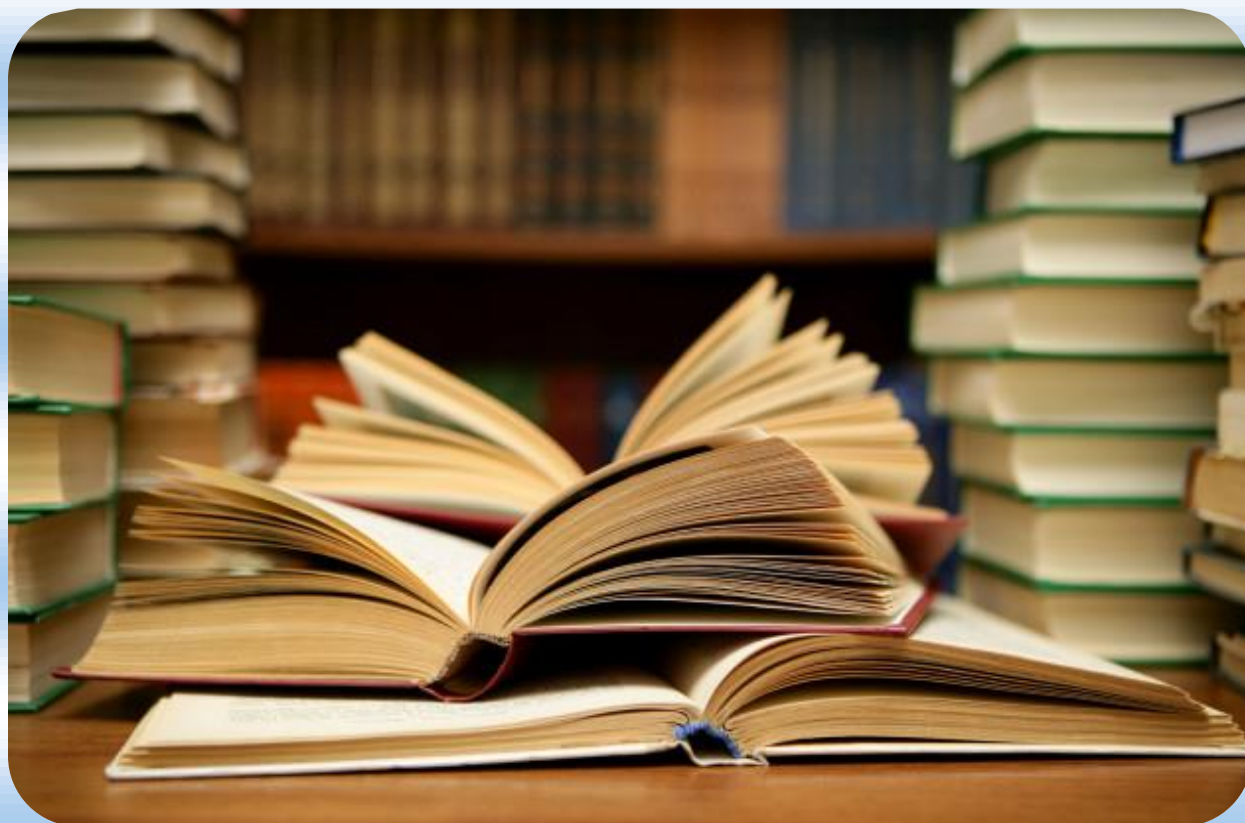


## LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTER, NOIDA

### GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



## MAY-2022

# NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

## ***As part of strategic disinvestment, govt, LIC to sell stakes in IDBI Bank***

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved strategic disinvestment along with transferring management control in IDBI Bank, paving the way for both the government and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) to reduce their shareholding in the lender. LIC's board has passed a resolution to reduce its shareholding, along with that of the government, in the bank "with an intent to relinquish management control and by taking into consideration price, market outlook, statutory stipulation and interest of policyholders", said a statement by the government.

## ***Prime Minister Modi introduced the Semicon India Conference 2022***

While inaugurating a three-day Semicon India Conference-2022 in Bengaluru on April 29, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India is headed for a robust economy and the country's consumption of semiconductors is expected to cross \$110 billion by 2030 and has the world's fastest growing start-up ecosystem. He also stated six reasons why semiconductor investments should consider India. The conference was intended to serve as a launchpad for India to become a worldwide semiconductor hub.

## ***HDFC Life turns into Signatory to United Nations***

HDFC Life is dedicated to following the ideas of Accountable Funding (RI). The Firm believes that as an energetic asset supervisor for policyholders, who've entrusted their financial savings with HDFC Life, it's the Firm's fiduciary accountability to generate optimum threat adjusted returns over the long run. This goal may be served by following the RI method which incorporates core stewardship ideas and consideration of environmental, social and governance (ESG) elements along with monetary parameters and outlook, whereas making funding selections.

## ***PV Sindhu won bronze at Asian Badminton Championships***

Double Olympic medallist P. V. Sindhu ended her Badminton Asia Championships campaign with a bronze medal after going down fighting to Japan's Akane Yamaguchi in three games here on Saturday. The 26-year-old started the match on a positive note but could not keep the winning momentum going, losing 21-13 19-21 16-21 to the top seed and world no. 2 Yamaguchi in the clash, which lasted one hour and six minutes.

### ***Indian Oil launches methanol-blended petrol on pilot basis in Assam***

Indian Oil Corp (IOC) rolled out M15 petrol -- 15 per cent blend of methanol with petrol -- on a pilot basis in Assam's Tinsukia district. Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli launched the M15 petrol in the presence of Niti Aayog member VK Saraswat and IOC chairman SM Vaidya on Saturday. Teli said that blending fuel with methanol will provide respite from the rising prices.

### ***India's position on the World Press Freedom Index***

New Delhi, May 3 (PTI) India's ranking in the World Press Freedom Index has fallen down to 150th position from last year's 142nd rank out of 180 countries, according to a report by a global media watchdog released on Tuesday. The ranking of India's neighbours, except that of Nepal, have also slid down, with the index placing Pakistan at 157th position, Sri Lanka 146th, Bangladesh 162nd and Myanmar at 176th position, the report released by Reporters Without Borders said.

### ***India, Germany ink pact on green hydrogen task force***

New Delhi, May 2 (PTI) India and Germany on Monday inked a joint declaration of intent on Indo-German Green Hydrogen Task Force, an official statement said. Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy R K Singh and German Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Change Robert Habeck signed the joint declaration virtually, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy said.

### ***Nitish Kumar inaugurates first greenfield ethanol plant in Bihar***

In a major boost to industry-starved Bihar, chief minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated on Saturday a greenfield grain-based ethanol plant built at a cost of Rs 105 crore at Purnea. The project is a part of Bihar's ambitious foray into ethanol production using sugarcane, maize and rice to meet the country's fuel needs. The ethanol plant has been built using the latest technology and will not discharge any waste, making it a zero-liquid discharge plant that is completely environment friendly.

### ***What is the loan scheme for inmates in Maharashtra's prisons?***

The Maharashtra Department of Prisons has launched a loan scheme for inmates serving sentences in jails across the state. The credit scheme titled Jivhala is being offered by the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank. The pilot was introduced for prisoners at Yerawada Central Jail in Pune, and will gradually be extended to nearly 60 prisons across the state. According to bank and prison officials, this is likely the first kind of credit scheme for prisoners in India.

### ***In pandemic year, bank frauds down 25% by value: RBI annual report***

Banks and other financial institutions reported frauds worth Rs 1.38 trillion in 2020-21, down 25 per cent compared to the previous year, when the amount involved was Rs 1.85 trillion, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) annual report released on Thursday. In terms of number, these entities reported 15 per cent fewer frauds in 2020-21, at 7,363, compared to the previous year's 8,703 cases.

### ***Sudarshan Venu takes over as Managing Director of TVS Motor Company***

Sudarshan Venu, son of Venu Srinivasan, has taken over as the Managing Director of TVS Motor Company. Until yesterday, he was the Joint Managing Director of the company. His elevation coincides with the appointment of Prof Sir Ralf Dieter Speth as the Chairman of the company. Venu Srinivasan has now become the Chairman Emeritus of the company. This is the first time that the chairmanship of the company has gone to a non-family member.

### ***Reliance became 1st Indian company to cross USD 100 bn annual revenue***

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd on Friday reported a 22.5 per cent rise in net profit for the quarter ended March on the back of bumper oil refining margins, steady growth in telecom and digital services and strong momentum in the retail business. The oil-to-retail-to-telecom conglomerate's consolidated net profit rose to ₹16,203 crore in the quarter ended March 31, 2022 from ₹13,227 crore, the firm said in a statement.

### ***Guruswamy Krishnamoorthy receives British Honour 'MBE' For His Service During the COVID-19 Pandemic***

The pandemic plunged the world into a period of great distress, and yet even in these unfortunate circumstances there were people who went out of their way to ease things for others. Gurusamy Krishnamoorthy is one such person. The Madurai native, chief executive officer of Penlon, a British medical device manufacturing firm, is all set to receive the Member of the Royal Order of British Empire (MBE) recognition from the Queen shortly.

### ***HDFC Bank Launches 'Xpress Car Loan' Industry First Digital New Car Loan***

HDFC Bank has launched 'Xpress Car Loans' – an end-to-end digital new car loan journey for existing customers as well as non-customers. The bank has integrated its lending application with automobile dealers across the country. "This industry first facility is expected to revolutionise the way car financing is done in the country," the bank claimed in a press release. HDFC Bank has created a comprehensive, faster, more convenient, and inclusive digital journey for car buyers.

### ***Campbell Wilson named as new MD & CEO of Air India***

The Tata Group has appointed Campbell Wilson, the CEO of Singapore Airlines' wholly-owned low-cost subsidiary Scoot, as Air India's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD). The Mumbai-based conglomerate completed its acquisition of the state-owned national carrier in January, and has been searching for a person to lead the airline's turnaround plan.

### ***Deepika Padukone named as 1st Indian brand ambassador of Louis Vuitton***

Actress Deepika Padukone has become the first ever Indian brand ambassador of luxury brand Louis Vuitton. The news was announced by the French brand on May 10. The brand unveiled the role of 36-year-old Bollywood actress during their new handbag campaign. It saw Padukone joining in actors Emma Stone and Zhou Dongyu for promotional shots, as per edition.cnn.com. Padukone is often pictured sporting Louis Vuitton outfits and bags, and she had also modelled for them previously.

### ***ICICI Bank and Santander UK Partner for business ease between India and UK***

One of India's leading private sector banks, ICICI Bank, on Tuesday announced a tie-up with Santander bank in Britain in a pact aimed at facilitating the banking requirements of corporates operating across both countries. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) between ICICI and Santander UK Plc, signed in Mumbai, is designed to establish a framework of partnership between the banks to meet the financial service requirements of corporate customers operating within the India-UK corridor.

### ***Retail Inflation Surges To 7.79% In April, Highest In 8 Years***

Retail inflation in India surged to 7.79% on an annual basis in the month of April owing to higher edible oil & fuel prices, data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation showed on Thursday. The headline inflation is now at the highest level since the 8.33% hit in May 2014. Analysts had expected the CPI inflation to be around 7.5%, up from 6.95% in the month of March & 4.23% in April 2021.

### ***Sanjiv Bajaj appointed as President of Confederation of Indian Industry***

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has a new President in Sanjiv Bajaj, who is Chairman and Managing Director of Bajaj Finserv. He has assumed office as President of CII for 2022-23. He takes over from TV Narendran, CEO & Managing Director, Tata Steel Limited. The newly constituted National Council of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) at a meeting on Thursday elected its new office-bearers for the year 2022-23.

### ***Union Bank of India launches Online Platform 'Trade nxt'***

Union Bank of India (UBI) has launched a digital solution, 'Trade nxt', to enable corporates as well as MSMEs to transact all cross-border export-import transactions. The online platform offers seamless entry and processing of letters of credit (LC), bank guarantees, export and import bills, disbursement of export credit, outward & inward remittances, dealer financing, and much more, per the public sector bank's statement.

### ***Manik Saha named as new chief minister of Tripura***

BJP State president Manik Saha was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Tripura on Sunday morning. Governor S.N. Arya administered the oath to Mr. Saha, a Rajya Sabha MP, at the Raj Bhavan in Agartala. Former Chief Minister Biplab Deb, whose sudden resignation on Saturday evening got Mr. Saha the top job, was present at the ceremony along with BJP MLAs and State ministers. Union Minister Pratima Bhowmick also attended the swearing-in programme.

### ***Adani Wilmar became India's largest FMCG company surpassing HUL***

Adani Wilmar Ltd (AWL) has trounced Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) from the position of largest FMCG company of India. This became public after the announcement of Q4FY22 results of Adani Wilmar on Monday. While sharing its Q4FY22 results, Adani Wilmar reported operational revenue of ₹54,214 crore in FY22 whereas HUL's yearly revenue stands at ₹51,468 crore in FY2021-22.

### ***Mindtree, L&T Infotech announce merger to create India's 5th largest IT services***

Mindtree Ltd and Larsen & Toubro Infotech Ltd (LTI), two technology companies in the Larsen & Toubro group, have decided to merge, creating India's fifth largest IT firm, with a combined market valuation of Rs 136,000 crore. Shareholders of Mindtree will be issued shares of L&T Infotech at the ratio of 73 shares of LTI for every 100 shares of Mindtree. "The boards of Mindtree and LTI at their respective meetings held.

### ***Indian Bank Launched Digital Broking Solution 'E-Broking'***

Public sector Indian Bank has unveiled digital broking solution -- E-Broking -- allowing customers to open a demat and trading account facility, in line with the digitalisation mission of the bank, an official said on Saturday. The launch of digital broking solution 'E-Broking' was a strategic step towards complete digitalisation of its offerings to customers, a bank statement said. "E-Broking, an instant and paper-less demat and trading account opening is integrated with the bank's mobile banking application," it said.

### ***Priyanka Mohite becomes first Indian woman to climb five peaks above 8,000 metres***

Priyanka Mohite from Maharashtra's Satara district has become the first Indian woman to climb five peaks above 8000 metres. Priyanka achieved the milestone after climbing Mount Kanchenjunga on Thursday. The 30-year-old climbed the third highest peak on Earth on May 5 at around 4:42 pm, reported news agency IANS. The news was shared by her brother Akash Mohite. Priyanka works for a pharmaceutical research company in Bengaluru.

### ***UP villages to get free high-speed internet connectivity***

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh government on Thursday announced free wi-fi facility for people within 50 meters of the Gram Sachivalaya (village secretariat) building in every Gram Panchayat of the state, the chief minister's office said in a series of tweets. The CMO said that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision is to make the villages of Uttar Pradesh 'Smart Villages'. "In view of this vision of a smart village, it has been decided by the government to provide high speed internet connectivity to the village secretariat of the Gram Panchayat," it said.

### ***New Electoral Map released for Jammu and Kashmir***

Redrawing the electoral map of Jammu and Kashmir, a three-member Delimitation Commission on Thursday earmarked 47 Assembly seats for Kashmir division and 43 for Jammu in its final order submitted just a day before its two-year tenure was to end. A gazette notification was issued after the panel, headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, signed the final order giving Jammu six additional seats and one more to Kashmir.

### ***NEFT, RTGS facility for Post Office Savings Account***

New Delhi: The Department of Post has made the NEFT and RTGS facilities available to Post Office savings account holders. PO savings account customers can now send money electronically. In a circular released on May 17, the CBDT stated that the NEFT facility will be available to POSB clients starting May 18, 2022.



### ***Cut in Excise Duty on Petrol***

The government on Saturday announced several measures to cool inflation, including a sharp cut in central excise duty on petrol by ₹8 per litre and on diesel by ₹6 per litre. Beneficiaries of the Ujjwala scheme will also get a ₹200 per cylinder subsidy on cooking gas. Customs duties are also being cut on some inputs for plastic products and steel to support local industry. Export duty has been levied on some steel products and raised on iron ore and concentrates, while the government is working to improve cement availability and reduce logistics costs.

### ***ONGC: 1st to trade Domestic gas on Indian Gas Exchange***

New Delhi: State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on Monday said it has become the first gas producer to trade domestic gas on the Indian Gas Exchange trading unspecified volumes from its eastern offshore KG-DWN-98/2 block. In a statement, ONGC said it will increase volumes slowly. "ONGC has become the first exploration and production (E&P) company in India to trade domestic gas on Indian Gas Exchange.

### ***Captain Abhilasha Barak: Army's First Woman Combat Pilot***

Having grown up in military Cantonments across the country, joining the forces was a natural career choice for Captain Abhilasha Barak. On Wednesday, the 26-year-old from Haryana became the first woman combat aviator of the Indian Army.



### ***Sale of Hindustan Zinc stake***

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday approved the sale of the government's remaining stake in Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL), as the Centre looks to accelerate its disinvestment drive. The sale of the entire 29.5 per cent stake in HZL would fetch the Centre Rs 38,062 crore according to the closing price of the company's shares on Wednesday.



# INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

## *President Jinping warns against maligning China's zero-Covid policy*

Chinese President Xi Jinping issued the strongest warning yet against anyone who questions the country's zero-Covid policy. The move comes after many Shanghai residents have taken to social media to call for help and vent their anger over severe food shortages and lack of access to medical care over the past five weeks, reported CNN. At a meeting chaired by Xi on Thursday, the ruling Communist Party's supreme Politburo Standing Committee vowed to "unswervingly adhere to the general policy of 'dynamic zero-Covid'.

## *Asian Games postponed; 2023 sports schedule in disarray*

Assuming it'll go ahead as scheduled, China will host 23 nations for the Asian Cup, the continent's showpiece football championship, in June and July next year. Then, in the following month, a series of major international events will get underway, kick-starting the countdown to the Paris Olympics.



## *Thomas Cup Title: India beats Indonesia 3-0*

Brimming with confidence, India took on 14-time winners Indonesia in the final of the Thomas Cup in Bangkok on May 15, 2022 and lifted the title defeating the defending champions by 3-0. Lakshya Sen opened the campaign for India and won the match against Anthony Sinsuka Ginting 8-21, 21-17, 21-16. With Sen's win India was leading against Indonesia by 1-0.



### ***Forbes' Global 2000 list of public companies worldwide 2022 announced***

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd climbed two spots to No. 53 on Forbes' latest Global 2000 list of public companies worldwide. Forbes Global 2000 ranks the largest companies in the world using four metrics: sales, profits, assets and market value, Forbes said releasing the 2022 ranking of the world's top 2,000 companies. Reliance is the top-ranked Indian firm on the list, followed by State Bank of India at No. 105, HDFC Bank at No. 153 and ICICI Bank at No. 204.

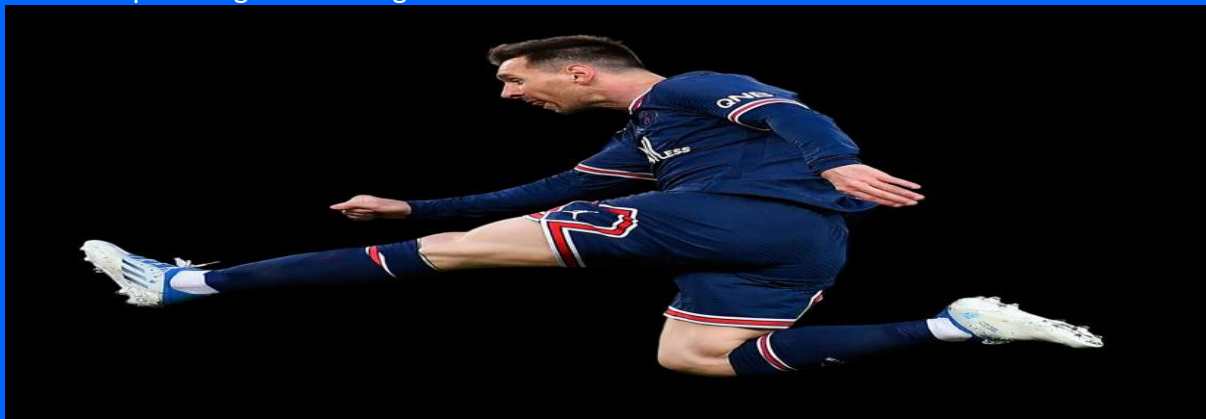
### ***Kenyan nurse Anna Qabale Duba crowned world's best nurse***

A Kenyan nurse who campaigns against early marriage and female genital mutilation says she is "speechless" after winning a prize of \$250,000 (£205,000). Anna Qabale Duba's colleagues say she always goes the extra mile for others in her pastoralist community in the northern county of Marsabit, and runs a school in her village.



### ***Lionel Messi topped Forbes' highest-paid athletes list for 2022***

Lionel Messi was only 17 when he began suiting up for the top squad at FC Barcelona, so it was more than a little jarring when, after 17 seasons, he left the only professional home he had ever known to transfer to Paris Saint-Germain last August. In one regard, though, this season marked a return to familiar territory for the 34-year-old soccer superstar. With \$130 million in pre-tax gross earnings over the last 12 months.



### ***Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan appointed President of UAE***

The United Arab Emirate's de facto ruler Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan was elected as president on Saturday by the Federal Supreme Council, the state-run WAM news agency said, after years of calling the shots from behind the scenes while his half-brother President Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan was sidelined by poor health.



### ***South Korea becomes 1st Asian country join NATO Cyber Defence Group***

Last week, South Korea's National Intelligence Service became the first in Asia to join NATO's cyber defence group—a step that risks inflaming tensions with regional giant China and the old enemy North Korea. The NIS said in a statement that it had been accepted as a contributing participant for NATO's Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE), a cyber defence hub founded in Tallinn, Estonia, in May 2008 and focused on cybersecurity research, training, and exercises.

### ***Marcos Jr. Wins 2022 Presidential Election in the Philippines***

Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr, the son and namesake of the late dictator, has won a landslide presidential election victory, signalling an extraordinary rehabilitation for one of the country's most notorious political families. With more than 90% of an initial count concluded, Marcos Jr had almost 30 million votes, more than double the tally of his closest rival, the current vice-president, Leni Robredo, a former human rights lawyer.



### ***John Lee Ka-Chiu elected as Hong Kong's next Chief Executive***

Former security chief John Lee Ka-chiu has been elected as Hong Kong's next leader, in what is widely seen as a move by the Chinese government to tighten its grip on the city. He is replacing Carrie Lam following the city's chief executive election - in which he was the sole candidate. Known for his pro-Beijing hardline views, he is not exactly well-liked, having garnered only 34.8 points out of 100 in a recent popularity survey.



### ***Anthony Albanese: Australia's New Prime Minister***

The first all-private team of astronauts ever launched to the International Space Station (ISS) were welcomed aboard the orbiting research platform on Saturday to begin a weeklong science mission hailed as a milestone in commercial spaceflight. Their arrival came about 21 hours after the four-man team representing Houston-based startup company Axiom Space Inc lifted off on Friday from Nasa's Kennedy Space Center, riding atop a SpaceX-launched Falcon 9 rocket.



### ***TIME 100 Most Influential People List***

Supreme Court lawyer Karuna Nundy, business tycoon Gautam Adani and prominent Kashmiri human rights activist Khurram Parvez have been named among the world's 100 most influential people of 2022 by TIME magazine. The list has been divided into six categories – Icons, Pioneers, Titans, Artists, Leaders and Innovators. While Adani has been named under the Titans category along with the likes of Apple CEO Tim Cook and American host Oprah Winfrey, Nundy and Parvez found their place under the Leaders category along with Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukraine counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

### ***Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus: WHO Director-General re-elected***

The World Health Organization's (WHO) members re-elected Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus as Director General by a strong majority for another five years, the president of the World Health Assembly said on Tuesday. The vote by secret ballot, announced by Ahmed Robleh Abdilleh from Djibouti at a major annual meeting, was seen as a formality since Tedros was the only candidate running.



### ***UAE : First Gulf state to record monkeypox case***

The United Arab Emirates recorded three more cases of monkeypox, the health ministry said on Monday, nearly a week after announcing the Gulf state's first case of the virus. The ministry did not reveal any details about the individuals infected. The first case was a 29-year-old woman visiting the country from West Africa. Disease experts called on WHO, governments for more action on monkeypox virus with prominent infectious disease experts pushing for faster action from global health authorities to contain the growing monkeypox outbreak, that has spread to at least 20 countries.

