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National & States Affairs

551. Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal (FIF) completed 5 years since the proposal for abolition of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) was approved by the Union Cabinet on 24th May, 2017. 853 FDI proposals have been disposed off through the FIF in last 5 years. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, was made the Nodal Department for this portal and the portal is managed by the same. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 24 – Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal (FIF) completed 5 years
- Proposal for abolition of FIPB was approved by the Union Cabinet on 24th May, 2017
- HQs of DPIIT – New Delhi | DPIIT works under – Ministry of Commerce & Industry

552. The strategically-significant Sela Tunnel project, located in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, is expected to be completed by the end of 2022. The project entered a decisive phase after a final blast earlier this year marked the culmination of excavation. The project, being executed by the Border Roads Organisation, includes two tunnels and a link road. The tunnel project will provide an alternate axis to the Sela pass, which is at 13,700 feet. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sela Tunnel project (in West Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh) – is expected to be completed by the end of 2022
- The project is executed by – Border Roads Organisation
- HQs of BRO – New Delhi | Director General – Major Gen Rajeev Chaudhary | Founded on – May 7, 1960
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra

553. On May 24, the Secretary of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Manoj Joshi launched the 8th edition of Swachh Survekshan (SS 2023) under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0. Designed with the theme of ‘Waste to Wealth’ as its driving philosophy, SS 2023 is curated towards achieving circularity in waste management. The survey would give priority to the principle of 3Rs - Reduce, Recycle and Reuse. The Prime Minister launched the “Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0” on 1st October 2021, with a vision of Garbage Free Cities. While the Swachh Survekshan (SS) was introduced by MoHUA in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manoj Joshi (Secretary of MoHUA) – launched the 8th Swachh Survekshan under ‘Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0’
- Theme of 8th Swachh Survekshan – “Waste to Wealth”
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Kaushal Kishore

554. In May 2022, the Blue-bellied kukri snake (*Oligodon melaneus* Wall) in the vicinity of Manas National Park, for the first time in India after 112 years, was rediscovered. It may be an indication of the presence of rarer snake species in the northeast. It was last spotted in India in July, 1908 and that was in Tindharia Village in West Bengal. There are 340 species of snakes recorded in India, of which Assam alone has 76. Moreover, there are 88 species of Kukri snake, of which 22 are found in India and 13 in Northeast. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Blue-bellied kukri snake (*Oligodon melaneus* Wall) – rediscovered after 112 years in India (in Manas N.P., Assam)
- It was last spotted in India in July, 1908 – in Tindharia Village, West Bengal
- There are 340 species of snakes recorded in India, of which Assam has 76
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

555. In May 2022, Uttar Pradesh launched ‘Sambhav’ (Systemic Administration Mechanism for Bringing Happiness and Value) portal for disposal of public grievances related to energy and urban development. The portal will work as a platform for flagging grievances received from the public to officers who have been provided login IDs. SAMBHAV will also address pending cases and grievances from chief minister’s Jan Sunwai or IGRS system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – launched ‘Sambhav’ portal for disposal of public grievances related to Energy & Urban Development
- Sambhav – Systemic Administration Mechanism for Bringing Happiness And Value
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

556. The famed Madame Tussauds wax museum is set to reopen in June, 2022. The international attraction will now be housed on the 4th floor of DLF Mall of India, Noida, covering an area of 16,000 sq ft. The museum will have around 50 figures of celebrities and superstars from five different zones - History and Leaders, Sports, Music, Bollywood, Hollywood & Film & Television. Madame Tussauds has a 200-year history and legacy. The museum first opened in Connaught Place, Delhi, in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Madame Tussauds’ wax museum reopened in June 2022 – in Noida, UP
- The museum first opened in 2017 – at Connaught Place, Delhi
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

557. On May 25, Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann launched a Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) portal to facilitate farmers to give their willingness to use DSR technology over parts of their land. The portal has been developed by the Mandi Board in sync with the agriculture department. The initiative would be instrumental to compile data about farmers who have opted for DSR technique besides ensuring payment of Rs 1,500 per acre after proper verification through this portal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab – launched a ‘DSR Portal’ to facilitate farmers to give their willingness to use DSR technology
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

558. On May 25, the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education released the National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021 report which assesses the health of school education system in India by conducting comprehensive Evaluation Survey of children’s learning competencies at classes III, V, VIII and X with a cycle period of 3 years. It reflects the overall assessment of School Education System. The last NAS was held in 2017. About 34 lakh students of 1.18 lakh schools in 720 districts from both rural and urban areas have participated in NAS 2021. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “National Achievement Survey 2021” – released by Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education
- It assesses children’s learning competencies at classes III, V, VIII & X with a cycle period of 3 years
- Ministry of Education: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Education: Subhas Sarkar

559. The Indian government is aiming to increase its infrastructure spending and as part of that, it plans to build 18,000 km of highways across India in the 2022-23 financial year. The government is aiming to build a 50 km highway every day in this financial year. The government also aims to complete building a 2-lakh km National Highway Network by 2025. In FY22, the NHAI constructed a total length of 4,325 km, of national highways, which is higher than 4,218 km in FY21 and 3,979 km in FY20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian government’s Aim:
 - to build 18,000 km of highways across India in the FY 2022-23 (50 km highway per day)
 - to complete building a 2-lakh km National Highway Network by 2025
- NHAI constructed a total length of 4,325 km of National Highways in FY22 | 4,218 km in FY21 | 3,979 km in FY20
- HQs of NHAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Alka Upadhyaya | Founded in – 1988



International Affairs

560. On May 24, an ancient forest was discovered by a cave exploration team at the bottom of a giant karst sinkhole in Leye County in south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Such giant sinkholes are called “Tiankeng” or “Heavenly Pit” in Mandarin. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- An ancient forest was discovered at the bottom of the giant karst sinkhole or ‘Tiankeng’ – in China
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

561. On May 22, the Indian government plans to hold the IIT-JEE (IIT-Joint Entrance Exam) simultaneously in 25 countries, including the US and Vietnam. In Kuala Lumpur and Lagos, these examinations were held last year. Earlier, with the cooperation of the Indian government, the IIT-JEE exams were held in 12 countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian government plans to hold the IIT-JEE (IIT-Joint Entrance Exam) simultaneously in 25 countries
- Earlier, the IIT-JEE exams were held in 12 countries

562. On May 23, India agreed to be a part of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), a US-led economic grouping comprising 12 countries. The economic framework broadly rests on four pillars: trade, supply chain resilience, clean energy & decarbonisation, and taxes & anti-corruption measures. Besides, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is to be hosted by the U.S. in November, 2023. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- India – agreed to be a part of the “Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)”
- IPEF – a US-led economic grouping comprising 12 countries
- US – to host the APEC in November, 2023
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

563. On May 22, Belgium has become the first country to introduce a compulsory 21-day monkeypox quarantine. The disease, which was first found in monkeys, can be transmitted from person to person through close physical contact. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Belgium – became the first country to introduce a compulsory 21-day monkeypox quarantine
- Belgium – Brussels – Euro | PM – Alexander De Croo

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

564. On May 24, UCO Bank signed a co-lending agreement with Paisalo Digital Limited for agriculture business to capitalize on the huge Rs 8 lakh Cr market of small-ticket loans for the 365 million underbanked and under-serviced population. Co-lending is an emerging area in priority sector financing and due focus is given by the Government of India to help agriculture and other small borrowers who are the backbone of the Indian economy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UCO Bank + Paisalo Digital = co-lending agreement for Agriculture Business
- HQs of UCO Bank – Kolkata, West Bengal | MD & CEO – Soma Sankara Prasad | Tagline – “Honours your Trust”

565. On May 25, the RBI has cancelled the Certificate of Registration (CoR) issued to 5 NBFCs due to irregular lending practices. It was due to violation of RBI guidelines on outsourcing and Fair Practices Code in their digital lending operations undertaken through third party apps. These include UMB Securities Ltd., Anashri Finvest Ltd., Chadha Finance Private Ltd., Alexcy Tracon Private Ltd. and Jhuria Financial Services Private Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – cancelled the Certificate of Registration (CoR) issued to 5 NBFCs due to irregular lending practices
- The 5 NBFCs are: UMB Securities, Anashri Finvest, Chadha Finance, Alexcy Tracon & Jhuria Financial Services Private Ltd
- 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

566. On May 23, Mahagram has tied up with IndusInd Bank to enhance digital payments ecosystem in India. The partnership signed between Mahagram and IndusInd Bank aims to add 15 million (1.5 Cr) small merchants to UPI QR in the current fiscal year. Recently, Mahagram has also launched a citizen service delivery portal ‘GramSevak.com’ to provide basic doorstep banking and e-governance services to all the citizens residing in rural as well as urban locations. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Mahagram + IndusInd Bank = tied up to enhance digital payments ecosystem in India
- Mahagram – launched 'GramSevak.com' portal to provide basic doorstep banking & e-governance services
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – “We Make You Feel Richer”

567. On May 21, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to transfer Rs 30,307 Cr as surplus to the government for 2021-22, following the 596th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the RBI. The decision was taken after deciding to maintain the Contingency Risk Buffer (CRB) at 5.50% of its balance sheet. This year's transfer is far lower than that of the previous financial year which was Rs 99,126 Cr. For the year, the government is targeting approximately Rs 74,000 Cr as dividend/surplus from the RBI, public sector banks (PSBs) and other public financial institutions (FIs). Recently, the government raised over Rs 20,500 Cr from the public listing of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- In the 596th meeting, Central Board of Directors of the RBI decided to maintain the CRB at 5.50% of RBI's balance sheet
- RBI – to transfer Rs 30,307 Cr as surplus to the government for 2021-22
- Government's target to receive as dividend/surplus from the RBI, PSBs & other public FIs = Rs 74,000 Cr
- 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

568. On May 23, the SEBI allowed mutual funds to launch passively managed Equity-Linked Savings Schemes (ELSS). MFs can have either an actively-managed ELSS scheme or a passively-managed one but not in both categories. The move will allow new fund houses that are especially focusing on passive schemes to float a passively-managed ELSS fund. Besides, SEBI has come out with a new framework for managing passive funds like - Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) and Index Funds, on the recommendations of Working Group (WG). In this regard, the SEBI stated that investors can directly approach the AMC for redemption of units of ETFs, for transactions of up to Rs 25 Cr without any exit load. The minimum subscription amount at the time of New Fund Offer (NFO) for debt ETFs/index funds and other ETFs/index funds will be Rs 10 Cr and Rs 5 Cr, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – allowed mutual funds to launch passively managed Equity-Linked Savings Schemes (ELSS)
- MFs can have either an actively-managed ELSS scheme or a passively-managed one, but not in both categories
- SEBI – started a new framework for managing passive funds like ETFs & Index Funds
- Investors can directly approach the AMC for redemption of units of ETFs, for transactions of up to Rs 25 Cr
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

569. On May 25, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) introduced issuer charges for the Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS). These charges will come into effect from June 15, 2022. The first three AEPS transactions, such as AEPS cash withdrawal, AEPS cash deposit, and AEPS mini statement, will be free per month. Following the free transactions, each transaction will cost Rs 20 plus GST. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IPPB – introduced issuer charges for Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) to come into effect from June 15, 2022
- The first three AEPS transactions will be free per month, after that each transaction will cost Rs 20 + GST
- HQs of UIDAI – New Delhi | CEO – Saurabh Garg | Founded on – January 28, 2009
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Venkatram Jayanthi | Established on – 1st Sep, 2018



570. The State Bank of India (SBI) introduced Real-Time Xpress Credit on its Yono platform for salaried customers, called Real-Time Xpress Credit (RTXC). Xpress Credit will allow eligible customers to get personal loans of up to Rs 35 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI introduced Real-Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) on Yono for salaried customers to give personal loans of up to Rs 35 lakh
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman
- HQs of SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Rama Mohan Rao Amara

571. On May 25, BOB Financial Solutions (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) in partnership with NPCI, launched HPCL BoB co-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card. The card is designed to reward customers for spends at HPCL fuel pumps as well as the HP Pay app. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BFSL + HPCL + NPCI = launched 'HPCL BoB co-branded Contactless RuPay Credit Card'
- The card is designed to reward customers for spends at HPCL fuel pumps as well as the 'HP Pay' app
- HQs of BOB Financial Solutions – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Shailendra Singh
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha | Tagline – "India's International Bank"
- HQs of HPCL – Mumbai, MH | CEO & Chairperson – Mukesh Kumar Surana (till April, 2022) | Founded in – 1974
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

572. On May 24, HDFC Securities has launched HDFC Money, a robo-advisory platform for all mutual fund investments. HDFC Money is a 100% digital platform that doesn't involve opening or having a Demat Account. Apart from Mutual Funds, one can also manage other aspects of finances such as accessing, managing, and tracking portfolios, starting goal planning, insurance planning, creating E-wills, and managing/filing taxes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Securities – launched HDFC Money, a robo-advisory platform for all mutual fund investments
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – "We understand your world"

Defence Affairs

573. The 3rd edition of Indian Navy (IN) - Bangladesh Navy (BN) Bilateral Exercise 'Bongosagar' commenced at Port Mongla, Bangladesh on 24 May, 2022. The Harbour Phase of exercise is scheduled from 24-25 May which will be followed by a Sea Phase in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 26-27 May. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bongosagar – 3rd edition of India Bangladesh Naval Bilateral Exercise commenced at Port Mongla, Bangladesh
- Harbour Phase (24-25 May) – at Port Mongla | Sea Phase (26-27 May) – in the Northern Bay of Bengal
- 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



574. On May 25, Captain Abhilasha Barak became the first woman to join the Army Aviation Corps as a helicopter pilot after completing a year-long course at the Combat Army Aviation Training School at Nashik in Maharashtra. Barak hails from Haryana and was commissioned in the Army Air Defence Corps in September 2018. She was awarded 'wings' along with 36 army pilots by Army Aviation director general Lieutenant General Ajay Kumar Suri during a valedictory ceremony at the Nashik-based training school. Barak has been assigned to the second flight of 2072 Army Aviation Squadron that operates the Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Captain Abhilasha Barak ([Haryana](#)) – became the first woman to join the Army Aviation Corps as a Helicopter Pilot
- She completed her course at the Combat Army Aviation Training School at Nashik, Maharashtra
- She has been assigned to the second flight of '2072 Army Aviation Squadron' that operates the 'Dhruv ALH'
- [HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi](#) | [Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande](#) | [Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju](#)
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh](#) | [CM – Manohar Lal Khattar](#) | [Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya](#)

Sports & Games

575. In May 2022, Inter Milan defeated Juventus with 4-2 in the Italian Cup final at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome, Italy. Juventus also lost to Inter in the Italian Super Cup in January and it is the first year since 2011 it has finished the season without a trophy. Juventus Football Club, colloquially known as Juve, is a professional football club based in Turin, Piedmont, Italy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Inter Milan – won the Italian Cup final at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome, Italy (defeating - Juventus)
- Juventus Football Club – a professional FC based in Turin, Piedmont, Italy
- [Italy – Rome – Euro](#) | [President – Sergio Mattarella](#) | [PM – Mario Draghi](#)

576. On May 23, Justin Thomas defeated fellow American Will Zalatoris to win the PGA Championship at Southern Hills, Oklahoma, US. Thomas is 2017 PGA champion & it is his second PGA title. The PGA Championship is an annual golf tournament conducted by the Professional Golfers' Association of America. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Justin Thomas ([Golf](#)) – won his 2nd 'PGA Championship' in the US (defeating - Will Zalatoris)
- PGA Championship – an annual Golf tournament conducted by the Professional Golfers' Association of America

577. On May 21, India's 16-year-old Grandmaster Rameshbabu Pragganandha defeated World Champion Magnus Carlsen for the second time in a year, in the fifth round of the Chessable Masters Online Rapid Chess Tournament. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R. Pragganandha – defeated Magnus Carlsen for the 2nd time in a year, in the 5th round of the Chessable Masters Online Rapid Chess Tournament
- [HQs of FIDE – Lausanne, Switzerland](#) | [President/Chairman – Arkady Dvorkovich](#) | [Founded on – July 20, 1924](#)





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Science & Technology

578. On May 25, Researchers from the University of Kerala and the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) discovered a new plant species of the genus Ophiorrhiza, a group of plants valued for their medicinal uses, in the biodiversity-rich Western Ghats region in Thrissur district of Kerala. It has been named Ophiorrhiza sasidharaniana after Prof. A. Sasidharan, former Botany Department head of the University College, Thiruvananthapuram. The journal Annales Botanici Fennici published the discovery. Ophiorrhiza (family Rubiaceae) has over 380 species, found mainly in wet tropical and subtropical forests of southeast Asia. India has 52 species. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Researchers from University of Kerala + JNTBGRI = discovered a new plant species of genus 'Ophiorrhiza' in Thrissur
- India has 52 species of Ophiorrhiza (family Rubiaceae)
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

579. Communications minister Ashwini Vaishnaw tested India's first 5G audio and video call, a Voice over New Radio (VoNR) technology, designed and developed by IIT Madras in India. Moreover, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first 5G test bed. Besides, a Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)-backed consortium including C-DoT has been shortlisted as the core equipment provider by state-run Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) for its next generation network roll out. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashwini Vaishnaw – tested India's 1st 5G audio & video call, a VoNR technology (designed & developed by - IIT Madras)
- Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti

580. PARAM PORUL, a state-of the art Supercomputer at NIT Tiruchirappalli was inaugurated on May 25, 2022 by Bhaskar Bhat, Chairperson Board of Governors, Tiruchirappalli. It is dedicated to the nation under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) - a joint initiative of Ministry of Electronics & Information (MeitY,) and Department of Science & Technology (DST). An MoU was signed between NIT Tiruchirappalli and Centre for Development in Advanced Computing (C-DAC) on 12th October, 2020 to establish this 838 TeraFlops Supercomputing Facility under NSM. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'PARAM PORUL' supercomputer – inaugurated at NIT Tiruchirappalli under 'National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)'
- NSM – a joint initiative of MeitY & DST
- NIT Tiruchirappalli + C-DAC = an MoU in 2020 to establish this 838 TeraFlops Supercomputing Facility under NSM
- HQs of C-DAC – Pune, Maharashtra | Senior Director – Mahesh Kulkarni (functions under MeitY)

Appointments & Resignations

581. In May 2022, IndiGo announced the appointment of Pieter Elbers as a new CEO. He will replace Ronojoy Dutta, 71, who retires on September 30, 2022. Pieter is the President & CEO of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines since 2014. He will join IndiGo on or before October 1, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pieter Elbers – appointed as CEO of IndiGo (succeeding - Ronojoy Dutta)
- HQs of IndiGo – Gurugram, Haryana | CEO – Pieter Elbers | Chairman – Meleveetil Damodaran

582. An Indian Government Officer Anwar Hussain Shaik has been made the chair of the World Trade Organisation's Committee on Technical Barriers on Trade, after a gap of 10 years. Mr. Shaik will take this role from Elisa Maria Olmeda de Alejandro from Mexico. Mr. Shaik was posted in PMI (Permanent Mission of India) Geneva. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anwar Hussain Shaik – appointed as the chair of the WTO's Committee on Technical Barriers on Trade
- He will succeed Elisa Maria Olmeda de Alejandro ([Mexico](#))
- [Mexico – Mexico City – Peso](#) | [President – Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador](#)
- [HQs of WTO – Geneva, Switzerland](#) | [7th DG – Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala \(Nigeria\)](#) | [Members – 164](#)

583. On May 24, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was reappointed for his second five-year term as the Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO). He was elected unanimously amid the ongoing difficulties of responding to the devastating coronavirus pandemic. Tedros is a former government minister from Ethiopia. He is the first African to lead the agency and the only director-general not qualified as a medical doctor. He is also the first WHO leader not to be supported by their home country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus ([Ethiopia](#)) – reappointed for his second 5-year term as the DG of the WHO
- He is the first African to lead the agency & the only DG not qualified as a medical doctor
- [HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland](#) | [DG – Tedros Adhanom](#) | [Member Countries – 194](#) | [Founded in – 1948](#)
- [Ethiopia – Addis Ababa – Ethiopian Birr](#) | [President – Sahle-Work Zewde](#) | [PM – Abiy Ahmed](#)

584. On May 25, Narinder Batra announced to step down from the post of President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) in the next term, to focus more on his role as the President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH). Batra had filed his nomination for the IOA President's post in 2017 as a representative (life member) of Hockey India and won the election. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narinder Batra – to step down from the post of President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) in the next term
- He will focus more on his role as the President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH)
- [HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland](#) | [President – Narinder Batra](#) | [CEO – Thierry Weil](#) | [Founded in – 1924](#)
- [HQs of Hockey India – New Delhi](#) | [President – Gyanendro Ningombam](#)
- [HQs of IOA – New Delhi](#) | [President – Narinder Dhruv Batra](#) | [Secretary General – Rajeev Mehta](#)

585. On May 25, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Committee B at the 75th World Health Assembly (WHA). The Committee B primarily discusses administrative and financial matters of the World Health Organization (WHO). The Committee A meet to debate technical and health matters. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajesh Bhushan (Union Health Secretary) – appointed as the Chairperson of the Committee B at the 75th WHA
- Committee B – discusses administrative & financial matters of the WHO
- Committee A – debates on technical & health matters
- [HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland](#) | [DG – Tedros Adhanom](#) | [Member Countries – 194](#) | [Founded in – 1948](#)

586. In May 2022, Bharti Airtel's board has reappointed Gopal Vittal as Managing Director & CEO for a further period of 5 years ending on January 31, 2028. The reappointment came on a day the telco posted consolidated net profit at Rs 2,007.8 Cr in the March quarter, up 141% sequentially and 164% on year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gopal Vittal – reappointed as MD & CEO of Bharti Airtel for 5 years
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | CEO & MD – Gopal Vittal | Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

587. In May 2022, Union Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy, R. K. Singh conferred NHPC Limited with the first prize for the year 2020-21 and the second prize for the year 2018-19 for excellent implementation of Rajbhasha during the meeting of Hindi Salahkar Samiti chaired by R. K. Singh. NHPC has also been awarded “Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar” 9 times by the Government of India for its excellent work in the field of implementation of Rajbhasha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHPC Limited – conferred with the first prize for 2020-21 for excellent implementation of Rajbhasha
- NHPC Limited – conferred with the second prize for 2018-19 for excellent implementation of Rajbhasha
- Hindi Salahkar Samiti – chaired by Union Minister R. K. Singh
- NHPC – was awarded “Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar” 9 times by the Gol for implementation of Rajbhasha
- HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Abhay Kumar Singh

588. On May 23, Kishore Jayaraman, President, India and South Asia for Rolls-Royce, has received an honorary Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Her Majesty the Queen of England - Queen Elizabeth II. He received the award for services to international trade and investment. Mr. Jayaraman is a board member of the U.K.-India Business Council. Under his leadership, Rolls-Royce company set up the ‘Engineering Centre’ in Bengaluru in 2015, ‘Digital Centre of Excellence’ with over 60 digital technologists in 2017, and its first ‘Start-up Accelerator Programme’ in India in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kishore Jayaraman – received an honorary Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Queen Elizabeth II
- He received the award for his services to ‘International Trade & Investment’
- Kishore Jayaraman is President of Rolls-Royce for India & South Asia
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

589. On May 9, the 161st birth anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore, West Bengal Government announced to institute a new Literary Award called “Bangla Academy Award”, to be given once in three years, to honour those enriching Bengali literature. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, as the author of a poetry collection titled ‘Kobita Bitan’, is the first recipient. Bangla Academy Award was introduced in 2022 by Sahitya Akademi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 9 – 161st birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore
- West Bengal – announced to institute a new Literary Award called “Bangla Academy Award” (once in three years)
- Mamata Banerjee – first recipient of “Bangla Academy Award” as the author of a poetry collection titled ‘Kobita Bitan’
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar



Important Days & Dates

590. Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) is celebrated on the third Thursday in May of each year. It aims to bring awareness to how someone with a disability may experience web-based content compared to those without a disability. This year, the 11th edition of GAAD was observed on May 19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 19 (3rd Thursday) – 11th Global Accessibility Awareness Day

591. May 25 is celebrated as World Thyroid Day. The day is dedicated to raising awareness about the disease, its study and treatment. In 2022, the theme is “Thyroid and Communication”. Thyroid disease is a group of disorders that affects the thyroid gland. The decision to celebrate World Thyroid Day on 25 May was taken in 2007 in Germany’s Leipzig. Blue paisley ribbon is the international symbol of thyroid awareness. International Thyroid Awareness Week is annually observed across the globe on the 4th Week of May which was marked from May 25 to 31, this year. Thyroid gland is shaped like a ‘Butterfly’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 25 – World Thyroid Day | International symbol of Thyroid Awareness – Blue Paisley Ribbon
- 2022’s theme – “Thyroid and Communication”
- May 25 to 31 (4th Week of May) – International Thyroid Awareness Week

592. International Missing Children’s Day is observed every year on 25th May. The aims of the day are to place a spotlight on the issue of child abduction, educate parents on safeguarding measures to protect their children and also honour those who have never been found and celebrate those who have. Missing Children’s Day began as an observance in the USA in 1983. The date was chosen following the disappearance of 6-year-old Etan Patz on 25th May 1979 from New York City. The day was formally recognised on 25th May, 2001. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 25 – International Missing Children’s Day (since 2001)

Books & Authors

593. A new book titled “Listen to Your Heart: The London Adventure” is authored by Ruskin Bond. The book was published by Penguin Random House India on Ruskin Bond’s 88th birthday, marked on May 19, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Listen to Your Heart: The London Adventure” book – authored by Ruskin Bond
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India
- The book was published on May 19, Ruskin Bond’s 88th birthday



Meetings, Conferences and Summits

594. While addressing the 35th board meeting of the Stop TB Partnership, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announced that India will introduce a newly approved made in India TB infection skin test called “c-TB”. He also informed that India, under its 2023 Presidency of the G20, will focus on two health issues TB and cervical cancer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to introduce a newly approved made in India TB infection skin test called “c-TB”
- Under its 2023 G20 Presidency, India will focus on two health issues – TB & Cervical Cancer
- Harsh Vardhan Shringla – appointed as Chief Coordinator for the G20 Summit | G20 sherpa – Piyush Goyal
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2022 – Indonesia | 2023 – India | 2024 – Brazil
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

595. India is the top performer in South Asia in travel and tourism sector, according to the World Economic Forum’s (WEF) latest study titled “Travel & Tourism Development Index 2021”. The index is based on the theme “Rebuilding for a Sustainable and Resilient Future”. India grabbed the 54th spot in the overall rankings with a score of 4.1, down from 46th in 2019. The index assessed a total of 117 countries for the study. Japan topped the index, followed by the US & Spain. Chad was at the bottom of the list. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Travel & Tourism Development Index 2021” – by WEF
- India – ranked 54th in overall rankings with a score of 4.1 | 1st – Japan, 2nd – US, 3rd – Spain | Last – Chad
- HQs of WEF – Coligny, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971

596. According to the 9th edition of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Monitor on World of Work, the number of hours worked globally dropped in the first quarter of 2022, to 3.8% below the employment situation before the pandemic. About 11.2 Cr people in the world lost their jobs in the first quarter of 2022, according to the report. For every 100 women at work prior to the pandemic, 12.3 women would have lost their job as an average through the entire period. In contrast, for every 100 men, the equivalent figure would have been 7.5. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to the 9th edition of the ILO Monitor on ‘World of Work’:
 - Number of hours worked globally dropped to 3.8% in the first quarter of 2022
 - About 11.2 Cr people in the world lost their jobs in the first quarter of 2022
- HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG –Guy Ryder | DG – Gilbert Houngbo (from Oct 1, 2022) | Founded in – 1919



Amount & Agreements

597. On May 25, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) signed two quadripartite agreements for development of sewage infrastructure, including a 35 MLD STP, for Maheshtala in West Bengal under Hybrid Annuity Mode at a total cost of Rs 273.52 Cr. One agreement is an Escrow Agreement between NMCG, Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA), M/s. Maheshtala Waste Water Management Private Limited (MWWMPL) and Union Bank of India. The other agreement is a Substitution Agreement between NMCG, KMDA, MWWMPL and Development Bank of Austria. Maheshtala is situated on the east bank of River Ganga. This project aims to stop the flow of sewerage into River Ganga from the town.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NMCG – signed two quadripartite agreements for development of Sewage Infrastructure
- 1st agreement: NMCG + Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority + Maheshtala Waste Water Management + UBI
- 2nd agreement: NMCG + KMDA + MWWMPL + Development Bank of Austria
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar
- NMCG functions under – Ministry of Jal Shakti | DG – G. Asok Kumar

Acquisitions & Mergers

598. On May 25, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the sale of government's 29.5% stake in Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL), to accelerate its disinvestment drive. This sale would raise around Rs 38,000 Cr at the current market price. The Centre has budgeted ₹65,000 Cr from PSU disinvestment and strategic sale. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCEA – approved the sale of government's 29.5% stake in Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) to accelerate its disinvestment drive
- This sale would raise around Rs 38,000 Cr
- Centre's target from PSU disinvestment & strategic sale for FY23 – Rs 65,000 Cr
- HQs of Hindustan Zinc Limited – Udaipur, Rajasthan | CEO – Arun Misra

599. On May 25, Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd (ABFRL) announced to sell a 7.5% stake to GIC, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund, to raise up to ₹2,195 Cr to expand its presence in the branded apparel market. Once the investment is completed, Aditya Birla Group will hold a 51.9% stake in ABFRL. In the apparel market, ABFRL competes with the likes of Arvind Fashions Ltd and Reliance Retail, as well as fast fashion retailers such as H&M and Zara. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aditya Birla Fashion & Retail Ltd – to sell a 7.5% stake to GIC (Singapore)
- After the investment, Aditya Birla Group will hold a 51.9% stake in ABFRL
- HQs of Aditya Birla Group – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Kumar Mangalam Birla | CEO – Ajay Srinivasan



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

600. On May 23, the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America signed an Investment Incentive Agreement (IIA) at Tokyo, Japan. The IIA was signed by Vinay Kwatra, Foreign Secretary, Government of India. This IIA supersedes the Investment Incentive Agreement signed between India & the US in 1997. The Agreement is the legal requirement for DFC, to continue providing investment support in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + US = signed an Investment Incentive Agreement (IIA) at Tokyo, Japan
- This 'IIA' supersedes the 'Investment Incentive Agreement' signed between India & the US in 1997
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida





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