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National & States Affairs

251. To enhance ease of doing business, the Department of Telecom (DoT) has removed Network Operation and Control Centre (NOCC) charges for the use of space segments for all services like VSAT, satellite telephony etc. The DoT earlier levied ₹21 lakh per transponder per annum for 36 megahertz of spectrum on a pro-rata basis as NOCC charges. Besides this, the department also levied NOCC charges of ₹6,000 for every trial of antenna that are used for receiving and transmitting signals. The NOCC was created under the DoT to control the transmissions from ground segment along with the master control facility under Department of Space to manage the operation of satellites in orbit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DoT – removed NOCC charges for the use of space segments for all services like VSAT, satellite telephony etc
- NOCC – Network Operation and Control Centre
- Ministry of Communications: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Communications: Devusinh Chauhan

252. Poumai tribe, one of the major Naga tribes living in Manipur's hill district, recently declared their villages a 'No-drugs Zone' in order to help the state government curb the drugs menace including illegal poppy cultivation. The move is seen as a push for the BJP government's "War on Drugs" campaign to curb rampant poppy cultivation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Poumai tribe (Naga tribes) in Manipur – declared their villages a 'No-drugs Zone'
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – La. Ganesan

253. A three-day Utkarsh Mahotsav was organized by Central Sanskrit University in New Delhi from May 7, 2022. The objective behind organising the Utkarsh Mahotsav is to promote Sanskrit language across the country and beyond. The focus of the Mahotsav is - the New Educational Era - Moving towards a Global Orientation of Sanskrit Studies. Dharmendra Pradhan Union Education & Skill Development Minister and Chancellor of Central Sanskrit University, addressed the 'Utkarsh Mahotsav'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Sanskrit University – organized 'Utkarsh Mahotsav' in New Delhi to promote Sanskrit language in India & beyond

254. The Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) - Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have signed a long-term purchase agreement (LTPA) for upcoming dedicated Ethanol plants across India. The first set of Tripartite-cum-Escrow Agreement (TPA) was signed among OMCs, project proponents and Banks of the respective ethanol plant projects. The SBI, IOB and Indian Bank are three banks who are involved in this tripartite agreement. As per the agreement, ethanol produced by these dedicated ethanol plants shall be sold to OMCs for blending with Petrol as per Govt of India's Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Program. In Ethanol Supply Year 2021-22, India achieved 9.90% ethanol blending, consuming 186 Cr Liter of ethanol, saving over 9000 Cr of foreign exchange. However, the Government has advanced the target of achieving 20% blended ethanol by 2025, which is commonly known as E20 target. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BPCL + IOCL + HPCL = a long-term purchase agreement for upcoming Ethanol plants across India
- SBI + IOB + Indian Bank = are involved in this tripartite agreement as banks of the respective ethanol plant projects
- Government has set the target of achieving 20% blended ethanol (E20 target) by – 2025



255. Union Minister Narayan Rane inaugurated India's first Centre of Excellence for Khadi (CoEK) in New Delhi to empower Khadi Institutions throughout the country. The idea of Centre for experimentation, innovation, and design has been conceived by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) for Khadi Village and Industries Commission (KVIC). The centre is established at the National Institute of Fashion Technology as a hub in Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narayan Rane – inaugurated India's first Centre of Excellence for Khadi (CoEK) in New Delhi
- Ministry of MSME – conceived the idea of Centre for experimentation, innovation & design for KVIC
- HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Founded in – 1956
- Ministry of MSME: Narayan Rane | Constituency – Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of MSME: Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

256. The Environment Ministry has approved an exemption to the laws governing the regulation of coastal zones and has paved the way for gas-powered plants to be set up at Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Island Coastal Zone Regulation (ICRZ), 2019, limits infrastructure development on vulnerable coastal stretches. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoEFCC – exempted Andaman & Nicobar from Coastal zones regulation & paved way for Gas-powered plants
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair | Lieu. Governor – Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi
- Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Bhupender Yadav | Constituency – Rajasthan
- MoS in Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Ashwini Kumar Choubey

257. On May 11, Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the first issue of "Asom Barta", a multi-lingual newspaper of the Assam government, which will keep people of the state abreast with the government's policies and their implementation. The newspaper will be printed in four languages, Assamese, English, Hindi and Bengali. The newspaper will be published by the directorate of information and public relations (DIPR). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – inaugurated the first issue of "Asom Barta", a multi-lingual newspaper of the Assam government
- Publisher – DIPR | Languages of newspaper – 4 (Assamese, English, Hindi & Bengali)
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

258. An on May 10, Toyota Group plans to invest Rs 48 billion (\$624 million) to make electric vehicle components in India, as it works towards Carbon Neutrality by 2050. Toyota Kirloskar Motor and Toyota Kirloskar Auto Parts signed an MoU with Karnataka to invest Rs 41 billion. The rest will come from Toyota Industries Engine India. Indian automakers could generate \$20 billion in revenue from electric vehicles between now and fiscal year 2026, according to forecast by CRISIL. By 2040, 53% of new automobile sales in India will be electric, compared with 77% in China, according to BloombergNEF. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Toyota Group plans to invest Rs 48 billion (\$624 million) to make electric vehicle components in India
- Toyota Kirloskar Motor + Toyota Kirloskar Auto Parts = signed an MoU with Karnataka to invest Rs 41 billion
- CRISIL: Indian automakers could generate \$20 billion in revenue from EVs by FY2026
- BloombergNEF: 53% of new automobile sales in India will be electric by 2040



259. To promote a collaborative ecosystem aimed at fostering innovation and adoption of drones for public services, an 'Experience Studio on Drones' was launched by Civil Aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia at NITI Aayog. Through the experience studio, start-ups and enterprises will be able to showcase their innovations and next-gen technology-enabled solutions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jyotiraditya Scindia – launched NITI Aayog's 'Experience Studio on Drones'
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Suman Bery

260. On May 10, Punjab State Agriculture Department is promoting the cultivation of Green Manure these days as 'Punjab Agro' is providing subsidy on the seed at the rate of Rs 2,000 per quintal, which costs Rs 6,300 per quintal without subsidy. Green manures are crops grown specifically for maintaining soil fertility and structure. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab State Agriculture Department is promoting the cultivation of 'Green Manure'
- 'Punjab Agro' is providing subsidy on the seed at the rate of Rs 2,000 per quintal
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

261. On May 11, the Supreme Court suspended pending criminal trials and court proceedings under 'Section 124A' of the Indian Penal Code. The 'Section 124A' is better known as 'Sedition Law'. It was ordered by a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India N. V. Ramana. The court also made it clear that it expects the Centre and States to restrain from registering FIRs, continuing investigations or take coercive measures under Section 124A. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SC suspended pending criminal trials & court proceedings under 'Section 124A' or 'Sedition Law' of the IPC
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana (48th)

International Affairs

262. In May 2022, South Korea has become the first Asian country to join North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)'s Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE). South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NIS) has been admitted as a contributing participant for NATO CCDCOE, a cyber-defense group based in Tallinn, Estonia. It is the first time an Asian country joins the group. Locked Shields is the world's largest and most complex international real-time cyber defence exercise, organised by the NATO CCDCOE in Tallinn, Estonia. With Korea's membership, NATO CCDCOE now has 32 countries as its official members of which 27 NATO member countries, are categorised as sponsoring nations, and 5 are contributing participants which are non-NATO countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- South Korea – first Asian country to join NATO's CCDCOE taking total member countries to 32
- NATO CCDCOE – a cyber-defense group based in Tallinn, Estonia
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Yoon Suk-yeol (from May 2022)

263. India has been unanimously elected as the new Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) for 2022-2024 at the meeting of the Executive board and General Assembly at Manila, Philippines on May 7, 2022. Commission on Elections, Manila was the current chair of AAEA. The new member in the Executive Board now includes Russia, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Taiwan and Philippines. The Election Commission of India, 3-member delegation, headed by Deputy Election Commissioner Nitesh Vyas, attended the Executive Board meeting at Manila. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – elected as new Chair of the AAEA for 2022-2024
- Current Chair of AAEA – Commission on Elections, Manila

264. On May 10, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) voted overwhelmingly for the Czech Republic to replace Russia in the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), following its suspension over allegations of horrific rights violations by Russian soldiers in Ukraine. The Czech Republic was the only candidate for the seat on the 47-member UNHRC. The assembly had approved a US-initiated resolution on April 7 to suspend Russia from the Human Rights Council by a vote of 93-24 with 58 abstentions.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNGA approved “Czech Republic” to replace Russia on the UNHRC
- HQs of UNHRC – Geneva, Switzerland | President – Nazahat Shameen Khan | Members – 47 countries
- HQs of UNGA – New York, USA | President – Abdulla Shahid | Member Countries – 193
- Czech Republic – Prague – Koruna | President – Milos Zeman

265. As India and Israel celebrate 30 years of establishment of diplomatic relations, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar met his Israeli counterpart Oded Forer at the Knesset (Israel’s Parliament) during his 4-day official visit to Israel from May 8. It is decided that 75 Indian villages will be shaped with Israeli cooperation to mark the country’s 75th Independence anniversary. India and Israel agreed to complete the process of finalising a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) by the end of June, 2022. The minister also visited a desert boutique farm, “Be’er Milka” owned by an Indian-origin farmer Sharon Cherry growing Indian vegetables in the Negev desert area. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar was on 4-day official visit to Israel from May 8
- India + Israel = agreed to complete the process of finalising a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) by the end of June, 2022
- 75 Indian villages will be shaped with Israeli cooperation to mark India’s 75th Independence Anniversary
- A desert boutique farm “Be’er Milka” – located in Negev desert, Israel (owned by Indian-origin farmer)
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Naftali Bennett

266. “The Rock”, the world’s biggest white diamond, auctioned for a hammer price of 18.6 million Swiss francs (\$18.8 million). The 228.31-carat stone, larger than a golf ball, was sold by Christie’s auction house in Geneva. The world record for a white diamond still stands at \$33.7 million, fetched in the Swiss city in 2017 for a 163.41-carat gem. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Rock”, the world’s biggest white diamond, auctioned for 18.6 million Swiss francs (\$18.8 million)



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

267. On May 10, Worldline, a payment services firm, signed an MoU with Bank of India to digitise e-challan collections for Madhya Pradesh police department. Three zones namely Jabalpur, Rewa and Shahdol covering 12 districts in MP will be covered in this initiative. Worldline will provide 600 Point of Sale (POS) terminals to MP Police Department. E-challan is an electronically generated challan (online generated system challan) that is taken care of by the Electronic Challan System.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Worldline + Bank of India = an MoU to digitise e-challan collections for Madhya Pradesh Police Department
- HQs of Worldline – Bezons, France | CEO – Gilles Grapinet
- HQs of BoI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Atanu Kumar Das | Tagline – “Relationship Beyond Banking”

268. On May 12, Union Bank of India (UBI) launched a digital solution, “Trade nxt”, to enable corporates as well as MSMEs to transact all cross-border export-import transactions. It aims to offer seamless entry and processing of letters of credit, bank guarantees, export and import bills. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UBI – launched a digital solution, “Trade nxt” to enable corporates/MSMEs for export-import transactions
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”



Defence Affairs

269. On May 10, AI Engineering Services Ltd (AIESL) signed an MoU with Boeing for maintenance of its critical equipment on key defence platforms, including the P-81 fleet used by the Navy and two VVIP Boeing 777s aircrafts operated by the Indian Air Force (IAF). The AIESL, an Air India subsidiary, is India’s largest DGCA approved MRO facility. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIESL + Boeing = an MoU for maintenance of its critical equipment on key Defence Platforms
- AIESL (India’s largest DGCA approved MRO facility) – is a subsidiary of Air India
- HQs of Boeing – Chicago, US | CEO – Dave Calhoun | Founded in – 1916

270. INS Kolkata visited Djibouti from May 4-7, 2022, as part of the anti-piracy patrol being undertaken by the Indian Navy to ensure safe transit of merchant vessels in the Gulf of Aden. Indian Navy warships have been deployed in the Gulf of Aden since October 2008 for anti-piracy patrol. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Kolkata – visited Djibouti as part of the anti-piracy patrol being undertaken by the Indian Navy
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950





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Sports & Games

271. In May 2022, Indian boxer Nikhat Zareen won a Gold Medal at the 12th edition of the “IBA Women’s World Boxing Championships 2022” by defeating Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas in the 52kg final. The championship was held in Istanbul, Turkey. With this, Telangana native Zareen became only the fifth Indian female boxer to win gold at the World Championships. Moreover, Manisha Moun (57kg) and Parveen Hooda (63kg) won bronze medals after losing their semi-finals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “IBA Women’s World Boxing Championships 2022” – held in Istanbul, Turkey
- Gold: Nikhat Zareen (Telangana) in 52kg category | Bronze: Manisha Moun & Parveen Hooda

Science & Technology

272. On May 13, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully completed the static test of the human-rated solid rocket booster “HS200” for the Gaganyaan Programme at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The booster engine is part of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle MkIII (GSLV Mk III) rocket that will carry Indian astronauts to space. India's first manned space flight mission - ‘Gaganyaan’, is expected to launch in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO successfully completed the static test of the human-rated solid rocket booster “HS200” for the mission ‘Gaganyaan’
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

273. On May 12, the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully test-fired an extended-range version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from ‘Su-30 MKI’ fighter aircraft in the Bay of Bengal, for the first time. The range of the advanced version of this BrahMos missile is extended to around 350 km from the original 290 km. This feat was achieved by dedicated and synergetic efforts of the IAF, Indian Navy, DRDO, BrahMos Aerospace & Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAF – test-fired an extended-range version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from ‘Su-30 MKI’ in the Bay of Bengal
- BrahMos missiles – developed by BrahMos Aerospace - a JV between DRDO (India) & Mashinostroyeniya (Russia)
- Extended range of the BrahMos missiles – 350 km | Speed – 2.8 Mach
- HQs of BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd – New Delhi | DG – Atul Dinkar Rane

274. On May 12, the NASA launched its Endurance mission through its three-stage Oriole IIIA rocket from Andoya Space’s Ny-Alesund, Svalbard Launch Facility in Norway. The rocket carried instruments to measure Earth’s electric potential, and provide a clue as to why the planet supports life successfully. Endurance is a NASA-funded mission conducted through the Sounding Rocket Program at the Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia. Moreover, the Svalbard Rocket Range is owned and operated by Andoya Space Center. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- NASA – launched its “Endurance” mission through its ‘Oriole IIIA’ rocket from Andoya Space’s Launch Facility in Norway
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded on – July 29, 1958

275. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has built a twin-satellite mission called “DISHA-H&L” for studying the impact of space weather on the Earth’s upper atmosphere. The DISHA-H satellite will be placed at a high inclination orbit and DISHA-L, at a lower inclination orbit. “DISHA” is short for “Disturbed and Quiet time Ionosphere-Thermosphere Systems at High Altitudes”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO built a twin-satellite mission “DISHA-H&L” to study the impact of space weather on the Earth’s upper atmosphere
- DISHA – Disturbed and Quiet time Ionosphere-Thermosphere Systems at High Altitudes
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

Appointments & Resignations

276. On May 11, French luxury brand Louis Vuitton has announced actor Deepika Padukone as its latest ‘House Ambassador’. She has also been named a member of the jury of this year’s 75th Cannes Film Festival. Deepika is the first Indian to be signed as a house ambassador by Louis Vuitton. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Deepika Padukone – the first Indian to be named House Ambassador of a French luxury fashion brand - ‘Louis Vuitton’

277. On May 13, the Tata Group has appointed Campbell Wilson (the CEO of Singapore Airlines’ wholly-owned low-cost subsidiary Scoot) as Air India’s new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD). Wilson succeeds the CMD Natarajan Chandrasekaran. While Leslie Thng will replace Wilson at Scoot. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Group – appointed “Campbell Wilson” as MD & CEO of Air India
- HQs of Air India – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Campbell Wilson

278. The President has appointed Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh, senior-most Puisne Judge of Gauhati High Court as Acting Chief Justice of the Gauhati HC in Assam. Justice N. K. Singh succeeded Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia. The Centre also notified the appointment of Gauhati HC Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia as Supreme Court judge. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh – appointed as Acting Chief Justice of the Gauhati HC (succeeding - Sudhanshu Dhulia)
- Sudhanshu Dhulia – appointed as Supreme Court judge
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

279. On May 8, John Lee was elected as the leader of Hong Kong after winning an election held through a closed voting system. Lee, who was the only candidate running for the position, replaced Carrie Lam who had held the post since 2017. Many criticised Lee’s appointment as the new Chief Executive, stating it was a move by China to increase its influence over Hong Kong. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- John Lee – elected as the leader of Hong Kong (succeeding - Carrie Lam)

280. On May 13, Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa appointed former PM Ranil Wickremesinghe as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, in a bid to restore stability in the island nation in the midst of a political impasse and stifling economic crisis. This is the sixth time Mr. Wickremesinghe has been appointed to the office. Ranil Wickremesinghe succeeds Gotabaya's older brother Mahinda Rajapaksa who recently resigned from the post. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ranil Wickremesinghe – appointed as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Ranil Wickremesinghe | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

281. On May 11, the Union Ministry of Law & Justice announced that Rajiv Kumar, the current Election Commissioner, as the 25th Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) from May 15. Kumar took charge from CEC Sushil Chandra. The President appointed Rajiv Kumar in pursuance of clause (2) of Article 324 of the Constitution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajiv Kumar – appointed as the 25th Chief Election Commissioner (succeeding - Sushil Chandra)
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Rajiv Kumar (25th) | Formed on – 25th Jan, 1950

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

282. In May 2022, Nobel Prize-winning theoretical physicist and author Frank Wilczek, the Herman Feshbach Professor of Physics at MIT, has been awarded the "2022 Templeton Prize". This prize is awarded to individuals whose life's work embodies a fusion of science and spirituality. Wilczek won the '2004 Nobel Prize' in Physics, along with David Gross and David Politzer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Frank Wilczek (US) – Theoretical Physicist, Mathematician & Nobel Laureate – received the "2022 Templeton Prize"
- Frank Wilczek – received the '2004 Nobel Prize' in Physics (along with David Gross & David Politzer)

Schemes & Initiatives

283. On May 11, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Kumar Mishra has launched New Repatriate Welfare Scheme namely "Repco Subhiksham" (a deposit scheme of Repco Bank), a Micro Finance Loan scheme and an app for Repco Micro Finance Ltd (RFML) in Chennai. "Repco Subhiksham" provides a new deposit scheme for Senior Citizens. Repco Mahila Samriddhi Scheme meant for SHGs aims at supporting income generation activities for the underprivileged sections. It will provide collateral free loan to women with household income of up to ₹3 lakh. The loan amount would be between ₹50,000 and ₹2.5 lakh. Repco Bank was registered as a cooperative society under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs established in 1969 with the primary objective of rehabilitation of repatriates from Myanmar and Sri Lanka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajay Kumar Mishra – launched “Repc Subhiksham”, a Micro Finance Loan scheme, in Chennai
- “Repc Subiksham” provides a new deposit scheme for – Senior Citizens
- Repco Mahila Samridhi Scheme – provides collateral free loan between ₹50,000 & ₹2.5 lakh to women

284. On May 8, Tamil Nadu announced 5 new development schemes including nutritious breakfast for students of Classes I to V in government schools on all working days. Under the second scheme, medical assistance and nutrients would be provided to children to address deficiency. The third scheme is to upgrade 25 higher secondary schools into schools of excellence at a cost of Rs 150 Cr in line with Delhi’s model government schools. The fourth scheme is to establish 708 urban hospitals akin to primary and secondary health centres to provide quality healthcare to people. The fifth scheme is to extend the ‘CM in Your Constituency’ programme to all 234 constituencies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu announced 5 new development schemes:
 - To provide nutritious breakfast for students of Classes I to V in government schools
 - To provide medical assistance and nutrients to children to address deficiency
 - To upgrade 25 higher secondary schools into schools of excellence
 - To establish 708 urban hospitals
 - To extend the ‘CM in Your Constituency’ programme to all 234 constituencies
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai](#) | [CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin](#) | [Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)

285. Chhattisgarh has become the first state in the country to restore the old pension scheme in order to provide assured income to retired employees. The state government has sent a proposal to the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for the withdrawal of Rs 17,000 Cr accrued under the National Pension Scheme since November 2004. The old pension scheme will be effective from April 1, 2022. A minimum of 12% of basic salary will be deducted as per the General Provident Fund rule. The old pension scheme gives 50% of the employee’s salary as pension. A similar request by the Rajasthan government was rejected. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chhattisgarh – became the 1st state to restore the Old Pension Scheme to provide assured income to retired employees
- The old pension scheme will be effective from – April 1, 2022
- The old pension scheme gives 50% of the employee’s salary as pension
- [Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur](#) | [CM – Bhupesh Baghel](#) | [Governor – Anusuiya Uikay](#)

Important Days & Dates

286. “International Mother’s Day” is celebrated on the second Sunday in the month of May every year. In 2022, International Mother’s Day was celebrated on May 8. Mother’s Day is also known as ‘Mothering Sunday’. In 1908, a woman named Anna Jarvis in the US first decided to commemorate the day in the memory of her mother, who had passed away 3 years ago. Within a few years, several parts of the US began celebrating this day as Mother’s Day. In 1914, US President Woodrow Wilson declared Mother’s Day as national holiday. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 8 (2nd Sunday of May) – “International Mother’s Day” or “Mothering Sunday”



287. International Nurses Day 2022 was observed May 12 across the world to honour their services towards humanity. It is the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the English social reformer, statistician and founder of Modern Nursing. In 1974, the International Council of Nurses declared this day. In 2022, the theme is “Nurses: A Voice to Lead - Invest in Nursing and Respect Rights to Secure Global Health”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 12 – International Nurses Day (birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale)
- 2022’s theme – “Nurses: A Voice to Lead - Invest in Nursing and Respect Rights to Secure Global Health”

Obituaries

288. On May 12, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep grief over the demise of Sanskrit and Hindi Scholar Dr. Rama Kant Shukla. He was honoured with Padma Shri in 2013 for Literature & Education. He was also honoured with the President’s Award under the Sanskrit category in 2009. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Rama Kant Shukla – Sanskrit & Hindi Scholar – passed away (Padma Shri in 2013)

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

289. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in association with APAC News Network virtually organised the 6th Edition of the monthly ‘Webinar with Universities’ series on ‘Igniting Young Minds, Rejuvenating Rivers’. The theme for the webinar was ‘Waste Water Management’. The session was presided over by Shri G. Asok Kumar, Director General, NMCG. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NMCG – organised 6th monthly ‘Webinar with Universities’ series on ‘Igniting Young Minds, Rejuvenating Rivers’
- Theme of the webinar – “Waste Water Management”
- NMCG functions under – Ministry of Jal Shakti | DG – G. Asok Kumar

290. On May 11, the BRICS countries agreed to launch an ‘Early Warning System’ for large-scale pandemics, during the 12th “Meeting of BRICS Health Ministers” hosted by China virtually. The meeting was joined by more than 70 attendees including health ministers from BRICS countries and the deputy Director-General of the World Health Organization. China is scheduled to host the “BRICS Summit” in Xiamen in June, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 12th “Meeting of BRICS Health Ministers” hosted by – China
- BRICS countries – agreed to launch an ‘Early Warning System’ for large-scale pandemics
- China – to host the “BRICS Summit” in Xiamen in June, 2022



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

291. A new report titled “Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2022” by the World Economic Forum (WEF) has called for urgent action by both private and public sectors to ensure a resilient energy transition to address the challenges to environmental sustainability, energy security and energy justice and affordability. The report noted that of 34 countries with advanced economies, 11 rely on only three trade partners for over 70% of their fuel imports. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2022” – by the WEF
- HQs of WEF – Cologne, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971

292. On May 5, the occasion of World Hand Hygiene Day, the World Health Organization (WHO) released the first-ever “Global Report on Infection Prevention and Control” which stated that 70% of infections can be prevented if good hand hygiene and other cost-effective practices are followed. The report revealed that out of every 100 patients in acute-care hospitals, seven patients in high-income countries and 15 patients in low- and middle-income countries will acquire at least one healthcare-associated infection (HAI) during their hospital stay. On average, 1 in every 10 affected patients will die from their HAI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The first-ever “Global Report on Infection Prevention & Control” – released by the WHO
- Report: 70% of infections can be prevented if good hand hygiene & other cost-effective practices are followed
- On average, 1 in every 10 affected patients will die from their Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI)
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

293. There is a 50:50 chance of the annual average global temperature temporarily reaching 1.5 °C above the pre-industrial level for at least one of the next 5 years, according to the “Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update” issued by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The report is produced by the United Kingdom’s Met Office, the WMO lead centre for such predictions. There is a 93% likelihood of at least one year between 2022-2026 becoming the warmest on record and dislodging 2016 from the top ranking. The annual mean global near-surface temperature for each year between 2022 and 2026 is predicted to be between 1.1 °C and 1.7 °C higher than preindustrial levels. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update 2022” – issued by WMO & produced by Met Office (UK)
- Annual Average Global Temperature – to reach 1.5°C above the pre-industrial level in at least one of the next 5 years (50% chance)

Amount & Agreements

294. On May 11, India contributed USD 8,00,000 to the United Nations as part of the initiative to enhance public outreach of the organisation in Hindi. As part of these efforts, “Hindi@UN” project was launched in 2018, in collaboration with the UN Department of Public Information. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- India contributed \$8,00,000 to promote Hindi at the UN
- “Hindi@UN” project was launched in 2018
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Formed in – October 24, 1945

295. In May 2022, Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) signed an agreement with the SBM (Mauritius) Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (SBMIDCL), for providing the latter with Government of India-supported Line of Credit (LoC) of USD 190 million. It is given for implementing the ongoing Metro Express Project and other infrastructure projects in Mauritius. The Credit facility is an additional tranche to the existing Credit of USD 500 million. Under the LoC, the terminal utilization period is 60 months from the scheduled completion date of the project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Exim Bank + SBMIDCL = an agreement to provide the latter with GoI's LoC of \$190 million
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD – Harsha Bangari | Founded in – 1982
- Mauritius – Port Louis – Mauritian rupee | PM – Pravind Kumar Jugnauth

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

296. On May 12, India's public broadcaster Prasar Bharati signed an MoU with Madagascar's official ORTM (Office de la Radio et de la Television) for cooperation and collaboration in broadcasting. The MoU was signed by Indian Ambassador Abhay Kumar and Director General of ORTM Jean Yves. The MoU aims at exchange of programmes, exploring co-production of programmes and training and exchange of personnel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prasar Bharati + Madagascar's official ORTM = an MoU for cooperation & collaboration in broadcasting
- HQs of Prasar Bharati – New Delhi | CEO – Shashi Shekhar Vempati
- Madagascar – Antananarivo – Malagasy Ariary | President – Andry Rajoelina

297. On May 9, OMC Power signed a long-term relationship agreement with the Indian Renewable Energy Dev Agency Ltd (IREDA) to work towards building a Rural renewable energy ecosystem. OMC Power plans to expand its footprint to 1000 sites to drastically reduce the Carbon footprint in rural India. OMC will be getting economic support for setting up Renewable energy plants to provide sustainable energy in the villages of Uttar Pradesh. Under IREDA's “Access to Energy” scheme, this partnership will look to achieve long-term sustainability by supplying green and clean energy in rural areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- OMC Power + IREDA = an agreement to work towards building a Rural Renewable Energy ecosystem
- “Access to Energy” scheme – belongs to IREDA
- Location of OMC Power – Gurgaon, Haryana
- HQs of IREDA – New Delhi | CMD – Pradip Kumar Das



298. On May 9, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, signed an MoU with the Indian Navy to provide training services and support to the School of Naval Oceanology and Meteorology (SNOM) for conduct of various courses related to operational oceanography. SNOM is the 'Centre of Excellence' in atmospheric sciences recognised by Cochin University of Science and Technology. The agreement was signed for the services to be provided through the state-of-the-art International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCOO), the training arm of INCOIS, setup in 2013. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INCOIS (Hyd) + Indian Navy = an MoU to provide training services to the School of Naval Oceanology & Meteorology
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950

299. On May 12, an MoU was signed between Ministry of Rural Development and Amazon Seller Services Private Limited (Amazon) at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. This alliance will enable SHG entrepreneurs under 'Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)' to offer their products to the buyers across India through Amazon Saheli Storefront and help SHG women achieve good price for their varied products. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Rural Development + Amazon = an MoU for online marketing of SHG products
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle, US | CEO – Andy Jassy | Incorporated in – 1994
- HQs of Amazon India – Hyderabad, Telangana | Country Head – Amit Agarwal

300. On May 12, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoAFW) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed an MoU for strategic partnership on Agriculture, Crop Insurance and Credit wherein UNDP will provide technical support towards Centre's aspirational Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme & Kisan Credit Card - Modified Interest Subvention Scheme. The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Minister of Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar. The farmers paid Rs 21000 Cr premium under PMFBY, for which they have received more than Rs 1.15 lakh Cr as compensation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoAFW + UNDP = an MoU for strategic partnership on Agriculture, Crop Insurance & Credit
- HQs of UNDP – New York, US | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Narendra Singh Tomar | Constituency – Morena, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Shobha Karandlaje & Kailash Choudhary





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