rs 950 Cr in this JV over a period of 10 years. Initially, One97 Communications (OCL) will hold a 49% stake in PGIL, while the rest 51% stake is to be owned by VSS Holding Private Limited (VHPL), which is led by OCL’s MD Vijay Shekhar Sharma. Post the investment, Paytm will hold 74% stake in PGIL, reducing VHPL’s stake in the company to 26%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- One97 Communications (49%) + VSS Holding (51%) = formed a JV namely “Paytm General Insurance (PGIL)”
- Post the investment, Paytm will hold 74% stake in PGIL, reducing VHPL’s stake in the company to 26%
- [HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh](#) | [CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma](#) | [Founded in – 2010](#)

517. On May 23, HDFC Bank partnered with Retailio to launch a new range of co-branded credit cards primarily targeted at chemists and pharmacies in the merchant segment. Retailio is the country’s largest B2B pharma marketplace. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank + Retailio = partnered to launch co-branded credit cards primarily targeted at chemists & pharmacies
- [HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH](#) | [MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan](#) | [Tagline – “We understand your world”](#)

518. In May 2022, the RBI approved the appointment of T. N. Manoharan as the part-time Chairman to the board of IDBI Bank for a period of 3 years. With this, M. R. Kumar has ceased to be the non-executive non-whole time chairman of the bank. The LIC had 49.24% shareholding in IDBI Bank, as of March 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- T. N. Manoharan – appointed as part-time Chairman to the board of IDBI Bank for 3 years
- [HQs of IDBI Bank – Mumbai, MH](#) | [MD CEO – Rakesh Sharma](#) | [Chairman – M. R. Kumar](#) | [Established in – 1964](#)



519. The FDI equity inflows into India contracted marginally, by 1%, to \$58.77 billion during 2021-22, according to official data from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). The FDI equity inflows stood at \$59.63 billion during 2020-21. However, total foreign direct investment into India rose by 2% to the highest ever \$83.57 billion in 2021-22. Total FDI inflows include equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to official data from DPIIT for 2021-22:
- FDI equity inflows into India contracted marginally, by 1%, to \$58.77 billion (from \$59.63 billion during 2020-21)
- Total FDI into India rose by 2% to the highest ever \$83.57 billion
- [HQs of DPIIT – New Delhi](#) | [DPIIT works under – Ministry of Commerce & Industry](#)

Defence Affairs

520. On May 22, the 4th edition of the Indian Navy-Bangladesh Navy Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) commenced in the Northern Bay of Bengal. Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy units undertook joint patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). The last INBN CORPAT was conducted in October 2020. INS Kora, a guided-missile corvette, and INS Sumedha, an offshore patrol vessel, participated in the exercise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4th edition of Indian Navy-Bangladesh Navy Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) – commenced in the Northern Bay of Bengal
- INS Kora + INS Sumedha = participated in the exercise
- [HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi](#) | [Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar](#) | [VC – S. N. Ghormade](#) | [Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950](#)
- [Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka](#) | [PM – Sheikh Hasina](#) | [President – Abdul Hamid](#)

521. Pravaig, a Bengaluru-based startup, has won an order to provide compact energy storages to European combat forces. The Pravaig Field Pack will be supplied to the defence manufacturer. These tactical batteries are designed, engineered, and made in India. Pravaig's Field Pack provides the modern soldier and their equipment enough energy to charge the equivalent of a MacBook 60 times. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pravaig (Bengaluru startup) – won an order to provide Compact Energy Storages to European combat forces

522. The Gandhinagar-based Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) will develop a Wargame Research & Development Centre in New Delhi for the Indian Army. It aims to train its soldiers in virtual reality simulation war games, designed specifically to meet the challenges of counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency operations by the armed forces in India. An MoU was signed between the RRU and the Army Training Command of the Indian Army for this purpose. The laboratory will be prepared by Tech Mahindra. The RRU functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rashtriya Raksha University – to develop a Wargame Research & Development Centre in New Delhi for Indian Army
- RRU + Army Training Command = an MoU to train its soldiers in virtual reality simulation war games
- The laboratory will be prepared by – Tech Mahindra | RRU functions under – Ministry of Home Affairs
- [HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi](#) | [Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande](#) | [Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju](#)





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Sports & Games

523. In May 2022, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) awarded the title sponsorship rights for the “Women’s T20 Challenge 2022” to Indian fantasy sports platform My11Circle. The Women’s T20 Challenge this year will comprise four games which will be played from May 23 to May 28 at Pune’s MCA stadium. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- My11Circle – to be Title Sponsor of the upcoming ‘Women’s T20 Challenge 2022’
- Women’s T20 Challenge – to be played from May 23 to May 28 at Pune’s MCA stadium
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sourav Ganguly | Secretary – Jay Shah | Founded in – 1928

524. On May 25, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the “Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP)”, which is a pilot project aiming at disseminating principles-based curriculum to aid children’s active, healthy and responsible citizens. Odisha is the first state in the country to launch OVEP. Initially, the inaugural pilot project aims to reach 32,000 children enrolled in 90 schools across Bhubaneswar and Rourkela and once fully functional, it will impact 70 lakh children across India. The OVEP had been implemented across the world since 2006. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – the first state to launch the “Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP)”
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

525. The Indian para badminton team finished with 23 medals, including 7 Golds, 3 Silver and 13 Bronze at the 1st Bahrain Para Badminton International Championships 2022 in Manama. Shuttler Manisha Ramdass shot into limelight with her twin gold medal show. Top para shuttlers Pramod Bhagat and Tarun Dhillon also clinched Gold medals each. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – won 23 medals (7 Golds) at the 1st “Bahrain Para Badminton International Championships 2022” in Manama
- Bahrain – Manama – Dinar | PM – Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa | King – Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

Science & Technology

526. As on May 2022, NASA’s space prob “Voyager 1” is sending back Mysterious data, puzzling its engineers. It is continuing its journey beyond the Solar System, 45 years after it was launched in 1977. Voyager 1 left our solar system and entered interstellar space in 2012. It is now 14.5 billion miles away from Earth, making it the most distant human-made object. The Attitude Articulation & Control System (AACCS) is essential for Voyager to send NASA data about its surrounding interstellar environment. The Voyager mission employs two robotic interstellar probes, Voyager 1 and Voyager 2. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA’s space prob “Voyager 1” – most distant human-made object (14.5 billion miles away from Earth)
- It was launched in 1977, left our solar system & entered interstellar space in 2012
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded on – July 29, 1958



527. A team of experts from the National Geographic (NatGeo) Society has installed the “world’s highest weather station” on Mt. Everest at an altitude of 8,830 metres to automatically measure various meteorological phenomena. The automatic weather station was installed a few metres below the summit point (8,848.86 metres). Moreover, Nepal’s Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) and National Geographic Society signed an MoU to operate all five Automatic Weather Stations installed by NatGeo to provide near real-time information regarding mountain conditions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NatGeo – installed the ‘world’s highest weather station’ on Mt. Everest at an altitude of 8,830 metres
- Nepal’s DHM + National Geographic Society = MoU to operate all five Automatic Weather Stations installed by NatGeo
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba

Appointments & Resignations

528. On May 20, the Central Advisory Board on Archaeology (CABA), that is meant to strengthen contacts between the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and those in the field of Archaeological Research, was re-constituted for a period of 3 years. The Culture Minister will be the Chairperson of the CABA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Advisory Board on Archaeology (CABA) – re-constituted for 3 years
- The Minister of Culture will be the Chairperson of the CABA
- HQs of ASI – New Delhi | Director General – V. Vidyavathi

529. On May 17, Eicher Motors Limited (EML), the parent company of Royal Enfield, has announced the appointment of B. Govindarajan as Royal Enfield’s new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Previously, Govindarajan had been serving as the Executive Director of Royal Enfield since August, 2021. In addition, Govindarajan will also serve as a Wholetime Director on the Board of EML. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- B. Govindarajan – appointed as new CEO of Royal Enfield
- HQs of Royal Enfield – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – B. Govindarajan

530. On May 21, on the recommendations of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC), the board of Infosys approved the reappointment of Salil Parekh as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director of the company for 5 more years, from July 1, 2022 to March 31, 2027. Mr. Parekh has been the CEO & MD of the company since 2018. Moreover, the NRC has approved a grant of 1,04,000 shares to 6 KMPs (Key Managerial Personnel) and another 3,75,760 shares to 88 other Senior Executives of the organisation. These Performance Stock Units will be granted under the Infosys Expanded Stock Ownership Plan 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Infosys – approved the reappointment of Salil Parekh as MD & CEO of the Company for 5 years (till March 31, 2027)
- HQs of Infosys – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Salil Parekh | Founded in – 1981



531. On May 23, Vinai Kumar Saxena, currently serving as the Chairman of the Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), is appointed as the new Lieutenant Governor (LG) of National Capital Territory of Delhi as President Ram Nath Kovind accepted the resignation of Anil Baijal due to his personal reasons. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vinai Kumar Saxena (Chairman of KVIC) – appointed as new LG of Delhi (after the resignation of - Anil Baijal)
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar
- HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Founded in – 1956

532. On May 22, on the recommendations of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC), One97 Communications has reappointed Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma as the MD & CEO of the company for 5 years, till December, 2027. One 97 Communications operates under Paytm brand. The tenure will be effective from December 19, 2022, to December 18, 2027. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vijay Shekhar Sharma – reappointed as the MD & CEO of One97 Communications (Paytm)
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010
- HQs of Paytm Money – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Varun Sridhar | Founded in – 2009

533. On May 23, the Inter-State Council, which works to promote and support cooperative federalism in the country, has been reconstituted with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as Chairman and Chief Ministers of all States and six Union ministers as members. The government has also reconstituted the standing committee of the Inter-State Council with Union Home Minister Amit Shah as Chairman. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Inter-State Council – is reconstituted with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as Chairman
- Chief Ministers of all States & six Union ministers are appointed as members
- Standing committee of the Inter-State Council is reconstituted with Union Home Minister Amit Shah as Chairman

534. On May 23, Anthony Albanese was sworn in as Australia's new Prime Minister. Anthony Albanese's center-left Labor Party defeated predecessor Scott Morrison's conservative coalition in Australia's Federal Election in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anthony Albanese (Labor Party) – sworn in as Australia's new Prime Minister (defeating - Scott Morrison)
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Anthony Albanese

535. On May 21, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the proposal for the appointment of Vivek Kumar as Private Secretary (PS) to Prime Minister Narendra Modi with pay at level 14 of the Pay Matrix. Vivek Kumar is currently the director of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vivek Kumar – appointed as Private Secretary (PS) to Prime Minister Narendra Modi



536. On May 20, the Central government appointed 1998 batch IAS officer Gyanesh Bharti as the new Commissioner of unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi. The Centre has appointed Ashwani Kumar as the special officer in the unified MCD. The Centre merged the three civic bodies - South Delhi Municipal Corporation, North Delhi Municipal Corporation & East Delhi Municipal Corporation - into a single MCD by passing the “Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gyanesh Bharti – appointed as the new Commissioner of unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi
- The Centre passed “Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022” & merged the 3 Civic Bodies into one MCD
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

537. Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) Workers, India’s frontline rural healthcare workers, won the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) 2022 Global Leaders Award. The honour recognizes contributions to advancing global health, leadership, and commitment to regional health issues. A total of six recipients were given the awards. These included Dr. Paul Farmer, Dr. Ahmed Hankir, Ludmila Sofia Oliveira Varela, Polio workers in Afghanistan, and Yohei Sasakawa. ASHA workers are female community health workers trained to function as a bridge between the community and the public health system. ASHA workers were instituted as community-based health functionaries under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) launched in 2005. Currently, there are around 10 lakh ASHA workers across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ASHA Workers – won the WHO’s “2022 Global Leaders Award”
- Currently, there are around 10 lakh ASHA workers across India
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

538. On May 22, the Music Academy announced Sangita Kalanidhi award winners for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022. Noted vocalist and teacher Neyveli R. Santhanagopalan has been selected for the award for 2020, mridhangam maestro Tiruvarur Baktavatsalam for 2021 and violinists Lalgudi GJR Krishnan and his sister GJR Vijayalakshmi for 2022. Nagaswaram player Kizhvelur G. Ganesan has been selected for the Sangita Kala Acharya award for 2020, vocalist and musicologist Ritha Rajan for 2021 and musicologist Vainika R. S. Jayalakshmi for 2022. The TTK award for 2020 goes to vocalist Thamarakkad Govindan Namboothiri. Mridhangam and jalatarangam player Nemani Somayajulu will get the award for 2021 and kanjira artist A. V. Anand for 2022. Musicologist award for 2022 goes to V. Premalatha. The Nritya Kalanidhi awardees are Rama Vaidhyathan (2020), Narthaki Nataraj (2021) and Bragha Bessell (2022). Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin will be the Chief Guest & present the awards on December 15, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Music Academy announced ‘Sangita Kalanidhi Award’ winners for 2020, 2021 & 2022: (Presented by - M. K. Stalin)
 - Sangita Kalanidhi Award: Neyveli R. Santhanagopalan (2020), Tiruvarur Baktavatsalam (2021), GJR Krishnan (2022)
 - Sangita Kala Acharya Award: Kizhvelur G. Ganesan (2020), Ritha Rajan (2021), R. S. Jayalakshmi (2022)
 - TTK Award: Thamarakkad Govindan Namboothiri (2020), Nemani Somayajulu (2021), A. V. Anand (2022)
 - Nritya Kalanidhi Award: Rama Vaidhyathan (2020), Narthaki Nataraj (2021), Bragha Bessell (2022))
 - Musicologist Award: V. Premalatha (2022)

539. Sachin Tendulkar will continue as UNICEF's 'Goodwill Ambassador' for a record 20th year, working for the welfare of underprivileged children. In 2003, he was chosen to take lead in the initiative to create awareness and promote polio prevention in India. In 2013, he was appointed UNICEF Ambassador for South Asia to advocate good hygiene and sanitation across the region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sachin Tendulkar – will continue as UNICEF's 'Goodwill Ambassador' for a record 20th year
- He was chosen to create awareness & promote 'Polio' prevention in India in 2003
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, US | Executive Director – Catherine Russell | Established in – 1946

Schemes & Initiatives

540. More than 9 Cr beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) will now get a subsidy of Rs 200 per gas cylinder for up to 12 cylinders per year, as announced by the central government. It will lead to a reduction in its price, costing Rs 803 per 14.2 kg cylinder now. PMUY was launched by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on 1 May, 2016. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Beneficiaries of 'Ujjwala Yojana' will get a subsidy of Rs 200 per gas cylinder for up to 12 cylinders per year
- PMUY – launched by PM Narendra Modi on 1 May, 2016

Important Days & Dates

541. World Retinoblastoma Awareness Week was observed between May 15 to 21, 2022. Retinoblastoma is the most common eye cancer (malignant tumor) occurring in young children. It can be life-threatening as well as take away vision if not treated timely and is detected by seeing White Reflex (WR). Nearly 1,500-2,000 children are diagnosed with retinoblastoma every year in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 15 to 21 – World Retinoblastoma Awareness Week
- Retinoblastoma – most common Eye Cancer (malignant tumor) occurring in young children

542. On May 22, Ministry of Culture has started to commemorate the yearlong celebration of the 250th Birth Anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy. It will continue till next year 22nd May. The inaugural ceremony took place at Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation, Salt Lake, Kolkata. The programme was organized by Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Ministry of Culture. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Culture – celebrated the 250th Birth Anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy on May 22

543. The 22nd edition of "World Turtle Day" was celebrated on May 23, 2022 to recognize the value of these reptiles on the planet. The day was observed in 2001 for the first time. This year, the theme is "Shellebrate". The theme asks everyone to Love and Save Turtles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 23 – 22nd edition of World Turtle Day
- 2022's theme – "Shellebrate"



Obituaries

544. In May 2022, Yuri Averbakh, a Russian chess grandmaster, passed away at the age of 100. He was the first grandmaster to reach this age. He was among the world's best players for a decade, trained world champions and was the last surviving participant in one of the greatest competitions in history. Averbakh took part in the Candidates Tournament in Zurich in 1953. In 1954, Averbakh won the Soviet Championship. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yuri Averbakh (Russia) – Chess Grandmaster – passed away
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

545. On May 23, two MoUs were renewed at the 7th India-Canada Joint Science & Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC) meeting that took place in Ottawa. The MoUs had been signed by the Ministry of Science and Technology with Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and National Research Council Canada (NRC), respectively. The Joint Committee Meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Srivari Chandrasekhar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Two MoUs were renewed at 7th India-Canada Joint Science & Technology Cooperation Committee Meeting – in Ottawa
- The Joint Committee Meeting was co-chaired by – Dr. Srivari Chandrasekhar
- Canada – Ottawa – Canadian Dollar | PM – Justin Trudeau

546. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT) met in Bangkok, Thailand, from 21-22 May 2022, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Jurin Laksanawisit, Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce. The meeting expressed its concern over the still fragile-recovery from Covid-19 on our region, including global supply chain disruptions, inflation, food and energy crisis on this nascent economic recovery, as well as the achievement of APEC's vision for an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Meeting of "APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade" – hosted by Thailand
- Thailand – Bangkok – Thai Baht | PM – Prayut Chan-o-cha
- HQs of APEC – Singapore | Chairship for 2022 – Thailand

547. The 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), concluded on May 20, 2022 in Abidjan with a global pledge to boost drought resilience and invest in land restoration for future prosperity. It was hosted by Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) for the first time. The theme of the session was "Land. Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity". Indian delegation was led by the Union Minister Bhupender Yadav. The UNCCD COP-14, on September 2-13, 2019, was hosted by India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- COP15 of UNCCD was hosted by – Abidjan, Ivory Coast
- Theme of COP15 – "Land. Life. Legacy: From Scarcity to Prosperity"
- Indian delegation was led by – Union Minister Bhupender Yadav
- Cote d'Ivoire – Yamoussoukro – CFA franc | PM – Patrick Achi | President – Alassane Ouattara



548. On May 20, Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the 13th Annual Day commemoration of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) as Chief Guest in New Delhi. She also released CCI's Competition Advocacy Booklets translated into Kannada and Malayalam. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – participated in the 13th Annual Day commemoration of the CCI as Chief Guest
- Nirmala Sitharaman – released CCI's Competition Advocacy Booklets translated into Kannada & Malayalam
- Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chaowdhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad

Acquisitions & Mergers

549. On May 19, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of a majority stake in SMW Ispat by OFB Tech Private Limited (OFB Tech). OFB Tech is engaged in the business of wholesale trading of bulk raw materials. While SMW Ispat is engaged in the business of manufacturing products such as TMT steel bars and steel billets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI – approved the acquisition of a majority stake in SMW Ispat – by OFB Tech
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003

550. On May 18, PhonePe, part of the Walmart Inc-controlled Flipkart group, is acquiring two investment technology platforms - WealthDesk and OpenQ - for a total enterprise value of \$75 million (WealthDesk for \$50 million & OpenQ for \$25 million). Moreover, Bengaluru-based credit card bill payment platform, Cred, was in talks to acquire Amazon-backed investment platform "Smallcase". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PhonePe – acquired two investment technology platforms – WealthDesk (\$50 million) & OpenQ (\$25 million)
- Cred – to acquire Amazon-backed investment platform "Smallcase"
- HQs of PhonePe – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam | Founded in – 2015





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