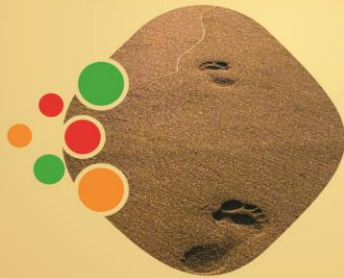


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(Compilation of Current Events)



TAMIL NADU



STATES



NATIONAL



INDIA & THE WORLD



INTERNATIONAL



SCHEMES



DEFENCE



SCIENCE &  
TECHNOLOGY



EVS



ECONOMY



COURT VERDICTS



CONFERENCES &  
SUMMITS



AWARDS



PERSONALITIES



BOOKS & AUTHORS



SPORTS



RANKS & REPORTS



DAYS



OBITUARY



NEWS OF THE MONTH



KNOWLEDGE



APPOINTMENTS



COMMITTEES



APPS / PORTALS



MISCELLANEOUS

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY (1 - 31), 2021**

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<b>2</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>6</b>
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## **TAMIL NADU**

- **Oxygen plants on Vedanta's Sterlite premises in Tuticorin district**
  - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - has constituted a seven-member monitoring committee to supervise the entire functioning of the oxygen plants on **Vedanta's Sterlite premises in Tuticorin district**
  - ✓ The committee has been constituted as per the recent orders of the Supreme Court.
- **Matti pazham**
  - ✓ The application for the GI tag was filed by Kanyakumari Banana and Horticulture Farmers Producer Company Limited
  - ✓ The Nagercoil banana is also mentioned in many ancient books.
- **The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) - disposal of biomedical wastes like PPEs and masks.**
- **Government of Tamil Nadu is setting up an exclusive website and mobile app to file complaints related to disposal of biomedical wastes like PPEs and masks**
  - ✓ TNPCB is probably the first pollution control board in the entire country to launch such a facility.
- **Eighth Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu-M.K.Stalin**
  - ✓ He would be the oldest first-time CM of Tamil Nadu.
- **Mr. Gagandeep Singh Bedi IAS - was appointed as the commissioner of Greater Chennai Corporation**
  - ✓ The development of 'green cover' in Chennai received a fillip under his tenure with waste lands converted into Miyawaki forests.
- **'Oxygen parlours'**
  - ✓ Greater Chennai Corporation - has announced the launching of 'oxygen parlours' to support the Covid patients with breathing difficulty.
- **Appavu 18<sup>th</sup> speaker of Tamil Nadu legislative Assembly**
  - ✓ Mr. M. Appavu - won the election for the post of speaker of Tamil Nadu legislative Assembly at the historic Fort St George in Chennai.
- **MTC - To install CCTV**
  - ✓ The Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) - to install CCTV cameras and panic buttons in all buses in operation using the Nirbhaya funds
- **Aruna Jagadeesan Commission- Tutucorin -firing incident**
  - ✓ The Justice (retired) Aruna Jagadeesan Commission - submitted an interim report to Chief Minister M K Stalin on May

- **GCC - Hired 135 Medicos.**
  - ✓ Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) - has hired 135 final year MBBS students to monitor the health of Covid-19 patients in home isolation in Chennai
  - ✓ GCC is expected to hire around 300 such doctors for the exercise
  - ✓ They would also be co-ordinating with the state war room (104) for an ambulance.
- **'Ungal Thoguthiyil Muthalamaichar'**
  - ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin - launched his pet project of redressing public grievances through the newly created Department of 'Ungal Thoguthiyil Muthalamaichar' (chief minister in your constituency) on May
  - ✓ The petitions, locked in 72 wooden boxes and 275 cartons, were handed over to the 'Ungal Thoguthiyil Muthalamaichar' department.
- **Tamil Nadu HR&CE to be Digitized**
  - ✓ The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR & CE) department - proposes to digitize moveable and immoveable properties of 44,000-odd temples under its purview, within the next eight months.
- **Black Fungus**
  - ✓ Mucormycosis or Black fungus disease - was declared a notified disease in Tamil Nadu by Governor Banwarilal Purohit under the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act, 1939.
- **On May 21, Chief Minister M K Stalin - withdrew anti -sterlite cases.**
  - ✓ The registered against anti-Sterlite protesters and members of the public during the protests in Tuticorin
- **Nethaji Apparel park at Perumanallur-Covid vaccination -18-44 group.**
  - ✓ Chief Minister MK Stalin - launched the Covid vaccination programme for those aged **between 18 and 44 years** at the hosiery hub of Tirupur on May
- **NGT - Mekedatu**
  - ✓ The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** - has constituted a panel to submit a report on alleged violations of norms in construction of a reservoir at **Mekedatu in Karnataka across Cauvery River.**
  - ✓ This panel comprises senior officers from **CWMA, Union environment ministry's integrated regional office in Bengaluru, Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited (a Karnataka government enterprise) and Karnataka forest department.**
- **Temple town of Kancheerpuram**
  - ✓ Temple town of Kancheerpuram - has 11 ancient temples from the district named on **UNESCO's tentative List of World Heritage Sites**
- **ONV Cultural Academy**

- ✓ Tamil poet and lyricist Vairamuthu - has been selected for this year's ONV Award instituted by the ONV Cultural Academy in honour of late Malayalam poet ONV Kurup
- **VOC (Port trust) IIT - Madras**
  - ✓ VO Chidambaranar (VOC) Port Trust - has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Technology Centre for Ports Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC), IIT Madras for vessel traffic development
  - ✓ The agreement is to ensure operation, manning and maintenance of vessel traffic system and to develop indigenous Vessel Traffic Software (VTS) at VOC Port.
  - ✓ The indigenous VTS software development will be carried out by IIT, Madras at a cost of Rs. 27.8 lakh.
- **Fiscal Federalism**
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu Finance minister **PTR Palanivel Thiagarajan**, in his maiden speech at the 43rd GST Council meet - said the time is right for the Centre to bring tax reforms and practice 'Fiscal federalism' by devolution of fiscal powers.
- **Sterlite Copper - will start oxygen production from its second plant from May**
- **The state government - has announced that children who lost their parents to Covid-19 will be provided an assistance of Rs.5 lakh as fixed deposit**
  - ✓ The state government will monitor the disbursement of relief to these children and their education through a 'special committee' to be set up at district level.
  - ✓ These students and single parents will get priority in welfare schemes.
  - ✓ The state government said it had already formed a task force headed by district collectors to identify children orphaned by Covid-19 and distribute the relief measures.
- **New State Election Commissioner**
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu governor Banwarilal Purohit - appointed retired IAS officer, V Palanikumar as **state election commissioner**.
- **Mr.V Irai Anbu IAS - as TN chief secretary**
  - ✓ The state government of tamil nadu - appointed senior bureaucrat V Irai Anbu as Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu
- **Mr.Shankar Jiwai IPS-COP- chennai**
  - ✓ The newly appointed commissioner of police - took charge at a low-key function at the commissioner's office in Vepery on May
- **New Advocate-General of Tamil Nadu.**
  - ✓ Former Rajya Sabha member and designated senior lawyer R Shanmugasundaram - has been appointed as the new advocate-general of Tamil Nadu.



## **STATES**

- **Himanta Biswa Sarma was named Assam's 15<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister**
- **Glyphosate controversial herbicide**
  - ✓ The Glyphosate, which is carcinogenic, is usually used to kill weeds in cotton farms.
  - ✓ Also, it is being banned to control the illegal cultivation of HTBt cotton.
- **Ayush - 64**
  - ✓ AYUSH-64 is a poly herbal formulation, which was recommended by National Clinical Management Protocol based on Ayurveda and Yoga.
  - ✓ Ayush 64 was developed by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), New Delhi.
- **"Maharashtra Mission Oxygen"**
  - ✓ The State Government of Maharashtra - has recently launched the "Maharashtra Mission Oxygen" with a budget allocation of Rs. 200 crore.
- **Black Fungus disease-mucomycosis**
  - ✓ The Black Fungus disease - has been declared as notified disease in Haryana
- **"Sanjeevani Pariyojana"**
  - ✓ Haryana - launched an anti-Covid 9(the life project) "Sanjeevani Pariyojana" on 24 May 2021
- **World Heritage Tag.**
  - ✓ Maharashtra Government - has applied for World Heritage Tag to 14 forts in the state
  - ✓ UNESCO has accepted the nomination in Tentative Lists of its World Heritage Site
  - ✓ The 14 forts are Shivneri fort, Raigad Fort, Torna fort, Rajgad Fort, Lohagad, Mulher fort, Salher Fort, Rangana Fort, Ankai Tankai Forts, Kasa Fort, Sindhudurg Fort, Alibag Fort, Suvarnadurg and Khanderi Fort.
- **Ayush Ghar-Dwar.**
  - ✓ Himachal Government has launched the 'Ayush Ghar-Dwar' program to keep the home isolated Covid-19 positive patients
- **Manipur Organic Mission Agency.**
  - ✓ Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has launched a smartphone application "Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA) Market"
- **Amrit Vahini' App**
  - ✓ Jharkhand has launched the 'Amrit Vahini' App for the online booking of hospital beds.

- **'HIT Covid App'**
  - ✓ Bihar government has launched 'HIT Covid App'
- **'Oxygen on Wheels'**
  - ✓ Karnal administration (Haryana) has rolled out 'Oxygen on wheels' to assist hospitals in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and oxygen crisis.
- **Nitrogen generators- to- oxygen generators**
  - ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B), has set up a demonstration unit to convert nitrogen generators, which are found in all parts of India, into oxygen generators by fine-tuning the existing nitrogen plant set up.
- **Sauropod dinosaurs**
  - ✓ In Meghalaya, 100-million-year old fossil bone fragments of sauropod dinosaurs have been found by researchers of the Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- **"Mayflower 400"**
  - ✓ World's First Unmanned Vessel named "Mayflower 400" is set to Navigate Across the Atlantic.
- **"LiveWire,"**
  - ✓ Harley-Davidson Inc. has launched an all-electric motorcycle brand "LiveWire,"



## **NATIONAL**

- **Nationwide vaccination drive for the 18-44 age group - to commence only in six states on May**
- **A Record foodgrain production target of 307 million tonnes (MT) in 2021**
- **Russian Covid - 19 Vaccine-- sputnik V**
- **Indian Army - recently launched the first Green Solar Energy harnessing plant in Sikkim for the benefit of troops of the Indian army.**
- **Operation Samudra Setu II**
  - ✓ It deployed to carry liquid oxygen filled cryogenic containers from various countries to India
  - ✓ INS Talwar will transport 40 million tonnes of oxygen from Manama, Bahrain to Mumbai.
  - ✓ INS Kolkata will proceed to Doha to get medical supplies and then travel to Kuwait to get liquid oxygen tanks.
- **Eight Asiatic lions at Hyderabad's Nehru Zoological Park- infected by covid**
  - ✓ The first known case of humans infecting -the lions and making them sick in the country.
  - ✓ Nehru Zoological Park, one of the biggest zoos in Asia, has been closed for visitors as a precautionary measure.
- **The single-shot Russian Covid-19 vaccine.**
  - ✓ Dr Reddy's labs already has a distribution tie-up with Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) for Sputnik V
  - ✓ The single-shot Sputnik Light could prove to be a major booster for India's vaccination drive against the backdrop of vaccine shortages
  - ✓ In comparison, the two-dose Sputnik has shown an efficacy of 92%
  - ✓ The single-dose shot comprises just the first adenoviral vector component of the two-dose vaccine - Ad26.
- **Co - Win .**
  - ✓ The Ministry of Health - recently announced that a new security feature of a four-digit security code is being added to the Co-WIN software.
  - ✓ **Co-WIN is COVID-19 Vaccine Intelligence Network.**
- **PM Kisan Scheme on May**
  - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi - released the eighth instalment of ₹20,667 crore to more than 9.5 crore farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme via video-conference.

- ✓ The first tranche of direct income transfer of Rs.2,000 was released from Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh in 2018 to help farmers pay for cultivation costs and reducing debts.
  - ✓ The first instalment of Rs 2,000 is usually made between April and June, while the second instalment is made between August and November.
- **Renewable Energy market outlook 2021**
- ✓ The International Energy Agency (IEA) - has submitted its latest 'Renewable energy market outlook' for the year 2021
  - ✓ India is expected to add three times more renewable energy capacity this year than it did last year and set new records by 2022.
  - ✓ The installed Solar generation capacity in India as of 30<sup>th</sup> April was 40.5 gigawatts and the capacity under installation was 36.48 gigawatts.
- **Extension of Covishield vaccine to 12-16 weeks.**
- ✓ The Centre - approved extending the gap between two doses of Covishield vaccine from 6-8 weeks to 12-16 weeks following the recommendations of a government panel.
  - ✓ The Covid working group chaired by Dr N K Arora has recommended extension of the gap between the first and second doses of Covishield vaccine to 12-16 weeks.
- **The e-Committee portal of the Supreme Court**
- ✓ The e-Committee portal of the Supreme Court is now accessible in regional languages including Hindi, Odia, Tamil, Marathi and Khasi.
- **Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC)- through Atmanirbhar**
- ✓ The Union Cabinet - approved the Production Linked Incentive scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage with an allocation of Rs. 18,100 crore on May
  - ✓ India is currently importing Battery Storage Equipment worth Rs. 20,000 crore and the scheme will be helpful in making the country self-reliant (Atmanirbhar) and reduce imports
  - ✓ The National Programme on Advance Chemistry Cell Battery Storage was proposed by the National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage, which was launched in 2019.
- **Tauktae Cyclone**
- ✓ Tauktae cyclone has become the first cyclone to form in Arabian Sea
  - ✓ caused huge destruction to Gujarat coast after making landfall near the Union Territory of Diu late on May 17 as a '**very severe**' cyclone.
  - ✓ The name "Tauktae" has been given by Myanmar, which means "**gecko**", meaning a highly **vocal lizard in Burmese**

- **“Oxygen park”**
  - ✓ In May 2021, the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University designed **“Oxygen Park” in its premises in Coimbatore with Beema Bamboo.**
  - ✓ Beema Bamboo, a clone of *Bambusa balcooa*, is a higher biomass yielding bamboo species.
  
- **Covishield dosing reschedule**
  - ✓ The government - has reconfigured the Co-Win platform to reflect the new dosing schedule of 12-16 weeks for Covishield vaccine
  
- **Fertilizer Subsidy**
  - ✓ Centre - has decided to increase the fertilizer subsidy outlay for the year by Rs.14,775 crore
  - ✓ This is the second major step of the government in the interest of the farmers after the recent transfer of eighth instalment of ₹ 20,667 crore to the farmers account under PM-KISAN scheme
  
- **First Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre at pune**
  - ✓ The Mahratta Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) – jointly launched the country’s first Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre at Pune on May.
  
- **Mucormycosis**
  - ✓ The Centre - has asked states and UTs to make “Mucormycosis” a notifiable disease under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.
  - ✓ India’s drug regulator approved five new companies to manufacture the life-saving anti-fungal injection ‘Amphotericin B’, which is being used in treatment of Mucormycosis, also known as ‘black fungus’.
  
- **Taxi Ambulance**
  - ✓ Taxi ambulances used in Tamil Nadu during Covid-19 pandemic – has figured among a list of 14 best practices implemented by states, as identified by the centre
  
- **Oxygen Express**
  - ✓ The Indian Railways’ first Oxygen Express train piloted by two women - reached Bengaluru carrying 120 tonnes of medical oxygen from Jamshedpur on May.
  
- **UNESCO – World Heritage Site-increased to 48**
  - ✓ They are Ganga Ghats in Varanasi, temples of Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu, Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, Maratha Military Architecture in Maharashtra, Hirebenakal Megalithic site in Karnataka and BhedaghatLametaghat of Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh
  - ✓ With this, the total number of sites in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites tentative list has increased to 48.

- ✓ There are more than 400 megalithic funerary monuments in **Hirebenakal** Megalithic site.
  - ✓ The **Bhedaghat-Lametaghat** of the Narmada valley are referred to as the Grand Canyon of India
  - ✓ Several dinosaur fossil fuels have been found and the site exhibits huge marble rocks on the side of Narmada river.
- **'Yaas' - made landfall close to Bahanaga block**
- ✓ Cyclone Yaas is the second major storm to hit Indian coast after cyclone Tauktae Yaas, named by Oman in Persian language, refers to a Jasmine-like tree with a good fragrance
  - ✓ Tauktae, a Burmese name, was named by Myanmar, meaning 'gecko', a highly vocal lizard.
- **PM - CARES-for children**
- ✓ The government - has announced Rs.10 lakh fund, free education among other benefits to support the children orphaned by Covid-19 under 'PM CARES' for children scheme.
  - ✓ The government has announced the **"PM-CARES for Children"** scheme under which fixed deposits will be opened in the names of such children from the PM-CARES fund.
  - ✓ The total corpus of the fund will be Rs 10 lakh for each child.
- **Union Minister of Petroleum Dharmendra Pradhan - flagged off the first supply of used cooking oil-based biodiesel blended diesel recently through video conferencing**
- ✓ The scheme mainly aims to create an eco-system for collection and conversion of Used Cooking Oil into biodiesel and to develop entrepreneurship opportunities in the process
  - ✓ Under the process, 7% biodiesel extracted from the Used Cooking Oil is to be blended with diesel
  - ✓ Indian Oil has also started constructing eight Biodiesels plants across Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh.
  - ✓ Biodiesel is an alternative fuel, similar to conventional or 'fossil' diesel, which is rapidly biodegradable and completely non-toxic.
- **The high-powered committee to select the CBI director - has shortlisted three IPS officers for the top post, which has been lying vacant since February this year**
- ✓ The three names being considered by the panel are former Maharashtra director general of police Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, director general of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Kumar Rajesh Chandra, and home ministry special secretary V.S.K. Kaumudi
  - ✓ The panel comprised of PM Narendra Modi, CJI N V Ramana and the opposition representative from leader of Congress in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

- ✓ During the discussions, CJI Ramana insisted that a police officer with less than six months of service should be not considered for the post referring to a particular Supreme Court judgement.
- ✓ Apparently, it is for the first time such a rule has been put forward during the selection of a new CBI director.



## **SCHEME**

- **Kisan Samman Nidhi**
  - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently released the eighth instalment of Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi.
  - ✓ The Government of India transfers Rs 6,000 to the account of small and marginal farmers. These funds are transferred in three instalments. The first instalment of Rs 2,000 is made between April and June.
- **National Health Authority (NHA) has inked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Telangana government to implement Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana across the state immediately.**
- **TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India)**
  - ✓ Ministry of Tribal Affairs is set to partner with NITI Aayog for implementation of **Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK)** initiative under Van Dhan Yojna in 39 Tribal Aspirational districts identified by NITI Aayog.
  - ✓ These include districts in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Telangana and Tripura

## **COURT VERDICT**

- **PSTM - Quota**
  - ✓ The Madras High Court - has ruled that the candidates who have studied in Tamil medium in **all stages from Class I to degree** alone would be eligible for appointment under 20% Persons Studied in Tamil Medium (PSTM) quota.
  - ✓ The verdict was given by a division bench of Justice N Kirubakaran and Justice B Pugalendhi
  - ✓ The term 'Persons Studied in Tamil Medium' as defined in Section 2(d) of the Act would necessarily mean those who have studied their **entire education in Tamil medium**
- **Supreme Court of India - refused to re-examine its 1992 verdict, which put a cap of 50% on quota**
  - ✓ The apex court turned down the plea made by various states that the ceiling fixed by court be scrapped and they be allowed to grant reservation beyond it.
  - ✓ A five-judge Constitution bench said the Supreme Court's three decade-old verdict in the **Indra Sawhney case has stood the test of time.**
  - ✓ The bench comprised of Justices Ashok Bhushan, L Nageswara Rao, S Abdul Nazeer, Hemant Gupta and S Ravindra Bhat.
- **The Supreme Court of India-has declared by a majority that only the President (i.e. the Centre) can take decisions for declaring socially and educationally backward communities for granting reservation**



- **The Supreme Court of India -had constituted a 12-member National Task Force to distribute oxygen to states, after faulting the centre's allocation methodology during the recent surge in Covid-19 cases**
  - ✓ A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and M R Shah asked the cabinet secretary to be the convenor of the group.
- **The Supreme Court - has ruled that personal guarantors are liable for corporate debts and lenders can recover dues from them if firms fails to repay**

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- **The World Health Organisation - recently listed mRNA vaccine of "Moderna" for Emergency Use.**
  - ✓ Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine has already been authorised in the US, Canada, Switzerland, Singapore, Qatar, Taiwan and in the UK.
  - ✓ mRNA-1273 is the technical name for the **Moderna vaccine**
  - ✓ The European Medicines Agencies granted marketing authorisation for the vaccine throughout European Union in January 2021.
- **KP Sharma Oli - reappointed Prime Minister**
  - ✓ K P Sharma Oli - was reappointed as Prime Minister of Nepal after opposition parties failed to secure majority seats to form a new government.
- **Bolivia - Covid Vaccines Trips**
  - ✓ Bolivia - has become the first country to seek flexibility in the TRIPS Agreement to import 15 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines.
- **A-76**
  - ✓ The world's largest iceberg, named A-76 - breaks off in Antarctica, as per the recent satellite images.
- **The World Health Organisation - issued fresh guidelines for limiting sodium content**
  - ✓ It had noted that excessive salt in food and beverages is putting people at greater risk of potentially fatal heart disease and strokes
  - ✓ According to WHO, an estimated 11 million deaths globally are associated with poor diet each year, including 3 million attributable to high sodium intake
  - ✓ Sodium chloride is the chemical name for salt and sodium is a mineral that regulates the amount of water in the body.
- **Remnants of China's biggest rocket, Long March 5B - landed in the Indian Ocean on May**

## **INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES**

- **'Roadmap 2030' to strengthen bilateral ties**
  - ✓ The 'Roadmap 2030' provides a framework for UK-India relations across health, climate, trade, education, science and technology, and defence.
  - ✓ The vaccine partnership through the Oxford-AstraZeneca-SII collaboration was highlighted in the summit.
  - ✓ The bilateral summit also set an ambitious target of more than doubling India-UK trade by 2030.
  
- **External affairs minister S Jaishankar - will begin a four-day visit to London from May**
  - ✓ He is to attend a meeting of foreign ministers of Group of Seven (G7) rich nations in the UK.
  - ✓ India has been invited to the meeting as a guest country
  
- **The UK and Indian governments - to announce their first enhanced trade partnership on May**
  - ✓ This was seen as a first step to a free trade agreement when UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Indian PM Narendra Modi hold a virtual meeting.
  - ✓ A new UK-India trade and investment at a budget of billion pounds (₹10,000 crore) will also be announced. This will include an investment of £240 million (₹2,400 crore) by the Serum Institute of India in the UK
  
- **The Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Russian President Vladimir Putin - recently agreed to establish "2+2 Ministerial Dialogue"**
  
- **India and Israel - have signed a three-year joint work programme agreement to enhance cooperation in agriculture till the year 2023**

## **SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES**

- **The First India-EU Leaders' meeting, with the participation of PM Narendra Modi - was held on May.**
  - ✓ The meeting is expected to provide a major boost to trade ties with the two sides agreeing to resume negotiations, which had remained suspended since 2013
  - ✓ Further, the sides agreed for a balanced and comprehensive free trade and investment agreements
  - ✓ PM Narendra Modi sought support for a TRIPs waiver for vaccine production related patents

## **DEFENCE**

- **Defence Minister Mr. Rajnath Singh - granted special emergency financial powers to the armed forces for providing Covid-related assistance to the general public**
  - ✓ The Minister invoked “special provisions” to grant the financial powers to formation commanders around the country.
  
- **Varuna - 2021**
  - ✓ The Indian and French Navies - recently conducted the VARUNA Naval Exercise in the Arabian Sea as part of the Clemenceau 2021.
  
- **INS Rajput**
  - ✓ INS Rajput - has been decommissioned after 41 years of service by the Indian Navy on May 21, 2021 in Naval Dockyard located in Visakhapatnam.
  
- **Israeli Heron Mark - II drones**
  - ✓ India - to soon get four advanced Israeli Heron Mark-II drones, which can stay airborne for 45 hours at a stretch
  
- **India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**
  - ✓ It has developed a Covid-19 antibody detection kit. The DIPCOVAN kit can detect both spikes as well as nucleocapsid proteins of Coronavirus with a high sensitivity of 97%.
  - ✓ It has been approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research and has been developed by the Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences lab of DRDO in association with Delhi's Vanguard Diagnostics Pvt Ltd.
  
- **86 Oxygen plants-in railways.**
  - ✓ The Railways will soon have 86 Oxygen plants for its hospitals across the country.
  - ✓ Four oxygen plants are already functional, 52 have been sanctioned and 30 are under various stages of processing.
  - ✓ There is also a Massive Capacity Enhancement in 86 Railway Hospitals across India.

## **ECONOMICS**

- **'Baa3' rating on India**
  - ✓ Moody's has provided a 'Baa3' rating on India with a **negative outlook**.
- **The whole sale price index- and Inflation**
  - ✓ The Wholesale price inflation (WPI) – rose to an 11-year high of **10.5%** in April 2021, compared to **7.4%** in March.
  - ✓ The rise in WPI comes against the backdrop of a decline in retail inflation, which slowed to a three-month low of 4.3% in April.
- **Jalan Committee Formula**
  - ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - has approved a Rs. 99,122-crore dividend payout to the government for an accounting period of nine months ended March
  - ✓ This is also the highest dividend after the Rs.1.23 lakh crore paid out for FY19, along with a separate Rs.52,637-crore surplus reserve transferred to the government in that fiscal, based on the Jalan Committee formula
- **Consumer Price Index (CPI):-by Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI).**
  - ✓ The country's retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), eased to 4.29 per cent in the month of April.
  - ✓ Separately, India's factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), witnessed a growth of 22.4 per cent in March.
  - ✓ The retail inflation during the month of March was at 5.52 per cent.
- **GDP**
  - ✓ India's GDP is likely to have grown at 1.3% in the fourth quarter of 2020-21 and may have contracted by about 7.3% for the full financial year, according to an SBI research report 'Ecowrap'.
- **The GST collections in April - touched a record high of over ₹1.41 lakh crore, after crossing the ₹1 lakh crore mark for the seventh month in a row**
  - ✓ The gross GST revenue collected in the month of April 2021 is at a record high of ₹1,41,384 crore
  - ✓ This includes CGST ₹27,837 crore, SGST ₹35,621 crore, IGST ₹68,481 crore and cess ₹9,445 crore
- **Reserve Bank of India -Committee under the Managing Director S Janaki Raman**
  - ✓ The Reserve Bank of India - recently constituted a Committee under the Managing Director S Janaki Raman to assist the second Regulatory Review Authority.(RRA)

- **The country's combined market capitalization of BSE-listed firms - crossed the \$3-trillion mark on May 24 for the first time ever.**
  - ✓ India's market cap crossed this milestone much ahead of its GDP, which is estimated to cross the \$3 trillion mark by the end of 2021, as per a recent report by the IMF

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Name	Sector
Padmakumar Madhavan Nair	'Bad Bank' or the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARC)
Mr. T Rabi Sankar	Deputy Governor of the central bank (Fourth)
Mr. Raman Meenakshi Sundaram	Director of the Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR)

## **AWARDS**

- **"Order of Rising sun"**
  - ✓ The Japanese Government - recently awarded the "Order of Rising Sun" to a Bengaluru based Japanese teacher, Shyamala Ganesh
- **'India Biodiversity Award'**
  - ✓ The forest range officer of Ramanathapuram subdivision of Gulf of Mannar marine National park, S Satish - has won the 'India Biodiversity Award - 2021'.
- **Tuber Man of kerala**
  - ✓ Apart from Satish, Shaji .N.M., fondly called as 'Tuber Man' of Kerala has been awarded in the individual category of 'Conservation of domesticated species'.
- **Krishi Avam Paristhitiki Vikas Sansthan (KRAPAVIS) won the award under the category 'Sustainable Use of Biological Resources'**
  - ✓ Khonoma Nature Conservation & Tragopan Sanctuary (KNCTS) in Nagaland won the award under 'Sustainable Use of Biological Resources' category.
- **Andrea Meza crowned 69th Miss Universe 2020**
  - ✓ **Miss Mexico, Andrea Meza**, has been crowned as the 69th Miss Universe 2020. On the other hand, Miss India's Adline Quadros Castelino made it to the Top 4.
  - ✓ Brazil's Julia Gama is the first runner-up, Peru's Janick Maceta is the second runner-up while India's Adline Castelino and Dominican Republic's Kimberly Perez are third runner-up and fourth runner-up, respectively.

- ✓ This year, the pageant is being held in Miami, Florida's Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Hollywood.
- **Maria Ressa** has been named as the 2021 laureate of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
- **Anupam Kher won the Best Actor** award for his performance in the short film Happy Birthday at the New York City International Film Festival.
- **Green Urja Award**
  - ✓ Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) has been conferred with the "Green Urja Award"
- **Whitley Awards 2021,**
  - ✓ An environmentalist from Nagaland's remote Longleng district, **Nuku Phom** has won this year's Whitley Awards 2021.
- **Finland's version of the Nobel science prizes.**
  - ✓ Two British chemists ( **Shankar Balasubramanian and David Klenerman**)
  - ✓ who developed a super-fast DNA sequencing technique that paved the way for revolutionary healthcare advances were awarded Finland's version of the Nobel science prizes.
- **International Eni Award 2020 (also called the Energy Frontier award).**
  - ✓ Noted Indian scientist and Bharat Ratna Professor, **C.N.R. Rao** has been felicitated with the International Eni Award 2020 (also called the Energy Frontier award).
- **2021 Princess of Asturias Award'**
  - ✓ Indian economist and Nobel Laureate, **Amartya Kumar Sen** has been conferred with the ' 2021 Princess of Asturias Award' by Spain in the social sciences category.
- **Arline Pacht Global Vision Award for 2021**
  - ✓ **Justice Gita Mittal**, the former chief justice of J&K high court is the first Indian jurist to receive this award



## **PERSONALITIES**

- **Asperger's Syndrome**
  - ✓ The SpaceX Billionaire Elon Musk - recently announced that he has Asperger's Syndrome, in a TV show hosted by him.
- **"Green Oscar"**
  - ✓ Nuklu Phom of Nagaland - has become the only Indian to receive the Whitley Award, also called as 'Green Oscar', for the year 2021.
  - ✓ Nuklu Phom is popularly known as the "Amur Falcon Man of Nagaland".
  - ✓ Nagaland is called the "Falcon Capital of the World".

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

- **2-deoxy-Dglucose (2-DG)**
  - ✓ According to DRDO, the results of clinical trials on Covid-19 patients showed that 2-DG helps in faster recovery of hospitalised patients and reduces their dependence on supplemental oxygen
  - ✓ It was originally being developed for cancer as it cuts the supply of glucose molecules to cancer cells, which require higher glucose than normal cells to survive, thereby killing them
  - ✓ The anti-Covid-19 application has been developed by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in collaboration with pharma major Dr Reddy's Laboratories.
- **SpaceX - is to launch DOGE-1, a satellite that is completely funded with crypto currency, to the moon in 2022 in Falcon 9 rocket**
  - ✓ This was announced by its owner Elon Musk in a TV show he was hosting
  - ✓ DOGE-1 mission will be the first ever commercial payload to be paid with the crypto currency, Dogecoin.
- **"Osiris - Rex"**
  - ✓ The NASA Spacecraft "Osiris-Rex" - has started a two year long journey from asteroid Bennu back to the earth.
- **Covaxin recommended for 2-18 ages**
  - ✓ Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin - was recommended by an expert panel for phase II/III clinical trial on those aged between 2 to 18 years
  - ✓ Covaxin was the first Covid-19 vaccine globally to begin testing on children as young as 12 years in September 2020.
  - ✓ Covaxin was indigenously developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-NIV, Pune

- ✓ Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has become the first vaccine globally to get approval from US drug regulator for use on children aged 12-15 years
- **Perseverance rover of Mars 2020**
  - ✓ The Perseverance rover of Mars 2020 mission – has commenced the study of the rocks on the floor of Jezero crater, an ancient crater of Mars which held a lake once.
  - ✓ The Perseverance rover landed on the Jezero crater and has shot the fourth flight of Ingenuity helicopter successfully.
- **The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) - signed an agreement with Axiom Space to send its astronauts to International Space Station.**
  - ✓ This is the first private astronaut mission to the space station.
- **Tianwen 1**
  - ✓ The Chinese Spacecraft Tianwen 1 - landed on Mars successfully
  - ✓ Tianwen-1 is China's first independent mission to Mars.
- **The Voyager 1**
  - ✓ This sound was heard after Voyager 1 exited the heliosphere and entered the interstellar space.
  - ✓ The Voyager 1, launched in 1977, was the first spacecraft to enter the heliosphere of the sun in 2012.
- **Uranium - 214**
  - ✓ The newly discovered uranium is an isotope, or a variant of Uranium
  - ✓ Because neutrons have mass, uranium-214 is much lighter than more common uranium isotopes, including uranium-235, which is used in nuclear reactors and has 51 extra neutrons.
- **OxiTech**
  - ✓ Oxitech technology, a biotech firm in the US - recently launched the field test of Genetically Modified mosquitos in Florida to fight insect-borne diseases like dengue fever and **Zika virus**.
- **ISRO develops 3 cost-effective ventilators, oxygen concentrator**
  - ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre
  - ✓ (VSSC), has developed three different types of ventilators and an oxygen concentrator at a time when a shortage of this critical medical equipment resulted in the deaths of many Covid-19 patients across the country. Based on designs, features and specifications, we have named them, Prana, VaU and Svasta.

- **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)**
  - ✓ The Indian and Indonesian Navies conducted Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the southern Arabian Sea
  
- **ATMAN AI,**
  - ✓ Named ATMAN AI, the tool was developed by DRDO's Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR), with the support of 5C Network & HCG Academics.
  
- **“DOGE-1 Mission**
  - ✓ Elon Musk-owned SpaceX is set to launch the “DOGE-1 Mission to the Moon”, the first-ever commercial lunar payload, paid entirely in the cryptocurrency Dogecoin.
  
- **First mobile robot to the Moon**
  - ✓ The US agency, as part of its **Artemis program**, is planning to send its first mobile robot to the Moon in late 2023 in search of ice and other resources on and below the lunar surface
  
- **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar(NISAR)**
  - ✓ NASA has also partnered with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) which will provide NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR). NISAR will carry two radar systems to measure changes in the Earth’s surface, during one of the observatory’s first missions intended as a pathfinder.
  
- **India's Biological E. - will produce the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine alongside its own vaccine candidate**
  - ✓ Telangana-based pharmaceutical major Biological E. was looking to contract manufacture about 600 million doses of the J&J vaccine annually

## **SPORTS**

- **Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award 2021**
  - ✓ Tennis legend Rafael Nadal - won the **Laureus World Sportsman** of the Year Award 2021 at the virtual awards ceremony conducted in Seville, Spain recently.
  - ✓ **Naomi Osaka** won the prestigious **Laureus World Sportswoman** of the Year Award 2021.
  - ✓ **Sportsman of the Year Award:** Rafael Nadal
  - ✓ **Sportswoman of the Year Award:** Naomi Osaka
  - ✓ **Naomi Osaka wins top title at 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards**
  - ✓ World number two tennis player Naomi Osaka of Japan has been named "Sportswoman of the Year" at the 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards. This is Osaka's second Laureus Sports Awards. In 2019, she won the "**Breakthrough of the Year**" award.
  
- **Boxing - Shiva Thapa**
  - ✓ Indian boxer Shiva Thapa (64kg) - secured his fifth successive medal at the **Asian boxing championships this year 2021**
  
- **M C Mary Kom (51kg) and Sakshi Choudhary (54kg)** - entered into the Asian Boxing Championship finals after securing victories in their semi final bouts in Dubai on May.
  
- **Defending champion Amit Panghal (52kg) and Shiva Thapa (64kg)** - entered into the Asian Boxing Championship finals with brilliant victories in Dubai on May
  
- **India gymnast Pranati Nayak - qualified through the continental quota for the Tokyo Olympics**
  - ✓ The 26-year-old from West Bengal will be the country's only gymnast participating in the next Olympics
  - ✓ Pranati is the second reserve behind Sri Lanka's Elpitiya Badalge Dona Milka Geh for the Asian quota

## **OBITUARY**

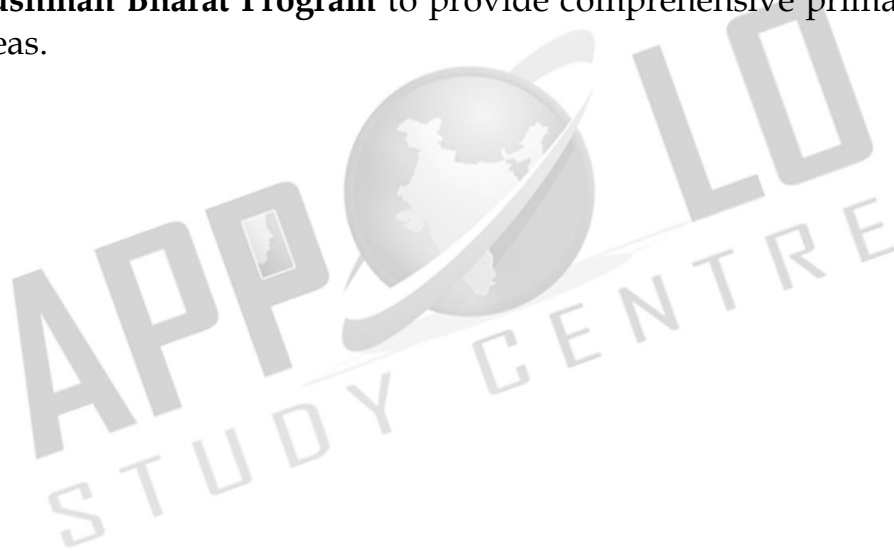
- **Soli Sorabjee (91 years), former Attorney General of India**
- **Kalaimamani awardee M J c comagan (48 years) - died of covid - 19 on May**
- **KR Gouri Amma**
  - ✓ Gouri was the first woman from the Ezhava community to secure a law degree.
  - ✓ She was formally initiated into the Communist party by its founder leader P Krishnapillai in 1947.
  - ✓ She won the first election to the Kerala assembly in 1957 and became the first revenue minister of the state.
- **K. Ragothamman - Former CBI officer**
  - ✓ K Ragothaman (76 years), a former CBI officer who was part of the investigation into former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's assassination - died of Covid-19 in Chennai on May.
- **Ki - Ra**
  - ✓ Popular Tamil writer, short story teller and novelist, Ki Rajanarayanan (98 years) - passed away late on May
  - ✓ Ki Ra, as he was popularly known in the Tamil literary circles, won the Sahitya Akademi award in 1991 for his acclaimed 'Gopallapuratthu Makkal' novel.
  - ✓ Ki Ra, the pioneer of the literary genre 'Karisal Illakkiyam' (the literature of the dry lands) and a master folklorist, was a school drop-out.
- **Tamil Nadu government - will erect a statue in memory of eminent Tamil writer Ki Rajanarayanan at Kovilpatti in Tuticorin district.**
- **Sundarlal Bahuguna**
  - ✓ Renowned environmental activist and leader of Chipko Movement Sundarlal Bahuguna (94 years) - died in Uttarakhand at the AIIMS in Rishikesh due to Covid-19 on May.
  - ✓ A long-time follower of **Gandhian principles**, Bahuguna transformed the Chipko Movement against deforestation in the 1970s across garhwal region into a key milestone in India's forest conservation efforts.
  - ✓ Born on January 9, 1927 in Maroda village in Tehri – now a district in Uttarakhand – Bahuguna's life was dedicated to social causes, activism, and writing.
- **Sri Kumar Banerjee**
  - ✓ Srikumar Banerjee, former chairman of **the Atomic Energy Commission - died due to a heart attack at his residence in Navi Mumbai on May**
  - ✓ Banerjee was conferred "Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for science and technology" in 1989 and the 'Padma Shri' award in 2005

- ✓ He retired as chairman of the **Atomic Energy Commission** and secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy in 2012
  - ✓ Banerjee's work focused on physical metallurgy and material science.
- **Eminent academician and former vice-chancellor of Anna University M Anandakrishnan – passed away in Chennai on May 29 due to Covid-19**
- ✓ Anandakrishnan headed the Tamil Nadu Curriculum Framework Committee that revamped state board syllabus from Class I to XII in the year 2017
  - ✓ He also played a role in setting up the state's first IT park – Tidel Park at Taramani.
  - ✓ It was based on the recommendations of a committee headed by Anandakrishnan that the Tamil Nadu government scrapped entrance tests to professional courses in 2006.
- **Parul Debi Das,**
- ✓ The first female IAS officer from Assam, passed away. She was an Assam-Meghalaya cadre IAS officer.
- **V Kalyanam**
- ✓ Mahatma Gandhi's former personal secretary V Kalyanam passed away. He was Gandhi's personal secretary from 1943 to 1948, when the Mahatma was assassinated.
  - ✓ Kalyanam was preserving letters written by Gandhiji, a cheque bearing his sign and other literature associated with him.
  - ✓ He was proficient in Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Tamil and English. A staunch follower of Mahatma Gandhi, he was also associated with Rajaji in the 1960s.
- **Raghunath Mohapatra**
- ✓ Eminent sculptor, architect, and Rajya Sabha member, Raghunath Mohapatra has passed away while undergoing treatment for COVID-19.
  - ✓ Hailing from Odisha, Mohapatra was awarded Padma Shri in 1975, Padma Bhushan in 2001 and Padma Vibhushan in 2013 for his pioneering contributions to the world of art, architecture and culture.
- **Former NSG director general J K Dutt (72 years)**
- ✓ who headed the 'Operation Black Tornado' commando force during the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks – passed away on May 19 due to complications arising out of Covid-19



## **REPORT**

- **Digitally Inclusive Bharat'**
  - ✓ NITI Aayog has released the report in collaboration with Mastercard.
  - ✓ The report identifies the various challenges faced in accelerating digital financial inclusion in India and also provides recommendations for making digital services accessible to its 1.3 billion citizens
  
- **Global Forest Goals Report, 2021.**
  - ✓ 1.6 billion people representing 25% of global population are dependent on forests for their survival
  - ✓ The main objective of the plan is to increase the forest area in the world by 3% by 2030
  
- Karnataka has been ranked first in establishing **Health and Wellness Centres under Ayushman Bharat Program** to provide comprehensive primary health care in rural areas.



## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Significance</b>
<b>May 1</b> International Labour Day or May Day or International Workers' Day	"Maintaining Safety & Security at the Workplace". (to continue with the 2020 theme)	International Labour Day (also known as May Day or International Workers' Day) is celebrated across the world on the 1st of May every year.
<b>May 3</b> World Press Freedom Day	"Information as a Public Good"	World Press Freedom Day is observed globally on 3 May every year. It is also known as World Press Day
<b>May 4</b> World Asthma Day	"Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions"	
<b>May 5</b> World Hand Hygiene Day	'Seconds Save Lives: Clean Your Hands'	
<b>May 5</b> International Confederation of Midwives (ICM)	Follow the Data: Invest in Midwives	
<b>May 8</b> World Thalassaemia Day	Addressing Health Inequalities Across the Global Thalassaemia Community	The day is celebrated every year to create awareness about the patients suffering from Thalassaemia
<b>May 8</b> World Red Cross Day	Together we are unstoppable!	The World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is observed every year on 8 May
<b>May 8</b> World Migratory Bird Day	"Sing, Fly, Soar - Like a Bird!"	
<b>May 11</b> National Technology Day -	Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future	On May 11, 1998, India conducted three successful nuclear tests at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan under Operation Shakti
<b>May 12</b> International Nurses Day	A voice to lead - A vision of future healthcare.	✓ The birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale is celebrated annually as the International

		<p>Nurses Day.</p> <p>✓ Florence Nightingale was called as “The Lady with the Lamp” as she used to carry a lamp while making rounds of wounded soldiers at night.</p>
<b>May 15</b> <b>International Family day-</b>	Families and new technologies	
<b>May 16</b> <b>World Agri-Tourism Day</b>	Rural Women Sustainable Entrepreneurship Opportunities through Agri Touris	In India, Maharashtra is a pioneering state to develop and promote Agri-Tourism in the country.
<b>May 16</b> <b>National Dengue Day</b>	-	The day is an initiative by the Ministry of Healthy and Family Welfare, to raise awareness about dengue and its preventive measures, and preparedness for control of the vector-borne disease before the transmission season begins.
<b>May 17</b> <b>World Hypertension Day (WHD)</b>	Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer	-
<b>May 17</b> <b>World Telecommunication Day</b>	“Transformation in Challenging times”	-
<b>May 18</b> <b>International Museum Day</b>	“The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine.”	-
<b>May 18</b> <b>World AIDS Vaccine Day</b>	“Global Solidarity, shared responsibility”	-
<b>May 20</b> <b>World Metrology Day</b>	Measurement for Health.	
<b>May 21</b> <b>World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development</b>	-	The day aims to celebrate the richness of the world’s cultures and highlight the significance of its diversity as an agent of

		inclusion and positive change for achieving peace and sustainable development
<b>May 21</b> <b>National Anti Terrorism</b>		-
<b>May 22</b> <b>International Day of Biological Diversities</b>	"We're part of the solution"	-
<b>May 23</b> <b>World Turtle Day</b>	"Turtles Rock!"	-
<b>May 23</b> <b>International Day to End Obstetric Fistula</b>	"Women's rights are human rights! End fistula now!"	-
<b>May 25</b> <b>World Thyroid Day</b>	" <b>Mother-BabyIodine:</b> The Importance of Iodine on the Woman and her Baby"	The main purpose of the WTD is to aware of the importance of Thyroid and the prevention and treatment of thyroid diseases
<b>May 29</b> <b>International Day of UN Peacekeepers</b>	"The Road to a lasting Peace : Leveraging the Power of Youth of Peace and Security "	-
<b>May 31</b> <b>World No Tobacco Day</b>	"Commit to Quit"	-