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# National & States Affairs

**251.** On May 6, Central Zoo Authority of India has given nod to India's first safari dedicated to gaurs to come up in Shivamogga district of Karnataka. The gaur also known as the Indian bison, has been listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List since 1986. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Central Zoo Authority of India – gave nod to India's 1<sup>st</sup> safari dedicated to gaurs to come up in Shivamogga, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot

**252.** In May 2022, Azure Power successfully commissioned its 90 MW solar power project in Assam, the largest in the state. The 90 MW capacity is spread across four districts in the state - Udalguri, Kamrup, Nagaon, and Cachar. Following this commissioning, Azure Power now has an operational capacity of over 2,900 MW of high-performing renewable energy assets in India. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Azure Power – commissioned Assam's largest 90 MW solar power project across 4 districts
- HQs of Azure Power Global Ltd – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Ranjit Gupta | Founded in – 2008

**253.** On May 7, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla launched the Kalam website, a literary initiative by the Prabha Khaitan Foundation (PKF) to support and encourage vernacular literature. The Kalam website aims to popularize and provide a platform for veteran and young authors and poets to talk about their writings and love for vernacular literature. The PKF is a Kolkata-based non-profit trust, dedicated to socio-cultural welfare and humanitarian causes. Kalam was launched in the summer of 2015 in Patna and Jaipur. It has conducted over 550 sessions spread over 40 Indian cities and overseas since then. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Om Birla – launched the 'Kalam' website, a literary initiative by the PKF to support & encourage vernacular literature
- PKF – Kolkata-based non-profit trust

**254.** On May 10, Maharashtra Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray inaugurated India's first organic waste-powered EV charging station at Keshavrao Khadye road near Haji Ali in Mumbai. The first-of-its-kind EV charging station is powered by bio-gas and it will generate 220 units of electricity from food waste collected from its nearby areas. The project is a joint venture between the Civic Body and AeroCare Clean Energy. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Maharashtra – inaugurated India's first organic waste-powered EV Charging Station at Keshavrao Khadye road, Mumbai
- The project is a JV between = Civic Body + AeroCare Clean Energy
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**255.** On May 10, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog launched the "AIM-PRIME Playbook" to help academicians launch deep-tech Enterprises. The AIM PRIME (Program for Researchers in Innovation, Market Readiness and Entrepreneurship) program is aimed at promoting early-stage science-based, deep technology ideas to market through training and guidance over a period of 12 months using a blended learning curriculum. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- AIM, NITI Aayog – launched the “AIM-PRIME Playbook” to help academicians launch deep-tech Enterprises
- HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav | Launched in – 2016 (a flagship initiative of NITI Aayog)

**256.** On May 9, RailTel launched “Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI)” scheme based access to its Public WiFi services across 100 railway stations having 2,384 WiFi hotspots in 22 states. PM-WANI is an ambitious program of the Department of Telecom (DoT) to connect all silo Wi-Fi networks for ease of use and proliferate broadband usage for the masses. The WiFi network of the RailTel is now spread at 6,102 railway stations across the country and has 17,792 WiFi hotspots. [{Read more}](#)

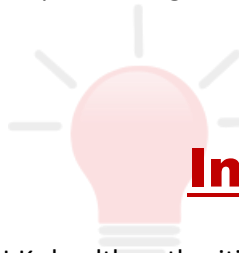
**Key Points:**

- RailTel – launched “PM-WANI” scheme based access to its Public WiFi services across 100 railway stations in 22 states
- ‘PM-WANI’ is an ambitious program of – Department of Telecom (DoT)
- HQs of RailTel – New Delhi | CMD – Puneet Chawla

**257.** On May 10, PM Narendra Modi paid homage to all martyrs of the 1857 uprising against the British empire (also known as India’s First War of Independence or Indian Rebellion of 1857) for their outstanding courage. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PM Narendra Modi – paid homage to all martyrs of the ‘1857 Uprising’ or ‘Indian Rebellion of 1857’ on May 10



## **International Affairs**

**258.** On May 8, the U.K. health authorities have confirmed a case of Monkeypox, which is a virus passed from infected animals such as rodents to humans. The U.K. Health Security Agency (UKHSA) informed that monkeypox is a rare viral infection that does not spread easily between people and is usually a mild “self-limiting illness” and most people recover within a few weeks. It can be spread when someone is in close contact with an infected person. The virus can enter the body through broken skin, the respiratory tract or through the eyes, nose or mouth. The first-ever recorded occurrence of the monkeypox virus in the U.K. was in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UK Health Authorities – confirmed a case of ‘Monkeypox’, a rare viral infection
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

**259.** On May 9, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have created a new “UK India Industry Taskforce”, a joint commission to increase cross-industry collaboration and push the ‘UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA)’. The trade deal is also expected to boost Britain’s total trade by as much as 28 billion pounds (USD 34 billion) a year by 2035 and increase wages across the UK regions by 3 billion pounds (USD 3.6 billion). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CBI (UK) + CII (India) = created a new “UK India Industry Taskforce” to facilitate free trade deal
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson



# Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

**260.** On May 9, HDFC Bank has launched “Xpress Car Loans” - an end-to-end digital new car loan journey for existing customers as well as non-customers. This industry first facility is expected to revolutionise the way car financing is done in India. The bank has integrated its lending application with automobile dealers across India. The Indian automotive industry is poised to become the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in the world in the next 5-7 years. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- HDFC Bank – launched “Xpress Car Loans” - an end-to-end digital new car loan journey
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”

**261.** In May 2022, Vietnam has opened world’s longest Glass-bottomed Bridge, surpassing the one in Guangdong, China. The pedestrian bridge is called ‘Bach Long’, which translates to ‘White Dragon’. The Bach Long is Vietnam’s third glass bridge. The Bridge is 632m (2,073ft) long and it is located at the height of 150m (492ft). [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Vietnam – opened world’s longest Glass-bottomed Bridge called ‘Bach Long’ | Length – 632m (2,073ft)
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Pham Minh Chinh | President – Nguyen Xuan Phuc

**262.** On May 7, Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman addressed the Silver Jubilee (25<sup>th</sup> anniversary) Celebration of India’s largest depository, National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), in Mumbai. From an average of 4 lakh new demat accounts opened every month in 2019-20, it tripled to 12 lakh per month in 2020-21 and has further increased to around 26 lakh per month in 2021-22, the Finance Minister highlighted. As part of the celebration, the Finance Minister also launched “Market ka Eklavya”, an online investor awareness program for students in Hindi & other regional languages. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Nirmala Sitharaman – addressed the Silver Jubilee (25<sup>th</sup> anniversary) Celebration of the “NSDL” in Mumbai
- Around 26 lakh new demat accounts opened every month in 2021-22
- Nirmala Sitharaman – also launched “Market ka Eklavya”, an online investor awareness program for students

**263.** India’s flagship digital payments platform - Unified Payments Interface (UPI) saw its highest ever number of transactions in April 2022 at 5.58 billion, amounting to Rs 9.83 trillion, up 33% compared to previous month. In March, UPI processed 5.4 billion transactions amounting to Rs 9.6 trillion for the first time. However, year-on-year (YoY), the volume of transactions jumped 111% and value of transactions increased by almost 100%. In FY22, UPI processed more than 46 billion transactions, amounting to over Rs 84.17 trillion. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- UPI – saw highest ever number of transactions in April 2022 at 5.58 billion, amounting to Rs 9.83 trillion
- In March, UPI processed 5.4 billion transactions amounting to Rs 9.6 trillion for the first time

**264.** Life Insurance Corporation’s IPO, the country’s biggest public offer, was subscribed 2.95 times on the last day of offer period on May 9, helping the government mobilise about Rs 21,000 Cr. Against 16,20,78,067 shares on offer, 47,83,25,760 bids were received. LIC had fixed the price band at Rs 902-949 per equity share for the issue. The retail investors and eligible employees received a discount of Rs 45 per equity share, while policyholders received a discount of Rs 60 per share. With this, the government diluted 3.5% stake in the insurance behemoth through the Offer for Sale (OFS). [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- With LIC's IPO – government mobilised about Rs 21,000 Cr against 16,20,78,067 shares (3.5% stake)
- LIC had fixed the price band at Rs 902-949 per equity share for the issue
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”

**265.** The SEBI has granted recognition to NSDL Database Management Ltd (NDML) as an Accreditation Agency for 3 years. The NDML will issue accreditation certificate to “accredited investors”. The NDML is a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL). Earlier, SEBI had granted recognition to CDSL Ventures, a wholly-owned subsidiary of depository CDSL, as an Accreditation Agency for a period of three years with effect from February 1, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI – granted recognition to NDML as an Accreditation Agency for 3 years
- SEBI – also granted recognition to CDSL Ventures as an Accreditation Agency for 3 years (from Feb 1, 2022)
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

**266.** On May 10, Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) launched a clutch of digital products, including Mahabank Leads, Mahabank Kisan Credit Card (MKCC), Virtual Visiting Card (V-Card), as part of its strategy to harness digital banking channels to the optimum level. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BoM – launched Mahabank Leads, Mahabank Kisan Credit Card (MKCC) & Virtual Visiting Card (V-Card)
- HQs of BoM – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – A S Rajeev | Tagline – “One Family One Bank”

**267.** On May 8, Bharti AXA Life Insurance launched its financial literacy campaign ‘InspiHE₹ - enabling an Empowered Future’ - a special initiative to spread financial awareness among women and enable them to make informed financial decisions for a secured future. The campaign was launched in line with “International Mother’s Day” (May 8) and ahead of the “International Day of Families” (May 15). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bharti AXA Life Insurance – launched its financial literacy campaign “InspiHE₹ - enabling an Empowered Future”
- HQs of Bharti AXA Life Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Parag Raja

**268.** On May 10, ICICI Bank announced signed an MoU with Britain-based Santander bank, aimed at facilitating the banking requirements of corporates operating across both countries. The partnership is aimed at serving the banking needs of the corporate ecosystem in the growing UK-India corridor. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ICICI Bank + Santander bank (Britain) = an MoU to facilitate the banking requirements of corporates
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Taglines – “Hum Hain Na!” & “Khayal Apka”

**269.** On May 10, Union Minister for MSME Narayan Rane addressed the “National conference of MSME-Development Institutes, Testing Centres and Technology Centres” held in New Delhi. In the conference, the minister launched the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of “MSME RuPAY Credit Card” with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and four banks, viz. Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bank of Baroda, SBM Bank (India) and HDFC Bank. [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- “National conference of MSME-Development Institutes, Testing Centres & Technology Centres” – held in New Delhi
- Narayan Rane – launched the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of “MSME RuPAY Credit Card” (with NPCI & 4 banks)
- Ministry of MSME: Narayan Rane | Constituency – Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of MSME: Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

## Defence Affairs

**270.** The Assam Rifles felicitated the surviving soldiers of “Operation Dudhi”, marked as the most successful counter-insurgency operation in India’s defence history. On May 3, 1991, a 15-member column of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion had moved from Chowkibal for a routine patrol to check the winter-vacated post of Dudhi. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Assam Rifles – felicitated the surviving soldiers of “Operation Dudhi” (most successful counter-insurgency operation)
- “Operation Dudhi” – conducted by Assam Rifles on May 3, 1991
- HQs of Assam Rifles – Shillong, Meghalaya | DG – Lt. Gen. Pradeep Chandran Nair
- Assam Rifles – popularly known as “Sentinels of the Northeast” (India’s oldest Paramilitary Force)



## Sports & Games

**271.** On May 9, Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Tepe Sigeman Chess Tournament. The 18-year old Erigaisi drew his final round game against higher-rated Czech opponent David Navara. The tournament was won by American Hans Moke Niemann. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Arjun Erigaisi – finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the “Tepe Sigeman Chess Tournament”
- Tournament was won by – Hans Moke Niemann (US)

## Persons in News

**272.** A Nepalese Sherpa scaled Mount Everest for a record 26<sup>th</sup> time, beating his own previous record set last year. The 52-year old Kami Rita Sherpa scaled the 8,848.86-metre mountain on May 7. He first summited the peak in 1994. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Kami Rita Sherpa (Nepal) – scaled world’s highest peak ‘Mount Everest’ for the 26<sup>th</sup> time (breaking his own record)
- Argentina – Buenos Aires – Peso | President – Alberto Fernandez



# Science & Technology

**273.** On May 8, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which has been working in Rakhi Garhi in Haryana for the last 32 years, made one of its biggest discoveries yet with the excavation of a 5000-year-old jewellery making factory. Rakhigarhi or Rakhi Garhi is a village and one of the oldest archaeological sites belonging to the Indus Valley Civilisation in Hisar district of Haryana. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- ASI discovered a 5000-year-old jewellery making factory in Haryana's Indus Valley site Rakhigarhi
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya
- HQs of ASI – New Delhi | Director General – V. Vidyavathi

**274.** The 'Kadiri-Lepakshi 1812', developed at Kadiri Agriculture Research Station in a three-way cross and notified by the National Varietal Committee, is a new variety of Groundnut. A major advantage of the Kadiri-Lepakshi variety is it contains 28% of proteins and 51% of oil compared to 48% in K-6 variety. The seed was developed in Andhra Pradesh. This variety is said to be drought-resistant and can withstand inundation of fields due to untimely excess rainfall just before harvest. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 'Kadiri-Lepakshi 1812' – a new drought-resistant variety of Groundnut
- This variety contains 28% of proteins and 51% of oil | The seed was developed in – Andhra Pradesh

**275.** On May 9, Bengaluru-based Bellatrix Aerospace has tested an Eco-friendly Propulsion System for satellites that cuts a new path from the hydrazine-dependent fuel systems and offers a potential 20% jump in fuel efficiency for space satellites. Bellatrix's recent testing of its Green Propulsion System also marks a key inflection point in the startup's journey in building a space taxi system for satellites. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Bellatrix Aerospace – tested 'Eco-friendly Propulsion System' that offers a 20% hike in fuel efficiency for space satellites
- HQs of Bellatrix Aerospace – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Ganapathy | Established in – 2015

# Appointments & Resignations

**276.** On May 10, Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr., commonly referred to as Bongbong Marcos, is elected as the President of Philippines. He is associated with 'Partido Federal ng Pilipinas' political party. He previously served as a Senator of the Philippines from 2010 to 2016. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. – elected as the President of Philippines
- Philippines – Manila – Peso | President – Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr.





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# Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**277.** On May 10, “Pulitzer Prize 2022” winners in Journalism, Books, Drama and Music were announced. The winner’s list included four Indians - Adnan Abidi, Sanna Irshad Mattoo, Amit Dave, and the late Danish Siddiqui of Reuters, who were awarded “2022 Pulitzer Prizes” in Journalism. Danish Siddiqui posthumously won the ‘Pulitzer Prize 2022’ for images of COVID’s toll in India. Journalists from Ukraine were recognised with a ‘2022 Pulitzer Prize Special Citation’. While the list for Books, Drama and Music included, “The Netanyahu” novel by Joshua Cohen for Fiction, “Fat Ham” by James Ijames for Drama, “Covered with Night” book Nicole Eustace & “Cuba: An American History” by Ada Ferrer for History, “Frank: sonnets” by Diane Seuss for Poetry, “Voiceless Mass” by Raven Chacon for Music. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- “Pulitzer Prize 2022” winners in Journalism, Books, Drama & Music are announced
- Four Indians winners in Journalism: Adnan Abidi, Sanna Irshad Mattoo, Amit Dave & late Danish Siddiqui
- Journalists from Ukraine – recognised with a ‘2022 Pulitzer Prize Special Citation’
- “Pulitzer Prize 2022” winners in Books, Drama & Music:
  - Fiction: “The Netanyahu” novel by Joshua Cohen
  - Drama: “Fat Ham” by James Ijames
  - History: “Covered with Night” book Nicole Eustace & “Cuba: An American History” by Ada Ferrer
  - Poetry: “Frank: sonnets” by Diane Seuss
  - Music: “Voiceless Mass” by Raven Chacon

**278.** On May 11, noted architect Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi has been conferred with prestigious “Royal Gold Medal 2022”, which is considered as the world’s highest honours for architecture. The president of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Simon Allford presented the medal to the renowned architect in person at his residence in Ahmedabad. The Ahmedabad-based distinguished architect is among the rare people to have been awarded both the Royal Gold Medal and the Pritzker Architecture Prize in their lifetime. In India, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2020. He is also the recipient of the French ‘Global Award for Lifetime Achievement for Sustainable Architecture’ by the Institut Francais d’architecture, Paris. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi – conferred with “Royal Gold Medal 2022”, world’s highest honor for architecture
- He is among the rare people to have been awarded both the ‘Royal Gold Medal’ & ‘Pritzker Architecture Prize’

# Schemes & Initiatives

**279.** On May 11, the Haryana government launched the “Chara-Bijae Yojana” to encourage farmers to grow fodder and help gaushalas, which have been grappling with fodder shortage amid a rise in the stray cattle population. Under the scheme, farmers who have tied up with gaushalas, will be eligible to receive a financial aid of ₹10,000 per acre for up to 10 acres under fodder cultivation. The number of cow shelters in the state increased from 175 in 2017 to 600 in 2022. [{Read more}](#)





**Key Points:**

- Haryana – launched the “Chaara-Bijae Yojana” to encourage farmers to grow fodder & help gaushalas
- Under the scheme, farmers will be eligible to receive a financial aid of ₹10,000 per acre for up to 10 acres
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya](#)

**280.** Telangana state government announced extension of insurance coverage to handloom and power loom weavers under ‘Nethanna Bima’ (Weaver’s Insurance) Scheme. The State Government issued orders to extend insurance coverage to Rs 5 lakh. Over Rs 29 Cr have been sanctioned for implementing the scheme during the current year. The insurance coverage will be extended to weavers in the age group of 18 to 59 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Telangana – extended insurance coverage to handloom & power loom weavers under ‘Nethanna Bima’ Scheme
- The insurance coverage will be extended to weavers in the age group of 18 to 59 years
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

**281.** The Delhi Cabinet has approved the implementation of the Delhi Start-up Policy, under which start-ups would get collateral-free loans and other benefits. CM Kejriwal announced that entrepreneurship classes and a ‘Business Blasters’ program would be introduced at college-levels after their grand success in schools. The Delhi government would pay up to 50% of the rent of a start-up’s office lease. The policy aims to encourage, facilitate and support 15,000 start-ups by 2030. A monitoring committee will be formed to oversee the Delhi Start-up Policy which will be headed by the finance minister of the Delhi government. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Delhi Cabinet – approved the implementation of the ‘Delhi Start-up Policy’
- ‘Business Blasters’ program – to be introduced at college-levels after their grand success in schools
- Delhi government would pay up to 50% of the rent of a start-up’s office lease
- [Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar](#)

**282.** On May 8, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched “Ladli Laxmi scheme-2.0” during a state-level function at Lal Parade Ground in Bhopal. During the function, Chief Minister also dedicated the ‘Ladli e-Samvad’ app to establish a continuous dialogue with Ladlis. It is an innovative initiative to encourage daughters to pursue higher education and make them self-dependent. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Madhya Pradesh – launched “Ladli Laxmi scheme-2.0”
- Shivraj Singh Chouhan (MP) – dedicated the ‘Ladli e-Samvad’ app to establish a continuous dialogue with Ladlis
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel](#)



# Important Days & Dates

**283.** World Password Day is observed on the first Thursday of May across the globe. In 2022, the 8<sup>th</sup> World Password Day was marked on 5 May. The aim of World Password Day is to create awareness about the need for strong password security. In 2005, author Mark Brunett discussed the idea of celebrating a day of passwords through his book titled Perfect Passwords. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- May 5 (first Thursday of May) – 8<sup>th</sup> World Password Day
- Author Mark Brunett – discussed the idea of celebrating a day of passwords through his book “Perfect Passwords”

**284.** In 2019, the 40<sup>th</sup> session of UNESCO’s General Conference decided to proclaim 5 May of each year as “World Portuguese Language Day”. The date of 5 May was officially established in 2009 by the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP). [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- May 5 – World Portuguese Language Day (since 2019)
- UN language days:
  - Arabic (18 December)
  - Chinese (20 April)
  - English (23 April)
  - French (20 March)
  - Russian (6 June)
  - Spanish (23 April)



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**285.** The United Nations marked the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the “International Argan Day” or “International Day of Argania” on May 10, 2022. In 2022, the theme is “The Argan tree, Symbol of Resilience”. The argan tree (*Argania spinosa*) is a native species of the sub-Saharan region of Morocco and it is endemic to Morocco. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- May 10 – 2<sup>nd</sup> “International Argan Day” or “International Day of Argania” by – UN
- 2022’s theme – “The Argan tree, Symbol of Resilience”
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Formed in – October 24, 1945

**286.** The birth anniversary of the 13<sup>th</sup> king of Mewar, Maharana Pratap, was celebrated on May 9. According to the Hindi calendar the warrior king’s birth anniversary is on the Tritiya tithi of Jyeshtha’s Shukla Paksha. Maharana Pratap was born in Kumbhalgarh Fort (Pali). [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- May 9 – birth anniversary of Maharana Pratap (the 13<sup>th</sup> king of Mewar)

**287.** The National Technology Day is celebrated every year on 11 May, the day reminds Indians of the country’s technological advancements. The day was first celebrated in 1999. It was officially declared by the Late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee after the 5 nuclear tests were carried out on May 11, 1998. The date also commemorates the day on which India successfully conducted the Pokhran nuclear test (Pokhran II) code-named Operation Shakti on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1998. Initially the code name of the nuclear test was ‘Smiling Buddha’. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- May 11 – “National Technology Day” (since 1999)
- The day commemorates ‘Pokhran II’ nuclear test code-named “Operation Shakti” or “Smiling Buddha”

**288.** Every year, Russia celebrates “Victory Day” on May 9 to commemorate the Soviet Union’s victory over Germany’s Nazi forces in World War II. Over 8 million (80 lakh) Russian soldiers are estimated to have died during World War II. Russia and other parts of the erstwhile Soviet Union refer to the Second World War as the Great Patriotic War. The erstwhile Soviet Union first celebrated Victory Day on May 9, 1945. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

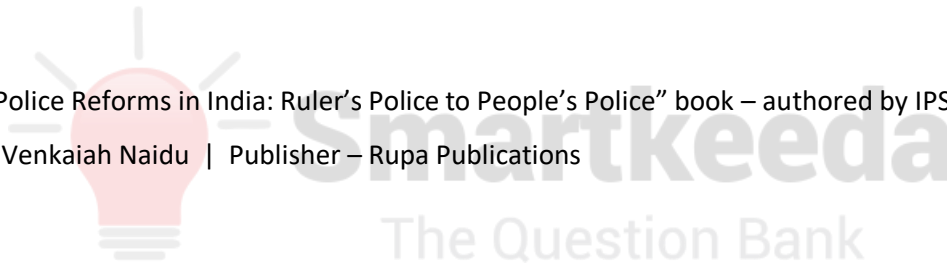
- May 9 – “Victory Day” celebrated by Russia
- The day commemorates the Soviet Union’s victory over Germany’s Nazi forces in World War II

## **Books & Authors**

**289.** On May 8, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu released the book titled ‘The Struggle for Police Reforms in India: Ruler’s Police to People’s Police’ written by former IPS officer Prakash Singh. The book was published by Rupa Publications. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “The Struggle for Police Reforms in India: Ruler’s Police to People’s Police” book – authored by IPS Prakash Singh
- Launched by – M. Venkaiah Naidu | Publisher – Rupa Publications



## **Obituaries**

**290.** On May 10, Legendary musician & Santoor maestro Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma passed away at the age of 84. Often remembered for his jugalbandi with Pt Hari Prasad Chaurasia, he also composed music for several Bollywood films. He was honoured with Padma Shri in 1991 and Padma Vibhushan in 2001 in the field of Arts. His autobiography “Journey with a Hundred Strings: My Life in Music” was co-written with author Ina Puri. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma – Legendary musician & Santoor maestro – passed away (Padma Shri awardee in 1991)
- Autobiography – “Journey with a Hundred Strings: My Life in Music” (co-written with author Ina Puri)

**291.** On May 11, Veteran Congress leader and former Union minister Pandit Sukh Ram passed away at the age of 94. He served as Minister of Communication & Information Technology (I/C) from 1993 to 1996. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pandit Sukh Ram – Congress leader & former Minister of Communication & IT – passed away



**292.** On May 11, Ukraine's first president Leonid Kravchuk passed away at the age of 88. President Volodymyr Zelensky described Kravchuk as a "historic figure". He won the first-ever national presidential election in Ukraine in 1991. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Leonid Kravchuk – Ukraine's first president – passed away (He won the presidential election in Ukraine in 1991)
- [Ukraine – Kyiv – Ukrainian hryvnia | President – Volodymyr Zelensky](#)

## **Meetings, Conferences and Summits**

**293.** Union Minister, for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav delivered National Statement at the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of Parties (COP15) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) hosted from 9 to 20 May, 2022 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. India handed over the presidency to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire. COP15's theme is "Land. Life. Legacy: From Scarcity to Prosperity". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bhupender Yadav – delivered National Statement at the COP15 of the UNCCD – hosted in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
- Theme of the COP15 – "Land. Life. Legacy: From Scarcity to Prosperity"

## **Ranks, Reports & Surveys**

**294.** In May 2022, the Central government published the "Civil Registration System (CRS) Report 2020" based on birth and death reports. CRS is a universal, continuous, compulsory and permanent recording of birth, death and stillbirth, stated the data. Registration of birth and death is done under a central Act "Registration of Birth and Death Act (RBD), 1969". According to CRS, death registration has increased by 4.75 lakh in the year 2020 as compared to 2019. Out of the total registered deaths, the share of males and females is 60.2% and 39.8%. According to the data released, the number of claims settled and ex-gratia relief from SDRF (as of 24 March 2022) is 7, 24,279. Bihar saw the maximum increase in the death rate with 18.3%, followed by Maharashtra & Assam. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Central government published the "Civil Registration System (CRS) Report 2020" based on birth & death reports
- Registration of birth and death is done under "Registration of Birth & Death Act (RBD), 1969"
- Death registration increased by 4.75 lakh in 2020
- Bihar – registered the maximum increase in the death rate with 18.3% (followed by - Maharashtra & Assam)

**295.** The State of the World's Birds found that approximately 48% of existing bird species worldwide are known or suspected to be undergoing population declines. Global bird populations have steadily declined over the last three decades, as per the research. Besides, 39% of species remains stable, just 6% shows increasing population trends, and 7% is still unknown. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The State of the World's Birds: approx 48% of existing bird species worldwide are suspected to be undergoing population declines





# Acquisitions & Mergers

**296.** In May 2022, the Boards of Directors of Mindtree and Larsen & Toubro Infotech (LTI) approved the amalgamation of both these independently listed IT services companies under the Larsen & Toubro Group. The name of the combined entity will be 'LTIMindtree' and will be led by Debashis Chatterjee. Upon the scheme becoming effective, all shareholders of Mindtree will be issued shares of LTI at the ratio of 73 shares of LTI for every 100 shares of Mindtree. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Boards of Directors of Mindtree & L&T – approved the amalgamation under the Larsen & Toubro Group
- Newly formed entity will be called – 'LTIMindtree' | Head – Debashis Chatterjee
- HQs of L&T – Mumbai, MH | CEO & MD – S. N. Subrahmanyam

# MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**297.** On May 9, the Railways Ministry and Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) signed an MoU for replacing foreign technology gears being used in Indian Railways. The C-DOT will provide locally-developed technology solutions worth over Rs 2,114 Cr to Indian Railways to help the latter reduce dependence on foreign technology. The synergy between C-DOT and Ministry of Railways will strengthen the national networks and boost seamless connectivity which will bolster the foundation of "Atmanirbhar Bharat". [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Ministry of Railways + C-DOT = MoU for replacing foreign technology gears being used in Indian Railways
- HQs of C-DoT – New Delhi | Executive Director – Rajkumar Upadhyay
- Ministry of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnav | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Railways: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao & Darshana Vikram Jardosh

**298.** The World Economic Forum (WEF), in partnership with NITI Aayog, is focusing on putting emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain and drones, to better use to ensure they benefit farmers, particularly small and marginal. The WEF had established Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) in 2018 to help core sectors such as agriculture, health, urban transformation, urban space and environment using the fourth industrial revolution (4IR). Currently, the WEF sees 3 buckets of challenges that need to be solved to improve the economy of small farmers. The challenges are - Inclusivity, Sustainability & Efficiency. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- WEF + NITI Aayog = partnered to focus on emerging technologies such as AI, IoT, blockchain & drones to benefit farmers
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Suman Bery
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971



**299.** On May 9, the Catalyst Group, in collaboration with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Rockefeller Foundation, announced the launch of the Green Health Alliance (GHA) in New Delhi. The Alliance is set to focus on identifying and scaling up solutions to help reduce the carbon footprint of the health system and thereby minimise the negative health impacts of climate change. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Catalyst Group + PSA to GoI + USAID + Rockefeller Foundation = launched “Green Health Alliance (GHA)” in New Delhi
- The alliance will find solutions to reduce the carbon footprint of the health system

**300.** On May 9, Etsy, a US e-commerce firm for handmade or vintage items, partnered with the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation (NEHHDC) to support small sellers, weavers and artisans by providing them market access and enablement support. The idea would be to equip artisans, creators and small entrepreneurs in the Indian handicrafts sector with important tools and resources to start and manage online businesses. Artisans from all eight northeastern states will be onboarded onto Etsy. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Etsy (US) + NEHHDC (India) = partnership to support small sellers, weavers & artisans
- Location of NEHHDC – Guwahati, Assam





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