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INDEX

National & States Affairs	5
International Affairs	8
Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs	8
Defence Affairs	9
Sports & Games	10
Persons in News	12
Science & Technology	12
Appointments & Resignations	13
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes	14
Schemes & Initiatives	15
Important Days & Dates	16
Meetings, Conferences & Summits	17
Ranks, Reports & Surveys	18
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnership	18

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National & States Affairs

701. On May 27, Union Minister of Science and Technology Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's first 'Lavender Festival' in Bhaderwah town of Jammu & Kashmir. Besides, India's first National Institute of High-Altitude Medicine is being built in Bhaderwah which will attract scholars and researchers not only from India but across the globe. Moreover, CSIR-AROMA Mission, under the Ministry of Science & Technology, aims to develop and disseminate aroma-related science and technology to reach the end-users/clients of CSIR: Farmers, industry and society. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jitendra Singh – inaugurated India's first 'Lavender Festival' in Bhaderwah, J & K
- India's first 'National Institute of High-Altitude Medicine' is being built in – Bhaderwah, J & K
- CSIR-AROMA Mission – to develop & disseminate aroma-related technology to reach Farmers, industry & society
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | President – Narendra Modi | DG – Shekhar C. Mande | Established in – 1942

702. As on May 1, the Kerala health department is on alert after the death of a 47-year-old from Thrissur due to the West Nile Virus. The virus was first reported in the state in Alappuzha in 2006 and then in Ernakulam in 2011. The West Nile Virus is a mosquito-borne, single-stranded RNA virus. It is spread by mosquito. According to the WHO, it is "a member of the flavivirus genus and belongs to the Japanese Encephalitis antigenic complex of the family Flaviviridae". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala health department – is on alert after the death of a 47-year-old due to the 'West Nile Virus'
- The 'West Nile Virus' – is a mosquito-borne, single-stranded RNA virus
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

703. After a 5-year gap, Maharashtra has overtaken Uttar Pradesh (UP) to regain its position as India's top sugar producer. Shekhar Gaikwad, sugar commissioner of Maharashtra, expects the state's output for the 2021-22 crushing year (October-September) at 138 lakh tonnes (lt), followed by Uttar Pradesh at 104 lt & Karnataka at 60 lt. Till date, Maharashtra has produced 124.75 lt of sugar. All over India produced 355.50 lakh tonnes of sugar in 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – overtook Uttar Pradesh as India's top sugar producer
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

704. On May 27, the Eastern Railway has achieved 100% electrification of its 2,848 km network, with the completion of work in the 41 km Hansdiha-Godda section. The total electrification will help reduce carbon emission significantly and support the Indian Railway in achieving its target of making India's railway network carbon neutral by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Eastern Railway – achieved 100% electrification of 2848 km network with completion of 41km Hansdiha-Godda section



705. On May 30, PARAM ANANTA, a state-of the art Supercomputer at IIT Gandhinagar, dedicated to the nation under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), was commissioned. The NSM is a joint initiative of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and Department of Science & Technology (DST). An MoU was signed between IIT Gandhinagar and Centre for Development in Advanced Computing (C-DAC) on 12th October, 2020 to establish this 838 TeraFlops Supercomputing Facility under NSM. PARAM ANANTA system is based on Direct Contact Liquid Cooling technology to obtain a high power usage effectiveness and thereby reducing the operational cost. Under NSM, till date 15 supercomputers, manufactured in India, have been installed across the nation with aggregate compute capacity of 24 petaflops. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'PARAM ANANTA' (838 TeraFlops Supercomputer) – commissioned at IIT Gandhinagar
- NSM – a joint initiative of MeitY + DST
- Under NSM, 15 supercomputers manufactured in India till date, have been installed across the nation
- [Director of IIT Gandhinagar – Amit Prashant](#)
- [HQs of C-DAC – Pune, Maharashtra | Senior Director – Mahesh Kulkarni \(functions under MeitY\)](#)

706. On May 30, the National Health Authority (NHA), under its flagship scheme of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), has launched a Public Dashboard for real-time information. The public dashboard will be a one-stop solution for information on the mission's progress at state level. The dashboard, under the mission, will display detailed information on core registries like - Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) numbers, Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR) and Health Facility Registry (HFR). Till date, a total of 22.1 Cr ABHAs (earlier known as health ID) have been created. The ABDM public dashboard gives a transparent view of the number of ABHA generated on national as well as state/UT level. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHA – launched a Public Dashboard for real-time information (under 'ABDM')
- ABHA number – 14 digits
- The dashboard will display detailed information on core registries like:
 - ABHA numbers, Healthcare Professionals Registry, Health Facility Registry
- [HQs of NHA – New Delhi | CEO – Ram Sevak Sharma | Founded in – 2018](#)

707. On May 29, Indo-Bangladesh passenger train services Bandhan Express resumed its service between Kolkata and Khulna after two years. After Kolkata-Khulna Bandhan Express, Maitree Express also resumed its services between Kolkata and Dhaka. However, Mitali Express between New Jalpaiguri and Dhaka will be flagged off at the New Jalpaiguri station on June 1. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indo-Bangladesh passenger train services resumed after two years:
 - Bandhan Express – between Kolkata & Khulna
 - Maitree Express – between Kolkata & Dhaka
 - Mitali Express – between New Jalpaiguri & Dhaka

708. The 2nd anniversary of “National AI Portal (<https://indiaai.gov.in>)” was observed on May 30, 2022. This Portal is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY), National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and NASSCOM. The portal focuses on creating and nurturing a unified AI ecosystem in India. The portal was launched by then Hon'ble Minister for Electronics & IT and Communications on May 30, 2020. During an event, INDIAai released a book on the basics of AI titled “AI for Everyone”. The booklet aims to provide free and open AI literacy to the community of young minds. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- 2nd anniversary of “National AI Portal” observed on May 30, 2022
- National AI Portal = a JV of MeitY + NeGD + NASSCOM
- INDIAai – released a book titled “AI for Everyone”

709. On May 28, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the world’s first Nano Urea (Liquid) Plant constructed at IFFCO, Kalol in Gandhinagar district of Gujarat. The plant was constructed at a cost of around Rs 175 Cr is an effort to further provide farmers the means to boost productivity and help increase their income. The plant can produce approximately 1.5 lakh 500 ml bottles of nano urea per day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the world’s first Nano Urea (Liquid) Plant – at Kalol, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Plant’s Capacity – approx 1.5 lakh 500ml bottles of Nano urea per day | Cost of the plant – around Rs 175 Cr
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

710. In May 2022, “Project Vartak” of the Border Road Organisation (BRO) conducted the final blast, which marks the successful completion of excavation work of the Nechipu Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh. The blast was remotely conducted by BRO Director General Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhry from New Delhi. The Nechipu Tunnel, at an altitude of 5,700 feet, is a unique 500-metre-long, D-shaped, single tube double lane tunnel. The tunnel has been conceived to bypass extreme foggy conditions prevailing around Nechipu Pass. The latest blast marks the cumulative excavation of more than 4,500 meters, achieved by the BRO ‘Karmyogis’ in less than two years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Project Vartak” of the BRO conducted the final blast of excavation work of ‘Nechipu Tunnel’ in Arunachal Pradesh
- 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

711. On May 26, Chief Commissioner, Delhi Customs Zone, Surjit Bhujabal inaugurated project “NIGAH” at Inland Container Depot (ICD) Garhi Harsaru, Gurugram, Haryana. Project NIGAH is an initiative to track container by using ICTM (ICD Container Tracking Module) which will help in better visibility of the container movement inside the ICD. ICTM has been developed in collaboration with the Custodian M/s. GRFL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Surjit Bhujabal (Chief Commissioner of Delhi Customs Zone) – inaugurated project “NIGAH” in Gurugram, Haryana
- Project ‘NIGAH’ is an initiative to track container by using ICTM (ICD Container Tracking Module)
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

712. In May 2022, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), the Maharatna Company, celebrated its 50 years of incorporation with a special logo. The logo was launched by Soma Mondal, Chairman of the SAIL. The SAIL was incorporated on 24th January, 1973. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SAIL celebrated its 50 years of incorporation with a special logo (logo was launched by – Soma Mondal)
- HQs of SAIL – New Delhi | CEO – Soma Mondal | Founded on – January 24, 1973



International Affairs

713. On May 24, the World Economic Forum (WEF) launched a new “Alliance of CEO Climate Action Leaders India” that will work towards fast-tracking decarbonisation pathways along India’s net-zero journey. The Alliance is a collaboration between Kearney and Observer Research Foundation and it brings together Chief Executives from India’s leading businesses. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WEF – launched a new “Alliance of CEO Climate Action Leaders India” to work towards India’s net-zero journey
- HQs of WEF – Cologne, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971

714. On May 23, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azeri President Ilham Aliyev announced that Armenia & Azerbaijan would be setting up ‘Border Security & Delimitation Commissions’ for resolution over a decades-long conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh Enclave. Both leaders also agreed to start working on a peace plan. Nagorno-Karabakh, also called ‘Artsakh’ in Armenian, is a landlocked, mountainous and forested region with a population of around 1,50,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Armenia + Azerbaijan = sets up ‘Border Security & Delimitation Commissions’ to resolve ‘Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict’
- Nagorno-Karabakh is also called ‘Artsakh’ in Armenian
- Armenia – Yerevan – Dram | PM – Nikol Pashinyan | President – Vahagn Khachaturyan
- Azerbaijan – Baku – Manat | PM – Ali Asadov | President – Ilham Aliyev

715. In May 2022, the government of Mali decided to withdraw from all the organs and bodies of the ‘G5 Sahel’, including its anti-jihadist force. With this, Mali aims to protest it being rejected as head of the G5 regional group. The G5 Sahel was created in 2014 and its anti-jihadist force launched in 2017. The G5 Sahel is composed of around 5,000 troops and it includes Mali, Burkina, Mauritania, Chad & Niger. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mali – decided to withdraw from all the organs & bodies of the ‘G5 Sahel’, including its anti-jihadist force
- G5 Sahel was created in 2014 & its anti-jihadist force launched in 2017 (Mali, Burkina, Mauritania, Chad & Niger)
- Mali – Bamako – CFA franc | Transitional President – Col. Assimi Goita | Transitional PM – Choguel Maiga

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

716. According to the official data from government on aggregate GST registrations in the 2017-22 period, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have topped in Goods and Services Tax (GST) registrations by businesses and dealers, followed by Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. Maharashtra has 1.48 million normal GST payers who pay taxes on a monthly basis, while Uttar Pradesh has 1.33 million such tax payers, followed by 1.09 million of Gujarat & 1.06 million of Tamil Nadu. Besides, Uttar Pradesh has the largest share of small businesses with the state accounting for over 3,57,000 composition dealers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra + Uttar Pradesh = topped in GST registrations followed by Gujarat and Tamil Nadu
- Maharashtra: 1.48 million regular GST payers, Uttar Pradesh: 1.33 million, Gujarat: 1.09 million & Tamil Nadu: 1.06 million
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari



717. On May 28, Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited (Tata AIA Life), a JV by Tata Sons and AIA Group, launched a “Smart Value Income Plan”, a non-linked, participating life insurance savings plan where the bonus can be adjusted against premium payments. This plan includes first-in-industry features such as the option to accumulate cash bonuses. Individuals between the age group of 1 and 65 can buy the Smart Value Income Plan, with a maximum maturity age of 100 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata AIA Life Insurance – launched a “Smart Value Income Plan”, a non-linked, participating life insurance savings plan
- Individuals between the age group of 1 & 65 can buy the Smart Value Income Plan
- [HQs of Tata AIA Life – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [MD & CEO – Naveen Tahilyani](#)

718. India’s economic growth or GDP slipped to 4.1% in the fourth quarter of 2021-22, while annual growth stood at 8.7% from 6.6% in the previous fiscal, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). According to the data, India’s real GDP grew to Rs 147.36 lakh Cr from Rs 135.58 lakh Cr in 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to NSO: India’s Economic Growth or GDP in FY 2021-22 – 8.7% (from 6.6% in FY21)
- India’s real GDP grew to Rs 147.36 lakh Cr in FY 2021-22 (from Rs 135.58 lakh Cr in 2020-21)
- [HQs of NSO – New Delhi](#) | [Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy](#)

719. On May 30, the SEBI restructured its Risk Management Review Committee (RMRC), which reviews the risk management framework for the cash and derivatives. The 14-member committee will be headed by IIM Ahmedabad Professor Jayanth R. Varma. The committee has been entrusted with the task of recommending changes if required in the margin system, consider and suggest measures in reducing transmission of risk from other segments and review the investor protection measure in the stock exchanges related to risk management. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI restructured its 14-member Risk Management Review Committee (RMRC) – headed by Jayanth R. Varma
- [HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairman – Ajay Tyagi](#) | [Established in – 1992](#)

Defence Affairs

720. On May 31, Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for the supply of indigenously built beyond visual range air-to-air missiles called “ASTRA MK-I” and Associated Equipment for the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy at the cost of Rs 2,971 Cr. The “ASTRA MK-I” air-to-air missile was designed and developed by the DRDO. The missile is fully integrated onto the ‘Su-30 MK-I’ fighter aircraft. The Indian Navy will integrate the missile on the ‘MiG 29K’ fighter aircraft. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Defence + BDL = a contract for the supply of “ASTRA MK-I”, indigenously built air-to-air missile for IAF & Navy
- Cost of the contract – Rs 2,971 Cr | “ASTRA MK-I” was designed & developed by – DRDO
- [HQs of BDL – Hyderabad, Telangana](#) | [CMD – Siddharth Mishra](#) | [Founded in – 1970](#)



Sports & Games

721. In May 2022, Gujarat Titans won the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022 edition. The first qualifier was held on the 24th of May between Gujarat Titans and Rajasthan Royals. The second qualifier was played by Rajasthan Royals and Royal Challengers Bangalore. IPL final was held on the 30th of May between Gujarat Titans and Rajasthan Royals in the Narendra Modi stadium, Ahmedabad, and was won by a one-sided match by Gujarat Titans. 2007-08 was the launching year of the IPL. The first-ever IPL was won by Rajasthan Royals in 2008. Gujarat Titans is the first sports team in India to launch its team logo named “The Titans Dugout” in metaverse. Ashish Nehra was the head coach of Gujarat Titans, while Hardik Pandya was the captain of the team. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat Titans – won the ‘IPL 2022’ in the Narendra Modi stadium, Ahmedabad (defeating - Rajasthan Royals)
- Gujarat Titans: Head Coach – Ashish Nehra | Captain – Hardik Pandya
- IPL was launched in – 2007-08 | 1st IPL was won by – Rajasthan Royals in 2008
- Gujarat Titans – first sports team in India to launch its team logo namely “The Titans Dugout” in metaverse
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

722. In May 2022, India’s premier long jumper Murali Sreeshankar of Kerala has won the gold medal at the 12th “International Jumping Meeting” in Kallithea, Greece with an effort of 8.31m. The Tokyo Olympian is the current national record holder with a jump of 8.36m. Sreeshankar was followed by Swede Thobias Montler (8.27m) and France’s Jules Pommery (8.17m). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Murali Sreeshankar (Kerala) – won the gold medal at the 12th “International Jumping Meeting” in Kallithea, Greece
- Silver – Thobias Montler (Sweden) | Bronze – Jules Pommery (France)

723. On May 31, American chess Grandmaster (GM) Wesley Barbossa So won the 2022 Norway Chess Blitz tournament by beating GM Magnus Carlsen who ranked 2nd. Indian Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand defeated Norwegian GM Magnus Carlsen in round seven of the tournament & ranked 4th. While Russian-born Dutch chess grandmaster Anish Giri ranked 3rd in the tournament. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Wesley Barbossa So (USA) – won the “2022 Norway Chess Blitz” tournament (Defeated - Magnus Carlsen)
- Viswanathan Anand – ranked 4th | Anish Giri (Russian-born Dutch) – ranked 3rd

724. On May 29, a Para-Canoeist Prachi Yadav became the first Indian to bag a World Cup medal by capturing a Bronze medal at the “2022 ICF Paracanoe World Cup” held in Poznan, Poland. Prachi bagged the bronze medal in VL2 Women’s 200m with a timing of 1:04.71 seconds, finishing behind Canada’s Brianna Hennessy (Silver) and Australia’s Susan Seipel (Gold). Manish Kaurav (KL3 Men 200m) and Manjeet Singh (VL2 Men 200m) also reached the finals for the first time ever in the history of the tournament. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prachi Yadav (Para-Canoeist) – won Bronze at “2022 ICF Paracanoe World Cup” held in Poznan, Poland (first Indian)
- Gold – Brianna Hennessy (Canada) | Silver – Susan Seipel (Australia)





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Persons in News

725. West Bengal's Piyali Basak became the first Indian woman to scale Mt. Everest without supplementary oxygen. She is a primary school teacher from Chandernagore district. In September-October of 2021, Piyali also became the first woman to climb Mt. Dhaulagiri (8167 meters) without any oxygen support. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyali Basak (West Bengal) – the first Indian woman to scale Mt. Everest & Mt. Dhaulagiri without supplementary oxygen
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

Science & Technology

726. On May 31, NASA's Hubble Space Telescope captured images of two spiral galaxies, which are collectively known as "Arp 303". Individually, they are called IC 563 (bottom) and IC 564 (top). They are more than 275 million light-years away in the direction of the constellation Sextans. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hubble Space Telescope (NASA) – captured images of two spiral galaxies, collectively known as "Arp 303"
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded on – July 29, 1958

727. On May 30, the official 59th edition of the "List of the World's Top 500 Supercomputers" was unveiled in Germany. Frontier, developed by US's designated supercomputer facility, the Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility, is the world's first supercomputer to cross the performance margin of 1 exaflops. With this, the supercomputer has surpassed Fugaku, belonging to Japan's Riken Centre for Computational Science, as the world's most powerful supercomputer right now. Fugaku has a performance score of 442 petaflops. 1 exaflop is equivalent to 1,000 petaflops. Frontier is built using Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) architecture and powered by Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) processors. Moreover, Param Siddhi is India's High Performance Computing-Artificial Intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer developed by Dept. of S & T, MeitY, under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) at Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). Param Siddhi offers peak performance of 3.3 petaflops. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 59th edition of the "List of the World's Top 500 Supercomputers" – unveiled in Germany
- 'Frontier' supercomputer of the US – is the world's first supercomputer to cross the performance margin of 1 exaflops
- 'Frontier' – surpassed 'Fugaku' supercomputer of Japan & became the world's most powerful supercomputer
- 1 exaflop is equivalent to 1,000 petaflops
- Frontier: built using – Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) | Powered by – Advanced Micro Devices (AMD)
- 'Param Siddhi' – India's High Performance Supercomputer (developed by = DST + MeitY + C-DAC)



Appointments & Resignations

728. On May 31, Senior IAS officer Vandita Sharma (1986 batch) took charge as Chief Secretary of Karnataka. Ms. Sharma will be in office till November 2023. She took over from P. Ravi Kumar, who retired on May 31. Ms. Sharma is the 39th Chief Secretary of the State and the fourth woman to occupy the coveted post. She is also honorary president of the Karnataka IAS Officers' Association. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vandita Sharma – appointed as 39th Chief Secretary of Karnataka (4th woman)
- She is also honorary President of the Karnataka IAS Officers' Association
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot

729. On May 30, Former SBI Executive, Natarajan Sundar joined National Assets Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) as its new Managing Director & CEO, replacing Padmakumar M. Nair. In the previous week, NARCL appointed Mr. Karnam Sekar as the Independent Director and Non-Executive Chairman of the Board. Malvika Sinha, retired Executive director of the RBI, also joined the Board of NARCL as an Independent Director. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Natarajan Sundar – appointed as new MD & CEO of NARCL (replacing Padmakumar M. Nair)
- Karnam Sekar – appointed as an Independent Director & Non-Executive Chairman of NARCL
- Malvika Sinha – appointed as an Independent Director
- MD & CEO of NARCL – Natarajan Sundar | Chairman – Pradip Shah | Lead Sponsor – Canara Bank (12% equity)

730. On May 28, the Central government appointed Pankaj Sharma, Joint Secretary in Department of Financial Services (DFS), as part-time member of the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA). In the PFRDA Board, Sharma has come in the place of erstwhile DFS Additional Secretary Vandita Kaul. Pension regulator PFRDA has a chairman besides 3 whole-time members and 3 part-time members (only two are filled up posts). India's pension Assets Under Management (AUM) are growing at a robust pace of about 27-30% Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) and are expected to touch Rs 30 lakh Cr by 2030. In 2021-22, Pension AUM grew a robust 27.43% at Rs 7.37 lakh Cr. Meanwhile, the Centre has appointed Suchindra Mishra & Shashank Saxena as members in the Board of International Financial Services Authority (IFSCA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pankaj Sharma – appointed as part-time member of the PFRDA
- India's pension AUM are growing at 27-30% CAGR & are expected to touch Rs 30 lakh Cr by 2030
- Suchindra Mishra + Shashank Saxena = appointed as members in the Board of IFSCA
- HQs of PFRDA – New Delhi | Chairperson – Supratim Bandyopadhyay | Founded in – 2003
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas

731. On May 28, President Ram Nath Kovind has given justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty the additional charge of Lokpal chairperson after justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose completed his term as the Lokpal Chief on May 27, 2022. PC Ghose was appointed the first Chief of Lokpal in March, 2019. A Lokpal chief and members are appointed for a term of five years or until attaining the age of 70 years. The Lokpal is headed by a chairperson and can have 8 members. At present, there are 6 members in the Lokpal. The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, which envisages the appointment of a Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas in states to look into cases of corruption against certain categories of public servants, was passed in 2013. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Pradip Kumar Mohanty – given the additional charge as Lokpal Chairperson (succeeding – Pinaki Chandra Ghose)
- Lokpal – headed by a Chairperson & can have 8 members (currently 6)
- ‘The Lokpal & Lokayuktas Act’ – passed in 2013

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

732. On May 29, the World Health Organization (WHO) has selected Jharkhand for the “World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) Award-2022”, recognising its efforts in controlling tobacco consumption. State’s Tobacco Control Cell of the Health Department received the award on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day in New Delhi on May 31. National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) was launched in Jharkhand in 2012. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand – selected for the “World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) Award-2022” by the WHO
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Ramesh Bais
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

733. On May 28, the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier Telecom R&D Centre of the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, organized the annual “Intellectual Property (IP) Awards” ceremony to felicitate its IP achievers in various areas of Telecom. A total of 43 inventors were awarded for their commendable achievements. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Annual “Intellectual Property (IP) Awards” ceremony – organized by the C-DOT
- Total 43 inventors were awarded for their commendable achievements
- HQs of C-DoT – New Delhi | Executive Director – Rajkumar Upadhyay
- C-DoT functions under – Ministry of Communications

734. On May 28, Shaunak Sen’s documentary, ‘All That Breathes’, has won the “L’Oeil d’Or” award at the 75th “Cannes Film Festival 2022”. It was India's only entry at the festival. ‘All That Breathes’ revolves around the lives of brothers Mohammad Saud & Nadeem Shehzad. This documentary had also won the “World Documentary Grand Jury Prize” at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival. Indian Actress Deepika Padukone served as the jury member of this festival. Moreover, India was named the first ‘Country of Honour’ at Cannes Market, organized alongside Cannes Festival. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shaunak Sen’s documentary ‘All That Breathes’ – won the “L’Oeil d’Or” award at the 75th Cannes Film Festival 2022
- ‘All That Breathes’ – also won “World Documentary Grand Jury Prize” at the ‘2022 Sundance Film Festival’
- Deepika Padukone – served as the jury member of 75th Cannes Film Festival 2022
- India – named the first ‘Country of Honour’ at Cannes Market

Schemes & Initiatives

735. On May 30, PM Narendra Modi released benefits under the “PM CARES for Children” scheme for children who lost their parents due to the Covid-19 pandemic. PM Modi has promised Rs 4,000 a month for basic needs, financial support for schooling, scholarship for higher education, and free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh by giving them the Ayushman Health Card. The scheme will also help youth of 18 to 23 years, who lost their parents in the pandemic, with a monthly stipend and they will be given Rs 10 lakh when they turn 23. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – released benefits under the “PM CARES for Children” scheme
- PM Modi has promised Rs 4,000 a month for basic needs & schooling and free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh
- Monthly stipend to youth of 18 to 23 years who lost their parents in the pandemic (Rs 10 lakh when they turn 23)

736. On May 31, the government has revised the premium rates of Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) by making it Rs 1.25 per day premium for both schemes. This includes revising PMJJBY from Rs 330 to Rs 436 and PMSBY from Rs 12 to Rs 20. The revision comes for the first time in 7 years since the launch of schemes in 2015. The revised premium rates will come into effect from June 1, 2022. As of March 31, 2022, the number of active subscribers enrolled under PMJJBY and PMSBY is 6.4 Cr and 22 Cr respectively. Moreover, the Government has set a target to increase the coverage from 6.4 Cr to 15 Cr under PMJJBY and from 22 Cr to 37 Cr under PMSBY in the next 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Govt revised the premium rates of Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana & Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana
- Premium rates of PMJJBY revised from Rs 330 to Rs 436 | Premium rates of PMSBY revised from Rs 12 to Rs 20
- Target set by Govt to increase the coverage: to 15 Cr under PMJJBY | to 37 Cr under PMSBY (in 5 years)

737. On May 30, the Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) was approved for continuation till the financial year 2025-26 with the total outlay of Rs 13,554.42 Cr. The extension of the scheme is over the 15th Finance Commission Cycle for 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The scheme will create sustainable employment opportunities for about 40 lakh persons in 5 financial years. Along with the extension of the time frame, some major modifications have been made in the existing scheme. These include increase in the maximum project cost from existing Rs 25 lakh to Rs 50 lakh for manufacturing units and from existing Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh for service units. The PMEGP is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme – extended for 5 years till FY 2025-26 (Outlay – Rs 13,554.42 Cr)
- PMEGP – a flagship scheme of the Ministry of MSME
- Maximum Project Cost for manufacturing units – increased to Rs 50 lakh (from existing Rs 25 lakh)
- Maximum Project Cost for service units – increased to Rs 20 lakh (from existing Rs 10 lakh)

738. In May 2022, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved new guidelines for the implementation of “Indira Gandhi Shahari Rozgar Yojana”. The scheme was announced by Gehlot in the 2022-23 budget to provide employment in urban areas on the lines of the ‘Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)’. Under the new urban employment scheme, 100 days of employment per year will be provided to the families residing in urban areas. The state government will spend Rs 800 Cr per year on this ambitious scheme. The people in the age group of 18 to 60 years residing in the local body area will be registered on the basis of Jan Aadhaar card. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – approved new guidelines for the implementation of “Indira Gandhi Shahari Rozgar Yojana”
- Under the new urban employment scheme:
 - Government will spend Rs 800 Cr per year
 - 18 to 60 years old people residing in the local body area will be registered on the basis of Jan Aadhaar card
 - 100 days of employment per year will be provided
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

739. On May 28, the Union Government extended the “Prime Minister’s Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS)” for students from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh for another 5 years. The PMSSS was introduced by the Congress-led UPA government in 2011. Aimed at promoting employment opportunities for students from J&K and Ladakh, the scheme, with an annual budget of Rs 180 to Rs 190 Cr, is implemented by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government extended “Prime Minister’s Special Scholarship Scheme” for 5 years – for students from J&K and Ladakh
- PMSSS was introduced by the UPA government in 2011 | Implemented by – AICTE | Annual budget – Rs 180-190 Cr

Important Days & Dates

740. International Everest Day is celebrated every year on 29 May. This day celebrates the first summit of Mount Everest by New Zealand’s Sir Edmund Hillary and Nepal’s Tenzing Norgay Sherpa. The duo climbed Mount Everest on this day in 1953. Reaching an elevation of 29,032 feet (8,849 metres), Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world. [{Read more}](#).

Key Points:

- May 29 – International Everest Day
- 1st Summit of Mount Everest in 1953 – by Sir Edmund Hillary (New Zealand) & Tenzing Norgay Sherpa (Nepal)
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | PM – Jacinda Ardern
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba

741. On May 30, Goa celebrated its 35th Foundation Day. Goa received its full statehood in 1987. Goa remained under Portuguese rule even after 14 years of India’s independence. On this occasion, awards were given to persons from various walks of life for their outstanding achievement in respective fields including former Chief Ministers of Goa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 30 – 35th Foundation Day of Goa | Goa received its full statehood in – 1987
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

742. World Digestive Health Day is marked on 29 May to create more awareness about the importance of a healthy digestive system. In 2022, the theme is “Colorectal Cancer Prevention: Getting Back on Track”. The day was launched in 2004 to mark the 45th anniversary of the creation of the World Gastroenterology Organisation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 29 – World Digestive Health Day
- 2022’s Theme – “Colorectal Cancer Prevention: Getting Back on Track”
- HQs of World Gastroenterology Organisation – Wisconsin, United States



743. World No Tobacco Day is observed annually on May 31. In 2022, the theme of the day is “Tobacco: Threat to our environment”. According to WHO, Tobacco kills over 8 million people every year. In 2008, the WHO banned any kind of advertisement or promotion about tobacco, thinking that probably the ads attract youth to indulge in smoking. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 31 – World No Tobacco Day
- 2022’s Theme – “Tobacco: Threat to our environment”
- WHO banned any kind of advertisement or promotion about tobacco in – 2008
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

744. On May 28, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal addressed a Special Plenary session in the 3rd edition of “NADI (Natural Allies in Development & Interdependence) Dialogue” organised by Asian Confluence in Guwahati, Assam. The minister advocated for an ecologically responsible economic growth in the South east Asian region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sarbananda Sonowal – addressed a Special Plenary session in the 3rd edition of “NADI Dialogue”
- The dialogue was organised in Guwahati, Assam – by Asian Confluence (HQs – Shillong, Meghalaya)
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

745. Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur applauded the Indian media for its role during the COVID-19 pandemic at the first-ever virtual 17th Asia Media Summit which was hosted by Fiji in May 2022. The theme of the Summit was “Future Forward, Reimagining Media”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anurag Thakur – attended the first-ever virtual 17th Asia Media Summit – hosted by Fiji
- The theme of the Summit – “Future Forward, Reimagining Media”
- Fiji – Suva – Fijian Dollar | President – Jioji Konrote

746. Indian Council for Cultural Relations’ (ICCR) 10-day programme “Gen Next Democracy Network” concluded on May 29. In the closing ceremony, 27 delegates from 6 countries - Ghana, Bangladesh, Peru, Nepal, Brunei and Norway shared their experiences of visiting India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 10-day programme “Gen Next Democracy Network” – organised by ICCR
- HQs of ICCR – New Delhi | DG – Kumar Tuhin | President – Vinay Sahasrabuddhe | Founded in – 1950



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

747. In May 2022, the “State of the Global Climate 2021” report was released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). WMO’s flagship annual report gives details of climate indicators such as temperatures, ocean heat, ocean acidification, sea level rise, sea ice glaciers and extreme weather. Due to extreme weather, the world has witnessed hundreds of billions of dollars worth of economic losses. The report has confirmed that the past 7 years are the warmest 7 years that have been recorded. In 2021, the average global temperature was around 1.11 (± 0.13) °C above the pre-industrial level. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “State of the Global Climate 2021” report – released by the WMO
- Average global temperature was around 1.11 (± 0.13) °C above the pre-industrial level in 2021
- HQs of WMO – Geneva, Switzerland | SG – Petteri Taalas | President – Gerhard Adrian | Established in – 1950

748. As on May 31, the Indian Women’s Hockey Team moved up to 6th position in the “FIH World Hockey Rankings 2022”, for the first time, with 2029.396 points. The women’s rankings are topped by Netherlands, followed by Argentina & Australia. Janneke Schopman is chief coach of Indian Women's Hockey Team. While Indian Men’s Hockey Team went down to 4th rank in the “FIH World Hockey Rankings 2022”. The men's rankings are topped by Australia, followed by Belgium & Netherlands. Graham Reid is chief coach of Indian Men's Hockey Team. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “FIH World Hockey Rankings 2022” – released in May, 2022
- Indian Women’s Hockey Team – ranked 6th | Top – Netherlands
- Indian Men’s Hockey Team – ranked 4th | Top – Australia
- Chief Coach of Indian Women’s Hockey Team – Janneke Schopman | Chief Coach of Men’s Team – Graham Reid
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Narinder Batra | CEO – Thierry Weil | Founded in – 1924
- HQs of Hockey India – New Delhi | President – Gyanendro Ningombam

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

749. In May 2022, Andhra Pradesh signed renewables investment pacts worth a total of around \$16 billion with companies including Adani Green Energy, Greenko, Singapore’s GIC sovereign wealth fund, and Aurobindo Realty & Infrastructure during the “World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2022” at Davos. During the meeting, Maharashtra signed 23 MoUs worth \$4 billion (Rs 30,379 Cr) with companies, including investments in sectors such as pharmaceuticals and medical device. Of these, over 55% investments are FDI, it stated in the 10th edition of its “Magnetic Maharashtra 2.0” program at Maharashtra Pavilion in WEF 2022. Moreover, ReNew Power signed an MoU with the Karnataka government for an investment of Rs 50,000 Cr over the next 7 years. The Telangana government signed an MoU with Mastercard to formalise a Digital State Partnership aimed at delivering world-class solutions that contribute to the rapid digitisation of the state's citizen services. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- During the “WEF Annual Meeting 2022” at Davos:
 - Andhra Pradesh – signed RE pacts of \$16 bn with Adani Green Energy, Greenko, GIC, Aurobindo Realty & Infra
 - Maharashtra – signed 23 MoUs worth \$4 billion (Rs 30,379 Cr) with companies
 - Karnataka + ReNew Power = an MoU worth Rs 50,000 Cr for over next 7 years
 - Telangana + Mastercard = an MoU to formalise a Digital State Partnership

750. On May 31, the Tamil Nadu government signed an MoU with the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) for obtaining life certificate from pensioners through doorstep services of the Postal Department. As per the agreement, the IPPB would render the doorstep services at a cost of Rs 70 per digital life certificate. Over 7.15 lakh State government pensioners/ family pensioners submit their life certificate during July, August and September every year for annual mustering. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu + IPPB = an MoU for obtaining life certificate from pensioners through doorstep services of Postal Dept.
- IPPB would render the doorstep services at a cost of Rs 70 per digital life certificate
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Venkatram Jayanthi | Established on – 1st Sep, 2018





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