

May - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh released a book by former Planning Commission and Finance Commission member C.H.Hanumantha Rao.
 - The book is titled 'My Journey from Marxism-Leninism to Nehruvian Socialism'
- ❖ Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil company has appointed its first female board member.
 - Industry veteran Lynn Laverty Elsenhans, former chief executive of oil refiner Sunoco, is joining the board of Saudi Aramco.
- ❖ Anu Kumari, who secured the second rank in the prestigious civil services 2017 examination, was made the brand ambassador of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign in Sonipat district, Haryana.

NATIONAL

Vistara

- ❖ Vistara, the joint venture carrier between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines has become a member of the International Air Transport Association, a global body of 280 airlines.



- ❖ Vistara successfully completed the IATA Operational Safety Audit or IOSA, cementing its commitment to safety.
- ❖ National carrier Air India and Jet Airways are the only two Indian airline members of IATA.

Plastic Free Zones

- ❖ Ahead of the World Environment Day on June 5, the environment ministry has banned plastics in all protected areas around the country, thus declaring them “plastic free zones”.
- ❖ India will host the World Environment Day this year.
- ❖ It's a symbolic initiative, as 'protected areas' cover only 5 percent of land area.
- ❖ Plastic consumption needs to be reduced at the source and production should be controlled to achieve a real reduction in plastic waste.

Border trade via Nathu La

- ❖ The bilateral trade for the year 2018 between the traders of India and China through the Nathu La border started with traders and government officials from both sides exchanging gifts and greetings.
- ❖ Last year, the trade was disrupted following the Doklam standoff.
- ❖ The trade between the two countries through Nathu La border, located at a height of 14,200 feet, was resumed in 2006, 44 years after it was closed.

Kisan Kalyan Karyashala

- ❖ The central government will organize block level Kisan Kalyan Karyashala on May 2, where farmers from each block will gather to interact with agriculture officers, scientists, and progressive farmers to discuss ways to increase their income through the adoption of new technology.
- ❖ This announcement was made at the National Kharif Conference 2018 held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

- ❖ The Union Human Resource Development Ministry on April 25, 2018 launched the second edition of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan in New Delhi.
- ❖ Under the program, students from 750 higher educational institutions from across the country will adopt villages and visit them to get acquainted with the lifestyle of people there and the problems faced by them.
- ❖ The key points include helping villages achieve 100% school results, creating 25 jobs each in four sectors in each village where work would take place, increasing

rural incomes, providing drinking water and sanitation to villages, disposing village garbage, among other things.

India's first Virtual Bronchoscopy Navigation system

- ❖ The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has set up Virtual Bronchoscopy Navigation (VBN), an advanced facility for diagnosis and treatment of patients with small tumor-like spots in lungs.
- ❖ The VBN system was installed in the Department of Pulmonary Medicine and Sleep Disorders at AIIMS.
- ❖ Very few countries like China, Singapore besides the US and Europe have this facility
- ❖ The VBN system allows getting samples from these small lung lesions with extreme precision and safety by using a bronchoscope, thereby increasing the likelihood of making a clear-cut diagnosis.

Stamp on Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna

- ❖ The Prime Minister released a commemorative postage stamp on former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Late Shri Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna.



- ❖ The former UP chief minister was inspired by many different leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi, Acharya Vinoba Bhave, Acharya Narendra Dev, Ram Manohar Lohia, and Chandrashekhar Azad.

STATES

Lakadong Turmeric

- ❖ Meghalaya has launched Mission Lakadong to produce 50,000 metric tonnes of the famous Lakadong turmeric per annum in the next five years.
- ❖ The mission is an initiative undertaken by the Directorate of Horticulture, Department of Agriculture, Community and Rural Development Department, Forest Department, North Eastern Hill University and Meghalaya Institute of Entrepreneurship.
- ❖ The Lakadong variety has the highest curcumin content of 6-7.5 percent according to reports of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Andhra Pradesh Cyber Security Summit

- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government and MasterCard, along with Fintech valley, held the Andhra Pradesh Cyber Security Summit in Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ The summit was a part of the MoU between Andhra Pradesh government and MasterCard to implement the best practices for cybersecurity.

Industrial Solar Microgrid – Gujarat

- ❖ Swiss multinational giant ABB has commissioned India's first industrial solar microgrid at its Vadodara manufacturing facility in Gujarat.
- ❖ Microgrids with integrated battery energy storage allow cutting down on planned and unplanned power outages.
- ❖ The microgrid's rooftop photovoltaic field and its battery-energy storage system will support the factory's productivity and enable green power supply.

Pravasi Pension Scheme - Kerala

- ❖ Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched Pravasi pension scheme.
- ❖ The scheme gives those hailing from Kerala but living outside the state or country, a pension of Rs. 2,000 a month.
- ❖ People over the age of 60 years are eligible for the pension.
- ❖ The scheme is not applicable for state and central government employees.

Heli-ambulance: Himachal Pradesh

- ❖ The Himachal Pradesh cabinet decided to introduce free heli-ambulance services to be operated by Switzerland with the assistance of Lady Willingdon Hospital, Manali.
- ❖ The decision is being seen as a step in strengthening the health transport services and timely airlifting of patients, particularly from remote and tribal regions of the state.
- ❖ The setting up of a 'Healthcare transformation project - TATA Digital Nerves Centre Platform (DiNC)' in Kullu district was also approved.
- ❖ DiNC is a service led platform model and facilitates to and from communication between patients, hospitals, and doctors irrespective of their geographical locations.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Narinder Chauhan

- ❖ Narinder Chauhan, who is presently the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Serbia, has been appointed as the next Indian envoy to the Republic of the Philippines.



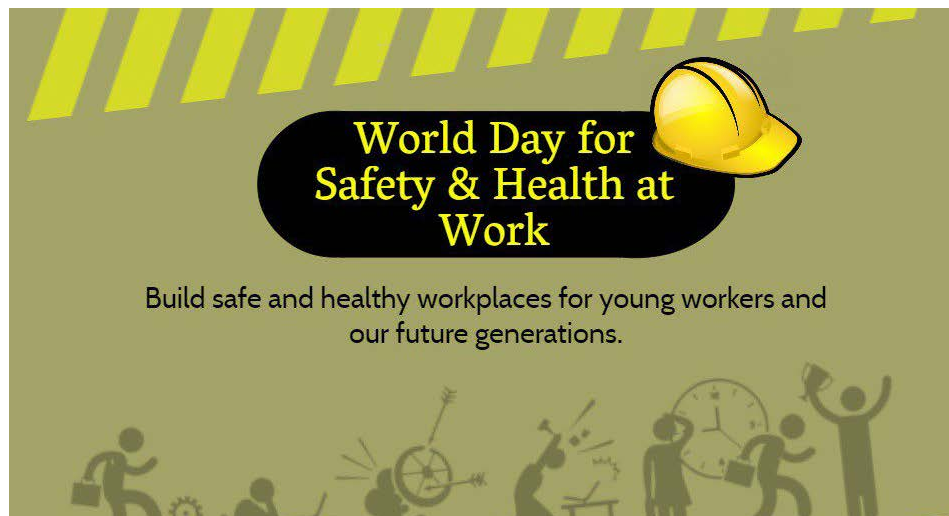
- ❖ Rajiv Kumar Nagpal, presently Ambassador of India to Iceland, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

- ❖ Krishan Kumar, presently Ambassador of India to the Czech Republic, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Norway.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day for Safety and Health at Work – April 28

- ❖ The World Day for Safety and Health at Work is an annual international campaign to promote safe, healthy and decent work. It is held on 28 April and has been observed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) since 2003.
- ❖ The World Day for Safety and Health at Work and the World Day Against Child Labour are coming together in a joint campaign to improve the safety and health of young workers and end child labour.



- ❖ The campaign aims to accelerate action to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 8.8 of safe and secure working environments for all workers by 2030 and SDG target 8.7 of ending all forms of child labour by 2025.
 - ❖ 2018 Theme: “Occupational safety health (OSH) vulnerability of young workers”
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