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National & States Affairs

601. On May 23, Maharashtra joined the World Economic Forum's Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) to advance regional efforts to fight plastic pollution. The partnership will bring together Maharashtra's leading policy-makers, business leaders, civil society organizations and experts to formulate a state-level plan to eradicate plastic pollution. The announcement follows the 5th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5), where a resolution was adopted in March 2022. The GPAP-Maharashtra is the first in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – the first state in India to join the WEF's Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP)
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

602. On May 26, PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation of 11 projects worth over Rs 31,500 Cr in Chennai. It includes laying the foundation stones for the redevelopment of five Railway stations in Tamil Nadu - Chennai Egmore, Rameswaram, Madurai, Katpadi, and Kanyakumari. The redevelopment of the railway stations project is expected to be completed at a cost of over Rs 1,800 Cr. Additionally, PM Modi inaugurated 1,152 houses constructed under the 'Light House Project Chennai' and built at a cost of Rs 116 Cr under the 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation of 11 projects worth over Rs 31,500 Cr in Chennai
- Narendra Modi – inaugurated 1,152 houses constructed under the 'Light House Project Chennai'
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

603. Rajasthan is the first state to institutionalise Health Accounts. The state health accounts will support regular tracking and monitoring of health expenditures over time and can serve as an important tool for evidence-based policy making. WHO India country office will be contributing to the state government's effort by providing technical and financial support. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – the first state to institutionalise Health Accounts
- WHO will provide technical & financial support to the state government
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

604. On May 28, Adani Group announced the commissioning of India's first Wind & Solar Hybrid Power Generation Plant at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan. The 390 MW wind-solar hybrid power plant was commissioned by Adani Hybrid Energy Jaisalmer One Limited (AHEJOL), a subsidiary of Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL). The new plant has a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) with a tariff at Rs 2.69 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AHEJOL (Adani Group) – commissioned India's first Wind & Solar Hybrid Power Generation Plant at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

605. In May 2022, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Prakash Birla launched the second phase of "Suposhit Maa Abhiyan" in Kota, Rajasthan. In the campaign, 3000 women will be given nutrition kits for 9 months with the help of public support and health check-up will be done every month. The abhiyan was started in 2020 to overcome the nutritional deficiency among women. Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla represents Kota parliamentary constituency. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Second phase of “Suposhit Maa Abhiyan” – launched in Kota, Rajasthan
- Lok Sabha Speaker – Om Prakash Birla
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

606. As on May 27, the Indian Railways aims to introduce India’s first semi-high speed freight train called ‘Gati Shakti’ by December 2022. Based on the ‘Vande Bharat’ platform, the 16-coach ‘Gati Shakti’ train will be able to run at 160 km/hour, and will be manufactured at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai. With these trains, the Railways plans to target the e-commerce and courier parcel segment. India’s ecommerce market is expected to reach \$111 billion by 2024, \$200 billion by 2026 and \$350 billion by 2030. Moreover, the Railways is aiming to increase its share in freight transportation from the present 27% to 45% by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways aims to introduce India’s first semi-high speed freight train called ‘Gati Shakti’
- The 16-coach ‘Gati Shakti’ train is based on the ‘Vande Bharat’ platform | Speed – 160 km/hour
- It will be manufactured at – Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai
- India’s ecommerce market is expected to reach: \$111 billion by 2024, \$200 billion by 2026 & \$350 billion by 2030

607. In May 2022, a little 10-year-old champion skater from Maharashtra, Rhythm Mamania, has become one of the youngest Indian mountaineers to summit the Everest Base Camp (EBC) in the Himalayan ranges in Nepal. She had no coach or formal training. The 11-day expedition was organised by Rishi Bhandari of Satori Adventures, Nepal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rhythm Mamania ([Maharashtra](#)) – became one of the youngest Indian mountaineers to summit the Everest Base Camp (EBC) in the Himalayan ranges in Nepal

608. On May 27, the Government has approved New Guidelines of Micro & Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP), which will be implemented during 15th Finance Commission Cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26). The guidelines have two components - Common Facility Centers (CFCs) and Infrastructure Development (ID). Under the CFCs, the central government grant will be restricted to 70% of the cost of project from Rs 5 Cr to Rs 10 Cr and 60% of the cost of project from Rs 10 Cr to Rs 30 Cr. Under the Infrastructure Development (ID) component, the central government grant will be restricted to 60% of the cost of project from Rs 5 Cr to Rs 15 Cr for setting up of new Industrial Estate/Flatted Factory Complex and grant will be 50% of the cost of project from Rs 5 Cr to Rs 10 Cr for up-gradation of existing Industrial Estate/Flatted Factory Complex. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government approved New Guidelines of ‘MSE-CDP’ to be implemented during 15th Finance Commission Cycle
- 2 components of guidelines: Common Facility Centers (CFCs) & Infrastructure Development (ID)
- Under the CFCs component, the central government grant will be restricted to:
 - 70% of the cost of project from Rs 5 Cr to Rs 10 Cr & 60% of the cost of project from Rs 10 Cr to Rs 30 Cr
- Under the ID component, the central government grant will be restricted to:
 - 60% of the cost of project from Rs 5 Cr to Rs 15 Cr for setting up of new Industrial Estate
 - 50% of the cost of project from Rs 5 Cr to Rs 10 Cr for up-gradation of existing Industrial Estate

609. With a ban on 19 single-use plastic (SUP) items to kick in from July 1, the Delhi Government held an exhibition for alternatives to single-use plastic (SUP) and will invite people from across the country in June. The government will introduce a new Green Start-up Policy for those involved in the manufacturing of single-use plastics. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi Government – held an exhibition for alternatives to single-use plastic (SUP)
- 19 single-use plastic (SUP) items – to be banned from July 1 in Delhi

610. On May 24, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) became the first gas producer to trade domestic gas on the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX). The first online trade was made on May 23, 2022 by ONGC Director (Onshore) & In-charge Marketing Anurag Sharma. The gas traded was from ONGC Krishna Godavari 98/2 block. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ONGC – became the first gas producer to trade domestic gas on the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)
- HQs of ONGC – New Delhi | CMD – Alka Mittal (addi. charge)

611. The demands for a “Bhil Pradesh”, a separate state for tribal people in western India, have begun to be raised again. The Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP), a political party based in Gujarat, envisions Bhil Pradesh as a separate state carved out of 39 districts spread over four states - Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharatiya Tribal Party (Guj.) – envisions ‘Bhil Pradesh’ as a separate state carved out of 39 districts spread over 4 states
- Four states – Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra

612. On May 27, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Anupriya Patel launched “Indian Business Portal”, an International Trade Hub for Indian Exporters and Foreign Buyers, in New Delhi. The Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) in partnership with GlobalLinker, designed and developed the portal. This is a B2B digital marketplace to empower SME exporters, artisans and farmers to identify new markets for their products and grow their sales globally. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of C&I – launched “Indian Business Portal”, an International Trade Hub for Indian Exporters & Foreign Buyers
- The portal is designed & developed = FIEO + GlobalLinker
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash

613. India is working on building 10 Hydropower Projects totalling 6.8 gigawatts (GW) in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh to fully utilize its share of waters under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan. The projects are being undertaken at an investment of Rs 68,000 Cr by state-run NHPC Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India is building 10 Hydropower Projects totalling 6.8 GW in J&K and Himachal Pradesh to fully utilize its share of waters under the ‘1960 Indus Waters’ Treaty with Pakistan
- NHPC – is implementing these projects (Investment – Rs 68,000 Cr)
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Shehbaz Sharif | President – Arif Alvi
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Abhay Kumar Singh



614. On May 24, the National Health Authority (NHA), under its flagship scheme of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), launched a revamped Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) mobile application. The ABHA app was previously known as NDHM Health Records app. The updated version of the ABHA app enables an individual to create an ABHA address (username@abdm) that can be linked with the 14 digit ABHA number. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHA – launched a revamped ‘ABHA’ mobile application under its flagship scheme of ‘Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission’
- ‘ABHA’ app was previously known as ‘NDHM Health Records’ app
- User can create an ABHA address (username@abdm) that can be linked with the 14 digit ABHA number
- [HQs of NHA – New Delhi | CEO – Ram Sevak Sharma | Founded in – 2018](#)

615. In May 2022, the Supreme Court appointed a three-member Committee of Administrators (CoA) headed by former top court judge A. R. Dave to manage the affairs of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and adopt its constitution in line with the National Sports Code and model guidelines. It directed the CoA to forthwith take charge of the AIFF and assist the court by providing inputs to the court in facilitating the adoption of the constitution by the AIFF. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Supreme Court – appointed a 3 member CoA headed by judge A. R. Dave to manage the affairs of the AIFF
- [Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana \(48th\)](#)

616. On May 25, the Kerala government empowered local bodies to cull wild boars that pose a threat to agriculture crops or human life. Section 11-B (1) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 provides powers to the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW) to issue special orders to kill wild animals, if the officer is satisfied that a particular animal has become dangerous to human life or property. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala – empowered local bodies to cull ‘Wild Boars’
- Section 11-B (1) of the ‘Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972’ – provides powers to issue special orders to kill wild animals if become dangerous to human life or property
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

617. Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered solutions, such as Collision Alert System, may soon make roads in India safer to drive. The project ‘Intelligent Solutions for Road Safety through Technology and Engineering’ (iRASTE) is being implemented in Nagpur, Maharashtra. It will identify potential accident-causing scenarios while driving a vehicle and alert drivers about the same with the help of the Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS). The project consortium includes CSIR-CRRI, and Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC), with Mahindra and Intel as the industry partners. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The project ‘iRASTE’ is being implemented in Nagpur to make roads in India safer to drive
- iRASTE – ‘Intelligent Solutions for Road Safety through Technology and Engineering’
- The project consortium includes CSIR-CRRI, Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC), Mahindra and Intel
- [Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)
- [HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | President – Narendra Modi | DG – Shekhar C. Mande | Established in – 1942](#)

International Affairs

618. As on May 25, Kuwait plans to start building the World's Largest Petroleum Research Centre in al-Ahmadi by the end of 2022. The project had stalled because of budget pressure, estimating its cost at \$120 million. The centre will have 28 laboratories. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kuwait – plans to start building the World's Largest Petroleum Research Centre in al-Ahmadi by the end of 2022
- Kuwait – Kuwait City – Dinar | PM – Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah | Emir – Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

619. On May 25, AU Small Finance Bank launched two new products namely – 'AU Royale Salary' and 'AU Royale Business' current accounts, under its affluent banking programme, "AU Royale". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AU Small Finance Bank – launched two new products, 'AU Royale Salary' & 'AU Royale Business' current accounts
- HQs of AU SFB – Jaipur, Rajasthan | MD & CEO – Sanjay Agarwal

620. On May 26, the RBI notified that the Non-banking companies now need Rs 25 Cr minimum net worth to set up Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOU). It is lowered from the earlier minimum net worth requirement of Rs 100 Cr. The BBPS is an interoperable bill payment network. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI lowered minimum net worth requirement for Non-banking Co. to set up 'BBPOU' – to Rs 25 Cr (from Rs 100 Cr)
- BBPOU – **B**harat **B**ill **P**ayment **O**perating **U**nit
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

621. On May 26, Northern Arc Capital, an NBFC focused on under-served households and businesses, has entered into a strategic partnership with Indian Bank. The partnership would enable the two financial institutions to collaborate, co-operate, co-lend loans, and widen their respective markets and customer base. Indian Bank would get access to Northern Arc's n-POS platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Northern Arc Capital + Indian Bank = a strategic partnership
- HQs of Northern Arc Capital – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Kshama Fernandes
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Shanti Lal Jain | Tagline – "Your Own Bank"

622. On May 23, Tata Capital Ltd launched 'Loan Against Shares' (LAS), an end-to-end integrated digital financial offering. As per the statement, customers can avail loans upto Rs 5 Cr by simply pledging their dematerialised shares online which is facilitated by NSDL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Capital Ltd – launched 'Loan Against Shares', an end-to-end integrated digital financial offering
- HQs of Tata Capital – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajiv Sabharwal



623. On May 26, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has formed various committees through the General Insurance Council (GIC) to overhaul the insurance sector. The committees will suggest reforms in several areas of general, reinsurance and life insurance such as regulation, product, distribution, among others. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI – formed committees through General Insurance Council (GIC) to overhaul the Insurance Sector
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Debasish Panda

624. On May 19, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has withdrawn the recognition granted to the Indian Commodity Exchange Limited. Consequent to the withdrawal, ICEX has been directed to transfer the money available in the Investor Protection Fund and Investor Services Fund of ICEX to SEBI's Investor Protection and Education Fund. ICEX was recognised as an exchange in October 2009 by the central government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – withdrawn the recognition granted to the Indian Commodity Exchange Limited (ICEX)
- ICEX – recognised as an exchange in October 2009 by the central government
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Founded on – April 12, 1992

Defence Affairs

625. On May 26, the Indian Navy successfully tested its ship-based surface to air missile system by taking down a low flying target. The test was carried out from a stealth frigate INS Teg deployed on the western seaboard by the force. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy successfully tested its ship-based surface to air missile system from a stealth frigate INS Teg
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950

626. On May 26, Nirdeshak, a survey vessel (large) of the Indian Navy, was launched at Kattupalli near Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Nirdeshak is one of the four survey vessels (large) that is expected to enhance the hydrographic and oceanographic survey capabilities of the Indian Navy. Of the four survey vessels, three are built by L&T and one by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE). "Nirdeshak is the second of survey vessels to be launched. Remaining two will be delivered in 2023 and 2024. Vice-Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta was the chief guest on the occasion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Nirdeshak', a survey vessel of Indian Navy – launched at Kattupalli near Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- 'Nirdeshak', one of the four survey vessels – built by GRSE
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi





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Sports & Games

627. On May 26, Chinese world No. 2 Ding Liren defeated India's Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa in the final of Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Chessable Masters online tournament. R. Praggnanandhaa defeated Russian-born Dutch chess grandmaster Anish Giri in the semifinal and became the first Indian player to reach the final of this tournament. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ding Liren (China) – won the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Chessable Masters (defeating - R. Praggnanandhaa)
- R. Praggnanandhaa – the first Indian player to reach the final of this tournament

Science & Technology

628. On May 27, a new species of old world monkey discovered from Arunachal Pradesh was named "Sela macaque" (Macaca selai), after a strategic mountain pass at 13,700 ft above sea level. It was identified and analysed by a team of experts from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and the University of Calcutta. Their study was published in the latest edition of 'Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution'. Sela is situated between Dirang and Tawang towns in western Arunachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Sela macaque", a new species of old world monkey – discovered from Arunachal Pradesh
- Published in – 'Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution' journal
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra

629. On May 24, Money spiders, commonly found in European meadows, have been reported for the first time in India from the Muthanga range of the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary. Researchers of Christ College, Irinjalakuda, Thrissur, have discovered the spider that belongs to the family of dwarf spiders (Linyphiidae) under the genus Prosoponoides. The ant-mimicking spider has been named 'Toxeus alboclavus'. It is the first report of this genus from India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Toxeus alboclavus', ant-mimicking spider – discovered from the Muthanga range of the Wayanad W.S. (Kerala)
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

Appointments & Resignations

630. On May 23, JSW Group appointed Gaurav Sachdeva as new CEO of its e-commerce venture JSW One Platforms. He took over the role after his successful tenure at JSW Ventures. JSW One will soon be constituting an employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) for all its staff. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gaurav Sachdeva – appointed as new CEO of JSW One Platforms (subsidiary of JSW Group)
- HQs of JSW Group – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CMD – Sajjan Jindal



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

631. On May 24, Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan, Director of the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has won the prestigious VASVIK (Vividhlaxi Audyogik Samshodhan Vikas Kendra) Industrial Research Award for the year 2020 in the category of Agricultural Sciences and Technology. His research works include the Genetic Stock Identification (GSI), species inventory, taxonomy, breeding and seed production of threatened and commercially important species for mariculture. The VASVIK research award is given in total 9 categories every year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan (Director of ICAR- CMFRI) – won “VASVIK Industrial Research Award” for 2020
- His category – ‘Agricultural Sciences & Technology’
- ‘VASVIK Research Award’ is given in total 9 categories every year
- HQs of ICAR – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra | Established in – 1929

632. On May 27, Delhi-based author Geetanjali Shree’s Hindi novel ‘Tomb of Sand’ has won the prestigious “2022 International Booker Prize”. ‘Tomb of Sand’, originally published in Hindi in 2018 as ‘Ret Samadhi’ was translated into English by Daisy Rockwell. It is the first book in any Indian language to win this high-profile award. The novel is based on boundary-crossing 80-year-old heroine. The 50,000-pound (\$63,000) prize money will be split between Shree and Rockwell. All shortlisted authors and translators each received GBP 2,500 for the first time in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Tomb of Sand’ Hindi novel – won “2022 International Booker Prize” | Author – Geetanjali Shree
- First book in any Indian language to win ‘International Booker Prize’
- The Novel was originally published in Hindi in 2018 as ‘Ret Samadhi’ | Translated into English – by Daisy Rockwell

Important Days & Dates

633. African World Heritage Day is a day declared by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to celebrate the cultural and natural heritage of Africa. The day is celebrated on 5 May each year. The UNESCO declared the day in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 5 – African World Heritage Day – by UNESCO (since 2018)
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945 | Members – 193 Countries

634. On May 28, World Hunger Day is annually observed across the globe since 2011. It has been estimated that almost 800 million people in the world don’t have enough food to eat. In 2022, the theme is “Youth Ending Hunger”. It is an international initiative by ‘The Hunger Project’, a non-profit organisation based in New York, US. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 28 – World Hunger Day (since 2011)
- 2022’s Theme – “Youth Ending Hunger”



635. “International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories” was observed from May 25 to 31. The UN General Assembly (UNGA) called for the annual observance of this Week on December 6, 1999. The week was first observed in 2000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 25 to 31 – UN’s “International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories” (since 2000)

636. “Menstrual Hygiene Day” is celebrated on 28 May every year. It falls on the day of the International Day of Action for Women’s Health 2022 across the world. The day is celebrated to highlight the importance of menstrual care and aims to raise awareness about the social issues and challenges faced by women during menstruation. The first ever Menstrual Hygiene Day was observed in 2014. The theme for World Menstrual Hygiene Day 2022 is “To create a World where No Women or Girl is held back because they menstruate, by 2030”. While the theme of the International Day of Action for Women’s Health 2022 is “Resist and Persist, amid Crises and Global Uncertainty”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 28 – Menstrual Hygiene Day
- 2022’s Theme – “To create a World where No Women or Girl is held back because they menstruate, by 2030”
- May 28 – International Day of Action for Women’s Health
- 2022’s Theme – “Resist and Persist, amid Crises and Global Uncertainty”

637. African Heads of Missions in New Delhi and Ministry of External Affairs jointly celebrated Africa Day on 25 May, 2022. Africa Day is the annual commemoration of the foundation of the Organisation of African Unity in 1963 and the attainment of independence. This year marked the 20th anniversary of the African Union. The African Union has designated 2022 as the “Year of Nutrition” with the theme of “Rationale for Nutrition”. On trade and economic front, India is the fourth largest partner for Africa registering US\$ 69.7 billion trade during 2018-19, and is the fifth largest investor in Africa with cumulative investments at US\$ 70.7 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 25 – Africa Day (commemoration of the foundation of the Organisation of African Unity in 1963)
- 2022 – designated by African Union as “Year of Nutrition” with the theme of “Rationale for Nutrition”
- India – 4th largest partner for Africa & 5th largest investor in Africa
- Ministry of External Affairs: S. Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of External Affairs: Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, V. Muraleedharan & Meenakshi Lekhi

Books & Authors

638. Author and journalist Wesley Morgan is the winner of the “William E. Colby Award 2022” for military and intelligence writing. He was cited for his book “The Hardest Place: The American Military Adrift in Afghanistan’s Pech Valley”. The Colby award carries a \$5,000 prize. The award is given for a major contribution to the understanding of military history, intelligence operations or international affairs. The Colby Award is presented by Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Wesley Morgan – won the “William E. Colby Award 2022” for military & intelligence writing
- He was cited for his book – “The Hardest Place: The American Military Adrift in Afghanistan’s Pech Valley”
- The Colby Award is presented by – Norwich University (Vermont, US)



Meetings, Conferences and Summits

639. The 75th World Health Assembly was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 22-28 May 2022. It was the first in-person Health Assembly since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The theme of this year's Health Assembly was "Health for Peace, Peace for Health". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 75th World Health Assembly – held in Geneva, Switzerland
- 2022's Theme – "Health for Peace, Peace for Health"

640. In May 2022, External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, participated in the meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations through video conferencing. The meeting was hosted by China & chaired by Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, Mr. Wang Yi. The BRICS countries established the "BRICS Joint Committee on Space Cooperation". Moreover, Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs, participated in the 7th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting which was hosted by China on May 24. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Jaishankar – participated in the 'Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs' – hosted by China
- BRICS countries – established the "BRICS Joint Committee on Space Cooperation"

641. In May 2022, PM Narendra Modi attended the 2nd in-person Meeting of Quad leaders 2022 in Tokyo, Japan. During the meeting, the Quad leaders decided to invest \$50 billion on infrastructure development in the Indo-Pacific Region over the next 5 years. A Quad Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP) was announced with two themes - 'mitigation' and 'adaptation'. Moreover, Joe Biden launched the ambitious Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) to strengthen economic partnership. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – attended the 2nd in-person Meeting of Quad leaders 2022 in Tokyo, Japan
- 'Q-CHAMP' was announced with two themes – 'Mitigation' & 'Adaptation'
- Q-CHAMP – **Q**uad **C**limate **C**hange **A**daptation and **M**itigation **P**ackage
- Joe Biden – launched the "Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)" to strengthen economic partnership
- **QUAD countries – 4: India, US, Japan & Australia**

642. On May 26, President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the National Women Legislators' Conference 2022 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The Conference was hosted by the Kerala Legislative Assembly as part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The conference demanded immediate steps to ensure the passage of the long-pending Women's Reservation Bill which envisages 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State legislatures. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind – inaugurated the "National Women Legislators' Conference 2022" in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- **Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan**



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

643. In May 2022, the World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA) published the “Global Air Powers Ranking of 2022”. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has been placed at the 3rd position on the World Air Power Index in terms of the total fighting strength of the various air services of different nations of the world. The WDMMA annual ranking utilizes a formula that produces the ‘TrueValueRating’ (TvR) helping to definitively separate each country. The highest attainable TvR score is 242.9 held by the United States Air Force (USAF). In terms of ‘TvR’, the IAF ranked 6th globally with TvR score of 69.4. [{Read more}](#)

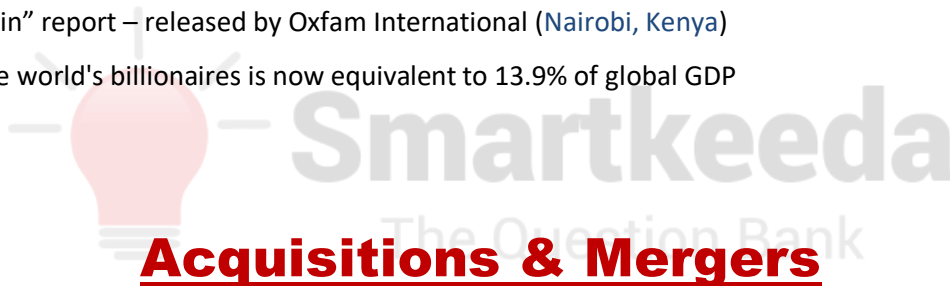
Key Points:

- “Global Air Powers Ranking of 2022” – published by World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA)
- IAF (India) – ranked 3rd in terms of ‘Total Fighting Strength’
- IAF (India) – ranked 6th in terms of ‘TvR score’ | Top – United States Air Force
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh

644. The Covid-19 pandemic has seen a new billionaire every 30 hours, while a million people slipped into extreme poverty at the same pace during this period, according to a report “Profiting from Pain” by Oxfam International, released at the World Economic Forum, Davos. The total wealth of the world's billionaires is now equivalent to 13.9% of global GDP. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Profiting from Pain” report – released by Oxfam International (Nairobi, Kenya)
- Total wealth of the world's billionaires is now equivalent to 13.9% of global GDP



Acquisitions & Mergers

645. On May 28, Adani Defence Systems and Technologies, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Enterprises, signed a definitive agreement to acquire a 50% stake in Bengaluru-based commercial drone maker General Aeronautics Pvt Ltd. The company will be leveraging its military drone and AI/ML capabilities and work with General Aeronautics to provide solutions for the domestic agricultural sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adani Defence Systems & Technologies (Ahmedabad) – to acquire a 50% stake in General Aeronautics (Bengaluru)

646. On May 26, State-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL) plans to divest 25% stake in its unlisted arm Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL) and will go for the subsequent listing of the subsidiary on stock exchanges after obtaining further clearances. Coal India accounts for over 80% of domestic coal output. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Coal India Ltd – to divest 25% stake in its unlisted arm Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL)
- Coal India accounts for over 80% of domestic coal output
- HQs of CIL – Kolkata, West Bengal | CMD – Pramod Agrawal

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

647. On May 24, Agritech firm Fasal signed an MoU with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for a research collaboration. As part of the agreement, Fasal and IMD will work closely on exchange of hourly short-range models for rainfall probability, rainfall amount, temperature, and humidity. The regions that are in the purview of this agreement for R&D include: five districts in Karnataka, five districts in Maharashtra, one district in Telangana and two districts in Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Fasal + IMD = an MoU for a research collaboration to exchange hourly short-range models for rainfall probability
- HQs of IMD – New Delhi | Director General – Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra | Founded in – 1875

648. At the World Economic Forum’s annual meet in Davos, Andhra Pradesh Government signed an MoU with Adani Green Energy regarding an investment of Rs 60,000 Cr in the state. The initiative includes a 3,700-MW Hydro Storage project and a 10,000-MW Solar Energy project. The MoU was signed by special chief secretary Karikal Valaven on behalf of the state.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Economic Forum’s Annual Meet – held in Davos
- Andhra Pradesh + Adani Green Energy = an MoU regarding an investment of Rs 60,000 Cr in the state
- HQs of WEF – Cologne, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

649. On May 25, an MoU was signed between Ministry of AYUSH and Department of Biotechnology, Government of India for mutual collaboration to explore the possibility of cooperation, convergence and synergy to bring out the expertise under one platform towards evidence based biotechnological interventions in Ayush sector. Biotechnological R & D and Ayush Interventions will improve quality of life as well as life span (Vayahsthaapana Rasayana) and bring down the associated morbidity pertaining to chronic diseases. This Inter Ministerial cooperation between Ministry of Ayush and DBT is expected to generate knowledge and new means of intervention strategies for difficult to treat diseases. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AYUSH Mini. + Dept. of Biotechnology = MoU for collaboration towards biotechnological interventions in Ayush sector
- Ministry of AYUSH: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of AYUSH: Munjapara Mahendrabha

650. On May 23, the World Economic Forum (WEF) launched a metaverse called “Global Collaboration Village” as the virtual future of public-private cooperation, in collaboration with Accenture and Microsoft. It will bring together key global stakeholders to address critical global issues. It will be an extension of the WEF’s public private platforms and in-person meetings. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WEF + Accenture + Microsoft = launched a metaverse called “Global Collaboration Village”
- HQs of WEF – Cologne, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, US | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975
- HQs of Accenture – Dublin, Ireland | CEO – Julie Sweet | MD (in India) – Rekha Menon





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