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National & States Affairs

651. The Government had decided to eliminate Measles & Rubella (MR) from India by the year 2020, having missed the earlier set target of 2015. But the COVID-19 pandemic stole two years from the programme. So, the MR elimination target is now re-set to 2023. The disease is basically fever plus a red rash on the skin. Dr. T. Jacob John is Co-Chair of the India Expert Advisory Group on MR elimination (IEAG MR). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government decided to eliminate Measles & Rubella (MR) from India – by 2023 (Previous target - by 2020)
- Dr. T. Jacob John – Co-Chair of the India Expert Advisory Group on MR elimination

652. On May 27, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 56 kg of cocaine, estimated to be worth over Rs 500 Cr, from a container near Mundra port in Gujarat's Kutch district. The price of 1 kg of cocaine is around Rs 10 Cr in international markets. Cocaine is a powerfully addictive stimulant drug made from the leaves of the coca plant native to South America. Moreover, in April, the DRI in a joint operation with Gujarat's Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) recovered approximately 260 kg of heroin worth Rs 1,300 Cr at a container station near Kandla port in Kutch district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRI – seized 56 kg of cocaine from a container near Mundra port in Gujarat's Kutch district
- Cocaine – a powerfully addictive stimulant drug made from the leaves of the coca plant

653. On May 25, Chhattisgarh became the second state after Odisha to have recognised Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights inside a National Park, after the state government approved the CFR claims of Gudiyapadar and Nagalsar villages in Kanger Ghati National Park in Bastar district. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel met the villagers of both the villages at Nangur during his 'Bhent Mulakat' programme and handed over the CFR certificates. In 2016, the Odisha government was the first to recognise Community Forest Resources (CFRs) inside the Simlipal National Park. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chhattisgarh – became the 2nd state to have recognised Community Forest Resource rights inside a National Park
- Odisha – the first to recognise Community Forest Resources (CFRs) inside Simlipal National Park in 2016
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikya

654. On May 27, the Uttarakhand government formed an expert committee for examining and implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state. The panel shall be headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Desai, who currently heads the Delimitation Commission of India. The Uniform Civil Code (IAST: Samana Nagrika Samhita) is a proposal in India to formulate and implement personal laws of citizens which apply on all citizens equally regardless of their religion, sex, gender and sexual orientation. Currently, personal laws of various communities are governed by their religious scriptures. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand – formed an expert committee for examining & implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)
- Uniform Civil Code – a proposal in India to formulate and implement personal laws of citizens
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh



655. On May 24, the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) conducted a brainstorming session with Researchers and Start-ups. The session was aimed to shape strategy for 'Digital India BHASHINI', which is India's Artificial Intelligence (AI) led language translation platform. Bhashini Platform will make AI and Natural Language Processing (NLP) resources available to MSMEs, Start-ups and individuals. The platform is interoperable and will catalyse the entire Digital Ecosystem. Through Bhashini government aims to increase content in Indian languages on the internet. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MeitY – conducted a brainstorming session with Researchers & Start-ups to shape strategy for 'Digital India BHASHINI'
- 'BHASHINI' – India's AI led language translation platform to help MSMEs, Start-ups & individuals
- [Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw](#) | [Constituency – Odisha](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar](#)

656. On May 27, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's biggest Drone Festival – 'Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022' at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The two-day event was held on May 27 and 28. The PM also interacted with kisan drone pilots as well as witnessed open-air drone demonstrations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated "Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022" (India's biggest Drone Festival) in New Delhi

657. On May 27, Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the National Facility for Gene Function in Health and Disease (NFGFHD) in Pune. The NFGFHD is set up at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune. It is built by IISER Pune and supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) at a total cost of about Rs 45 Cr. The advanced facility will build capacities in biological research & assist in reducing knowledge gap in understanding of pathogens. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dharmendra Pradhan – inaugurated the 'National Facility for Gene Function in Health and Disease (NFGFHD)' in Pune
- NFGFHD: built by & set up at – IISER, Pune | supported by – Dept. of Biotechnology | Total cost – Rs 45 Cr

658. On May 27, While addressing the "National Mineral Congress" held in Bhubaneswar, Additional Secretary in Ministry of Coal, Vinod Kumar Tiwari, announced that the Government of India has set a target to increase coal gasification to 100 million tonnes (MT) by 2030. Gasification facilitates utilization of the chemical properties of coal. The government has prepared a National Mission document to achieve this target. Moreover, India's hydrogen demand is likely to increase to 11.7 MT by 2030 from 6.7 MT per year as of now. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vinod Kumar Tiwari – addressed the "National Mineral Congress" held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- India's target to increase Coal Gasification – to 100 million tonnes (MT) by 2030
- India's hydrogen demand – likely to increase to 11.7 MT by 2030 from 6.7 MT per year as of now

659. In May 2022, Fierce clashes and arson broke out in Andhra Pradesh's Amalapuram city as protesters rallied against the state government's move to rename the newly created Konaseema district after Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. Konaseema is among the 13 new districts announced by the Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government in April and it is carved out of the East Godavari district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh's newly created Konaseema district – renamed after Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (carved out of East Godavari)
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati](#) | [CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy](#) | [Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan](#)

660. On May 29, Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai launched a new health and wellness app “AAYU” to address and help heal chronic diseases and lifestyle disorders through yoga and meditation. The app is developed by Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA) in partnership with RESET TECH, an AI-driven integrated health-tech platform. The app will effectively provide users with personalised wellness solutions and offer doctor consultations. The app is available in multiple languages and aims to reach and impact over 5 million chronic disease patients within a span of 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – launched a new health & wellness app “AAYU” to address & help heal chronic diseases & lifestyle disorders
- The app is developed by = S-VYASA + RESET TECH
- The app aims to reach and impact over 5 million Chronic Disease patients within a span of 5 years
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

661. On May 29, National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), under Ministry of Education, launched an online portal to streamline the process of recognition of Teacher Education Programs of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs). The applications for the recently launched four year Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) will be processed on this portal. This portal aims to provide an automated robust framework in the functioning of NCTE. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCTE – launched an online portal to streamline the process of recognition of Teacher Education Programs of HEIs & TEIs
- HQs of NCTE – New Delhi | Chairman – Dinesh Prasad Saklani

662. On May 29, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and Union minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated the North India’s first “Industrial Biotech Park” constructed at Ghatti near Kathua district of J&K. It will transform the economy and enable scientists to tackle challenges of climate change. This biotechnology park has a potential to produce 25 startups in a year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manoj Sinha + Jitendra Singh = inaugurated North India’s first “Industrial Biotech Park” – at Ghatti, near Kathua, in J & K
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

663. On May 26, the import policy of major paper products has been amended from ‘Free’ to ‘Free subject to compulsory registration under the Paper Import Monitoring System’. In a bid to protect the domestic paper industry, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry decided to make registration compulsory for importing major paper products such as newsprint, handmade paper, envelopes, among others. All imports arriving on or after October 1 will be governed by the Paper Import Monitoring policy. A large proportion of paper products are imported under ‘Others’ category tariff lines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of C&I – decided to make registration compulsory for importing major paper products – from October 1, 2022
- Import Policy of major paper products – amended from ‘Free’ to ‘Free subject to compulsory registration under the Paper Import Monitoring System’
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash



664. Mumbai-based Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) is equipping the unemployed youth of 16 village panchayats under the Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) colony with techno entrepreneurial skills through its “Advanced Knowledge & Rural Technology Implementation (AKRUTI)” programme and it is now set to launch similar initiatives in villages surrounding the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) in Tamil Nadu. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is devising new, user-friendly and cost-effective technologies in the fields of nuclear science, radioisotopes, industry, health and agriculture. These technologies are being taught to the younger generation and the unemployed youth to make them entrepreneurs through ‘AKRUTI’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCIL – to launch initiatives similar to “AKRUTI” program surrounding the ‘Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project’ (TN)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi
- HQs of NPCIL – Mumbai, Maharashtra

665. A surveillance system called “C3iVazra”, installed at the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) headquarters at Dwarka, New Delhi, keeps track of the health of all the computers in its network. Installed in 2021, this Security Operation Centre (SoC) has protected the computers that monitor the highways across the country and has alerted about potential dangers. The SoC was developed by the Cyberphysical systems Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) or C3iHub, set up at IIT Kanpur. A Self-Sovereign Identity (SSI) system based on blockchain technology has also been developed by C3iHub. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “C3iVazra”, a surveillance system – is installed at the NHAI HQs at Dwarka, New Delhi
- It tracks the health of all the computers in its network | It is developed by – C3iHub (set up at IIT Kanpur)



International Affairs

666. India joined the First Movers Coalition, a global initiative aimed at decarbonising the heavy industry and long-distance transport sectors responsible for 30% of global emissions. It was launched by US President Joe Biden and the WEF at COP26 as a flagship Public-Private Partnership (PPP) to clean up the most carbon-intensive sectors. The First Movers Coalition targets sectors like - aluminium, aviation, chemicals, concrete, shipping, steel and trucking, which are responsible for 30% of global emissions. Moreover, Alphabet, Microsoft and Salesforce have collectively committed USD 500 million to Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – joined the ‘First Movers Coalition’ (Launched by – US President Joe Biden & the WEF at COP26)
- Alphabet + Microsoft + Salesforce = committed \$500 million to Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR)
- First Movers Coalition – global initiative aimed at decarbonising the heavy industry and long-distance transport sectors

667. An ancient Cyprus tree that could be up to 5,484 years old and believed to be the world’s oldest living tree, is found in Chile, On May 28. Dubbed as the Great-Grandfather, the Patagonian Cypress, also known as the alerce milenario, would beat the current record-holder by more than 600 years, if findings are proven. The current record of the world’s oldest tree is held by a 4,853-year-old bristlecone pine tree in California. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- An ancient Cyprus tree – the world’s oldest living tree (5,484 years old) – found in Chile
- The current record of the world’s oldest tree is held by – a 4,853-year-old bristlecone pine tree in California
- [Chile – Santiago – Peso](#) | [President – Gabriel Boric](#)

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

668. On May 26, Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) paid ₹4.97 Cr to settle a case with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for alleged violation of regulatory norms involving CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd. SCB had approached SEBI with a proposal to resolve a matter involving alleged Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices (PFUTP) violations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Standard Chartered Bank – paid ₹4.97 Cr to settle a case with the SEBI
- [HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairman – Ajay Tyagi](#) | [Established in – 1992](#)
- [HQs of SCB – London, UK](#) | [CEO – Bill Winters](#) | [CEO, Asia – Benjamin Hung](#)

669. On May 27, MUFG Bank announced that it has become the first Japanese bank to obtain an approval for opening a branch at GIFT City in Gujarat. This is the bank’s sixth branch in India. The Tokyo-based bank received approval from International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and Financial Services Agency in Japan to open the branch. MUFG Bank opened its first India branch in Mumbai in 1953. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MUFG Bank – the first Japanese bank to obtain an approval for opening a branch at GIFT City in Gujarat
- MUFG Bank opened its first India branch in Mumbai in 1953
- [Japan – Tokyo – Yen](#) | [PM – Fumio Kishida](#)
- [HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat](#) | [Chairman – Injeti Srinivas](#)

670. In May 2022, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) increased the weighting of the US Dollar and Chinese Yuan (also known as renminbi) in its review of the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) evaluation. The IMF raised the yuan’s weighting to 12.28% from 10.92%, and US dollar’s weighting to 43.38% from 41.73%, while those of Euro, Japanese Yen and British Pound declined. It was the first regular review of the SDR evaluation since the Chinese currency was included in the basket in 2016. SDRs are an International Reserve Asset that can be converted into 5 currencies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IMF – increased the weighting of US Dollar to 43.38% & Chinese Yuan to 12.28% in its review of the SDR evaluation
- SDRs are an International Reserve Asset that can be converted into 5 currencies
- [HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., US](#) | [President – Kristalina Georgieva](#) | [Member countries – 190](#)



671 Stashfin, a neobanking platform, has launched a credit line card especially for women called “LiveBoundless”. The card offers dedicated cashback rewards, welcome credits, free ATM withdrawals, and other deals. According to a Statista study, the Indian credit card market volume was at 37.5 million in FY2018, 57.7 million in FY2020 and reached 62 million in FY2021.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Stashfin ([New Delhi](#)) – launched a credit line card especially for women called “LiveBoundless”

672. On May 27, the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) launched a new life insurance product called “Bima Ratna”, a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings life insurance product that combines protection and savings. Death benefit, Survival Benefit, Maturity Benefit, Guaranteed Additions, Date of commencement of risk, Date of vesting, Settlement Option, etc are the key features of the plan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LIC – launched a new life insurance product called “Bima Ratna” that combines protection & savings
- HQs of LIC – [Mumbai](#) | Chairman – [M. R. Kumar](#) | Founded in – [1956](#) | Tagline – “[Yogakshemam Vahamyaham](#)”

Sports & Games

673. On May 26, Jyothi Yarraji smashed the women’s 100m Hurdle National Record for the third time in two weeks at the “De Harry Schulting Games 2022” in Vught, the Netherlands. The 22-year-old athlete from Andhra Pradesh clocked 13.04 seconds under a headwind speed of +1.4m/s. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “De Harry Schulting Games 2022” – held in [Vught](#), [Netherlands](#)
- Jyothi Yarraji ([Andhra Pradesh](#)) – smashed the women’s 100m Hurdle National Record for the third time in two weeks
- [Netherlands](#) – [Amsterdam](#) – [Euro](#) | PM – [Mark Rutte](#)

674. On May 30, Red Bull’s Sergio Perez of Mexico registered his first Formula One (F1) win of the season at the “Monaco Grand Prix 2022”. Perez finished ahead of Ferrari’s Carlos Sainz (second) and teammate Max Verstappen (third). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sergio Perez ([Mexico](#) - [Red Bull](#)) – won his first F1 win title at the “[Monaco Grand Prix 2022](#)”

Persons in News

675. In May 2022, Indian-origin academic Swati Dhingra has been appointed as an external member to the Bank of England’s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). Dhingra was the first Indian-origin woman to join the committee. Swati Dhingra will replace current external member, Michael Saunders, on 9 August and will served for a 3-year term. Andrew Bailey is the Governor of the Bank of England. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Swati Dhingra (1st Indian-origin woman) – appointed as an external member to the Bank of England’s MPC
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

Science & Technology

676. On May 29, Russia successfully test-fired a hypersonic Zircon (Tsirkon) cruise missile over a distance of about 1,000 km (625 miles). The missile was fired from the Barents Sea and hit a target in the White Sea. Hypersonic weapons can travel at 9 times the speed of sound. In April, Russia also test-launched a new nuclear-capable intercontinental missile “Sarmat”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – successfully test-fired “Zircon (Tsirkon)” hypersonic cruise missile over a distance of about 1,000 km (625 miles)
- Russia – also test-launched a new nuclear-capable intercontinental missile “Sarmat” (in April)
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

677. The researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a True Random Number Generator (TRNG). It can improve data encryption and provide improved security for sensitive digital data such as credit card details, passwords, and other personal information. In IISc’s TRNG device, random numbers are generated using the random motion of electrons. Min-entropy is a parameter used to measure the performance of TRNGs. Its value ranges from 0 (completely predictable) to 1 (completely random). The TRNG device from Majumdar’s lab showed a record-high min-entropy of 0.98. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IISc, Bangalore – developed a True Random Number Generator (TRNG) to improve data encryption
- Min-entropy – a parameter used to measure the performance of TRNGs (Value range - 0 to 1)
- Director of IISc, Bangalore – Govindan Rangarajan | Established in – 1909

Appointments & Resignations

678. On May 26, Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain has been elected as the Chair and a voting member on the Board of Directors for the Athletes’ Committee of the International Boxing Association (IBA). While Indian boxer Shiva Thapa has also been elected as a member of the IBA Athletes Committee. Borgohain and Thapa were elected by the boxers that participated during the men and women’s world championships that were held in October 2021 and May 2022 respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lovlina Borgohain – elected as Chair & Member of the IBA Athletes’ Committee
- Shiva Thapa – elected as Member of the IBA Athletes’ Committee
- HQs of IBA – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Umar Kremlyov





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Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

679. Nawazuddin Siddiqui made headlines at the 'Cannes Film Festival 2022'. He became the recipient of the 'Excellence in Cinema' award at the "French Riviera Film Festival" that took place on May 20-21 in Cannes. He was bestowed the honour by two-time Emmy winner American actor-producer, Vincent De Paul. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nawazuddin Siddiqui – received the 'Excellence in Cinema' award at the "French Riviera Film Festival" in Cannes, France
- He was bestowed the honour by – Vincent De Paul

680. On May 25, Pune-based Ashok Dyalchand was conferred with the prestigious "Child Rights Hero of the Decade" Award at the World's Children's Prize (WCP) ceremony held in Sweden. Mr. Ashok has been tirelessly campaigning against child marriages and for girls' rights in India for more than four decades. Ashok, along with Ghana's James Kofi Annan and Pakistan's Malala Yousafzai, was among the 8 nominees for the prestigious award given by the World's Children's Prize Foundation (WCPF). Ms. Yousafzai was voted for her "fight for the right of all girls to education and freedom". The award was given by Queen Silvia of Sweden. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World's Children's Prize (WCP) ceremony – held in Sweden
- Ashok Dyalchand ([Pune](#)) – conferred with the prestigious "Child Rights Hero of the Decade" Award
- Other awardees along with Ashok Dyalchand: James Kofi Annan ([Ghana](#)), Malala Yousafzai ([Pakistan](#))

681. On May 24, Radio Jockey Umar Nisar (RJ Umar), who hails from south Kashmir, was awarded the "01 Best Content Award" and the "Immunization Champion Award" by UNICEF at the annual "Radio4Child 2022 Awards" in Mumbai. The Radio4Child felicitated radio professionals from private FM and All India Radio from across India for their commendable work during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as for routine vaccination. The award was presented by multi-Grammy Award-winning music composer, Environmentalist, and UNICEF celebrity supporter, Ricky Ke. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The annual "Radio4Child 2022 Awards" – held in Mumbai
- RJ Umar Nisar ([J & K](#)) – was awarded the "01 Best Content Award" & "Immunization Champion Award" by UNICEF

682. On May 29, the 17th edition of the Mumbai International Film Festival of India (MIFF 2022) conferred "Dr. V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award" on noted author and documentary filmmaker, Sanjit Narwekar, to commemorate his exquisitely deep, remarkably diverse and inspiring body of work. Union Minister Piyush Goyal was the Chief Guest of the opening ceremony. The coveted award comprises of cash prize of Rs. 10 lakhs, Golden Conch and a citation. Winner of the National Award for the 'Best Book on Cinema' in 1996, Shri Narwekar's passion for film history has manifested in writing and editing more than 20 books on cinema. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjit Narwekar – received "Dr. V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award" at the 17th edition of 'MIFF 2022'
- He is the winner of the National Award for the 'Best Book on Cinema' (1996)



683. Jawaharlal Nehru University's (JNU) Vice-Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit was awarded the "Shrimati Sushma Swaraj Stree Shakti Samman-2022", named after the former Foreign Affairs Minister. Pandit was extended this award for rising through the ranks to assume the top academic leadership at the prestigious JNU. The institute presented the awards to a number of women luminaries to commemorate the 'International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament' on May 24. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 24 – International Women's Day for Peace & Disarmament
- Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit (JNU VC) – awarded the "Shrimati Sushma Swaraj Stree Shakti Samman-2022"

Important Days & Dates

684. The "International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers" is celebrated on May 29 annually for paying tribute to the contributions of uniformed and civilian personnel to the organisation's work. The day aims to honour nearly 4,200 peacekeepers who had lost their lives serving under the UN flag since 1948. The first UN peacekeeping mission called the 'United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)' began operations in Palestine on 29 May, 1948. In 2022, the theme of the day is "People. Peace. Progress: The Power of Partnerships". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 29 – International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers
- 2022's Theme – "People. Peace. Progress: The Power of Partnerships"

685. On May 30, Millions of e-cigarette users or vapers across the globe celebrated "World Vape Day". The main components of the liquid used in e-cigarettes are propylene glycol and glycerin, accounting for 95% of the e-liquid. The day aims to create awareness about the alternatives to harmful tobacco products. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 30 – "World Vape Day"
- e-cigarettes = 95% Propylene Glycol & Glycerin + Water, Nicotine & Flavorings

Obituaries

686. On May 28, Former Albanian President Bujar Nishani, who was often criticised for his center-right political affiliation from the leftist coalition, died following a serious health problem. He was 55. Nishani served as President from 2012 until 2017. At 45, he was elected as the youngest and sixth president in post-communist Albania. Tirana & Albanian Lek are the capital & currency of Albania. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bujar Nishani – Former Albanian President (2012 to 2017) – passed away
- Albania – Tirana – Albanian Lek | President – Ilir Meta



Meetings, Conferences & Summits

687. In May 2022, New Delhi hosted the 3rd 'Global Organic Expo 2022' at the Indian Agriculture Research Institute under the theme of "Profitability for Humanity". The three-day event drew over 30,000 traders and organic enthusiasts. The event stressed the importance of organic farming. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New Delhi – hosted the 3rd 'Global Organic Expo 2022' at the Indian Agriculture Research Institute
- 2022's Theme – "Profitability for Humanity"

688. India and China are likely to work together in space after a Joint Commission on Space Cooperation for the BRICS Bloc was established at a meeting of the top space agencies of the BRICS countries. Two orbiting Indian satellites Resourcesat-2 and 2A will be part of the "virtual constellation of remote sensing satellites", a data sharing mechanism among the BRICS countries. The BRICS remote sensing constellation will be made up of 6 existing satellites contributed by the space agencies of the BRICS countries, including the CBERS-4, jointly developed by Brazil and China, Russia's Kanopus-V-type and China's Gaofen-6 and Ziyuan III 02. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Two orbiting Indian satellites 'Resourcesat-2' & '2A' will be part of the virtual constellation of remote sensing satellites
- 'CBERS-4' – Brazil & China | 'Kanopus-V' – Russia | 'Gaofen-6' & 'Ziyuan III 02' – China
- BRICS Member Countries: 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | Chairmanship in 2022 – China

689. On May 26, the 2-day Meet of senior functionaries of Postal Department and India Post payments Bank (IPPB) called "AAROHAN 4.0" started in Shimla. The agenda of the meeting is to discuss and deliberate ways to further deepen Financial Inclusion drive in India and to provide banking solutions to every citizen of the country. The meeting was inaugurated by Alok Sharma, Director General Postal Services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "AAROHAN 4.0", a 2-day Meet of senior functionaries of Postal Dept. & IPPB – started in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

690. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal led the Indian delegation of Ministers, Chief Ministers and Business Leaders at the 52nd Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland from May 22 to 26. The meeting was held under the theme of "Working Together, Restoring Trust". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – led the Indian delegation at the 52nd 'Annual Meeting of the WEF' – in Davos, Switzerland
- Theme of the meeting – "Working Together, Restoring Trust"
- HQs of WEF – Cologne, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971

691. On May 27, Union Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi inaugurated the "India-Hungary Business Forum" in New Delhi, and met Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto. The event was followed by External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar's signing of an MoU on the International Solar Alliance (ISA) with Foreign Minister Szijjarto. Hungary is the 107th country to join the ISA, an initiative launched by India & France. Norway was the 106th country to join the ISA. Budapest & Forint are the capital & currency of Hungary. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Meenakashi Lekhi – inaugurated the “India-Hungary Business Forum” in New Delhi
- During the forum, Meenakashi Lekhi – met Peter Szijjarto (Hungarian Foreign Minister)
- Hungary – 107th country to join the ISA
- Hungary – Budapest – Forint | President – Katalin Novak | PM – Viktor Orban
- HQs of ISA – Gurugram, Haryana | DG – Ajay Mathur | Signatory Countries – 107 | Member countries – 86

692. In May 2022, Minister of State for Steel Faggan Singh Kulaste addressed a Conference in New Delhi on the theme “Indian Metals Industry: Current Outlook, and Future Trends”. It was organised by the ASSOCHAM. India exported 13.5 million tonnes of finished steel, amounting to Rs 1 Lakh Cr, in the year 2021-22, with a record production of over 120 million tonnes of crude steel and 113.6 million tonnes of finished steel as per the provisional estimates. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Faggan Singh Kulaste – addressed a Conference on the theme “Indian Metals Industry: Current Outlook, and Future Trends” in New Delhi – organised by ASSOCHAM
- India exported 13.5 million tonnes of finished steel in 2021-22, amounting to Rs 1 Lakh Cr
- HQs of ASSOCHAM – New Delhi | President – Sumant Sinha

693. On May 27, India’s National Security Adviser Ajit Doval addressed the 4th Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan, hosted by Tajikistan’s capital Dushanbe. The dialogue is aimed at firming up a common approach for practical cooperation in confronting increasing threats of terrorism, radicalisation and drug trafficking following the Taliban's takeover of Kabul in August, 2021. India had hosted the 3rd dialogue in November 2021 in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajit Doval (NSA) – addressed the 4th Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan – hosted in Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- Tajikistan – Dushanbe – Somoni | President – Emomali Rahmon

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

694. As per the provisional Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation for FY20, Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) was Rs 4.15 lakh Cr compared to Rs 3.44 lakh Cr in FY19. There was a 1.7% increase in the number of factories in India. Manufacturing sector investments grew 20% in FY 2019-20 over the previous fiscal. Employment in the corporate sector increased 5.5% to 97.03 lakh in FY 2019-20. The number of workers rose 2.02% to 1.3 Cr, according to the survey report. The survey was conducted during April 2021 to January 2022 through ASI Web Portal. ASI, the principal source of industrial statistics in India, is the most comprehensive data on organised manufacturing. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Annual Survey of Industries (for FY20)” – released by Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation
- Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) was Rs 4.15 lakh Cr in FY20 (in FY19 - Rs 3.44 lakh Cr)
- Manufacturing Sector investments grew – 20% | Employment in Corporate Sector increased – 5.5% to 97.03 lakh
- MoS I/C of Ministry of Statistics & Program Implementation: Rao Inderjit Singh | Constituency – Gurgaon, Haryana



695. Starting with a \$10.5 billion dent in 2023, India's economy could take a nearly \$99 billion hit by 2030, which will be 3.19% reduction in GDP from the baseline growth trends, according to the paper on 'Potential Economic Impact of COVID-19 related School Closures' released by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Thus, India may account for over 10% of the global GDP decline of \$943 billion estimated by the ADB. India has the highest number of children at 255.74 million, enrolled in primary and secondary education, among the Asian economies covered in the paper. The number of students in tertiary education was second only to China at 36.39 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Potential Economic Impact of COVID-19 related School Closures" – released by ADB
- India's economy may take a nearly \$99 billion hit by 2030 (3.19% reduction in GDP) starting with \$10.5 billion hit in 2023
- India may account for over 10% of the global GDP decline of \$943 billion estimated by the ADB
- [HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines](#) | [President – Masatsugu Asakawa](#) | [Members – 68](#) | [Established in – 1966](#)

696. On May 26, Forbes announced its 7th annual "30 Under 30 Asia" list, featuring 300 young entrepreneurs, leaders and trailblazers across the Asia-Pacific region, all under the age of 30. The 'Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia Class of 2022' features 30 notable honorees selected for each of the 10 categories. India topped the list in terms of the 'number of entries' with 61, followed by Singapore (34), Japan (33). The average age of the 2022 list is 26.8. Japanese Olympics skateboarding gold-medalist, Momiji Nishiya, 14-year old, is the youngest honouree on the list. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Forbes 7th Annual "30 Under 30 Asia" List – featured 30 notable honorees selected for each of the 10 categories
- India (61) – topped the list in terms of the 'number of entries' | 2nd – Singapore (34), 3rd – Japan (33)

697. As on May 30, the US surpassed China to become India's top trading partner in 2021-22, reflecting growth in Economic ties between the two countries. According to the data of the commerce ministry, in 2021-22, the bilateral trade between the US and India stood at \$119.42 billion as against \$80.51 billion in 2020-21. Exports to the US increased to \$76.11 billion in 2021-22, while imports rose to \$43.31 billion in 2021-22. China with \$115.42 billion, and the UAE with \$72.9 billion, were India's second & third largest trading partners, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US – surpassed China to become India's top trading partner in 2021-22
- 1st – US (\$119.42 billion) | 2nd – China (\$115.42 billion) | 3rd – UAE (\$72.9 billion)

698. In May 2022, American firm Coinbase has become the first crypto company to enter the prestigious "Fortune 500" list. After posting revenue of over \$7.8 billion (Rs 60,728 Cr) in fiscal 2021, it has grabbed the 437th position in the recently released list. Retail giant Walmart topped the ranking for the 10th straight year, with revenue of around \$573 billion, followed by Amazon and Apple, with figures of almost \$470 billion and \$365 billion, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Coinbase (\$7.8 billion) – became the first crypto company to enter the prestigious "Fortune 500" List (437th position)
- 1st – Walmart (\$573 billion) | 2nd – Amazon (\$470 billion) | 3rd – Apple (\$365 billion)



Ordinance, Bills & Acts

699. On May 25, the Supreme Court recognised sex work as a “Profession” by invoking special powers under ‘Article 142’ of the Constitution. The Supreme Court directed that police should neither interfere nor take criminal action against adult and consenting sex workers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

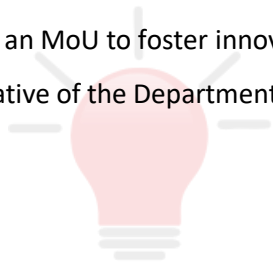
- Supreme Court – recognised sex work as a “Profession” by invoking special powers under ‘Article 142’ of the IC
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana (48th)

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

700. In May 2022, the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP), India’s premier bio-innovation hub signed an MoU with the Centre for Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) to foster innovation in agriculture. The agreement will initiate a joint effort in nurturing deep-science innovation in agriculture, food technology, and allied areas toward sustainability and food security in India’s agriculture sector. The MoU was signed by Taslimarif Saiyed, CEO and Director of C-CAMP and Sridevi Annapurna Singh, Director of CFTRI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- C-CAMP + CFTRI = an MoU to foster innovation in Agriculture, Food Technology & Allied Areas
- C-CAMP – an initiative of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of S & T



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