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# INDEX

National & States Affairs .....	5
Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs .....	6
Defence Affairs .....	8
Sports & Games .....	9
Arts & Cultural Affairs .....	10
Science & Technology .....	10
Appointments & Resignations .....	12
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & prizes .....	13
Schemes & Initiatives .....	13
Important Days & Dates .....	14
Books & Authors .....	15
Meetings, Conferences & Summits .....	16
Ranks, Reports & Surveys .....	17
Amount & Agreements .....	18
Acquisitions & Mergers .....	19



# National & States Affairs

**351.** On May 14, Union Home and Co-operation Minister, Amit Shah inaugurated the National Cyber Forensic Laboratory (NCFL) in Hyderabad. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had in December 2021 cleared the setting up of the NCFL for evidentiary purposes in the CFSL, Hyderabad. The lab has been set up under the Cyber and Information Security Division MHA at an estimated cost of about Rs 35.51 Cr. NCFL has created 4 specialized Hi-tech units with state-of-the-art facilities to address issues in the field of digital forensics. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Amit Shah – inaugurated National Cyber Forensic Laboratory in Hyderabad | Cost – Rs 35.51 Cr
- It is set up under the Cyber and Information Security Division MHA
- Ministry of Home Affairs: Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Home Affairs: Nityanand Rai, Ajay Kumar & Nisith Pramanik

**352.** On May 14, the Ministry of Tourism has started an initiative called ‘YUVA Tourism Clubs’ and CBSE will encourage affiliated schools to implement the same on their campus. The purpose of starting tourism clubs is to “nurture and develop young ambassadors of Indian tourism who would become aware of tourism possibilities in India. A handbook has been prepared by the ministry, which gives information as to what the clubs are supposed to do. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Ministry of Tourism – started an initiative called ‘YUVA Tourism Clubs’
- CBSE – will encourage CBSE affiliated schools to form ‘YUVA Tourism Clubs’
- Ministry of Tourism: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Ministry of Tourism: Shripad Yesso Naik & Ajay Bhatt
- HQs of CBSE – New Delhi | Chairman – Vineet Joshi | Formed in – 1962

**353.** On May 12, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) organised a one-day Consultative workshop for ‘Forest Fire Management in India’ in New Delhi in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change. The Workshop largely focused on Strengthening of Forest Fire Management in the 26 most forest fire affected districts of India spread over 11 States. This Project will bring in effective and efficient multi-department response to forest fire management. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NDMA + Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change = organised a one-day Consultative workshop for ‘Forest Fire Management in India’
- HQs of NDMA – New Delhi | Headed by – Prime Minister of India | Established in – 2005
- NDMA functions under – Ministry of Home Affairs
- Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Bhupender Yadav | Constituency – Rajasthan
- MoS in Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Ashwini Kumar Choubey



**354.** After receiving in-principal approval from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary was notified as India's 52<sup>nd</sup> tiger reserve and Rajasthan's 4<sup>th</sup> (after Ranthambore, Sariska & Mukundra). The reserve will be spread in an area of 1,501.89 sq km. There were an estimated 2,967 tigers in India in 2019, according to the NTCA. The area has been called 'critical' for the movement of tigers by wildlife experts and conservationists. Ramgarh Vishadhri is located mostly in Bundi district and in part in Bhilwara and Kota districts of Rajasthan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ramgarh Vishdhari WLS – notified as India's 52<sup>nd</sup> and Rajasthan's 4<sup>th</sup> Tiger Reserve | (Area – 1,501.89 sq km)
- Ramgarh Vishadhri – located mostly in Bundi district and in part in Bhilwara and Kota districts of Rajasthan
- There were an estimated 2,967 tigers in India in 2019, according to the NTCA
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

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

**355.** On May 17, AXA France India, with its Indian insurance partners, announced to launch India's first-ever mental health insurance cover in its group policies. The first-ever standalone product in this space will provide Rs 25,000 for virtual consultations with therapists, psychologists and life coaches, and up to Rs 1 lakh for hospitalisation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AXA France India – to launch India's first-ever mental health insurance cover
- It will provide Rs 25,000 for virtual consultations and up to Rs 1 lakh for hospitalisation
- HQs of Bharti AXA Life Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Parag Raja

**356.** On May 17, Private insurer PNB MetLife India Insurance Company launched a Dental Health Insurance plan. This is the first insurance plan in India that covers fixed-benefit outpatient expenses and provides financial assistance with costs related to overall dental health. To provide convenience to its customers, PNB MetLife has tied up with more than 340 dental clinics. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PNB MetLife India Insurance Company – launched a Dental Health Insurance plan
- HQs of PNB Metlife – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Ashish Kumar Srivastava | Established – 2001

**357.** On May 15, the top Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials told a parliamentary panel that cryptos can lead to "Dollarisation" of a part of the economy, which would be against the country's sovereign interest. These currencies can replace a part of monetary system & can also undermine the RBI's capacity to regulate the flow of money in the system. Meanwhile, the crypto industry has urged the government to reduce the TDS on payments towards gains arising from trading in cryptocurrencies to 0.01% or 0.05%, from the proposed 1%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI officials – cryptos can lead to "Dollarisation" of a part of the economy against the country's sovereign interest
- These currencies can undermine the RBI's capacity to regulate the flow of money in the system
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao



**358.** On May 16, the International Monetary Fund lifted the yuan's weighting in the Special Drawing Rights currency basket, prompting the Chinese central bank to pledge to push for a further opening of its financial markets. The IMF raised the yuan's weighting to 12.28% from 10.92% in its first regular review of the SDR evaluation. The weighting of the US dollar rose to 43.38% from 41.73%. The SDRs are an international reserve asset that can be converted into five currencies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IMF – raised the yuan's weighting to 12.28% from 10.92% in its first regular review of the SDR evaluation
- HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., US | President – Kristalina Georgieva | Member countries – 190

**359.** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approved an amendment to the “SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999” to strengthen the regulatory framework for Collective Investment Schemes (CIS). The SEBI enhanced the net worth criteria and track record requirements for entities managing such schemes. Also, the markets regulator has mandated a minimum of 20 investors and a subscription amount of at least Rs 20 Cr for each Collective Investment Scheme (CIS). In addition, the regulator has put a cap on cross-shareholding in Collective Investment Management Company (CIMC) to 10% to avoid conflict of interest. CIMCs are required to have a minimum net worth of ₹50 Cr as compared to the present requirement of ₹5 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI approved an amendment to the “SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999”
- SEBI mandated a minimum of 20 investors and a subscription amount of at least ₹20 Cr for each CIS
- SEBI put a cap on cross-shareholding in CIMC to 10% to avoid conflict of interest
- CIMCs are required to have a minimum net worth of ₹50 Cr
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

**360.** The RBI stated in response to an application under the “Right to Information (RTI) Act” that 12 Public sector banks reported over 51% decline in the amount involved in frauds to Rs 40,295.25 Cr during the financial year 2021-22, as compared to Rs 81,921.54 Cr in preceding fiscal 2020-21. However, the number of fraud cases didn't fall at the same pace as a total of 7,940 frauds reported by the PSBs in 2021-22, against 9,933 incidents reported in FY21. The highest amount of Rs 9,528.95 Cr was reported by the city-based Punjab National Bank (PNB), involving 431 such incidents. While the SBI reported the highest number of fraud cases/incidents worth Rs 6,932.37 Cr in as many as 4,192 cases. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 12 PSBs reported over 51% decline in the amount involved in frauds to Rs 40,295.25 Cr during FY 2021-22
- Number of fraud cases reported by the PSBs in 2021-22 – 7,940 frauds
- The highest amount of frauds reported by – PNB (Rs 9,528.95 Cr)
- The highest number of frauds reported by – SBI (4,192 cases)

**361.** On May 13, Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has won 6 National Awards in different categories for outstanding achievement under enrolment of Atal Pension Yojana (APY). The awards have been instituted by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank – won 6 National Awards in different categories instituted by the PFRDA
- KVGB won the award for outstanding achievement under enrolment of Atal Pension Yojana (APY)
- HQs of PFRDA – New Delhi | Chairperson – Supratim Bandyopadhyay | Founded in – 2003

**362.** On May 15, the India Infoline Home Finance Limited (IIFL - HFL) organised its flagship event 'Kutumb', with the theme "Andhra Pradesh and Telangana - Urgent need for Green Affordable Housing" in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). 'Kutumb' is a knowledge ecosystem conceptualised by the IIFL Home Loans to promote green affordable housing in India. The event took place in a hybrid model in Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Vellore and Rajamahendravaram. The IIFL HFL targeted to disburse home loans amounting to more than ₹7,200 Cr in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana (₹4,320 Cr in A.P. and ₹2,880 Cr in Telangana) by 2025. The Beneficiary-Led Construction (BLC), a Centrally sponsored scheme, aims at providing assistance up to ₹1.50 lakh per house to individual eligible families belonging to EWS categories. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIFL HFL + ADB = organised IIFL HFL's flagship event 'Kutumb'
- Theme of the event – "Andhra Pradesh and Telangana - Urgent need for Green Affordable Housing"
- IIFL HFL targeted to disburse Home Loans amounting to more than ₹7,200 Cr in Andhra Pradesh & Telangana by 2025
- BLC Scheme aims at providing assistance up to ₹1.50 lakh per house to individual eligible families belonging to EWS
- [HQs of IIFL Home Loan – Gurgaon, Haryana](#) | [CEO – Monu Ratra](#)

**363.** To facilitate a seamless payment experience for travellers and other customers, the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has introduced an innovative omnichannel payment solution across Kempegowda International Airport, in partnership with Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) and Pune-based Phi Commerce. This is a first-of-its-kind initiative undertaken by any airport in India. The solution will power B2B and B2C payments across channels - both online and offline.

[{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kempegowda Int. Airport + KMB + Phi Commerce = introduced India's first Innovative Omnichannel Payment Solution
- [HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH](#) | [MD & CEO – Uday Kotak](#) | [Tagline – "Let's make money simple"](#)

**364.** In the second half of FY22 (Oct 2021-March 2022), India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves dropped by \$28.05 billion and stood at \$607.31 billion, as per the RBI's "38<sup>th</sup> Half-yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves". In the first half of FY22 ending in Sep 2021, the reserves stood at \$635.36 billion. As of March 31, 2022, foreign exchange assets stood at \$540.72 billion, while gold reserves are at \$42.55 billion and SDRs at \$18.89 billion. Meanwhile, the net forward asset (receivable) of RBI in the domestic foreign exchange market stood at \$65.79 billion as of the end of March 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "38<sup>th</sup> Half-yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves" – released by the RBI
- India's Forex Reserves dropped by \$28.05 billion to reach \$607.31 billion in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of FY22 (Oct 2021-March 2022)
- Foreign Exchange Assets – \$540.72 billion | Gold Reserves – \$42.55 billion | SDRs – \$18.89 billion
- [HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH](#) | [Governor – Shaktikanta Das \(25<sup>th</sup>\)](#) | [Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935](#)

## **Defence Affairs**

**365.** Indian Naval Ship (INS) Gomati is now based in Uttar Pradesh's capital Lucknow, as it retired on May 15, 2022. Third of the indigenously built 'Godavari' class guided missile frigate, INS Gomati was commissioned into the Indian Navy on April 16, 1988. [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- INS Gomati – retired on May 15, 2022 | It is now based in Lucknow, UP
- It was commissioned into the Indian Navy on – April 16, 1988
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950

**366.** On May 17, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched two frontline warships of the Indian Navy - 'INS Surat' and 'INS Udaygiri' at Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL) in Mumbai. 'Surat' is the 4<sup>th</sup> & last Guided Missile Destroyer of the 'Project 15B' class, while 'Udaygiri' is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stealth Frigate of the 'Project 17A' class. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – launched 2 frontline warships of Indian Navy - 'INS Surat' & 'INS Udaygiri' – at Mazagon Docks, Mumbai
- INS Surat – 4<sup>th</sup> & last Guided Missile Destroyer of the 'Project 15B' class
- INS Udaygiri – 2<sup>nd</sup> Stealth Frigate of the 'Project 17A' class

## Sports & Games

**367.** On May 14, China will no longer host the AFC Asian Cup 2023 finals due to the COVID-19 situation in the country. The event, which is played every 4 years and features 24 national teams from across the continent, was due to be held in 10 cities from June 16 to July 16, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- China – will no longer host the AFC Asian Cup 2023 finals due to the COVID-19 situation
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**368.** India ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in medal tally with 17 medals (8 Gold, 1 Silver, 8 Bronze) at the 24<sup>th</sup> edition of “2021 Summer Deaflympics” (also called “Caxias 2021” or “XXIV Summer Deaflympic Games”). Ukraine topped the medal tally, followed by USA and Iran. The event was held at Caxias do Sul, Brazil with the mascot ‘the Ring-tailed Coati - Nino’. The Motto of the event was “Sports comes from the Our Hearts”. Indian golfer Diksha Dagar won Gold medal at the Deaflympics, defeating American Ashlyn Grace in the final. While Abhinav Deshwal won Gold in the Men’s 10m air pistol event. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India – ranked 9<sup>th</sup> with 17 medals (8 Gold, 1 Silver, 8 Bronze) at the 24<sup>th</sup> “2021 Summer Deaflympics”
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Ukraine | 2<sup>nd</sup> – USA | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Iran | Hosted by – Caxias do Sul, Brazil
- Mascot – ‘the Ring-tailed Coati - Nino’ | Motto – “Sports comes from the Our Hearts”
- Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian real | President – Jair Bolsonaro

**369.** On May 14, All India Chess Federation (AICF) signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu Government for the forthcoming 44<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad, scheduled to be held in Chennai from July 28 to August 10, 2022. This is the first time in history that India is hosting the world’s biggest chess event. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- AICF + Tamil Nadu = an MoU for the forthcoming 44<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad – to be held in Chennai
- India is hosting the world's biggest Chess Event for the first time
- HQs of AICF – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | President – Sanjay Kapoor | Secretary – Bharat Singh Chauhan
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

## Arts & Cultural Affairs

**370.** On May 16, PM Narendra Modi along with his Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba laid the foundation stone for the “India International Centre for Buddhist Culture & Heritage” in the Lumbini, Nepal. The Centre will be a world-class facility welcoming pilgrims and tourists from all over the world to enjoy the essence of spiritual aspects of Buddhism. The centre is being built by the International Buddhist Confederation, New Delhi. After the “Shilanyaas” ceremony, which was performed by monks belonging to three major Buddhist traditions, Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana, the two Prime Ministers also unveiled a model of the Centre. Moreover, on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, PM Modi signed 6 MoUs during bilateral talks in Lumbini, Nepal. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Narendra Modi + Sher Bahadur Deuba = laid the foundation stone for “India International Centre for Buddhist Culture & Heritage” in the Lumbini, Nepal
- PM Modi – signed 6 MoUs during bilateral talks in Lumbini, Nepal
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba

## Science & Technology

**371.** On May 17, the US Air Force revealed that 419<sup>th</sup> Flight Test Squadron and the Global Power Bomber Combined Test, both headquartered at Edwards Air Force Base in California, successfully conducted the test of hypersonic weapon. The ‘B-52H Stratofortress’ bomber launched an “AGM-183A Air-launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW)” off the coast of Southern California, US. The ARRW was developed by Lockheed Martin to destroy flexible, time-sensitive targets in combat situations. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 419<sup>th</sup> Flight Test Squadron & Global Power Bomber Combined Test – conducted the test of hypersonic weapon
- ‘B-52H Stratofortress’ bomber launched an “AGM-183A Air-launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW)”
- ‘AGM-183A ARRW’ is developed by – Lockheed Martin
- HQs of Lockheed Martin – Maryland, USA | CEO – Jim Taiclet | Founded in – 1995





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# Appointments & Resignations

**372.** On May 17, Centrist politician Elisabeth Borne was appointed France's new Prime Minister, becoming only the Second Woman in history to hold the post. She succeeded Jean Castex who resigned from the post in May. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Elisabeth Borne – appointed as new Prime Minister of France (succeeding – Jean Castex)
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Elisabeth Borne

**373.** On May 13, Senior IAS officer Nidhi Chibber (currently Additional Secretary in Ministry of Heavy Industries) has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre. Vivek Kumar Dewangen (currently Additional Secretary in Ministry of Power) has been named Chairman & Managing Director, REC Ltd., under Ministry of Power. Rakesh Sarwal (Additional Secretary in NITI Aayog) will be Managing Director of National Waqf Development Corporation Ltd., under Ministry of Minority Affairs. Vikas Sheel has been named Mission Director of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Nidhi Chibber – appointed as the Chairperson of the CBSE (succeeding - Vineet Joshi)
- Vivek Kumar Dewangen – appointed as the Chairman & MD of REC Ltd ( succeeding - Sanjay Malhotra)
- Vikas Sheel – appointed as Mission Director of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
- HQs of CBSE – New Delhi | Chairman – Nidhi Chibber | Formed in – 1962
- HQs of REC Ltd – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Vivek Kumar Dewangen | Founded in – 1969

**374.** On May 13, the Central Government granted a 2<sup>nd</sup> extension for a further period of 6 months, till the end of November 2022, to Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary Sameer Sharma, who was supposed to retire on May 31 at the end of his extended tenure. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Sameer Sharma – granted 2<sup>nd</sup> extension as Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary – for 6 months (till Nov 2022)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**375.** On May 14, the RBI appointed Sitikantha Pattanaik and Rajiv Ranjan as Executive Directors with effect from May 1. Ranjan will also serve as an ex-officio member of the rate-setting panel Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Sitikantha Pattanaik + Rajiv Ranjan = appointed as Executive Directors of the RBI
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**376.** On May 17, Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has appointed Subhash Sheoratan Mundra, a public interest director, as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company. S. S. Mundra will replace Justice Vikramajit Sen. Mr. Mundra retired as Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India in July 2017. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Subhash Sheoratan Mundra – appointed as the Chairman of the BSE (succeeding - Vikramajit Sen)
- HQs of BSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Subhash Sheoratan Mundra | MD & CEO – Ashishkumar Chauhan





## Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**377.** On May 15, Devasahayam Pillai, who embraced Christianity in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, became the first Indian layman to be declared a saint by Pope Francis during an impressive canonisation ceremony at the Vatican. Nine others, including four women, were also canonised along with Devasahayam. With the completion of the process, Devasahayam, who took the name “Lazarus” after embracing Christianity in 1745, became the first lay person from India to become a saint. Devasahayam was born on April 23, 1712, as Neelakanta Pillai into a Hindu Nair family in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Devasahayam Pillai – became the first Indian layman to be declared a saint by Pope Francis
- Devasahayam Pillai – born on April 23, 1712 into a Hindu Nair family in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**378.** On May 13, Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports and Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group, honoured the winner of the “Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award” at an award ceremony held at Atlantis The Palm, Dubai. Anna Qabale Duba from Marsabit County in Kenya was named the winner of the Award, which has a prize money of USD 250,000. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum – honoured the winner of the “Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award”
- He is President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports and Chairman and CEO of Emirates Airline and Group

**379.** On May 17, Piramal Group Chairman Ajay Gopikisan Piramal has received an Honorary Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) by Her Majesty The Queen. Mr. Piramal received the award for services to the UK-India trade relationship as India co-Chair of the UK-India CEO Forum. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Ajay Gopikisan Piramal – received an Honorary Commander of the Order of the British Empire – by Queen Elizabeth II

## Schemes & Initiatives

**380.** On May 17, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann launched his government’s flagship ‘Lok Milni’ (Public Interaction) program for on-the-spot redressal of the people’s grievances. Earlier, the program was named as ‘janta darbar’ but it was later renamed. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Bhagwant Mann – launched government’s flagship ‘Lok Milni’ program for on-the-spot redressal of people’s grievances
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

# Important Days & Dates

**381.** On May 15, the United Nations celebrates International Families Day at its headquarters and worldwide. The United Nations General Assembly declared it in 1993. The UN Secretary-General has chosen the theme “Families and Urbanization” for 2022. It provides possibilities to raise awareness about family concerns and to increase understanding of the economic, demographic, and social dynamics that affect families. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- May 15 – International Families Day by – UN
- 2022’s theme – “Families and Urbanization”
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Formed in – October 24, 1945

**382.** International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) was observed on May 17. The Day celebrates diversity and raises awareness of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTIQ+) people. This year’s theme “Our Bodies. Our Lives. Our Rights”. aims to remind us that everyone has the right to fulfil their full potential through exercising bodily autonomy. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- May 17 – International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia
- 2022’s theme – “Our Bodies. Our Lives. Our Rights”

**383.** World Hypertension Day is celebrated on May 17 every year. The main aim of World Hypertension Day is to educate the public and increase awareness of hypertension, which is also commonly known as high blood pressure. In 2022, the theme is “Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer”. The day was first inaugurated in May 2005. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- May 17 – World Hypertension Day (since 2005)
- 2022’s theme – “Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer”

**384.** World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is observed every year on May 17 to raise awareness of the benefits that the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can offer to society and economies. In 2022, the theme is “Digital Technologies for Older Persons and Healthy Ageing”. The day also commemorates the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the founding of the ITU. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- May 17 – World Telecommunication and Information Society Day
- 2022’s theme – “Digital Technologies for Older Persons and Healthy Ageing”

**385.** The 47<sup>th</sup> statehood day of Sikkim was celebrated on May 16, 2022. It was on this day in 1975 that Sikkim had become a state of the Union of India following the 36<sup>th</sup> amendment of the Constitution. Sikkim has set an example before rest of the country in organic farming and adopting the path of sustainable development. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- May 16 – 47<sup>th</sup> statehood day of Sikkim
- Sikkim became a state of the Union of India in 1975 following the 36<sup>th</sup> amendment of the Constitution
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad



**386.** World AIDS Vaccine Day is celebrated each year to raise awareness about the importance of HIV vaccinations in preventing HIV infection and AIDS. It is observed on May 18 each year and is also known as the HIV Vaccine Awareness Day. The day was celebrated in May 1998 for the first time after President Bill Clinton gave a speech at Morgan State University in 1997 where he stated that a vaccine was the only way to limit the spread and eventually wipe out HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 18 – “World AIDS Vaccine Day” (since 1998)
- HIV – **H**uman **I**mmunodeficiency **V**irus

**387.** International Museum Day (IMD) is celebrated every year on 18 May to highlight the importance of museums in any culture. In 2022, the theme is “The Power of Museums”. The idea of having an International Museum Day first surfaced during a meeting called ‘Crusade for Museums’, organised by ICOM in 1951. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 18 – International Museum Day
- 2022’s Theme – “The Power of Museums”

**388.** On May 13, Minister of State for the PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh released the e-book “Civil List-2022 of IAS Officers” at North Block, New Delhi. The dynamic list will help in selecting the right officer for the right assignment based on available profile and is a vital source of information on the officers manning various posts for the general public. It will contribute towards Digital India initiative of the Government of India. This is the 67<sup>th</sup> edition of the Civil List and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of e-book in PDF with unique search facilities and hyperlinking of contents for ease of access of information. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Jitendra Singh – released the e-book “Civil List-2022 of IAS Officers” in New Delhi
- This is the 67<sup>th</sup> edition of the Civil List and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of e-book in PDF

**389.** On May 17, PM Narendra Modi addressed a programme to mark the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). He also released a postal stamp to commemorate the occasion. During the programme, Prime Minister also launched a 5G Test Bed, developed as a multi-institute collaborative project by a total of 8 institutes led by IIT Madras. TRAI was established in 1997 through the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – addressed a programme to mark the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the TRAI
- Narendra Modi – launched a ‘5G Test Bed’, developed as a multi-institute collaborative project
- HQs of TRAI – New Delhi | Chairman – P. D. Vaghela | Established in – 1997

## **Books & Authors**

**390.** HarperCollins India is set to publish the best-selling author Preeti Shenoy’s new novel titled “A Place Called Home”. This novel is about secrets, family, and finding yourself. This book is also an important social commentary on the class system that exists in India. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- “A Place Called Home” novel – authored by Preeti Shenoy | Publisher – HarperCollins India

## Meetings, Conferences and Summits

**391.** The 1<sup>st</sup> “Incredible India International Cruise Conference 2022” was held on May 14-15, 2022 in Mumbai with the ‘Captain Cruzo’ mascot. The Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Development of the Northeastern Region (DoNER), G. Kishan Reddy addressed the participants on May 15 about the various tourism related themes and discussions. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India, the Mumbai Port Authority, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organised the two-day event. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 1<sup>st</sup> “Incredible India International Cruise Conference 2022” – held in Mumbai
- Organised by – Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways + Mumbai Port Authority + FICCI | Mascot – ‘Captain Cruzo’
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | DG – ArunChawla | President – Sanjiv Mehta | Founded in – 1927
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways: Shripad Yesso Naik & Shantanu Thakur

**392.** On May 12, the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of Interpol’s Match-Fixing Task Force (IMFTF) concluded with a call for harmonised global efforts to curb competition manipulation. At the event, the members deliberated on various mechanisms such as the establishment of National Platforms, as outlined in the Macolin Convention. The Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions, known as the Macolin Convention, is a multi-lateral treaty aimed at checking match-fixing. It came into force on September 1, 2019, and has been signed by 32 countries and ratified by 7 countries. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- At 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of IMFTF, members deliberated to curb competition manipulation as outlined in the Macolin Convention
- Macolin Convention – came into force on September 1, 2019, & has been signed by 32 countries and ratified by 7 countries
- HQs of Interpol – Lyon, France | President – Kim Jong Yang | Founded on – September 7, 1923

**393.** Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal delivered the keynote address at the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of India-Oman Joint Business Council (JBC) in New Delhi. The minister also stated that India was considering entering into a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Oman. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of India-Oman Joint Business Council (JBC) – held in New Delhi
- India is considering entering into a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Oman
- Oman – Muscat – Rial | Sultan – Haitham bin Tariq Al Said



## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**394.** Indigenous and non-descript cattle compromise 73% of the total cattle population of 19.35 Cr whereas the exotic and crossbred animals constitute more than 26%. These findings are part of Breed-wise Data collected during 20<sup>th</sup> Livestock Census of 2018-19. The report was released by the Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala. The report has covered 184 recognized indigenous/exotic and crossbred breeds of 19 selected species that are registered by the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR). As per the Census, 36.04% of the livestock population belong to cattle. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Parshottam Rupala – released 20<sup>th</sup> Livestock Census report of 2018-19
- According to report:
  - Indigenous and non-descript cattle compromise 73% of the total cattle population of 19.35 Cr
  - Exotic and crossbred animals constitute more than 26%
  - 36.04% of the livestock population belong to cattle
- [Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying: Parshottam Rupala | Constituency – Gujarat](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying: Sanjeev Kumar Balyan & L. Murugan](#)

**395.** According to the latest numbers sourced from the Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles (OICA), India sold 3,759,398 vehicles in 2021, compared to 2,973,319 vehicles sold in Germany. With this, India overtook Germany to become 4<sup>th</sup> largest vehicle market. India is the only country to report a double-digit growth amongst the top 5 global markets. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India – overtook Germany to become 4<sup>th</sup> largest vehicle market
- India – sold 3,759,398 vehicles in 2021, compared to 2,973,319 vehicles sold in Germany (according to OICA report)
- [Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier](#)

**396.** India has emerged as the largest remittance receiving country in 2021, followed by Mexico & China, according to the “Migration and Development Brief” report of the World Bank. India received remittances worth over \$89 billion in 2021, 8% higher than the \$82.73 billion in 2020. In total, remittance flows to low and middle-income countries are expected to increase by 4.2% to reach \$630 billion in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Migration and Development Brief” report of the World Bank:
- India – emerged as the largest remittance receiving country in 2021 | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Mexico | 3<sup>rd</sup> – China
- India received remittances worth over \$89 billion in 2021, 8% higher than the \$82.73 billion in 2020
- Remittance flows to low and middle-income countries are expected to increase by 4.2% to reach \$630 billion in 2022
- [HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant](#)



**397.** A project called the India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) found that nearly 23% out of 2.1 million Indians have uncontrolled blood pressure. India has committed to a “25 by 25” goal, which aims to reduce premature mortality due to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by 25% by 2025. One of the nine voluntary targets includes reducing the prevalence of high blood pressure by 25% by 2025. The programme was launched in November 2017. While 21.3% of women and 24% of men aged above 15 have hypertension in India, the prevalence is the highest in Kerala where 32.8% men and 30.9% women have been diagnosed with hypertension. About one-fourth of women and men aged 40 to 49 years have hypertension. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IHCI – found that nearly 23% out of 2.1 million Indians have uncontrolled blood pressure
- India – committed to a “25 by 25” goal to reduce premature mortality due to NCDs by 25% by 2025
- 21.3% of women and 24% of men aged above 15 have hypertension in India (Highest in Kerala)

**398.** On May 17, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, released the findings of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Assessment of Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWC) in 18 states of India. The report will act as a ‘Guiding Principle’ to plan better in the future. The 18 states were selected to cover the spectrum of epidemiological transition levels as defined by the Global Burden of Disease India study with a higher focus on North-Eastern states. The assessment of AB-HWCs in 18 states has been done in two phases by non-governmental entities namely - Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAAM) and Johns Hopkins Program for International Education in Gynaecology and Obstetrics (JHPIEGO) along with the AIIMS, New Delhi from the Government Sector for the year 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya – released the findings of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Assessment of ‘AB-HWC’ in 18 states
- The assessment of AB-HWCs in 18 states is done in two phases by GRAAM, JHPIEGO & AIIMS



**Amount & Agreements**

**399.** On May 14, a team from the World Bank arrived in Gujarat to hold preparatory meetings for the implementation of the Systems Reform Endeavours for Transformed Health Achievement in Gujarat (SRESTHA-G). The SRESTHA-G project will be a \$500 million project with \$350 million support coming from the World Bank. The project will include transforming key health delivery systems in the state. The SRESTHA-G project was approved by CM Bhupendra Patel, after which the proposal was sent to the Finance Ministry. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- World Bank – providing a support of \$350 million to \$500 million SRESTHA-G project
- SRESTHA-G – Systems Reform Endeavours for Transformed Health Achievement in Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

# Acquisitions & Mergers

**400.** On May 14, the UAE-based Emirates Telecommunications Group Company PJSC “e&” (Etisalat Group) announced the acquisition of approximately 2,766 million shares (9.8%) in Vodafone Group Plc for \$4.4 billion. The transaction is in line with e&’s ambition to be a global player in telecom and technology and to increase its exposure to international markets. {[Read more](#)}

## **Key Points:**

- Etisalat Group or e& (based in UAE) – announced acquisition of 9.8% shares in Vodafone Group Plc for \$4.4 billion
- HQs of Vi Ltd – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Ravinder Takkar | Non-Executive Chairman – Himanshu Kapania
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan





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