

Weekly Current Affairs PDF MAY 01 to MAY 07, 2022

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NATIONAL

Telangana govt extends insurance coverage to handloom & power loom weavers under 'Nethanna Bima' scheme

- Telangana State Government has announced the extension of insurance coverage to handloom and power loom weavers under the 'Nethanna Bima' (Weaver's Insurance) Scheme. The State Government has issued orders to extend insurance coverage of 5 lakh rupees for weavers under the Insurance Scheme on par with farmers' insurance schemes.
- Over 29 crore rupees have been sanctioned for implementing the scheme during the current year. The Cabinet Sub Committee had proposed to cover over 55 thousand handloom and power loom and ancillary weavers in the State.
- The insurance coverage will be extended to weavers in the age group of 18 to 59 years. The insurance benefits would be extended to the family of the death of the weaver or ancillary worker. The scheme is likely to be launched next month.
- The department has been directed to prepare draft guidelines and submit to the government for implementation of the scheme, said a senior official from the Handlooms department.

Haryana launches app to track movement of sand, mining vehicles

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has launched a Vehicle Movement Tracking System (VMTS) mobile app to track the vehicles carrying sand and other mining material. The app will be used at different checkpoints in all the districts of Haryana. All vehicle details including vehicle type, vehicle number, moving from, moving to, and driver details will be stored in it. The non-registered individual will not be permitted to enter the zone of sand mining. This App has been designed and developed in-house by National Informatics Centre, Haryana.
- The app will be used at different checkpoints in all the districts of Haryana and vehicle details — like vehicle number, vehicle type, moving from, moving to — along with driver details, like name, driver mobile number and driver license number will be punched into it. If the vehicle is to move between source and destination checkpoints, then officials can mark the vehicle exit from the originating check post as an interim exit and at the destination checkpoint it will be marked as a final exit.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISRO plans mission to Venus by Dec 2024

- The Indian Space Research Organisation will send a spacecraft to orbit Venus to study what lies below its surface, the space body's Chairperson S Somnath announced. ISRO is expecting to launch the mission by December 2024 with an orbital manoeuvre planned for a year after that. The orbital manoeuvre is the use of propulsion systems to change the orbit of a spacecraft. It enables a spacecraft to enter a planet's orbit.

- In 2025, the Earth and Venus would be aligned in a manner that it would require a minimum amount of propellant for the spacecraft to enter the orbit of the hottest planet in the Solar System. A similar window to conduct the mission would next be available in 2031.

RPF detects 26 cases of transportation of illegal tobacco products from 5th April to 30th April, 2022

- Railway Protection Force (RPF) has recently started “Operation Satark”. Focused effort under “Operation Satark” was launched from 5th April to 30th April 2022 wherein 26 cases of transportation of illegal tobacco products were detected with seizure of tobacco products worth more than Rs 44 Lakhs and arrest of 14 persons involved.
- Being aware of its responsibility as the first responder in cases of smuggling through rail, RPF took concerted action in such cases and seized smuggled items worth about Rs. 3.18 Crores during the period mentioned above. For taking action against illicit liquor, fake currency circulation, illegal tobacco products, unaccounted gold or cash or precious items, and any other items being transported through railway network for the purpose of tax evasion or smuggling or commission of crime or acts of terror.

OBITURY

Last Surviving F1 Race Winner From 1950s Tony Brooks Passes Away aged 90

- Tony Brooks, a British racing driver who won six Formula One Grand Prix in the 1950s and was nicknamed the “Racing Dentist”, has passed away. He was born in the United Kingdom in 1932. Tony retired from the sport at the age of just 29 after driving for four teams – BRM, Vanwall, Ferrari, and Cooper.
- Brooks was the most successful driver of his era after Juan Manuel Fangio, Alberto Ascari, and Moss. His most famous victory was perhaps at the 1957 British Grand Prix at Aintree, a home win he shared with his compatriot Moss.
- Brooks made his debut for BRM at the 1956 British Grand Prix before going on to drive for Vanwall in 1957 and 1958. The year after he was picked by Enzo Ferrari, the season he also came agonizingly close to winning the world title, only to lose it by four points to Jack Brabham.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Athletics Day 2022: 7th May

- World Athletics Day is celebrated every year globally on the 7th of May to raise awareness about the importance of fitness and encourage them to play sports, especially athletics. The basic objective of World Athletics Day is to boost the participation of youths in athletics. The World Athletics Day gave a chance to schools, colleges and various other institutions to promote their children’s interests in various other sports from running to shot put and various other sports which require stamina.
- In 1996, World Athletics Day was started by the then International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) President Primo Nebiolo. The World Athletics federation and an international governing body for the field of athletics, IAAF, organises and sponsors this day every year since then, with a focus on fitness and health.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Skill Ministry join hands with ISRO, launches ISRO Technical Training Programme

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signs an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Indian Space Research Organisation with the goal of upskilling the technical workforce at the Department of Space of ISRO. Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary MSDE, and Shri S. Somanath, Secretary Department of Space/ Chairman ISRO, signed the MoU.
- The initiative aims to establish a formal framework for short-term courses to provide training for the skill development and capacity building of ISRO technical professionals in the space domain in the country, in accordance with industry requirements. Over the next five years, more than 4000 ISRO technical professionals will be taught in the programme.
- The training will take place at MSDE's National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) throughout India.
- The training program's goal is to improve the abilities of diverse technical professionals in ISRO centres and units under the Department of Space (DOS).

SC appoints panel headed by retired HC judge for recovery of monies from defaulters: NSEL

- The Supreme Court of India formed a high-level committee, headed by retired Bombay High Court Judge Pradeep Nandrajog, for recovery of money from the defaulters against whom the National Spot Exchange (NSEL) has secured money decrees. NSEL has already secured decrees and arbitration awards of Rs 3,534 crores against the defaulters. Further, defaulters' liabilities of Rs 760 crores have already been crystallised by the committee appointed by the Bombay High Court.
- Proceedings for a decree against NK Protein worth Rs 964 crores is pending before the Bombay High Court. In 2013, investors and traders in NSEL lost about Rs 5,600 crores after the exchange shut trading abruptly leading to a series of defaults. Two of the defaulters have already paid their liabilities worth Rs 196 crores. The claims will be verified by the Supreme Court-appointed committee. The Supreme Court-appointed committee will oversee the sale of assets, attached by the Maharashtra government under the MPID Act and Enforcement Directorate across India.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Cynthia Rosenzweig wins 2022 World Food Prize

- A senior research scientist and head of the Climate Impacts Group at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) in New York City, Cynthia Rosenzweig has received the 2022 World Food Prize from the World Food Prize Foundation. Rosenzweig was selected for the award for her research to understand the relationship between climate and food systems and forecast how both will change in the future.
- Her modelling work has provided a foundation for decision-makers around the world to create strategies to mitigate climate change and adapt our food systems to a changing planet, which has helped communities worldwide address the consequences of Earth's changing climate.

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NATIONAL

Flow Chemistry Tech Hub opened in Hyderabad

- At Dr. Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences (DRILS), a multi-industry-supported Flow Chemistry Technology Hub (FCT Hub) has been launched . While inaugurating the hub, Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary of the Industries and Commerce (I&C) and Information Technology (IT), said that this is the first of its kind in our country and an enabler for the pharma business in India.
- This hub would usher in a paradigm shift in the pharmaceutical sector, including current methodologies from R&D through manufacturing and migrating to more environmentally friendly and sustainable procedures.
- This hub is a groundbreaking endeavour by the Telangana government, in collaboration with Dr. Reddy's Laboratories and Laurus Labs, to incorporate and promote efficient and sustainable technology in the pharmaceutical industry.
- The FCT Hub houses a variety of state-of-the-art flow chemistry equipment to provide hands-on training and promote scientific capability building, ensuring greater inclusion of flow chemistry techniques throughout pharma R&D and greater adoption of constant synthesis for active pharma ingredients (APIs) manufacturing.

India's 'first' tribal health observatory to come up in Odisha

- Odisha is planning to create India's only observatory, which will house data on the state's indigenous population's health. The ST and SC Development Department and the RMRC, a regional institution of the Indian Council of Medical Research, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in this regard.
- The Tribal Health Observatory (TriHOb) is the "first in the nation," according to the Information Department, and is aimed to be an effective, evidence-based, and policy-oriented centre.
- It will monitor illness burden, health-seeking behaviour, and the healthcare delivery system in relation to tribal health in the state in a systematic and continuing manner.
- 'Mo School' Abhiyan chairman Sushmita Bagchi also inaugurated a tribal family health survey among indigenous groups during the event in which the MoU was signed.
- The survey will serve as a springboard for future longitudinal cohort studies and policy research.
- The 'Mo School' (My School) programme aims to connect, collaborate, and contribute to the renovation of government and government-aided schools in Odisha.

SPORTS

'Intimidating' Wriddhiman Saha: BCCI slaps 2-year ban on Boria Majumdar

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has banned journalist Boria Majumdar for two years after an internal inquiry found him guilty of an attempt to

“threaten and intimidate” wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha. The BCCI apex council, during its meeting last week, considered the report of a three-member committee and decided to ban Majumdar from being involved in any cricket or interviewing cricketers for two years.

- The BCCI Committee considered the submissions by both Mr Saha and Mr Majumdar and concluded that the actions by Mr Majumdar were indeed in the nature of threat and intimidation. The BCCI Committee recommended the following sanctions to the Apex Council of BCCI.

Tokyo Olympian Kamalpreet Kaur provisionally suspended after testing positive for banned drug

- Olympian discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur has been provisionally suspended by Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) for testing positive for a banned substance. Kamalpreet, who was tested on March 29, was suspended for the presence/use of the prohibited substance stanozolol in her sample, a breach of the World Athletics anti-doping rules. Kaur had made it to the Tokyo Olympics final, finishing sixth with a throw of 63.7m.
- A provisional suspension is when an athlete or other person is suspended temporarily from participating in any competition or activity in athletics prior to a final decision at a hearing conducted under the World Athletics Anti-Doping Rules or the Integrity Code of Conduct. Last year, Kamalpreet became the first Indian to breach the 65m-mark in the discus throw. She has a national record against her name which she created with a throw of 66.59m at the Indian Grand Prix.

Deaflympics: Dhanush Srikanth hits bullseye for India's first-ever shooting gold

- Shooter Dhanush Srikanth has won gold and Shourya Saini has won the bronze in the men's 10m air rifle competition in the 24th Deaflympics at Caxias do Sul, Brazil. Later, the Indian badminton team also won gold after beating Japan by 3-1 in the final to make it a double celebration for the country. Ukraine is leading the chart with 19 gold, six silver and 13 bronze medals. With two gold and one bronze medal, India has placed eighth on the medals table.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

IBM Chairman Arvind Krishna elected to Board of Directors of Federal Reserve Bank of New York

- IBM Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Arvind Krishna has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. He will fill the vacancy in the office for the remaining portion of a three-year term ending December 31, 2023.
- Krishna, who has an undergraduate degree from IIT-Kanpur and a PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has been elected as a Class B director, “representing the public with due but not exclusive consideration to the interests of agriculture, commerce, industry, services, labour, and consumers.
- Prior to his stint as the IBM CEO, the 60-year-old Krishna was Senior Vice President of Cloud and Cognitive Software. He also headed IBM Research. He was the general

manager of IBM Systems and Technology Group's development and manufacturing organisation.

Indian-origin Nand Mulchandani appointed 1st-ever chief tech officer of CIA

- Indian-Origin, Nand Mulchandani has been appointed as the first-ever Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the first line of defence for the United States. Prior to this, he served as the CTO and acting director of the Joint Artificial Intelligence Centre under the US Department of Defence. He served as the CEO of multiple successful startups like Oblix (acquired by Oracle), Determina, OpenDNS, and ScaleXtreme.
- Before joining the CIA, Mulchandani most recently served as the CTO and acting director of the US Department of Defense's Joint Artificial Intelligence Center.
- Mulchandani completed his schooling in Delhi. He studied at the Bluebells School International between 1979 and 1987 and then went to Cornell University for his undergraduate course in Computer Science and Math. He then went on to secure a Master of Science degree in Management from Stanford, and a Master in Public Administration degree from Harvard.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International No Diet Day 2022: 6th May

- 'International No Diet Day 2022' is celebrated all over the world on 6 May. On this day, people are made aware of body acceptance, leaving aside behaviour like body shaming, which includes people of all shapes and sizes. Forgetting problems like obesity, increasing weight, weakness, and belly fat, people express their love towards themselves on this day.
- In the year 1992, International No Diet Day was celebrated for the first time in the UK by British lady Mary Evans. Mary's purpose was to convince people that they should accept themselves as they looked. Mary wanted people to become aware of the harm caused by dieting.

World Hand Hygiene Day 2022: 5th May

- World Hand Hygiene Day (WHHD) is annually observed across the globe on the 5th of May to maintain global promotion, visibility, and sustainability of hand hygiene in health care. This year, WHO is marking the day with the theme – Unite for safety: clean your hands, with a focus on encouraging people to clean their hands at the right times with the right products that will help lead to high quality safer care everywhere.
- WHO launched the "Save Lives: Clean Your Hands" global annual campaign in 2009, which is celebrated as World Hand Hygiene Day on 5th May to further the goal of maintaining a global profile on the importance of hand hygiene in health care.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Canara Bank launched 'skill loans' in association with the Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP)

- Canara Bank has launched 'skill loans' in association with the Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP), Kerala, the government company under the Higher Education Department. Under this facility, the loan is ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 1.5 lakh. This loan can be availed of by students who are pursuing skill training programmes which are offered by ASAP Kerala or any other Central or State government-recognised agencies.
- Collateral free loans will be provided to students and have a repayment period of three to seven years. Students can also avail themselves of a moratorium on repayment for the duration of the course and for an additional 6 months.

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INTERNATIONAL

State of the World's Forests Report 2022

- The State of the World's Forests 2022 explores the significance of three forest pathways for achieving green recovery and addressing environmental crises such as climate change and biodiversity loss, against the backdrop of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use and 140 countries' pledge to end forest loss by 2030 and support restoration and sustainable production and consumption.
- Stopping deforestation and sustaining forests, repairing degraded lands and increasing agroforestry, and managing forests responsibly and establishing green value chains are the three interconnected pathways.
- Balanced, concurrent pursuit of these paths can provide countries and their rural populations with long-term economic and social benefits, as well as assist in fulfilling growing global demand for materials and managing environmental issues.

NATIONAL

Shah inaugurates NATGRID campus in Bengaluru

- Home Minister, Amit Shah inaugurates the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) campus in Bengaluru. According to Home Minister Amit Shah, the Narendra Modi government has had a zero-tolerance attitude toward terrorism since the beginning. Mr Shah remarked during the inauguration of the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) premises in Bengaluru that security requirements have increased dramatically in terms of data, scope, and complexity compared to past issues. According to him, legal and security authorities require automated, secure, and quick access to data gathered from credible sources.
- The government has tasked NATGRID with establishing and operating a cutting-edge and innovative information technology infrastructure for obtaining data from data collection agencies.

- The Union Government will soon build a national database to track hawala transactions, terrorist funding, counterfeit cash, narcotics, and bomb threats, illicit arms smuggling, and other terrorist operations.

SPORTS

Ronnie O'Sullivan claims record-equalling seventh world title

- Ronnie O'Sullivan (England) has won the 2022 World Snooker Championship by defeating Judd Trump (England) against 18-13 in the finals, which were held from April 16 to May 2, 2022 at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, England. The tournament was organised by the World Snooker Tour and sponsored by sports betting company Betfred. The Total prize money is 2,395,000 Euros and the Winner gets a share of 500,000 Euros.
- O'Sullivan (Aged 46) becomes the oldest world champion in Crucible history, eclipsing Ray Reardon, who won his sixth title aged 45 in 1978. It was Ronnie O'Sullivan's seventh World Snooker Championship title, previously in 2001, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2013 and 2020, equalling Stephen Hendry's modern-day record of seven world titles (Hendry won all of his in the 1990s).

Jain University became the overall winner of the Khelo India University Games

- JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) with 20 gold, 7 silver and 5 bronze medals has won the 2nd edition of the Khelo India University Games 2021. Lovely Professional University (LPU) with 17 golds has placed second and Punjab University placed third with 15 gold medals. Siva Sridhar has emerged as the star swimmer by winning 11 gold. The closing ceremony of KIUG was held at Sri Kanteerava Outdoor Stadium, Bengaluru. Veera was the mascot of KIUG 2021.
- A total of 20 games were played and participated by 3900 students from 210 Universities in the second edition of the Khelo India University Games. The Games introduced indigenous sporting competitions such as Yogasana and Mallakhamba for the first time in the history of national sports.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Coal Miners Day 2022: 4th May

- Coal Miners Day is observed on 4th May every year to honour the coal miners. The day is celebrated to highlight the contributions of coal miners in meeting our energy demands. Below, we share a bit of the history of coal mining, the current energy scenario, and the role of coal miners in India.
- The day honours the accomplishments and sacrifices made by coal mine workers so far. While the first-ever coal mine was opened in 1575 by one George Bruce of Carnock, Scotland. In India, the coal mining business began in 1774. It was when the East India Company exploited the Raniganj coalfield which is located in the Asansol and Durgapur It falls along the bank of River Damodar that crosses Jharkhand and West Bengal.

Portuguese language day 2022: 05th May

- The date of 5 May was officially established in 2009 by the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) – an intergovernmental organization that has been in official partnership with UNESCO since 2000, and which brings together peoples with the Portuguese language as one of the foundations of their specific identity – to celebrate the Portuguese language and Lusophone cultures. In 2019, the 40th session of UNESCO’s General Conference decided to proclaim 5 May of each year as “World Portuguese Language Day”.
- The Portuguese language is not only one of the most widespread languages in the world, with more than 265 million speakers spread through all continents, but it is also the most widely spoken language in the southern hemisphere. Portuguese remains, today, a major language of international communication and a language with a strong geographical projection, destined to increase.

International Firefighter’s Day 2022: 4th May

- International Firefighter’s Day is observed every year on May 4th to pay respect to those firefighting experts who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The main aim of this day is to recognise and honour professional firefighters across the world. They keep the community and the environment safe by sacrificing their lives for the riskiest jobs.
- A tragic incident in Australia’s Linton led to the establishment of International Firefighters Day. This historical accident happened on December 02, 1998, which led to the taking of the lives of 5 firefighters. Therefore, a proposal was passed on January 04, 1999, to honour the firefighters who lost their lives on duty.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

IIT Bombay Ties Up With India Meteorological Department For Developing User-Friendly Weather Forecasting App

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Bombay) has partnered with the Ministry of Earth Sciences’ India Meteorological Department (IMD) to develop climate solutions for stakeholders at the village, city, and district levels. The partnership will aid the institute in the development of sensors and drone-based smart monitoring systems, climate-smart agriculture technology for water and food security, intelligent and automated early warning systems, climate and health, smart power grid management, wind energy forecasting, and heat wave forecasting.
- IIT Bombay is intending to build a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Climate Services and Solutions within the Interdisciplinary Program in Climate Studies (IDPCS), given the country’s ambitious goal of reaching net zero by 2070.
- “IDPCS at IIT Bombay was established in 2012 and has finished its 10-year journey with considerable financial backing from the Department of Science and Technology.”

RANKING

India falls 8 positions to 150th rank in RSF 2022 World Press Freedom Index

- Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has released the 20th World Press Freedom Index 2022, which assesses the state of journalism in 180 countries and territories. The Index highlights the disastrous effects of news and information chaos – the effects of a globalised and unregulated online information space that encourages fake news and propaganda.
- India's ranking in the Index has fallen down to 150th position from last year's 142nd rank.
- The ranking of India's neighbours, except that of Nepal, has also slid down, with the index placing. Nepal has climbed up by 30 points in the global ranking at 76th position.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

RBI hikes repo rate by 40 bps to 4.40%

- In an unscheduled meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee, the central bank, however, retained the accommodative monetary policy. The sudden RBI move — the first hike after August 2018 — is expected to push up interest rates in the banking system. Equated monthly instalments (EMIs) on home, vehicle and other personal and corporate loans are likely to go up. Deposit rates, mainly fixed term rates, are also set to rise.
- All six members of the MPC unanimously voted for a rate hike while maintaining the accommodative stance. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the decision was taken in view of rising inflation, geopolitical tensions, high crude oil prices and shortage of commodities globally, which have impacted the Indian economy.

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NATIONAL

Bihar: CM Nitish Kumar opens India's 1st ethanol plant in Purnia

- Bihar's Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has inaugurated India's first ethanol plant in Purnia district, Bihar. The plant has been set up by Eastern India Biofuels Private Limited at a cost of Rs 105 crores. Bihar came up with an ethanol production promotion policy in the first half of 2021. It is the country's first grain-based ethanol plant.
- The plant, situated at Ganeshpur Parora, about 12 km from Purnia town, is spread over 15 acres of land.
- Purnia, Katihar, Araria and Kishanganj districts, known as the Seemanchal region, account for 80% of the total maize produced in Bihar and together produce 30-35 lakh metric tonnes (MTs) from April to August.

SPORTS

Stadium to be built in Neeraj Chopra's native village

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has announced that a stadium will be built in Olympic gold-medallist Neeraj Chopra's native village in Panipat. A stadium would be built in Neeraj Chopra's village for Rs 10 crore. Last year, Chopra became the first Indian to win a gold medal in the Olympic track and field.
- Khelo India Youth Games-2021 will be organised by the Haryana Government from June 4 to June 13. Haryana has become a sports hub and players from the state have brought laurels at various national and international level sporting events. Haryana is also giving the highest prize money to its players.

Kerala beat West Bengal to lift their seventh Santosh Trophy title

- Kerala beat West Bengal 5-4 in the penalty shootout to win the 75th Santosh Trophy 2022 at the Manjeri Stadium in Malappuram, Kerala. The teams were level 1-1 after extra time in a pulsating encounter in which plenty of chances were created at both ends with the finishing being astray.
- This is Kerala's third win in a Santosh Trophy tournament on home soil. Earlier, they had won two editions in Kochi, in 1973-74 and 1992-93. Kerala captain Jijo Joseph, who was adjudged the player of the match for a commanding performance in the middle of the park.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

IRS Officer Sangeeta Singh gets additional charge of CBDT Chairman

- Sangeeta Singh, a 1986 batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer has been given additional charge of Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), after incumbent JB Mohapatra retired as the head of the direct taxes administration body on April 30. Currently, the board has four members including Sangeeta Singh.
- Singh is currently holding charge of Audit and Judicial. She is also holding additional charge of Income Tax and Revenue and Tax Payers services. Her Husband, Arvind Singh is a Maharashtra Cadre IAS and presently serving as Secretary of Tourism, Government of India.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Asthma Day 2022: 3rd May

- World Asthma Day is observed every year on the first Tuesday of May to spread awareness and care about asthma in the world. This year it falls on 3rd of May 2022. An annual event is organised by the Global Initiative for Asthma. This year the theme is 'Closing Gaps in Asthma Care'. Asthma, the chronic inflammatory disease of the airways, affects 300 million people worldwide and India alone has 15 million asthma patients.
- World Asthma Day is annually organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA). In 1998, the first World Asthma Day was celebrated in more than 35 countries in conjunction with the first World Asthma Meeting in Barcelona, Spain.

World Press Freedom Day 2022: 3rd May

- World Press Freedom Day is observed globally on 3rd May every year. It is also known as World Press Day. The day also pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives. This year's World Press Freedom Day theme "Journalism under digital siege," spotlights the multiple ways in which journalism is endangered by surveillance and digitally-mediated attacks on journalists, and the consequences of all this on public trust in digital communications.
- On 2-5, May 2022, UNESCO and the Republic of Uruguay are hosting the annual World Press Freedom Day Global Conference in a hybrid format in Punta Del Este, Uruguay. Under the theme "Journalism under Digital Siege," the digital era's impact on freedom of expression, the safety of journalists, access to information and privacy are to be discussed.

BOOKS & AUTHOR

Book "Leaders, Politicians, Citizens" authored by Rasheed Kidwai

- "Leaders, Politicians, Citizens: Fifty Figures Who Influenced India's Politics" authored by author-journalist Rasheed Kidwai compiles stories of 50 personalities who influenced India's political landscape. The book is published by Hachette India. The foreword of the book is written by Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha). The 50 personalities featured in the book include Teji Bachchan, Phoolan Devi, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Jayalalithaa, APJ Abdul Kalam, and Karunanidhi among others.
- Traversing ideologies and bringing into focus the human facet of governments, Leaders, Politicians, and Citizens presents a compelling history of Indian democracy and provides riveting insights into the evolution of its political culture.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

GST revenues at all-time high of Rs 1.68 lakh cr in April 2022

- Goods and services tax (GST) collections hit an all-time high of Rs 1.68 lakh crore in April, indicating strong economic activity despite multiple headwinds and better tax compliance. The April number is up 20% from the year-earlier and Rs 25,000 crore more than the previous highest of Rs 1.42 lakh crore in March this year.
- In April 2022, 10.6 million GST returns were filed compared with 9.2 million in the year earlier. Of the total, central GST amounted to Rs 33,159 crores, state GST was Rs 41,793 crore, integrated GST was Rs 81,939 crore while Rs 36,705 crore was collected on the import of goods. Cess collection was Rs 10,649 crore, including Rs 857 crore on import of goods. The government has settled Rs 33,423 crore toward central GST and Rs 26,962 crore toward state GST from the integrated GST.

HDFC Life turns into Signatory to United Nations

- HDFC Life has joined the UN-backed Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), demonstrating its commitment to long-term value creation and sustainable growth. HDFC Life is dedicated to the Responsible Investment principles (RI). The Group feels that it is its moral duty as an active asset manager for policyholders who have

entrusted their funds to HDFC Life to deliver maximum risk adjusted returns in the long run.

- This goal can be achieved by using the RI approach to investment decisions, which comprises core stewardship principles and consideration of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations in addition to financial parameters and prospects. This approach is in line with HDFC Life's vision of long-term growth. The company presently has about Rs. 2 lakh crores in assets under management.

Indian Bank unveils pre-approved personal loan under Project WAVE

- The public sector bank, The Indian Bank has presented a pre-approved personal loan product under Project WAVE. The Chennai-based bank announced the World of Advance Virtual Experience, WAVE digital transformation project in January 2022 to introduce its first digital product, the Pre-Approved Personal Loan (PAPL), which intends to give consumers with rapid loan disbursements.
- They proclaimed their commitment to ushering in an era of digital change at Indian Bank through project WAVE at the start of the year. They debuted their first PAPL product, which will only be available through internet outlets.
- The service is offered to existing clients who have regular income and pension accounts, as well as PAPL loan products, and can be accessed via a mobile application, the bank's website, and internet banking.

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NATIONAL

Cabinet approves setting up of Maharashtra Gene Bank Project

- Maharashtra Cabinet approved the 'Maharashtra Gene Bank', a first-of-its-kind project in India. To conserve genetic resources in Maharashtra including marine diversity, seeds of local crops, and animal diversity. In the next five years, an amount of Rs 172.39 crores will be spent on these seven focus areas.

The 'Maharashtra Gene Bank Project' will work on seven themes:

1. Marine biodiversity
 2. Local crop/seed varieties
 3. Indigenous cattle breeds
 4. Freshwater biodiversity
 5. Grassland, scrubland, and animal grazing land biodiversity
 6. Conservation and management plans for areas under forest right
 7. Rejuvenation of forest areas.
- The project will be implemented by the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board (MSBB) and will be overseen by committees under the chief secretary and the principal secretary (forests). The MSBB will coordinate with institutions like the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) Goa to document and conserve rare and endangered marine species.

SPORTS

PV Sindhu settles for bronze at Badminton Asia Championships

- After a heartbreaking three-game loss to top-seed and defending champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in the semifinal in Manila. She had won her first bronze in the Asia Badminton Championships 2014 Gimcheon edition.
- Sindhu has assured a medal in the championship when she defeated He Big Jiao of China by 21-9,13-21 and 21-19 in the quarterfinal. She has won silver in 2016 Rio de Janeiro, and bronze in 2020 Tokyo.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Andy Jassy To Officially Become Next Amazon CEO On July 5th

- Andy Jassy will officially become the CEO of Amazon on July 5th, the company announced at a shareholder meeting. Amazon announced that Jassy, who is the current CEO of Amazon Web Services (AWS), would replace Jeff Bezos as CEO of the entire company in February.
- Bezos will become executive chair of Amazon's board. Jassy joined the company in the late '90s and was tasked with exploring what would become AWS around 2003.

JioSaavn Hires Amazon Music India Head Sahas Malhotra as New CEO

- JioSaavn has named Sahas Malhotra, a former Amazon Music director and entertainment industry expert, as its new CEO. Previously, Sahas Malhotra worked for Sony Music India and Tips Industries. Sahas Malhotra was the business leader at Tips Music and the marketing director for Tips Film Production at Tips Industries.
- From the JioSaavn company's Mumbai headquarters, Sahas Malhotra will manage the company's efforts in the rapidly changing and fascinating Indian market. Sahas Malhotra has more than 24 years of experience in the entertainment sector, including team development, film marketing, music P&L management, licensing, media planning, music publishing, and product management, according to JioSaavn.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

India to overcome C-19 pandemic losses by FY35

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its latest report said India was one of the worst-hit nations during the C-19 pandemic and that it will take up to 13 years for India to fully recover from the scars of the C-19 pandemic. India suffered among the biggest pandemic induced losses in the world in terms of output, lives and livelihoods, which may take years to recover. Economic activity has barely recovered to pre-C-19 levels even after two years.
- The pre-C-19 trend growth rate works out to 6.6 per cent (CAGR for 2012-13 to 2019-20) and excluding the slowdown years it works out to 7.1 per cent (CAGR for 2012-13 to 2016-17).
- Taking the actual growth rate of (-) 6.6 per cent for 2020-21, 8.9 per cent for 2021-22 and assuming a growth rate of 7.2 per cent for 2022-23, and 7.5 per cent beyond that, India is expected to overcome C-19 losses in 2034-35.

At 48 billion, India accounts for largest number of real-time transactions in the world

- India's payments system has been bolstered by the fact that it registered the highest number of real-time transactions in the world last year, with 48 billion. India surpassed China, which had 18 billion real-time transactions, and was 6.5 times larger than the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany combined.
- This could be attributed to merchants' increasing adoption and use of UPI-based mobile payment apps and QR code payments.
- The growth can also be attributed to the increased usage of digital payments during the C-19 outbreak, which enabled India's real-time payments secure 31.3 percent of overall payment volume last year.
- Furthermore, India's real-time payments share of total global payments volume is expected to exceed 70% by 2026, resulting in \$92.4 billion in net savings for businesses and consumers.

Union Bank first public sector lender to join account aggregator platform

- Union Bank of India became the first public sector bank to go live on the Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem. The framework facilitates sharing of financial information on a real-time basis between regulated entities. AAs are licensed by the Reserve Bank of India to enable the flow of data between Financial Information Providers (FIPs) and Financial Information Users (FIUs).
- The Account Aggregator Ecosystem helps the Lenders to leverage Digital data acquired with the consent of the Customers for providing them with a seamless journey and eliminating the need of physical documentation. Financial Information User (FIU) can request data from the Financial Information User (FIP) based on a simple consent given by the Customer on their Account Aggregator handle.

Airtel buys 7% in cloud networking startup Cnergee Tech for undisclosed sum

- Bharti Airtel, India's second-largest telecom operator, announced that the Airtel Startup Accelerator Program has acquired a 7% investment in cloud-based networking solutions firm Cnergee Technologies. Cnergee, situated in Navi Mumbai, specialises in cloud-based comprehensive networking solutions for enterprises of all kinds.
- The telco purchased the interest at a pre-money enterprise valuation that was mutually agreed upon, but the figure was not disclosed due to confidentiality concerns.
- Airtel said in a statement that the stake purchase will allow it to strengthen its NaaS offering for Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs) aiming to speed their transition to cloud-based applications.
- The Navi Mumbai-based business has created a set of 5G-ready software tools for Network-as-a-Service (NaaS) that can be scaled up to enable zero-touch service provisioning, central remote monitoring, and management of all connected devices, as well as a variety of real-time analytics.

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NATIONAL

PM Modi inaugurates Semicon India conference in Bengaluru

- The Semicon India Conference-2022 will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Bengaluru will host this three-day conference. According to a Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) statement, the three-day conference is being held to advance Prime Minister Narendra Modi's objective of making India a leader in electronics manufacturing, semiconductor design, production, and innovation.
- The conference is intended to serve as a springboard for the country's aspiration to become a worldwide semiconductor hub and to develop the chip design and manufacturing ecosystem.
- This conference will feature eminent specialists from industry associations, research organisations, and academia.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Lt Gen BS Raju takes over vice army chief

- The Indian Army's Director General of Military Operations, Lieutenant General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju has been appointed as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff from May 1. He was an alumnus of Sainik School Bijapur and National Defence Academy and commissioned in the Jat Regiment on December 15, 1984. He had commanded a battalion during Operation Parakram in the Western Theatre and J&K. He has been awarded the Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, and Yudh Seva Medal.
- Before taking over the new role, Lt General BS Raju was serving as the Director-General of Military Operations during the standoff on the LAC, the de facto border between India and China. The two countries have been locked in a standoff since June 2020 when both sides lost several troops.

Vinay Mohan Kwatra takes charge as India's new Foreign Secretary

- Vinay Mohan Kwatra took charge as India's new Foreign Secretary. A 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, Mr Kwatra succeeded Harsh Vardhan Shringla who retired from service. Mr Kwatra was serving as India's envoy to Nepal before assuming the charge of the Foreign Secretary.
- A career diplomat with over 32 years of experience, Mr. Kwatra has also held the position of a Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for two years between October 2015 and August 2017.
- Mr Kwatra is known to have extensive expertise in dealing with India's neighbourhood as well as the U.S., China and Europe. He has taken charge as the Foreign Secretary at a time when India is dealing with various geopolitical developments including the Ukraine conflict, the severe economic crisis in Sri Lanka and situation in Afghanistan and developments in the Indo-Pacific.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Statehood Day 2022: 1st May

- Maharashtra and Gujarat celebrated their statehood day on 1st May 2022. On May 1st, 1960, the bilingual state of Bombay was divided into two separate states by the Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960: Maharashtra for Marathi speaking people and Gujarat for Gujarati speaking people. Gujarat was established as the 15th state of the Indian Union.

World Tuna Day 2022 : 2nd May

- World Tuna Day is observed globally on 2nd May every year. This day is established by the United Nations (UN) to raise awareness about the importance of tuna fish. Tuna is a significant source of food for humans as the fish has several rich qualities such as Omega 3, Vitamin B12, proteins and other minerals.
- Tuna is mainly procured for two things namely traditional canned Tuna and Sashimi/Sushi. World Wildlife Fund (WWF), environmental groups have now warned the fisheries and Tuna now falls under endangered species. This day aims at spreading awareness about the overfishing of Tuna and the importance of maintaining the ecosystem and the food chain.

World Laughter Day 2022: 1st May

- World Laughter Day is celebrated on the first Sunday of every May to remind people to laugh and make those around them laugh. This year the day is celebrated on 1st May. It has been scientifically observed that laughter tends to decrease the cortisol level in the brain, which subsequently, affects positively on the body. Laughter has utmost importance when it comes to lifting the mood or tweaking the train of thought that is not heading in the right direction.
- World Laughter Day was first celebrated in Mumbai in 1998 when Dr Madan Kataria, founder of the Laughter Yoga Movement, highlighted a theory through that movement. He hypothesised that facial movements could reflect the mental state of a person. And so, slowly and gradually, parks and fields in the morning started filling up with roars of laughter. And this is how, with the advent of Laughter Yoga, was born the World Laughter Day.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Railways ministry signs pact with C-DOT for modernisation of telecommunication facilities

- The Ministry of Railways and the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to form a strong collaborative working partnership for coordination and resource sharing in the provision of telecommunication facilities in the delivery and implementation of C-Telecom DOT's Solutions and services in railways.
- During the MoU signing ceremony, Rajkumar Upadhyay, Executive Director and Chairman of the C-DOT Board, Aruna Singh, Additional Member, Telecom and Railway Board, and other top Railways and C-DOT personnel were present.

- This MoU will allow C-DOT and the Ministry of Railways to collaborate on telecommunications modernization in Indian Railways for Public Safety and Security Services using Long Term Evolution (LTE-R) for Railways in accordance with world standards, 5G Use Cases in Indian Railways in accordance with Make in India policy, Internet of Things, Unified Network Management System, Network Management System, Video Conference software, Chatting application, Routers and Switches.

Indian Army signs tripartite MoU for 'Manipur Super 50'

- Red Shield Division of the Indian Army under the aegis of Spear Corps entered into a tripartite agreement with the State Bank of India Foundation (SBIF) and the National Integrity and Educational Development Organization (NIEDO) to establish 'Red Shield Centre for Excellence and Wellness' in Manipur's Bishnupur district. The project 'Manipur Super 50' is expected to be fully functional for the first batch of 50 students by the first week of July 2022.
- This initiative will be able to create a feeling of mental and social well-being amongst parents and their children by providing quality education thus catering for a better life and evolving responsible citizens for our country.
- The centre which will be opened in Bishnupur Battalion will remain as instrumental in bringing a progressive and inclusive society.

Qualcomm India partners with MeiT's C-DAC to help Indian chipset startups

- Qualcomm India Private Limited, a subsidiary of Qualcomm Inc., proposes to launch and run the Qualcomm Semiconductor Mentorship Program 2022 for selected semiconductor startups in India, with the goal of providing mentorship, technical training, and industry outreach. Qualcomm India has established a partnership with the C-DAC, an autonomous scientific society within the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Government of India, which will serve as an outreach partner for the programme and help participating entrepreneurs gain exposure.
- Qualcomm India would support technological breakthroughs as well as intellectual-property-driven innovation and product development in the Indian ecosystem.
- It will aid in the reduction of innovation risks, the acceleration of company development, and the development of soft skills and knowledge bases among Indian semiconductor design companies.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

ICICI Bank launches 'open-for-all' digital ecosystem for MSMEs

- ICICI Bank has launched India's first 'open-for-all' comprehensive digital ecosystem for all Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the country, which can also be used by the customers of other banks. Anyone can use the benefits of digital solutions on the InstaBIZ app. MSMEs customers of other banks can avail of a host of services by logging in as a 'Guest' in the app. It provides sanctions of instant and paperless overdraft facility up to Rs 25 lakh through 'InstaOD Plus'.
- The benefits of the new digital ecosystem can be availed by downloading the latest version of the InstaBIZ app, a super app for businesses. The app is available on Google Play, Apple App Store and at the bank's Corporate Internet Banking (CIB)

platform. The ecosystem offers the facility of digital and instant current account opening through video KYC.

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INTERNATIONAL

Asia's biggest international food and hospitality fair – AAHAR 2022 begins today in New Delhi

- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in partnership with the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) is hosting Asia's largest international food and hospitality fair, AAHAR-2022, at New Delhi's Pragati Maidan. More than 80 exporters from various agricultural product segments, including geographical indication products, processed food, organic, and frozen food products, will attend the event, according to the Commerce and Industry Ministry.
- APEDA has set aside stalls for exporters from the North East and Himalayan states such as Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh, as well as women entrepreneurs, Farmer Producer Organisations, Start-Ups, and millet exporters.

Macron winning second term in France is politically & historically significant

- Emmanuel Macron hopes to go right back to work on domestic and foreign policy after gaining another five years in the French presidential palace — but he will soon face vital parliamentary elections in which he may struggle to maintain his majority. The official results of the presidential election will be released by the Constitutional Council, and Macron will hold a Cabinet meeting.
- Macron must then choose a date for his inauguration event at the Elysee Palace, which must take place by May 13. He will be honoured by the National Guard and give a speech.
- Presidents Francois Mitterrand and Jacques Chirac both eschewed the practise of firing 21 cannon shots to mark their reelections in 1988 and 2002, respectively.

Brazil landscape garden Sitio Burle Marx receives UNESCO World Heritage sites

- The Sitio Burle Marx site, a landscape garden in Brazilian city Rio de Janeiro has been added to UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites. The garden features more than 3,500 species of plants native to Rio and is considered a laboratory for botanical and landscape experimentation.
- The site has been named after Burle Marx, a Brazilian landscape architect whose designs of parks and gardens made him world-famous. The Sitio Burle Marx site was his home until 1985.

OBITURY

'Bharat Ek Khoj' actor Salim Ghouse dies at 70

- Film and TV actor Salim Ghouse passed away in Mumbai after suffering a cardiac arrest. He started his acting journey in 1978 with the movie Swarg Narak, following

which he featured in films like Chakra (1981), Saaransh (1984), Mohan Joshi Hazir Ho! (1984), and several others. He was also a known face in the television industry. He essayed the roles of Rama, Krishna and Tipu Sultan in Shyam Benegal's TV Series Bharat Ek Khoj. He was also a part of the sitcom Wagle Ki Duniya (1988).

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Labour Day 2022: 1st May

- International Labour Day is observed globally on 1st May every year. It is also known as International Worker's Day and May Day. The day is celebrated to spread awareness about Labour's rights and mark their achievements. The day aims to pay tribute to workers' sacrifices in achieving economic and social rights all over the world.
- This all started in 1886 when on 1st May when people in the United States of America started a strike to fix the working duration to a maximum of 8 hours per day. Soon, there was a bomb blast that took place on 4th May in Haymarket Square of Chicago in which many people died and many others were severely injured. With respect to those who died in the incident, the socialist pan-national organization started on 1st May as International Labour Day which also promoted labour welfare throughout the world.

International Dance Day 2022 :29th April

- The International Dance Day is observed globally on 29 April every year. The day celebrates the value and importance of the dance and encourages participation and education in this art form through events and festivals. This day is also celebrated to promote the multiple benefits of dancing, to recognize dance as a stress reliever, expressing oneself, a way of celebrating happiness, and an activity that brings people together.
- In 1982 the Dance Committee of ITI founded International Dance Day to be celebrated every year on the 29th of April, the birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727-1810), creator of modern ballet. The intention of the International Dance Day Message is to celebrate dance, revel in the universality of this art form, cross all political, cultural and ethnic barriers, and bring people together with a common language – dance.

Mother's Day 2022

- A mother has different names like mommy, mom, and mamma, but every mother has the same role in our lives. She is a pillar of support for every family. She is the caretaker and gives unconditional love to all. The definition of a mother can be different for every individual, for someone she may be a caretaker, for someone she may be a best friend, and for someone, she is the best cook. We celebrate Mother's Day to pay gratitude and appreciation to every mother in this world. A mother is such a great inspiration that only one day is not enough to appreciate the efforts of a mother.
- This year Mother's day is on 8 March 2022. The first Mother's Day was celebrated by Anna Jarvis in the year 1908 to honour her mother Ann Jarvis with a Memorial. Every

mother deserves a day dedicated to her by her children and family. She works hard to put everyone together and encourages everyone. Only one day is not enough to celebrate a mother. Mother's day is celebrated worldwide by expressing our love for our mother.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Atal Tunnel Receives 'Best Infrastructure Project' Award

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) engineering marvel, Atal Tunnel, built-in Rohtang in Himachal Pradesh, received the Indian Building Congress (IBC) 'Best Infrastructure Project' award in New Delhi. More than thirty state-of-the-art infrastructure projects were nominated for the award. The IBC jury selected the strategic tunnel as the 'Best Project for Excellence in Built Environment' in 2021.
- The tunnel, built using the New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM), was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 3, 2020.
- It is equipped with a semi-transverse ventilation system, where large fans separately circulate air throughout the tunnel. For evacuation during emergencies, an emergency tunnel has been integrated into the tunnel cross-section beneath the main carriageway.

Snow leopard expert Charudutt Mishra gets Whitley Award

- Noted snow leopard expert and wildlife conservationist Charudutt Mishra has won the prestigious Whitley Gold Award for his contribution to involving indigenous communities in the conservation and recovery of big cat species in Asia's high mountain ecosystems. Princess Anne presented the award to Mishra at London's Royal Geographic Society. This is his second Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) Award. He got the first in 2005.
- UK-based wildlife conservation charity WFN said Mishra was given the award for his work in 12 snow leopard range countries including Afghanistan, China, and Russia. In 2017, Mishra wrote a paper on eight approaches to community-based conservation that helped involve local communities in snow leopard protection in the upper reaches of the Himalayas, leading to a reduction in retribution killings of the big cats. UN Biodiversity Conference recognised his approach as an outstanding global practice.