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# National & States Affairs

**51.** Sikkim became the first state in the North East to launch the Online Building Permission System (OBPS). The OBPS is aimed at improving service delivery with lesser human interface and more accountability to get building plans passed. Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri launched the OBPS. A symposium on “Urban Development of North Eastern States - Smart City Revolution” was organized by the Sikkim government in collaboration with Ministry of Development of North East Region (DONER) as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mohatsav. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Sikkim – became the first state in the North East to launch the Online Building Permission System (OBPS)
- Sikkim Govt – organized a symposium on “Urban Development of North Eastern States - Smart City Revolution”
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad

**52.** On May 3, Railway Protection Force (RPF) has started “Operation Satark” with an objective of taking action against illicit liquor/FICN/illegal tobacco products/unaccounted gold/cash/precious items being transported through railway network for the purpose of tax evasion/smuggling/commission of crime/acts of terror. Being aware of its responsibility as the first responder in cases of smuggling through rail, RPF took concerted action in such cases and seized smuggled items worth about Rs 3.18 Cr during period from April 5 to April 30, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- RPF started “Operation Satark” to take action against illegal items being transported through railway network
- HQs of RPF – New Delhi, India | Director General – Sanjay Chander

**53.** Jammu & Kashmir will organize the first ever National Film Festival from June 15 to 20 in Srinagar. The film festival will be organized by Jammu and Kashmir Film Development Council in collaboration with National Film Development Corporation and Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. There are over 40 plus awards to be given during the festival award ceremony. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Srinagar (J & K) – to organize the first ever ‘National Film Festival’ from June 15 to 20
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**54.** On May 2, RailTel Corporation of India Ltd designed and established a “Health Cloud” at Visakhapatnam premises of Andhra Pradesh Med Tech Zone (AMTZ). The AMTZ is the world’s first integrated medical device manufacturing hub. The “Health Cloud” at AMTZ was inaugurated by Louise Agersnap, Head of WHO Innovation Hub, WHO-Geneva. The partnership will facilitate Empowering of hospitals in rural areas with hi-tech digital healthcare facilities. RailTel is also providing cloud and connectivity support to Electronic Medical Record Alliance (EMRA). RailTel is a Miniratna Central Government PSU. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- RailTel Corporation of India – designed & established a “Health Cloud” at Visakhapatnam premises of AMTZ
- AMTZ – world’s first integrated medical device manufacturing hub
- HQs of RailTel – New Delhi | CMD of RailTel – Puneet Chawla
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948



**55.** On April 27-28, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), as part its 'Outreach Initiative', is connecting with key stakeholders associated with execution of government schemes at ground level. In continuation with this, Ministry of Tribal Affairs organised two days' workshop in Jharkhand on 'ADIGRAMS' (Adivasi Grants Management System). ADIGRAM is a unique portal which monitors physical and financial progress of the grants given by the Ministry to States and can track the actual utilization of funds. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – organised two days' workshop in Jharkhand on 'ADIGRAMS'
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Ramesh Bais
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Arjun Munda | Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand
- MoS in Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Renuka Singh Saruta & Bishweswar Tudu

**56.** Local women in Surajpur district of Chhattisgarh started 'Chipko movement' (a tree-hugging campaign), as they were being cut for the mining project in Hasdeo Aranya, a forest in Chhattisgarh. The felling of trees in the Surajpur district started after the Chhattisgarh government gave the final clearance to the second phase of the Parsa East Kete Basen coal mines on April 6. Both projects are owned by Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam and operated by the Adani Group. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Local women in Surajpur, Chhattisgarh – started 'Chipko movement' to save trees being cut for the mining project in Hasdeo Aranya forest in Chhattisgarh
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

**57.** The Archaeology and Museums Department of Andhra Pradesh has built a museum in Eluru, where nearly 400 artefacts dating back to the early historic period (from 6<sup>th</sup> Century BC to 4<sup>th</sup> Century BC) to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century AD will be displayed. The Union Ministry of Culture granted ₹3.75 Cr under the 'Upgradation of Museums Scheme' for the ₹5-Cr project in Eluru town. The museum was built on a 2,000 square-yard campus. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Archaeology & Museums Dept of AP – built a museum in Eluru to display 400 artefacts from early historic period
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**58.** Dharam Pal, Chandigarh Adviser, launched the "Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD)" project in Chandigarh. The iRAD is an initiative of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), with an objective to improve road safety in India. The main idea behind it is to create a 'Centralised Accident Database' to host and access all accident related data by various departments/stakeholders. It has been developed by IIT Madras and will be implemented by the National Informatics Centre. As per the 'Road Accident Analysis (RAA) - 2020' report of the Chandigarh Police, the vehicular population (12,34,757) of Chandigarh is 7% more than the city's total human population (11,58,491). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dharam Pal – launched the "Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD)" project in Chandigarh
- 'iRAD' – an initiative of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (developed by IIT Madras)



**59.** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the investment of Rs 4,526.12 Cr for the 540 MW Kwar Hydro-electric project located on Chenab River in Jammu & Kashmir's Kishtwar district. This is part of the Indus basin. Under the '1960 vintage Indus Water Treaty (IWT)' between India and Pakistan, the two countries share the waters of 6 rivers in the Indus basin that flow through India towards Pakistan. The Kwar hydropower project will be implemented by Chenab Valley Power Projects Private Ltd (CVPPL), a JV between NHPC Ltd and J&K State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC). The Kwar Hydro Electric Project shall be commissioned within a span of 54 months. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rs 4,526.12 Cr is approved for 540 MW Kwar Hydro-electric project – located on Chenab River in Kishtwar, J&K
- '1960 vintage Indus Water Treaty (IWT)' – between India & Pakistan
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**60.** Tata Motors' Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TPEM) division unveiled its 'Avinya concept' - based on the pure electric vehicle, GEN 3 architecture. It is expected to be launched in 2025. The concept Avinya, derived from the Sanskrit language, stands for 'Innovation'. This architecture is built with the use of next-gen materials, efficient electronic componentry and proprietary energy management strategies & algorithms for efficiency management. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (Tata Motors' division) – unveiled its first pure EV concept called 'Avinya'
- HQs of Tata Motors – Mumbai, MH | Non-Executive Director & Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran

**61.** On May 4, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched a "Vehicle Movement Tracking System (VMTS)" mobile app that will help in tracking vehicles carrying sand & other mining material. The app will be used at different checkpoints in all the districts of Haryana. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manohar Lal Khattar (Haryana) – launched a "Vehicle Movement Tracking System (VMTS)" mobile app
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

## **International Affairs**

**62.** India is not among the 60 countries that have signed a global declaration to keep the Internet open, free, and neutral. The countries that have signed the declaration include the US, European Union, United Kingdom, Canada, France, etc. Called the "Declaration for the Future of the Internet", the document is an agreement to prevent digital authoritarianism. India, China and Russia are among the large nations that are not part of this declaration. A total of 182 internet crackdowns were reported globally in 2021. Out of 106 shutdowns in India, 85 were reported in Jammu and Kashmir. The number of countries that shut down the internet in 2021 has increased to 34 from 29 in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India, China & Russia are not among the 60 nations who signed "Declaration for the Future of the Internet"
- Total 182 internet crackdowns were reported globally in 2021 | Out of 182: 106 were reported in India (85 in J&K)
- The number of countries that shut down the internet in 2021 increased to 34 (from 29 in 2020)



**63.** On May 1, a statue of Sardar Patel was unveiled at Sanatan Mandir Cultural Centre in Markham, Canada. Sanatan Mandir Cultural Centre (SMCC) is a temple and a cultural centre serving the Hindu Community of the Greater Toronto Area. The SMCC Project was initiated by the Gujarat Samaj of Toronto in 1985 to help, promote and preserve Gujarati and culture. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A statue of Sardar Patel was unveiled at Sanatan Mandir Cultural Centre in Markham, Canada
- [Canada – Ottawa – Canadian Dollar | PM – Justin Trudeau](#)

**64.** The Central African Republic (CAR) became the second country in the world after El Salvador to adopt Bitcoin as legal tender. It is also the first African country to adopt Bitcoin as an official currency. The country adopted Bitcoin as legal tender along with the existing currency, CFA Franc and established a legal and regulatory framework for cryptocurrencies. CFA Franc is the official currency of 6 countries and is governed by the Bank of Central African States (BEAC). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Central African Republic – became 2<sup>nd</sup> country in the world after El Salvador to adopt Bitcoin as legal tender
- [Central African Republic – Bangui – CFA Franc | President – Faustin-Archange Touadera | PM – Felix Moloua](#)

## **Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs**

**65.** The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) increased maximum investment limit of insurers in Banking, Financial Services & Insurance (BFSI) companies to 30% of their assets from 25%, by making changes to the “Investment Regulations, 2016”. Investment in housing financing companies and infrastructure financing companies will be a part of this. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IRDA increased maximum investment limit of insurers in BFSI companies to 30% of their assets (from 25%)
- [HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Executive Dr. – Debasish Panda](#)

**66.** DBS Bank India partnered with Anthill Ventures and Headstart Network Foundation to launch “DBS Business Class foundED”. This forum will be held across cities in India and will celebrate modern-day founders, innovators, and game-changers to foster co-innovation and collaboration in the startup ecosystem. The first event of ‘DBS BusinessClass foundED’ was recently hosted in Hyderabad. Headstart is India’s largest Volunteer-driven, Grassroot level, Startup Ecosystem Enabler. Headstart began operations in 2007 to support startups and entrepreneurs across India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DBS Bank India + Anthill Ventures + Headstart Network Foundation = launched “DBS Business Class foundED”
- The first event of ‘DBS BusinessClass foundED’ was recently hosted in – Hyderabad
- [HQs of DBS Bank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Surojit Shome](#)

**67.** The SEBI modified the operational guidelines for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), Designated Depository Participants (DDPs), and other Eligible Foreign Investors for generating registration number. The above-mentioned modifications came into effect from May 9, 2022. Besides, on January 14, 2022, the SEBI had notified a circular under SEBI FPI Amendment Regulations 2022, for generation of FPIs registration number by the regulator. [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- SEBI modified the operational guidelines for FPIs, DDPs & other Eligible Overseas for generating registration number
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

**68.** On May 3, Bengaluru-based neobank, Open Financial Technologies Pvt Ltd raised \$50 mn in a Series D funding round (led by IIFL Finance Ltd) and reached a valuation of USD 1 billion. With this, India got its 100<sup>th</sup> unicorn. This funding signifies the enthusiasm in the Indian startup ecosystem, which is the world's third-largest according to Economic Survey, 2021-22. India overtook the UK to reach the spot after the US and China, which added 487 and 301 unicorns respectively, according to the survey. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Open Financial Technologies (Bengaluru-based neobank) – became 100<sup>th</sup> unicorn of India
- 'Open' – raised \$50 mn in a Series D funding round (led by IIFL Finance Ltd) & reached a valuation of \$1 billion

**69.** Canara Bank launched 'Skill Loans' in association with the Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP) of Kerala. Loans ranging from ₹5,000 to ₹1.5 lakh can be availed of by students pursuing skill training programmes offered by ASAP Kerala or any other Central or State government-recognised agencies that conduct National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) or National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) courses. The loan will be provided without any collateral and have a repayment period of 3 to 7 years. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Canara Bank + ASAP Kerala – launched 'Skill Loans' for students
- Loans ranging from ₹5,000 to ₹1.5 lakh can be availed without any collateral with a repayment period of 3 to 7 years
- HQs of Canara Bank – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Lingam Venkat Prabhakar
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**70.** The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held an off-cycle meeting on 2 & 4 May, 2022 to reassess the evolving inflation-growth dynamics and the impact of the developments after the MPC meeting of April 6-8, 2022. Based on this assessment of the macroeconomic situation and the outlook, the MPC voted unanimously to increase the policy repo rate by 40 basis points to 4.40 %, with immediate effect. Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate stands adjusted to 4.15%; and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 4.65%. Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) is hiked by 50 bps to 4.50% from 4%. While the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) and Reverse Repo Rate (RRR) stand at the same which is 18% & 3.35% respectively. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held an off-cycle meeting on 2 & 4 May
- Rates after changes made in May 2022:
  - Repo rate – 4.40% | Reverse Repo Rate – 3.35% | Bank Rate or MSF – 4.65%
  - CRR – 4.50% | SLR – 18% | SDF – 4.15% | EPFO – 18.33%
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**71.** On May 3, Non-Banking financial company IIFL Finance Ltd and Open Financial Technologies, Asia's largest SME focused neo-banking platform, announced a joint venture (JV) to launch India's first neobank that would cater to banking and credit requirements of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSMEs). Initial capital of the joint venture company will be Rs 120 Cr. The JV composition between IIFL Finance and Open is 51:49. The name of the joint venture would be IIFL Open Fintech Private Limited. Recently, Open became the 100<sup>th</sup> unicorn as IIFL led a \$50 million series D funding along with existing investors Temasek, Tiger Global and 3one4 Capital. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIFL Finance + Open = JV to launch India's first neobank that would cater to banking & credit requirements of MSMEs
- IIFL Open Fintech Pvt Ltd (JV) = IIFL Finance + Open = 51:49 | Initial capital = Rs 120 Cr
- Open Financial Technologies – became the 100<sup>th</sup> unicorn of India
- HQs of IIFL Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Nirmal Jain | MD – Venkataraman Rajamani

**72.** Union Bank of India (UBI) has become the first public sector lender to go live on the Account Aggregator (AA) Ecosystem, an initiative of the RBI's to improve credit delivery. Any financial information user (FIU) can request data based on a consent given by the customer on their account aggregator handle. The account aggregator (AA) ecosystem went live in September 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UBI – became the first public sector lender to go live on the Account Aggregator (AA) Ecosystem
- 'AA Ecosystem' – an initiative of the RBI's to improve credit delivery
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – "Good People to Bank With"

**73.** On May 1, Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) and Eqaro Surety Pvt Ltd signed an MoU to set up a digital lending platform to provide access to collateral-free capital up to Rs 25 lakh to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). This unique, first time in India initiative will help MSMEs get easier access to credit backed by a surety guarantee without the need to put up collaterals. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- FISME + Eqaro Surety = MoU to set up a digital lending platform to provide access to collateral-free capital up to Rs 25 lakh to MSMEs
- President of FISME – Prashant Patel | CEO of Eqaro – Vikash Khandelwal

## **Defence Affairs**

**74.** As published on May 3, the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) of China launched an unknown missile from the warship Wuxi, a 'Type 055' guided-missile cruiser on April 19. The new weapon is presumed to be an anti-ship ballistic missile, known as 'YJ-21'. If the initial analysis of this YJ-21 is correct, then China becomes the first country in the world to operationally field such a missile from a naval vessel. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PLAN (China) – launched an unknown missile from the warship Wuxi, a 'Type 055' guided-missile cruiser
- The new weapon is presumed to be an anti-ship ballistic missile, known as 'YJ-21'
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping





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## Sports & Games

**75.** On May 4, South African tennis player Kevin Anderson announced his retirement. Anderson ended a 15-year professional career during which he climbed to No. 5 in the ATP Rankings, won 7 ATP Tour titles and reached 2 Grand Slam finals. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Kevin Anderson ([South Africa](#)) – announced retirement from Tennis

## Science & Technology

**76.** On May 3, IIT Hyderabad announced a demonstration of the Extreme Massive MIMO (Multiple-Input Multiple-Output), a key technology that is being considered for 5G-advanced and 6G deployment. Extreme massive MIMO refers to next-generation technology that uses very large antenna arrays. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- IIT Hyderabad – announced a demonstration of ‘Extreme Massive MIMO’ technology for 5G-advanced & 6G deployment
- MIMO – **M**ultiple-**I**nter **M**ultiple-**O**utput
- [Director of IIT Hyderabad – B. S. Murty](#)

**77.** On May 3, Researchers at IIT Mandi have identified a drug molecule called “PK2” that can be used to treat diabetes. The molecule is able to trigger the release of insulin by the pancreas, and can potentially be used as an orally administered medicine for diabetes. The findings of the research have been published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Researchers at IIT Mandi – identified a drug molecule called “PK2” that can be used to treat diabetes
- [Director of IIT Mandi – Prof. Laxmidhar Behera](#)

**78.** On May 4, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced its mission to Venus by December 2024. The mission aims to study what lies below the surface of the solar system's hottest planet, and also unravel the mysteries under the Sulfuric Acid clouds enveloping it. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- ISRO announced its mission to Venus by December 2024
- [HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka](#) | [Director – S. Somanath](#) | [Formed on – August 15, 1969](#)

## Appointments & Resignations

**79.** On May 1, the Central Intelligence Agency’s Director William J. Burns appointed Nand Mulchandani, an Indian-origin person, as the first ever Central Technology Officer (CTO) of the CIA. Before joining the CIA, Mulchandani most recently served as the CTO and acting director of the US Department of Defense’s Joint Artificial Intelligence Center. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Nand Mulchandani – appointed as the first ever Central Technology Officer (CTO) of the Central Intelligence Agency
- HQs of CIA – Virginia, US | Director – William J. Burns

**80.** On May 3, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved appointment of Tarun Kapoor as Adviser to the Prime Minister, in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), in the rank and scale of Secretary to Government of India, for two years. Tarun succeeded Bhaskar Khulbe. Gyanesh Kumar is appointed as Secretary in Ministry of Cooperation. While Alkesh Kumar Sharma is appointed as secretary in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (Meity). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tarun Kapoor – appointed as Adviser to the Prime Minister in the PMO (succeeding - Bhaskar Khulbe)
- Gyanesh Kumar – appointed as Secretary in Ministry of Cooperation
- Alkesh Kumar Sharma – appointed as Secretary in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology

**81.** On May 4, IBM Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Arvind Krishna is elected to the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. He is elected as a Class B director for 3-year term ending December 31, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arvind Krishna – elected to the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York

## Important Days & Dates

**82.** International Firefighters' Day (IFFD) is celebrated every year on 4 May to honour the work of firefighting professionals. International Firefighters Day was instituted after the tragic death of five firefighters who lost their lives while trying to douse a wildfire in Australia in 1998. The day also marks the Saint Florian's Day, the first known commander of a firefighting squad in the Roman era who lost his life while performing his duty. Red and Blue ribbon, pinned together, is the significant symbol of this day. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 4 – International Firefighters' Day & Saint Florian's Day

**83.** On 4 May, Coal Miners Day is observed annually to highlight one of the toughest professions- those working in coal fields or mines. In India, the coal mining business began in 1774. It was when the East India Company exploited the Raniganj coalfield which is located in the Asansol and Durgapur region. In FY 2020-21, Chhattisgarh had registered the highest coal production of 158.409 MT, followed by Odisha, Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 4 – Coal Miners Day
- Chhattisgarh – registered the highest coal production in FY21



**84.** Ayushman Bharat Yojana, also known as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), was started by PM Narendra Modi in 2018. Since then, 30 April is celebrated as Ayushman Bharat Diwas. This day is celebrated with the aim to spread awareness among the people in rural areas about the government's healthcare scheme. As per a PTI report, India has operationalised 75,532 Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres (HCW) so far. India is on track to functionalise 1.5 lakh HWCs by December 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- April 30 – Ayushman Bharat Diwas
- Ayushman Bharat Yojana or PMJAY – launched by PM Modi in 2018

**85.** World Hand Hygiene Day is observed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on May 5 every year. In 2022, the slogan or motto of the day is "Unite for Safety: Clean Your Hands". While the theme is focused on recognizing that we can add to a facility's Climate or Culture of Safety and Quality through cleaning our hands. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 5 – World Hand Hygiene Day
- Slogan/motto – "Unite for Safety: Clean Your Hands"

## Books & Authors

**86.** The Bengali version of "Reporting India: My Seventy-Year Journey as a Journalist", authored by veteran journalist Prem Prakash, was released in Kolkata recently. The book, initially launched in 2020, was named by the Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF) as the Book of the Year in the non-fiction category in 2021. The book provides a detailed account of the Prem Prakash's professional life and the stories he covered from Jawaharlal Nehru's demise to the rise of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bengali version of "Reporting India: My Seventy-Year Journey as a Journalist" was released in Kolkata recently
- Author – Prem Prakash

## Obituaries

**87.** On May 4, British racing driver Charles Anthony Standish Brooks, known as Tony Brooks passed away at the age of 90. He was nicknamed the 'Racing Dentist' who was Formula One's last surviving grand prix winner from the 1950s and also finished second in the 1959 World Championship. He won 6 Grand Prix during his sports life. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Charles Anthony Standish Brooks ('Tony Brooks') – a British Racing Driver – passed away (winner of 6 Grand Prix)
- His nick name – 'Racing Dentist'



# Meetings, Conferences & Summits

**88.** The Indian Air Force (IAF) organized a national seminar on Logistics Management “LOGISEM VAYU - 2022” at Air Force Auditorium, New Delhi. A document on logistics philosophy of IAF titled ‘Tenets of Logistics’ and a book on history of Logistics in IAF titled ‘Footprints in Sands of Time’ were released. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- IAF organized a national seminar on Logistics Management “LOGISEM VAYU - 2022” in New Delhi
- ‘Tenets of Logistics’ document & ‘Footprints in Sands of Time’ book were released during seminar
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh

**89.** NITI Aayog, as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, organized a National Level Workshop on “Innovative Agriculture” in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The workshop had four technical sessions: (i) a panel discussion on natural farming in States, (ii) natural farming for soil health restoration and climate change mitigation, (iii) promotion of natural farming, and (iv) innovations in natural farming. A bilingual compendium of success stories of natural farming, comprising of 110 success stories from 13 states across India, was released during the event. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NITI Aayog – organized a National Level Workshop on “Innovative Agriculture” in New Delhi
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Suman Bery



## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**90.** Indian paddler Manika Batra attained a career-high women's singles ranking of 38 with a jump of 10 spots, while G. Sathiyam was the best placed Indian male at 34, in the latest “International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Rankings 2022” published on May 3. While Sharath Kamal (37) and G. Sathiyam are the only two Indian male players in the top-100, there are four Indians in the women's category (Manika Batra, Sreeja Akula, Archana Kamath, Reeth Tennison). In the men's doubles, G Sathiyam and Harmeet Desai are ranked 28<sup>th</sup>. While in the women's doubles, Manika Batra and Archana Kamath are ranked at 4<sup>th</sup> position. In the mixed doubles, Manika and Sathiyam are ranked 6<sup>th</sup>. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- “International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Rankings 2022” – published on May 3
- Women’s Singles (in top 100): Manika Batra (38<sup>th</sup>), Sreeja Akula, Archana Kamath, Reeth Tennison
- Men’s Singles (in top 100): G. Sathiyam (34), Sharath Kamal (37)
- Women’s Doubles: Manika Batra & Archana Kamath – 4<sup>th</sup>
- Men’s Doubles: G Sathiyam & Harmeet Desai – 28<sup>th</sup>
- Mixed Doubles: Manika Batra & G Sathiyam – 6<sup>th</sup>



**91.** Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka host a large share of India's threatened and endemic species of amphibians, birds and mammals, according to a new study published in Environmental Research Letters. The three states account for 51% of India's STAR (Species Threat Abatement & Restoration) Score. A higher STAR score indicates greater presence of threatened species. India's total national STAR score was 41,817, of which 11,585 was for mammals, 10,843 for birds and 19,389 for amphibians. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kerala, Tamil Nadu & Karnataka – account for 51% of India's STAR Score (**Species Threat Abatement & Restoration**)
- India's total national STAR Score – 41,817

**92.** As on May 2022, India's ranking in the 2022 World Press Freedom Index has fallen to 150 (with a score of 41) out of 180 countries, according to the latest report released by the global media watchdog, Reporters Without Borders (RSF). In last year's report, India was ranked 142. The top three positions for countries with the highest press freedom are - Norway (92.65), Denmark (90.27) and Sweden (88.84). North Korea ranked the last at 180<sup>th</sup> position. Countries are evaluated on five contextual indicators: political context, legal framework, economic context, socio-cultural context, and safety. The report describes India as "one of the world's most dangerous countries for the media". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "2022 World Press Freedom Index" – released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
- Rankings: India – 150 | 1<sup>st</sup> – Norway, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Denmark, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sweden | Last (180<sup>th</sup>) – North Korea

**93.** The world will face around 560 disasters every year by 2030, according to the "Global Assessment Report (GAR 2022)" on disaster risk reduction, released by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). As per the report, the world has experienced 350-500 medium to large-scale disasters every year over the last 20 years. This is five times higher than the previous three decades. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Global Assessment Report (GAR 2022)" on Disaster Risk Reduction – released by UNDRR
- The world will face around 560 disasters every year by 2030
- HQs of UNDRR – Geneva, Switzerland | Head – Mami Mizutori

**94.** Due to low penetration of insurance products in the fisheries sector, the "World review of capture fisheries and aquaculture insurance 2022" report, released by the Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO), suggested involvement of public and private insurance service providers to undertake proactive measures to turn the tide on fisheries and aquaculture insurance in India. Mariculture, the future source of marine fish, also requires insurance coverage and to be viable in the long run. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "World Review of Capture Fisheries & Aquaculture Insurance 2022" report – released by FAO
- The report suggested insurance service providers to increase penetration of insurance products in the fisheries sector
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1945



# MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**95.** NTPC GE Power Services Ltd (NGSL) signed a Memorandum of Engagement (MoE) with the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB) & Procorp Enertech Private Ltd (PEPL) to explore business opportunities in the renewable sector in Africa. They will work towards the development of ground-mounted and floating solar PV projects in the Lake region of Kenya. The MoE was signed during the visit of a 20-member high-level delegation from LREB, Kenya. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NGSL + LREB + PEPL = an MoE to explore business opportunities in the renewable sector in Africa
- Kenya – Nairobi – Kenyan Shilling | President – Uhuru Kenyatta

**96.** On May 1, Red Shield Division of Indian Army under the aegis of Spear Corps signed a tripartite agreement with State Bank of India Foundation (SBIF) and National Integrity and Educational Development Organization (NIEDO) to establish 'Red Shield Centre for Excellence and Wellness' in Manipur's Bishnupur district. The project 'Manipur Super 50' is expected to be fully functional for the first batch of 50 students by the first week of July, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Red Shield Division of Indian Army + SBIF + NIEDO = an agreement for project 'Manipur Super 50'
- 'Red Shield Centre for Excellence & Wellness' – to be established in Manipur's Bishnupur district
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – La. Ganesan
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju

**97.** Maharashtra government's Medical Education and Drugs Department (MEDD) and International Finance Corporation (IFC) collaborated to prioritise health care projects with emphasis on Medical Education under the public-private partnership (PPP) model in Maharashtra. IFC will be the transaction advisor for the PPPs to develop super-specialty hospitals and medical education facilities across the state. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Maharashtra + IFC = collaborated to prioritise health care projects with emphasis on Medical Education
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**98.** Ayana Renewable Power Pvt Ltd and Greenstat Hydrogen India Pvt Ltd collaborated for the development of Green Hydrogen projects powered by renewable energy in India. The first pilot project will come up in Karnataka. Ayana Renewable Power is backed by National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and Greenstat Hydrogen India is a subsidiary of Norway-based Greenstat ASA. This partnership supports the National Hydrogen Mission with an aim to make India a global hub for production, and export of green hydrogen. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Ayana Renewable Power + Greenstat Hydrogen India = collaborated for the development of Green Hydrogen projects
- The first pilot project will come up in – Karnataka
- Greenstat Hydrogen India – a subsidiary of Greenstat ASA (Norway)
- Norway – Oslo – Krone | PM – Jonas Gahr Store



**99.** On May 3, Germany committed to provide additional support worth euro 10 billion to India by 2030 to support green growth initiatives. The commitment came during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Germany. Both sides launched Indo-Germany partnership on green and sustainable development. Moreover, India and Germany also decided to launch a Green Hydrogen Taskforce. The countries also decided to negotiate a bilateral agreement on a comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Germany – to provide additional support of euro 10 billion to India by 2030 to support Green Growth Initiatives
- India + Germany = decided to launch a 'Green Hydrogen Taskforce'
- [Germany – Berlin – Euro](#) | [President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier](#)

**100.** ReNew Power signed 5 power purchase agreements (PPAs) with Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd (PSPCL) for the supply of around 1,500 MW electricity generated from solar plants. Four solar PPAs have been signed with SECI and one with PSPCL. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ReNew Power – signed 5 PPAs with SECI & PSPCL for the supply of around 1,500 MW Solar Energy
- [HQs of ReNew Power – Gurugram, Haryana](#) | [MD & Chairman – Sumant Sinha](#)
- [HQs of SECI – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman – Jatindra Nath Swain](#) | [MD – Suman Sharma](#) | [Founded on – Sep 9, 2011](#)





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