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1. International Nurses Day - 12 May (May 12, 2023)

International Nurses Day-12 May

International Nurses Day is celebrated on **12 May** across the world to honour the services of nurses.

An Overview of the News

- The day is celebrated to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale**, the founder of modern nursing and a renowned English social reformer and statistician.
- Florence Nightingale is known as the "**Lady with the Lamp**".
- This year the theme of International Nurses Day 2023 is "**Our Nurses, Our Future**".
- The theme for International Nurses Day 2022 is "**Nurses: A Voice to Lead - Invest in Nursing and Respect Rights to Secure Global Health**".
- **International Nurses Week** is celebrated from **May 6 to May 12** in many hospitals around the world.
- Various activities including yoga sessions and seminars are organised during this week to recognize and support nurses.

Background of the day

- Florence Nightingale was **born on May 12, 1820, in Florence, Italy** and is widely regarded as the forerunner of modern nursing.
- **In 1974**, the **International Council of Nurses (ICN)** proposed 12 May as International Nurses Day and since then it is celebrated globally.
- The theme of International Nurses Day changes every year with the aim of highlighting the important contribution of nurses to the healthcare system and society.
- The day serves as an opportunity to recognize and appreciate the selfless service of nurses who work tirelessly to care for patients, save lives, and promote health and wellness.

2. National Technology Day-11 May (May 11, 2023)

National Technology Day is celebrated every year on **11 May**.

An overview of the news

- On this day, various government organizations, institutes, schools and colleges organize events **to honor the scientists of India and their achievements**.
- India is one of the fastest growing developing countries in the world, and much of the credit goes to technological advancements.

- In the 21st century, scientists and engineers are leading the country on the path of development.
- India has made significant progress in science and research in the last three decades.
- India's science and technology has improved the country's position on global forums.
- For 2023, the theme is '**School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to innovate.**

Background of the day

- Under the leadership of then **Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, India conducted a series of **five nuclear bomb tests at Pokhran in May 1998.**
- After the success of **Pokhran-II**, the government declared **May 11 as National Technology Day in 1998.**
- In doing so, India became the **sixth country to join the 'nuclear club'.**
- The test was led by the late **APJ Abdul Kalam**, an aerospace scientist who became the **eleventh President of India.**
- On the same day in 1998, India test-fired its **first indigenous aircraft Hansa-3** which took off in Bengaluru.
- On that day, the **surface-to-air missile Trishul** was also successfully test fired.
- With many technological advancements in a single day, the Government of India announced the celebration of May 11 as National Technology Day.
- The first nuclear test was conducted in May 1974.
- The day was **first officially celebrated on 11 May 1999.**

Significance of the day

- It reminds people of the **scientific achievements of the country.**
- It is a day to honour all those who have contributed to the advancement of science.
- It honours the hard work and efforts of all those who have contributed to the technological progress of our country.

3. World Thalassaemia Day - 8 May (May 9, 2023)

World Thalassaemia Day - 8 May

World Thalassaemia Day is a global health care event, observed **every year on 8 May** across the globe.

An overview of the news

- Apart from raising awareness about the disease among the **local public and policy makers**, the day strengthens the morale of the victims, who have been battling this deadly disease for years.
- On this day, many local and international organisations, patient associations, public authorities, and healthcare professionals gather together to promote the importance of prenatal screening, counselling, prevention, management, or treatment of thalassemia in a patient-centred manner.
- This year the theme on World Thalassemia Day is “**Be Aware, Share, Care : Strengthening Education to bridge the Thalassemia care gap.**”

Background of the day

- **The first World Thalassemia Day was declared on May 8, 1994, by Panos Englezos**, the president and founder of the **Thalassemia International Federation (TIF)**.
- In honour of his (Panos Englezos) son **George** and the numerous thalassemia patients who battled this disease, **Panos Englezos established this day.**

About Thalassemia

- Thalassemia is an **inherited blood disorder** that causes the human body to have less **haemoglobin than normal**.
- Iron deficiency is the most common and can cause **extreme tiredness, shortness of breath, weakness and cold hands and feet**.
- Iron is a mineral that our body needs for **growth, development and making haemoglobin**.
- Haemoglobin is a **protein in red blood cells** that **carries oxygen** from the lungs to all parts of the body.
- Iron is a cofactor for **neurotransmitters** and is important for the **synthesis and metabolism of hormones**.

4. World Athletics Day 2023 (May 9, 2023)

World Athletics Day 2023

World Athletics Day is observed every year on **7th May**.

An overview of the news

- On this day, **IAAF organizes several competitions and tournaments** to engage people in sports and exercise.
- The day was established by the **International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF)**.

- Sports and exercise can help people **avoid diseases and maintain their health.**
- World Athletics Day encourages people to do fitness exercise, **athletics to stay healthy.**
- The theme for World Athletics Day 2023 is "**Athletics for All - A New Beginning.**"

Objectives of the day

- To encourage people to take up sports and participate in various sports and athletic activities.
- To raise public awareness about sporting activities and the health benefits associated with them.
- The day helps people to prioritize physical fitness and popularize sports among the youth of the world.

Background of the day

- World Athletics Day was established by **Primo Nebbiolo**, former president of the athletic federation IAAF, to promote athletics among youth as a primary sport.
- This day was celebrated for the first time in the **year 1996.**
- More than 100 sports federations of the world participated in the 2016 IAAF World Athletics Day to promote sport and exercise for good health.

About IAAF

- The IAAF was founded in **Stockholm**, Sweden on **July 17, 1912.**
- It is the **international governing body for athletics and athletes.**
- President - **Sebastian Coe**

5. Coal Miners Day: 4th May (May 4, 2023)

Coal Miners Day: 4th May

Coal Miners Day is celebrated every year on 4th May to acknowledge and appreciate the hard work and remarkable contribution of coal miners in the extraction of coal.

An Overview of the News

- Many **awareness programs** are organised on this day to promote the health and safety requirements of the workers.
- These initiatives **attempt to educate workers about the various laws and regulations** of the Government of India to enhance their working conditions and wages.

- It aims to empower workers with knowledge about their rights so that they can **work in a safe and healthy work environment.**
- Coal is an important fossil fuel widely used for various purposes, such as **electricity generation and industrial production**, especially in the manufacture of steel and cement.
 - Coal mining is a labour intensive industry that provides employment to millions of people around the world.

History of Coal Miners Day

- The first coal mine was **opened in Scotland in 1575**, while **India's first coal mine was established much later in 1774 by John Summer and Suetonius Grant Heatley** of the East India Company. The mine was located in the **Raniganj coalfield** on the **banks of the Damodar River**.
- After India's independence, demand for coal increased, prompting the new government to draw up a **5-year development plan** to meet the growing need for energy.
- Coal Miners Day was established in India to recognize and honour the contribution and sacrifice made by coal miners.
- May 4 is an important day as **the first underground coal mine in India was inaugurated in 1907 at Raniganj, West Bengal.**

6. World Press Freedom Day: 3 May (May 3, 2023)

World Press Freedom Day: 3 May

World Press Freedom Day is observed annually on **3 May to increase understanding about the importance of a free press.**

An Overview of the News

- This year's theme is "**Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for All Other Human Rights**", which highlights the important role of freedom of expression in the protection and promotion of other human rights.
- The United Nations General Assembly declared an International Day for Press Freedom 30 years ago, and UNESCO organised a special anniversary celebration at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.
- World Press Freedom Day is a reminder of the important **role of free and independent media in promoting democracy, human rights and sustainable development.**

History of World Press Freedom Day:

- World Press Freedom Day was **proposed by UNESCO's General Conference in 1991** to celebrate and promote press freedom.

- **In 1993**, the United Nations General Assembly **officially declared May 3 as World Press Freedom Day.**
- The day is observed annually **to raise awareness of the importance of freedom of the press** and to remind governments of their responsibility to uphold the right to freedom of expression.
- World Press Freedom Day also provides an opportunity **to honour journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty.**
- The day advocates for the safety and independence of journalists who work to disseminate information to the public.

List of Important Days in May

- **May Day / International Labor Day** - 1 May
- **Maharashtra Day** - 1st May
- **Gujarat Day** - 1 May
- **World Tuna Day** - 2 May
- **Press Freedom Day** - 3 May

7. Labour Day: May 1 (May 1, 2023)

Labour Day: May 1

Labor Day is celebrated **every year on 1 May**. The day is recognized as a global holiday that **commemorates the hard work and achievements of the labour movement.**

An Overview of the News

- It is known as **International Workers' Day**. It is observed as a public holiday in more than **80 countries around the world.**
- Labor Day is celebrated on the **first Monday of September in many countries, including the United States.** However, in most parts of the world it is celebrated on May 1st.
- The purpose of Labor Day is **to acknowledge the contribution of working individuals to society** and to recognize the importance of work. It commemorates the steps taken by the labour movement to fight for workers' rights and improve working conditions.
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History of Labor Day 2023:

- Labor Day, also known as **International Workers' Day or May Day**, is celebrated every year on 1 May.

- The origins of Labor Day can be traced to the **labour movement of the late 19th century**.
- The **First International Congress of Socialist Parties, held in Paris in 1889**, proclaimed 1 May as the "**Workers' Day of International Unity and Solidarity**".
- The purpose of the day was to draw attention to the labour movement and promote the **idea of an eight-hour working day, a key demand of labour advocates around the world**.
- However, the first Labor Day in the United States was celebrated on the **first Monday of September in 1882** and the day was used to promote the interests of trade unions and workers.
- May Day in the United States is associated with negative events following the **Haymarket Riot in Chicago in 1886**, a protest against police violence and the wrongful conviction of labour activists.
- May Day's association with communism also contributed to opposition to the holiday in **some countries, including the United States**.
- Despite this, May Day remains an important Labor Day for workers and labour advocates around the world, and is celebrated with rallies, marches, and other events.

8. World Veterinary Day 2023 (April 29, 2023)

'**World Veterinary Day**' was organized on 29 April 2023. This day is celebrated every year on the last Saturday of April as a mark of respect to the veterinary profession.

An Overview of the News:

- It was organized on April 29, 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying **Purushottam Rupala**, Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying **Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan** and Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying **L. Murugan** were also present on the occasion.

Theme of the day:

- This year the theme of the day is '**Promoting diversity, equality and inclusion in the veterinary field**'.
- On this occasion, to recognize and celebrate the important roles of veterinarians in economic development, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying along with the Veterinary Council of India celebrated the World Celebration of Veterinary Day - 2023.
- Stakeholders from the veterinary profession of the country have been invited on the occasion. The major activities of the program include conferences, panel discussions on mainstreaming veterinary education and services in the country and the role of veterinarians on One Health.

World Veterinary Day - History

- The day was established by the World Veterinary Federation on April 29, 2000. Since then, the last Saturday of April is celebrated each year as World Veterinary Day with a new theme.

9. World Day for Safety and Health at Work - 28 April (April 28, 2023)

World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2023 is observed globally on 28 April.

An Overviews of the News

- The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of protecting workers against occupational hazards, diseases and accidents.
- The International Labor Organization (ILO) selects the theme for the day each year, and the theme for 2023 is "A safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle and right at work."
- The main goal of the event is to find viable ways to implement this essential human right in workplaces around the world.
- The World Day for Safety and Health at Work emphasises the importance of ensuring a safe and healthy working environment and provides an opportunity for individuals and organisations to advocate for measures that promote this right.
- The International Labor Organization (ILO) established the World Day for Safety and Health at Work in 2003.
- It is celebrated annually to raise awareness about the importance of safety and health in the workplace.
- The World Day for Safety and Health at Work aims to highlight the need for measures that can promote a safer, healthier and more productive work environment.

International Labour Organization:

- Established - 1919
- Director General - Gilbert Hongbo
- Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland

10. International Girls in ICT Day: 27 April (April 27, 2023)

International Girls in ICT Day is observed on the **fourth Thursday of April every year** to encourage girls and young women to pursue careers in ICT.

An Overview of the News

- The day **promotes gender equality and diversity in the tech industry by raising awareness of the gender gap** and inspiring women to pursue ICT careers.
- This year's theme is "**Digital Skills for Life**", which highlights the importance of digital skills in daily life.

- Despite the important role of ICT, only a **small percentage of women globally choose to study ICT-related fields.**
- The **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** proclaimed International Girls in ICT Day on 8 April 2011, and has since been celebrated globally with thousands of events and hundreds of thousands of participants.
 - The event is supported by **governments, businesses, educational institutions, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organisations**, providing opportunities for girls to learn about ICT, meet role models and mentors, and explore career paths.

About International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- It is a **specialised agency of the United Nations** responsible for issues related to information and communications technology (ICT).
- It was **established in 1865** and is **headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.**
- The main objectives of the ITU are **to promote the development and use of telecommunications and information networks, facilitate international cooperation in the use of radio frequencies, and improve access to ICT for people around the world.**
- The ITU is divided into three regions: **the Radio Communications Region (ITU-R), the Telecommunications Standardization Region (ITU-T), and the Development Region (ITU-D).** Each region has its own specific mandate and responsibilities.