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# National & States Affairs

**401.** A first of its kind, Bird Festival in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is going to be organized to promote Sustainable Ecotourism and give impetus to nature based alternative sources of livelihood to the local people. The festival is tentatively being planned to be held in Pahalgam and Dachigaam areas. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- A first of its kind 'Bird Festival' – to be organized in Jammu & Kashmir
- The festival will promote Sustainable Ecotourism & give impetus to nature based alternative sources of Livelihood
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**402.** On May 16, Ministry of Science & Technology released the Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR) Guidelines and Scientific Research Infrastructure Sharing Maintenance and Networks (SRIMAN) Guidelines. Every scientist in India is expected to contribute at least 10 days in a year towards 'Scientific Social Responsibility' (SSR). The guidelines aimed to harness the potential of the scientific community in achieving social goals. Under the guidelines, the ministry enlisted 17 broad activities which can be taken up by the scientists as part of their SSR to bridge the gap between science and society. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Ministry of Science & Technology – released the 'SSR Guidelines' & 'SRIMAN Guidelines'
- The guidelines aimed to harness the potential of the Scientific Community in achieving Social Goals
- MoS (I/C) in the Ministry of Science & Technology: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K
- Chairman of Capacity Building Commission – Adil Zainulbhai

**403.** The e-Shram portal of the Ministry of Labour and Employment is being integrated with the 'One Nation One Ration Card' (ONORC) scheme, according to Bhupender Yadav, Minister for Labour and Employment. The e-Shram portal is meant to register workers in the unorganised sector and help them access social security benefits. Moreover, the Unorganised Workers Social Security Board was initiated in 2008. The Unorganised Worker Identification Number was initiated in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 'e-Shram' portal of Ministry of Labour & Employment – is being integrated with 'One Nation One Ration Card' scheme
- ONORC was started in August 2019
- Unorganised Workers Social Security Board was initiated in 2008
- Unorganised Worker Identification Number was initiated in 2015
- Ministry of Labour & Employment: Bhupender Yadav | Constituency – Rajasthan
- MoS in Ministry of Labour & Employment: Rameswar Teli

**404.** On May 18, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Amendments to the National Policy on Biofuels -2018. The "National Policy on Biofuels - 2018" was notified by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in 2018 in supersession of "National Policy on Biofuels", promulgated through the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, in 2009. The amendments advanced the ethanol blending target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol to 2025-26 from 2030. Prime Minister's vision is to make India 'Energy Independent' by 2047. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – approved the amendments to the ‘National Policy on Biofuels, 2018’
- The amendments advanced the ethanol blending target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol to 2025-26 from 2030
- Dharmendra Pradhan – Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minister of Steel (Madhya Pradesh)

**405.** On May 20, Union Minister of Railways, Ashwini Vaishnaw approved a Rs 8.34 Cr collaborative initiative on Hyperloop Technology, in collaboration with the IIT Madras. Hyperloop is the 5<sup>th</sup> mode of transportation, a high-speed train that travels in a near vacuum tube. The model proposed by Team Avishkar can achieve a top speed of over 1,200 km per hour. Team Avishkar is aiming to build the world’s largest student-developed Hyperloop testing facility at IIT Madras. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ministry of Railways + IIT Madras = approved a Rs 8.34 Cr collaborative initiative on ‘Hyperloop Technology’
- Hyperloop is the 5<sup>th</sup> mode of transportation – a high-speed train that travels in a near vacuum tube
- Model proposed by – Team Avishkar | Top speed – over 1,200 km/hour
- Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti
- Ministry of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Railways: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao & Darshana Vikram Jardosh

## International Affairs

**406.** From May 15-21, President Kovind was on a 4-day state visit to Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. He inaugurated “Dr BR Ambedkar Avenue”, a road named after the architect of India’s Constitution, Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, in Downtown Kingston, Jamaica. He also inaugurated the Jamaica-India Friendship Garden. This is the first visit by the Head of State of India to these two countries. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- President Kovind visited – Jamaica, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
- He inaugurated a road named “Dr BR Ambedkar Avenue” in Downtown Kingston, Jamaica

**407.** On May 16, China flew an airship named “Jimu No. 1” at record altitude of 9,032 metres, higher than Mount Everest, which is 8,849 metres high. Flying at a speed of 30 metres per second, the airship took off from a base camp at an altitude of 4,300 metres on the world’s highest peak. Part of China’s Earth Summit Mission 2022, the airship is studying the environment above the highest peak in the world. It will study atmospheric composition data and the water vapour transporting process from the surface. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- China – flew an airship named “Jimu No. 1” at record altitude of 9,032 metres at a speed of 30 metres per second
- It is part of China’s ‘Earth Summit Mission 2022’
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping





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# Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

**408.** On May 13, Assam Rifles, Axis Bank and National Integrity and Educational Development Organisation (NIEDO) has signed an MoU to establish a Centre of Excellence and Wellness, to secure a better future for the youth of Nagaland. The center is named 'Late Capt N Kenguruse, MVC Centre of Excellence and Wellness' and it will be located at Chieswema, Kohima. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Assam Rifles + Axis Bank + NIEDO = an MoU to establish a 'Centre of Excellence & Wellness' for the youth of Nagaland
- The center is named 'Late Capt. N. Kenguruse, MVC Centre of Excellence & Wellness' & located at Chieswema, Kohima
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – "Badhti ka Naam Zindagi"

**409.** The Office of the Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) released the index numbers of wholesale price in India (Base Year: 2011-12) for the month of April, 2022 (Provisional) and for the month of February, 2022 (Final). The annual rate of inflation was 15.08% (Provisional) for the month of April, 2022 (Y-o-Y) as compared to 10.74% in April, 2021. The rate of inflation based on WPI Food Index increased marginally from 8.71% in March, 2022 to 8.88% in April, 2022. The month over month change in WPI index for the month of April, 2022 stood at 2.08 % as compared to March, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- DPIIT – released the 'Index Numbers of Wholesale Price in India' for April, 2022 (Provisional) & for Feb, 2022 (Final)
- The annual rate of inflation was 15.08% (Provisional) for April, 2022 (as compared to 10.74% in April, 2021)
- The rate of inflation based on WPI Food Index increased marginally to 8.88% in April, 2022 (from 8.71% in March, 2022)
- The month over month change in WPI index for April, 2022 is 2.08 % (as compared to March, 2022)
- HQs of DPIIT – New Delhi | DPIIT works under – Ministry of Commerce & Industry

**410.** On May 19, P. N. Vasudevan, Managing Director and CEO, Equitas Small Finance Bank, has decided to step down from his role in order to focus on the public charitable trust. Vasudevan holds about 2% stake in Equitas Holdings. Vasudevan had started Equitas in 2007 as a microfinance institution and it later converted into an SFB in 2016. Vasudevan would continue as MD and CEO till the succession and transition process is completed. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- P. N. Vasudevan – decided to step down from his role as MD & CEO of Equitas Small Finance Bank
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan (till the succession)

**411.** In May 2022, the RBI imposed a penalty of Rs 29.79 lakh on Unimoni Financial Services Limited for non-compliance with certain instruction contained in the master direction on issuance and operation of Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI). [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- RBI – imposed a penalty of Rs 29.79 lakh on Unimoni Financial Services for non-compliance on operation of PPI
- 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





**412.** On May 19, New Development Bank (NDB) has issued an RMB-denominated bond of 7 billion yuan (about USD 1.04 billion) in China's interbank bond market with a maturity of 3 years. Upon the completion of the issuance, the bank would have a cumulative total of 30-billion-yuan bonds issued under its RMB bond programs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NDB – issued RMB-denominated bond of 7 billion yuan (about \$1.04 billion) in China's interbank bond market
- Maturity – 3 years | Total bonds issued by NDB under RMB bond programs – 30-billion-yuan
- HQs of NDB – Shanghai, China | President – Marcos Prado Troyjo (established by BRICS Countries - in 2014)

**413.** On May 18, Finance Ministry has come out with a new Government Guarantee Policy (GGP), which aims to include all the changes in General Financial Rules (GFR) and financial policies. Such a policy is required as the volume of sovereign guarantees undertaken during a financial year is limited as per the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003. The Centre will not give guarantees aggregating to an amount exceeding 0.5% of the GDP in any financial year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Finance Ministry – come out with a new GGP to include all the changes in GFR and financial policies
- The Centre will not give guarantees aggregating to an amount exceeding 0.5% of the GDP in any FY
- Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chowdhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad



## Defence Affairs

**414.** India's first indigenous Flying Trainer Aircraft "HANSA-NG", designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Bangalore has successfully completed the sea level trials at Puducherry from February 19 to March 5, 2022. The aircraft was piloted by K. V. Prakash and Dilip Reddy. HANSA-NG is one of the most advanced flying trainer powered by Rotax Digital Control Engine. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "HANSA-NG" - India's first indigenous Flying Trainer Aircraft – completed the sea level trials at Puducherry
- HANSA-NG – designed & developed by CSIR-NAL, Bangalore & powered by Rotax Digital Control Engine
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | President – Narendra Modi | DG – Shekhar C. Mande | Established in – 1942

**415.** On May 18, an indigenously developed Naval Anti-Ship Missile was successfully test-fired for the first time from a naval helicopter from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off Odisha coast. The Indian Navy carried out the test in association with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The test was carried out from a Seaking-42B helicopter. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Navy – successfully test-fired indigenously developed Naval Anti-Ship Missile from a Seaking-42B helicopter
- The test was carried out the test in association with DRDO – from ITR, Chandipur off Odisha coast
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

**416.** On May 18, Defence minister Rajnath Singh flew a sortie in the P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft of the Indian Navy during his visit to Mumbai. The Indian Navy was the first international customer for the P-8 aircraft, which is produced by US aerospace major Boeing. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajnath Singh – flew a sortie in ‘P-8I’ anti-submarine warfare aircraft of the Indian Navy
- Indian Navy was the first international customer for the ‘P-8’ aircraft | ‘P-8I’ – produced by Boeing
- HQs of Boeing – Chicago, US | CEO – Dave Calhoun | Founded in – 1916

## Sports & Games

**417.** On May 18, Odisha was crowned as the champion of the 12<sup>th</sup> Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2022 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh with a thrilling 2-0 victory over Karnataka in the final of the competition. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Odisha – won the 12<sup>th</sup> ‘Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2022’ in Bhopal (defeating - Karnataka)
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**418.** In May 2022, Adani Sportsline, a part of the Adani Group, made a foray into franchise cricket by acquiring the rights to own and operate a franchise in UAE T20 League. Licensed by the Emirates Cricket Board, the UAE T20 League will be an annual event that will feature six teams competing in a 34-match event. Adani will be the fifth franchise owner of the UAE T20 league. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Adani Sportsline – acquired the rights to own & operate a franchise in UAE T20 League
- Adani will be the 5<sup>th</sup> franchise owner of the UAE T20 league which is licensed by the Emirates Cricket Board
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

## Science & Technology

**419.** On May 18, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh chaired the 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting of all Science Ministries and Departments in New Delhi. In addition, 75 Students’ satellites, under a space mission called “UNITYsat”, are scheduled to launch in 2022, coinciding with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. ‘Azadisat’ is also scheduled to launch this year. These 75 students’ satellites are developed by students from the Chandigarh University, IIT Kanpur, IIT Bombay and 11 other institutions. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Jitendra Singh – chaired the 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting of all Science Ministries & Departments in New Delhi
- 75 Students’ satellites are scheduled to launch in 2022 under a space mission called “UNITYsat”
- MoS (I/C) in the Ministry of Science & Technology: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K
- MoS in the Department of Atomic Energy and Space: Dr. Jitendra Singh



**420.** On May 18, Herpetologists in Mizoram have recorded a new species of non-venomous snake living away from sources of water unlike its six recognised sister-species. The new-to-science snake named “lenrul”, meaning high-elevation snake in the Mizo language, is the only one of its kind in India found beyond 1,700 metres above the mean sea level. The snake’s scientific name is *Herpetoreas murlen*, derived from the place it was found - Murlen National Park in Champhai district of Mizoram. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A new species of non-venomous snake “*Herpetoreas murlen*” – found in Murlen National Park, Mizoram
- Snake is named “lenrul”, meaning high-elevation snake in the Mizo language
- It is the only one of its kind in India found beyond 1,700 metres above the mean sea level
- [Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – B. D. Mishra \(addi. charge\)](#)

**421.** On May 19, Chinese scientists have proposed a space project to survey the sky through a space-borne telescope to hunt for habitable Earth-like planets outside the solar system, about 32 light-years from Earth. The project, named Closeby Habitable Exoplanet Survey (CHES), if carried out, will be the first space mission specially designed to search for habitable terrestrial planets around nearby Sun-like stars. The CHES will observe about 100 Sun-like stars 32 light-years away on a long-term survey and will hopefully discover roughly 50 Earth-like planets or super-Earths, planets that are up to about 10 times the mass of Earth. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China – proposed a project, named ‘CHES’ to survey the sky for habitable Earth-like planets outside the Solar System
- It will be the first space mission specially designed to search for habitable terrestrial planets around nearby Sun-like stars
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)

**422.** On May 18, a team of scientists at the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (Kufos) has standardised the techniques for artificial breeding of Olive barbs (*Kuruva Paral*) and Filament barb (*Kalakkodiyam*), and have developed brood stocks for Highfin barb (*Kooral*) and Carnatic carp (*Pachilavetti*). The conservation measures being taken up by Kufos are supported under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-India High Range Landscape project. The university has also set up a Hatchery at Idamalayar with the support of the UNDP. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Scientists at Kufos – standardised the techniques for artificial breeding of Olive barbs & Filament barb
- Scientists have developed brood stocks for Highfin barb & Carnatic carp
- Kufos – set up a Hatchery at Idamalayar with the support of the UNDP
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

**423.** A team of Australian researchers have identified a biochemical marker in the blood that could help identify newborn babies at risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). In their study, babies who died of SIDS had lower levels of an enzyme called butyrylcholinesterase (BChE) shortly after birth. BChE plays a major role in the brain’s arousal pathway, and low levels would reduce a sleeping infant’s ability to wake up or respond to its environment. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Australian researchers identified a biochemical marker in the blood related to ‘SIDS’
- SIDS – Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
- Babies who died of SIDS had lower levels of an enzyme called ‘butyrylcholinesterase (BChE)’ shortly after birth
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison](#)

**424.** The Denisovans, an extinct group of archaic humans first discovered in a Siberian cave in 2008, were found outside of northern Asia too, the analysis of a tooth found in a Laos cave has shown. The tooth, a permanent lower molar, was discovered by a team of scientists in December 2018 from Cobra Cave in Hua Pan province, Laos. The scientists published their study titled “A Middle Pleistocene Denisovan molar from the Annamite Chain of northern Laos” in the journal ‘Nature Communications’ on May 17, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A study “A Middle Pleistocene Denisovan molar from the Annamite Chain of northern Laos” – was published in the journal ‘Nature Communications’
- The ‘Denisovans’ were found outside of northern Asia too | The study is based on – a molar tooth
- Denisovans – an extinct group of archaic humans first discovered in a Siberian cave in 2008

## **Appointments & Resignations**

**425.** On May 17, Naveen Srivastava, presently Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Nepal. Srivastava will succeed Vinay Kwatra, who became Foreign Secretary. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Naveen Srivastava – appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Nepal (succeeding - Vinay Kwatra)
- Vinay Kwatra – became Foreign Secretary
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba

**426.** In May 2022, Aruna Singh, presently working as Additional Member (Telecom) in the Railway Board, took over additional charge of the post of Chairman & Managing Director of RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RCIL). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Aruna Singh – took over additional charge of the post of CMD of RailTel Corporation of India Limited
- HQs of RailTel – New Delhi | CMD – Aruna Singh (additional charge)

**427.** In May 2022, India-born conservation biologist Dr Kamal Bawa is elected to the US National Academy of Sciences. He is also the President of Bengaluru-based Ashoka Trust for Research and Ecology and Environment (ATREE). Dr Bawa is also an elected fellow of the Royal Society (London) and the American Philosophical Society. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Kamal Bawa (President of ATREE, Bengaluru) – elected to the US National Academy of Sciences
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

## **Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes**

**428.** In May 2022, 48-years old British climber Kenton Edward Cool reached the summit of Mount Everest for the 16<sup>th</sup> time, the most of any non-Nepali climber. The UK’s Kenton Cool first climbed Everest in 2004 and has since had an expedition almost every year taking clients up the world’s highest peak. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kenton Edward Cool – reached the summit of Mount Everest for the 16<sup>th</sup> time (the most of any non-Nepali climber)
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson



**429.** In May 2022, Activist Cecile Ndjebet, of Cameroon, won the “2022 Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award” in recognition of her outstanding contribution to preserving forests and improving the lives of people who depend on them. The award was presented by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and was conferred at a ceremony during the “XV World Forestry Congress” in Seoul, Republic of Korea. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “XV World Forestry Congress” – held in Seoul, South Korea
- Cecile Ndjebet (Cameroon) – won the “2022 Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award”
- Cameroon – Yaounde – Central African CFA franc | President – Paul Biya

## **Schemes & Initiatives**

**430.** On May 17, Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan called for “Malviya Mission” to set up nation-wide ecosystem for faculty development in higher education institutes. He called for a multidisciplinary approach towards teacher education with focus on Indian values, languages, knowledge, ethos, and traditions. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dharmendra Pradhan – called for “Malviya Mission” to set up an Ecosystem for Faculty Development in Higher Education Institutes
- Ministry of Education: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Education: Subhas Sarkar



## **Important Days & Dates**

**431.** May 19 is celebrated across the globe as World Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). The disease is chronic inflammatory condition of the intestine and is of two main types: Ulcerative Colitis and Crohn’s disease. IBD is increasing in India and this increase is largely driven by changes in the diet and westernization of lifestyle. A recent editorial in Lancet Gastroenterology and Hepatology described South Asia (including India) as a new frontier of IBD. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 19 – World Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- An editorial in ‘Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology’ described South Asia (including India) as a new frontier of IBD

**432.** World Metrology Day is celebrated every year on 20 May. On this occasion, scientific communities come together to pay homage to a meeting that happened on this day in 1875 to establish a standard measurement system for all nations. The day commemorates the anniversary of signature by representatives of 17 nations of the ‘Metre Convention-1875’. In 2022, the theme is “Metrology in the Digital Era”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 20 – World Metrology Day | 2022’s Theme – “Metrology in the Digital Era”
- ‘Metre Convention’ was signed by 17 nations on 20 May, 1875 – in Paris, France



# Meetings, Conferences and Summits

**433.** From May 17-20, the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, US. In 2018, UN Member States agreed to review the progress made at the local, national, regional and global levels in implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in the framework of the United Nations. The quadrennial IMRF will be hosted by the President of the UN General Assembly. V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs, headed the Indian delegation to the first IMRF. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- V. Muraleedharan – headed Indian delegation at the 1<sup>st</sup> International Migration Review Forum – held in New York
- The quadrennial IMRF will be hosted by – the President of the UNGA
- [HQs of UNGA – New York, USA](#) | [President – Abdulla Shahid](#) | [Member Countries – 193](#)

**434.** Vast areas of degraded land across the globe require restoration. For this, the investment in forest and landscape restoration globally must be tripled by 2030 to implement global commitments and meet internationally agreed goals and targets, according to the recently adopted Seoul Declaration. The Declaration focuses on identifying key areas that can help combat multiple crises humanity faces. It was adopted on May 5, 2022, at the XV World Forestry Congress, held in Seoul, South Korea. The Declaration was signed by 141 participant countries. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- XV World Forestry Congress – held in Seoul, South Korea
- Seoul Declaration – was recently adopted to triple the investment in Forest & Landscape Restoration by 2030
- The Declaration was adopted on May 5, 2022, at the Congress & signed by 141 participant countries
- [South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won](#) | [President – Yoon Suk-yeol](#)

**435.** On May 17, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal chaired the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of National Startup Advisory Council (NSAC) in New Delhi. The Minister also launched “NavIC Grand Challenge” which aims at promoting adoption of NavIC as geo-positioning solution. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) had constituted the NSAC to advise the Government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in India. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Piyush Goyal – chaired the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of National Startup Advisory Council (NSAC) in New Delhi
- Piyush Goyal – launched “NavIC Grand Challenge” to promote NavIC as GPS
- [Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal](#) | [Constituency – Maharashtra](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash](#)
- [Ministry of Textiles: Piyush Goyal](#) | [Constituency – Maharashtra](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Textiles: Darshana Vikram Jardosh](#)

**436.** On May 13, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy, United Arab Emirates launched India-UAE Start-up Bridge at India-UAE Economic Partnership Summit in Mumbai. This bridge will act as a one-stop platform where information regarding the Indian and UAE startup ecosystem will be easily accessible to entrepreneurs and stakeholders from both countries. This is the first such bridge by UAE with any country. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- 'India-UAE Economic Partnership Summit' – held in Mumbai
- India + UAE = launched 'India-UAE Start-up Bridge' (first such bridge by UAE with any country)
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**437.** On May 18, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have jointly launched the first Global Report on Assistive Technology (GReAT). This report is the culmination of the 71<sup>st</sup> World Health Assembly resolution in 2018 to prepare a global report on effective access to assistive technology. An analysis of 35 countries revealed that Access to Assistive Technology varies from 3% in poorer nations to 90% in wealthy countries. The report notes that the number of people in need of one or more assistive products is likely to rise to 3.5 billion by 2050, due to populations ageing and the prevalence of noncommunicable diseases rising across the world. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- WHO + UNICEF = launched the first 'Global Report on Assistive Technology (GReAT)'
- Access to Assistive Technology varies from 3% in poorer nations to 90% in wealthy countries
- Number of people in need of one or more assistive products is likely to rise to 3.5 billion by 2050
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, US | Executive Director – Catherine Russell | Established in – 1946

**438.** "The State of Inequality in India" report was released by Dr. Bibek Debroy, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). The report was prepared by the Institute for Competitiveness and presented a holistic analysis of the depth and nature of inequality in India. The report compiled information on inequities across sectors of health, education, household characteristics and the labour market. The country's unemployment rate was 4.8% in 2019-20, and the worker population ratio was 46.8%. The share of the top 1% accounts for 6-7% of the total incomes earned, while the top 10% accounts for one-third of all incomes earned. In the area of health infrastructure, total health centers in India in 2020 stood at 1,85,505, from 1,72,608 health centers in 2005. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Dr. Bibek Debroy (Chairman of EAC-PM) – released "The State of Inequality in India" report
- Unemployment rate in 2019-20 – 4.8% | Worker population ratio – 46.8%
- Health centers in India in 2020 stood at 1,85,505, from 1,72,608 health centers in 2005
- The EAC-PM is chaired by – Dr. Bibek Debroy

**439.** The number of Indians suffering from cancer is projected to increase to 29.8 million in 2025 from 26.7 million in 2021. Men will contribute to 14.7 million Years of Life Lost (YLLs), 0.72 million Years Lived with Disability (YLDs) and 15.5 million Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) in 2025. The highest incidence last year was in the North (2,408 patients per 1,00,000) and the Northeast (2,177 per 1,00,000). According to a report by the Indian Council for Medical Research on the 'Burden of cancers in India', seven types of Cancer accounted for more than 40% of the total disease burden, with the highest cases of lung cancer (10.6%). Mizoram, Delhi and Meghalaya had the highest cancer DALYs and the most vulnerable demographic are people in the 65-69-year age group. The findings of the report have been published in BMC Cancer Journal. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- ICMR released a report on the 'Burden of cancers in India'
- Indians suffering from cancer is projected to increase to 29.8 million in 2025 from 26.7 million in 2021
- Highest cases of Cancer – Lung cancer (10.6%)
- Most vulnerable demographic – people in the 65-69-year age group
- HQs of ICMR – New Delhi, India | Director General – Balram Bhargava | Established in – 1911

**440.** A pan-India one-day bird estimation exercise, "Himalayan Bird Count", revealed that Uttarakhand had the highest number of avian species count, at 294, among all states, followed by West Bengal (284), and Arunachal Pradesh (234). The one-day survey was conducted by Bird Count India, Bird Conservation Nepal and Bhutan-based Royal Society for Protection of Nature on May 14, which is also observed as Endemic Bird Day. Uttarakhand also had the highest number of birdwatchers in the Himalayan region. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- May 14 – Endemic Bird Day
- "Himalayan Bird Count" - a one-day bird estimation exercise was conducted by – Bird Count India, Bird Conservation Nepal & Royal Society for Protection of Nature (Bhutan)
- Highest number of avian species count – Uttarakhand (294), West Bengal (284), & Arunachal Pradesh (234)
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

**441.** Air pollution was responsible for 16.7 lakh deaths in India in 2019, or 17.8% of all deaths in India that year. This is the largest number of air-pollution-related deaths of any country, according to a recent report on Pollution and Health published in the Lancet Planetary Health. Globally, air pollution alone contributes to 66.7 lakh deaths, according to the report. Overall, pollution was responsible for an estimated 90 lakh deaths in 2019, a number that has remained unchanged since the 2015 analysis. According to the report, air pollution is most severe in the Indo-Gangetic Plain. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 'Report on Pollution & Health' – published in the Lancet Planetary Health
- India topped the air pollution death toll in 2019 = 16.7 lakh deaths (17.8% of all Deaths in India in 2019)
- Overall, pollution was responsible for an estimated 90 lakh deaths in 2019 (air pollution – 66.7 lakh deaths)

**442.** Indian government registered low score in World Bank's World Governance Indicators (WGI). The WGI provides a ranking of 215 countries territories based on 6 dimensions of governance: 'Voice and Accountability'; 'Political Stability and Absence of Violence'; 'Government Effectiveness'; 'Regulatory Quality'; 'Rule of Law' and 'Control of Corruption'. India's scores were much below its peers on all six indicators. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- World Bank – provides World Governance Indicators (WGI) based on 6 dimensions of governance
- Indian government registered low score in World Bank's WGI
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant





# Acquisitions & Mergers

**443.** On May 19, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved merger by absorption of Covidshield Technologies Pvt Ltd (CTPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Serum Institute of Life Sciences, into Biocon Biologics in consideration for acquisition of approximately 15% stake of Biocon Biologics by Serum Institute Life Sciences. Covidshield Technologies will be merged into Biocon Biologics and the acquirer Serum Institute Life Sciences Pvt Ltd will have about 15% stake in Biocon Biologics Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

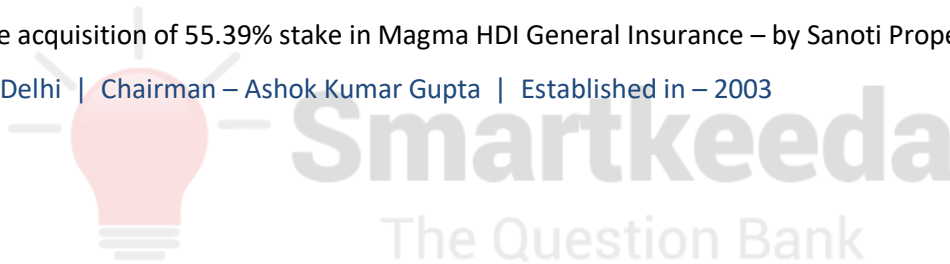
## **Key Points:**

- CCI – approved acquisition of approximately 15% stake of Biocon Biologics by Serum Institute Life Sciences
- Covidshield Technologies will be merged into Biocon Biologics
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003
- HQs of Biocon Biologics – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD – Arun Chandavarkar
- HQs of SII – Pune, MH | Chairman – Cyrus S. Poonawalla | CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla | Founded in – 1966

**444.** On May 18, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed acquisition of 55.39% stake in Magma HDI General Insurance Company Ltd by Sanoti Properties LLP. It would involve buying shares of Magma HDI held by certain shareholders like Poonawalla Fincorp Ltd and Serum Institute of India. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- CCI – approved the acquisition of 55.39% stake in Magma HDI General Insurance – by Sanoti Properties LLP
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003



# MoUs, Collaborations & Partnership

**445.** A high-level delegation led by Chemical & Fertilisers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, visited Jordan from May 13-15 for enhanced cooperation in the fertilizer sector amid a global fertilizers crisis. India has signed a 5-year agreement with Jordan-based companies for supply of fertilisers, including 2.5 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of DAP (di-ammonium phosphate) and 2.75 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of MOP (muriate of potash). [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- India + Jordan = a 5-year agreement for supply of fertilisers (including 2.5 lakh MT of DAP & 2.75 lakh MT of MOP)
- Jordan – Amman – Jordanian Dinar | Prime Minister – Bisher Al-Khasawneh

**446.** Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) signed an MoU with National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) for undertaking various activities for smooth implementation of the 'Scheme for Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Indian Capital Goods Sector'. Aim of this MoU is to make India a global hub for the manufacturing of capital goods. The scheme has a financial outlay of Rs 1207 Cr with Budgetary support of Rs 975 Cr and Industry Contribution of Rs 232 Cr to expand and enlarge the impact created by Phase I of Capital Goods scheme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Heavy Industries + NRDC = an MoU for smooth implementation of the 'Scheme for Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Indian Capital Goods Sector'
- Financial outlay of the scheme – Rs 1207 Cr | Budgetary support – Rs 975 Cr | Industry Contribution – Rs 232 Cr
- Ministry of Heavy Industries: Mahendra Nath Pandey | Constituency – Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Heavy Industries: Krishan Pal

**447.** On May 17, the occasion of "World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD)", the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) and Vodafone Idea Limited signed an MoU to develop and deploy IoT/M2M solutions in India for addressing the challenges in IoT implementation. The C-DOT is the premier R&D centre of the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- C-DOT + Vi Ltd = an MoU to develop & deploy IoT/M2M solutions in India to address IoT related challenges
- HQs of C-DoT – New Delhi | Executive Director – Rajkumar Upadhyay
- C-DoT functions under – Ministry of Communications
- HQs of Vi Ltd – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Ravinder Takkar | Non-Executive Chairman – Himanshu Kapania

**448.** On May 18, the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd (CSC-SPV) and Department of Posts, signed an MoU for the advocacy, outreach, mobilization and capacity-building of last-mile government buyers, sellers and service providers in public procurement. More than 4.5 lakh Common Service Centers (CSC) and more than 1.5 lakh India Post offices across India will be trained. Vernacular language-based Training Curriculum in print and digital media for CSCs and India Post staff based on the requirement of the participants was developed by GeM in consultation with CSC-SPV and Department of Posts. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- GeM + CSC-SPV + Department of Posts = an MoU for the advocacy, outreach, mobilization & capacity-building of last-mile government buyers, sellers & service providers
- More than 4.5 lakh CSCs & more than 1.5 lakh India Post offices across India will be trained
- HQs of CSC – New Delhi | Chairman – Ajay Prakash Sawhney | MD – Dinesh Kumar Tyagi (set up by MeitY)
- Secretary in Department of Posts – Vineet Pandey

**449.** On May 12, Tata Technologies Ltd partnered with Assam government to transform 34 state polytechnics and 43 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into futuristic Centres of Excellence (CoEs), entailing an investment of about Rs 2,390 Cr. The company signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Assam government for a period of 10 years for the purpose. These COEs will not only cater to the advanced skill requirements of students aligned to the key industries in Assam, but also act as a technology and industrial hub for MSMEs and support entrepreneurship. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tata Technologies + Assam = partnered to transform 34 state polytechnics & 43 ITIs into futuristic CoEs
- Investment – Rs 2,390 Cr
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- HQs of Tata Technologies – Pune, Maharashtra | Chairman – S. Ramadorai | MD & CEO – Warren Harris



**450.** On May 19, Government eMarketplace (GeM) and Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) signed an MoU for the advocacy, outreach, mobilization and capacity-building of last-mile women-led micro and small enterprises. The MoU was signed by Shri PK Singh, CEO, GeM, and Ms. Rehana Riyawala, Vice-President, SEWA in New Delhi. GeM is a Section 8 company setup under the administrative control of the Department of Commerce. While SEWA is the premier Women's organization in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- GeM + SEWA = an MoU for the advocacy, outreach, mobilization & capacity-building of last-mile women-led MSEs
- GeM – a 'Section 8' company setup under Department of Commerce





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