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IMPORTANT DAYS**International Jazz Day -30 April:**

- **International Jazz Day** is celebrated annually on **April 30**.
- The day aims to raise awareness about the virtues of **jazz as an educational tool, and a force for empathy, dialogue, and enhanced cooperation among people**.
- The theme for International Jazz Day 2022 is '**A Call for Global Peace and Unity**'
- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** proclaimed **30 April as International Jazz Day** in November 2011.
- The day was designated to bring together communities, schools, artists, historians, academics, and jazz enthusiasts from across the world to celebrate and learn about the art of jazz and its impact.

World Veterinary Day 2022: 30th April

- **World Veterinary Day** is observed on the **last Saturday of April** to celebrate the work of veterinarians globally.
- This year it falls on **30th April 2022**.
- The day highlights the work and duties veterinarians have towards society and the responsibilities they shoulder at a local, national and international level.
- The theme of **30 April 2022**, World Veterinary Day is "**Strengthening Veterinary Resilience**".
- The **first-ever International Veterinary Congress meeting** was held in **1863** in Hamburg, Germany and was called by Professor John Gamgee.
- The agenda of the meeting included epizootic diseases and a discussion on standard rules for cattle trade in Europe.
- It later came to be known as **World Veterinary Congress**.
- A permanent committee was created in the eighth Congress, in **1906**.
- Further, in 1959, the World Veterinary Association (WVA) was founded in Madrid, Spain.
- World Veterinary Day **was declared in 2001**.

International Dance Day 2022- 29 April:



- **International Dance Day 2022** will be observed on **29th April** annually.
- International Dance Day 2022 is observed to celebrate the different dance forms.
- The day also marks the birth anniversary of **Jean-Georges Noverre**, the creator of modern ballet.
- International Dance Day came into existence when the **Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute** started to recognise it.
- It is the main partner for the performing arts of **UNESCO**.
- In 1982 the Dance Committee of ITI founded International Dance Day to be celebrated every year on the **29th of April**, the birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727-1810), creator of modern ballet.

International Labour Day - 1st May

- **International Workers Day**, also known as **Labour Day** or **May Day**, is observed on **1 May** every year.
- The global event is organised to celebrate the working class and the labourers.
- It was started in the year **1886** when on **1st May** when people in the **United States of America** started a strike to fix the working duration to a maximum of **8 hours** per day.
- Soon, there was a bomb blast that took place on **4th May** in **Haymarket Square** of **Chicago** in which many people died and many others were severely injured.
- With respect to those who died in the incident, the socialist pan-national organization started on **1st May** as **International Labour Day** which also promoted labour welfare throughout the world.
- In India, the **first Labour Day** or **May Day** was celebrated in **Madras** (now known as **Chennai**) by the **Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan** on **May 1, 1923**.
- It was also the first time when the **Red Flag** which symbolises **Labour Day** was used in India for the first time.
- In **Hindi**, Labour Day is also known as **Kamgar Din** or **Antarrashtriya Shramik Diwas**, **Kamgar Divas** in **Marathi** and **Uzhaipalar Naal** in **Tamil**.

Ayushman Bharat Diwas -30th April:

- **Ayushman Bharat Diwas** is celebrated every year across India on **April 30**.

- This day revolves around the **Ayushman Bharat Yojna** launched in 2018 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The objectives of the yojana are to reduce out of pocket hospitalization expenses, fulfillment needs and improve access of identified families to quality inpatient care and day care surgeries.
- This day is of national importance to mark the launch of **Ayushman Bharat Yojana** which is also known as **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)**.
- It was launched by **PM Narendra Modi** in the year 2018 to provide various benefits with a cover of **5 lakh rupees per family** to be given per year.
- This day is celebrated to make people aware about **national health care mission**. **Ayushman Bharat Diwas** is celebrated to achieve twin missions.
- They are to promote health and wellness to the poor and also to provide insurance benefits to them.
- The day is of national importance to mark the launch of **Ayushman Bharat Diwas**.
- Which was first launched on **14th April 2018** in **Bijapur of Chhattisgarh**.

World Laughter Day – 1st May

- Every year, the **first Sunday in May** is observed and celebrated as **World Laughter Day**.
- This year, **World Laughter Day** will be observed on **1 May**.
- Through its annual observance, the day aims to raise awareness about the importance of laughter in an individual's life and its many healing benefits.
- The day also aims to manifest world peace and to build up a feeling of friendship and brotherhood through laughter.
- **World Laughter Day** came into existence on **10 May 1998**, when it was celebrated for the first time in **Mumbai**.
- The day was arranged by **Madan Kataria**, founder of the **Laughter Yoga Movement**.

World Tuna Day- 2nd May:

- **World Tuna Day** is observed every year on **2nd May** to spread awareness among people about **Tuna fish**.

- The United Nations marked the day to spread awareness about sustainable fishing practices and make people know how Tuna is threatened by overwhelming demand.
- In 2016, the **United Nations General Assembly** officially finalized **2 May as World Tuna Day** in its **resolution 71/124**.
- The main motto of observing the day is to spread awareness among people about the global situation of the fish and the need of preserving it.
- The UN has also assured us that they have taken certain precautions to prevent stocks of Tuna from crashing.
- The **first Tuna Day was recognised globally on 2 May 2017**.
- In the past few years, over 96 countries in the world have stepped forward to stop overfishing and safeguard the stocks which carry a **value of almost \$10 billion**.

World Press Freedom Day-3rd May

- Every year, **3rd May** is celebrated as **World Press Freedom Day**.
- It is also known as **World Press Day**.
- The day acts as a reminder for the government to uphold the right to freedom of expression.
- The theme for this year is '**Journalism under Digital Siege**', focusing on the digital eras impact on freedom of expression, the safety of journalists and access to information.
- In 1993, 3 May was declared **World Press Freedom Day**.
- This declaration came after a recommendation was made in 1991 at the **26th General Conference session of UNESCO**.

World Asthma Day -3rd May

- **World Asthma Day (WAD)** is observed every year on the first Tuesday of May to raise awareness of asthma and to educate people about the issues that might arise as a result of the disease.
- This year, the day is observed on **May 3**.
- This year, theme is '**Closing Gaps in Asthma Care**'.
- Asthma is a condition in which there is a narrowing of the airways due to swelling of mucosa.

- The **Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA)**, a **World Health Organization** collaboration organisation created in **1993**, was the first to establish **World Asthma Day**.
- The organisation works with doctors and public health officials all across the world to reduce asthma prevalence, morbidity and mortality.
- In **1998**, on the sidelines of the **World Asthma Meeting in Barcelona, Spain**, the first **Asthma Day** was observed.
- A total of 35 countries were represented during the gathering. With each year's commemoration since then, the day has grown in importance as one of the world's most important asthma awareness and education events.
- Since that day, the **first Tuesday in May** has been designated as **World Asthma Day**.

International Firefighter's Day: 4th May

- Every year, **Fire Fighters Day** is celebrated on **May 04** to honour the work done by firefighter professionals to protect people and property.
- The main aim of this day is to recognise and **honour professional firefighters across the world**.
- A tragic incident in **Australia's Linton** led to the establishment of **International Firefighters Day**.
- This historical accident happened on **December 02, 1998**, which led to the taking of the lives of 5 firefighters.
- Therefore, a proposal was passed on **January 04, 1999**, to honour the firefighters who lost their lives on duty.

World Portuguese Language Day – May 5th

- The **World Portuguese Language Day** is being celebrated on **May 5th** in about 50 countries, with cultural activities worldwide.
- In the **United States**, **May 5th** will be officially celebrated in **New York**, in a joint initiative between Portugal and Brazil.
- With more than **260 million speakers worldwide**, Portuguese ranks fifth among world languages in a number of native speakers, distributed on all continents.

- **Portuguese is projected to be spoken in 2050 by about 400 million, and in 2100 by more than 500 million people, when the population of Angola will increase to more than 170 million and Mozambique to more than 130 million people.**
- **The date of May 5th was officially established in 2009 as 'World Portuguese Language Day' by the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) – an intergovernmental organization that has been in official partnership with UNESCO since 2000 and brings together people with the Portuguese language as one of the foundations of their specific identity – to celebrate the Portuguese language and Lusophone cultures, with the mission of bringing together the communities and countries around the world where Portuguese is spoken.**

Coal Miners Day: May 4th

- **Coal Miners Day is observed annually on 4 May to highlight one of the toughest professions- those working in coal fields or mines.**
- The day honours the accomplishments and sacrifices made by coal mine workers so far.
- It also remembers the horrific tragedies that these hardworking individuals experience.
- **Right from the Industrial Revolution (between 1760 and 1840), coal miners played a significant role across the globe. During that time, coal was burnt to fuel stationery, locomotive engines, and heat buildings.**
- **In India, the coal mining business began in 1774.**
- It was when the East India Company exploited the Raniganj coalfield which is located in the Asansol and Durgapur region.
- It falls along the **bank of River Damodar that crosses Jharkhand and West Bengal.**
- **Later in 1853, steam locomotives increased the demand for coal by railways.**
- Coal-rich regions in India include **Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, and West Bengal** as well as some central and southern parts of the country.

World Hand Hygiene Day 2022:

- **World Health Organization (WHO) marks May 5 every year as World Hand Hygiene Day.**

- This year, WHO is marking the day with the theme **“Unite for safety: clean your hands”** with a focus on encouraging people to clean their hands at the right times with the right products that will help lead to high quality safer care everywhere.
- It states that good hand hygiene is relatively cheap, and a cornerstone of safe and effective health care.
- **WHO launched the “Save Lives: Clean Your Hands”** global annual campaign in **2009**, which is celebrated as **World Hand Hygiene Day on 5th May** to further the goal of maintaining a global profile on the importance of hand hygiene in health care.

International No Diet Day - 6th May

- **International No Diet Day** is observed on **May 6** annually.
- People are made aware on this day of **body acceptance**, leaving the behaviour of body shaming, which consists of people of all shapes and sizes.
- The day is celebrated by loving and nurturing the body without relying on strict diets and treating yourself with some tasty treats.
- Forgetting problems like obesity, increasing weight, weakness, and belly fat, people express their love towards themselves on this day.
- In the year **1992**, **International No Diet Day** was celebrated for the first time in the **UK** by **British lady Mary Evans**.
- Mary's purpose was to convince people that they should accept themselves as they looked.
- Mary wanted people to become aware of the harm caused by dieting.

World Red Cross Day- 8th May:

- **World Red Cross Red Crescent Day** is celebrated on **8 May** each year.
- This date is the anniversary of the birth of **Jean-Henry Dunant**, who was born on **8 May 1828**.
- He was the founder of the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** and the recipient of the **first Nobel Peace Prize**.
- The theme of **World Red Cross Day 2022** is **#BeHUMANKIND** (Believe in the power of Kindness).



- The theme of World Red Cross Day 2022 focuses on the power of kindness and how it can impact the whole world
- **The first Red Cross Day was celebrated on May 8, 1948.**
- **In 1946 during World War II**, the Tokyo proposal was put into effect.
- The possibility of an annual celebration was asked by the Board of Governors of the '**League of the Red Cross Societies (LORCS)**', later called the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross Societies.
- Two years later the proposal of celebrating annually World Red Cross Day was adopted on 8 May 1948, **the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant**, the founder of the Red Cross.
- In 1984 officially it was named World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day”.

BRO celebrates its 62nd raising day- on 7th May

- **Border Roads Organisation or BRO** is celebrating its 62nd **Raising Day on 7th May**.
- BRO, a leader in the arena of infrastructural development in the border areas of the country is celebrating its 63 years of glorious service to the nation.
- **Border Roads Organisation (BRO) was formed on May 7, 1960**, with the primary role to provide road connectivity in India's border areas.
- It also creates, upgrades and maintains infrastructure along borders to meet India's overall tactical and strategic goals.

World Athletics Day: May 7th

- In a bid to encourage sports activities throughout the world, **May 7 is celebrated annually as World Athletics Day**.
- The special day is observed across the globe to promote the importance of fitness and health.
- **Introduced in 1996**, the day aims to spread awareness among the youth about athletics.
- It was also introduced as a social responsibility project titled 'Athletic for a better world' by the **International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)**.
- The day was founded by **IAAF president Primo Nebiolo** in 1996.

- IAAF was founded on July 17, 1912, in **Sweden's Stockholm**; its name was later changed to International Association of Athletics Federation.

Objectives:

- Popularising sports among youth.
- Boosting athletics to such an extent that it becomes the primary sport in every school and institution.
- Imparting public awareness about athletics and also spreading the importance of sporting activity among youngsters.
- Establish a crucial connection between the youth, sport, and environmental conservation.

World Thalassemia Day -8th May

- People around the globe observe **World Thalassemia Day on 8 May** every year.
- The theme for this year is “**Be Aware. Share. Care: Working with the global community as one to improve thalassemia knowledge.**”
- The International Thalassemia Day (ITD) 2022 theme is an open call to action.
- The day is observed to honour the struggles of patients suffering from thalassemia as well as to make people aware of the disease and its symptoms.
- **The day has been celebrated since 1994**, when the Thalassemia International Federation (TIF) declared 8 May as International Thalassemia Day.
- The president and founder of TIF, **Panos Englezos** established the day in the loving memory of his son **George Englezos** and all thalassemia patients who fought the disease and confronted the social stigma attached to it, setting an example for others.

Russia Victory Day 2022: 9 May

- **Russia Victory Day** commemorates the defeat of **Nazi Germany in 1945**.
- The German Instrument of Surrender was signed late in the evening of May 8, 1945.
- Victory Day in Russia marks the defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945 and falls one day after **Victory in Europe Day (VE Day)** is celebrated in the UK and Western Europe.

- The Soviet government declared victory early on **May 9th**, following the signing ceremony in Berlin.
- Even though the holiday was declared in 1945, it was not declared a non-working day until 1965, and then only in a few Soviet countries.

International Day of Argania - 10th May:

- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** proclaimed **10 May the International Day of Argania**.
- The resolution, submitted by Morocco, was once co-sponsored by 113 member states of the United Nations and adopted by using consensus.
- The argan tree with the name **Argania Spinosa** is a native species of the sub-Saharan place of **Morocco**, in the southwest of the country, which grows in arid and semiarid areas.
- The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated 1988 the endemic production area as the Arganeraie Biosphere Reserve.
- Also, all know-how concerning the **argan tree was inscribed in 2014 on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.
- Moreover, **in December 2018, FAO** recognized the Argan-based agro-salvo-pastoral system within the area of **Ait Souab – Ait Mansour in Morocco** as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System.
- And lastly, in 2021, the **United Nations General Assembly** proclaimed **10 May the International Day of Argania**.

International Nowruz Day: 21 March

- **International Nowruz Day** is being celebrated globally on **21 March every year**.
- International Nowruz Day is being observed to celebrate "**Nowruz**," an ancestral festivity that marks the **first day of spring and the renewal of nature**.
- It also encourages values of peace and solidarity among generations and within families hence contributing to cultural diversity and friendship among peoples as well as in different communities.

- **Nowruz marks the first day of spring** which has been celebrated on the occasion of the astronomical vernal equinox that generally occurs on **21 March**.
- International Nowruz Day was proclaimed by the **United Nations General Assembly in 2010**, at the initiative of several countries that share this holiday.
- Under the agenda item of “**culture of peace**”, the member states of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iran (the Islamic Republic of), India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan prepared and introduced a draft resolution entitled “**International Day of Nowruz**” to the ongoing **64th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations** for its consideration and adoption.

National Technology Day – 11th May

- **National Technology Day is celebrated on 11 May** in India, to celebrate the achievements made by the scientists, engineers, teachers and researchers across the nation.
- The theme for this year is “**Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future**”
- The theme was launched by **Union Minister Jitendra Singh**.
- **On that day in 1999, for the first time**, National Technology Day was officially celebrated in India, aiming to commemorate the scientific and technological accomplishments of the Indians.
- **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, then Prime Minister **declared on 11 May 1999** to celebrate this day as National Technology Day, for the years coming ahead.

International Nurses Day- 12th May

- **International Nurses Day is celebrated annually on 12 May** in memory of the founder of modern nursing, **Florence Nightingale**, but also to honour nurses as an invaluable resource, and raise awareness of the challenges they face.
- She was also known as **Lady with the Lamp**.
- The theme for this year’s Nurses Day is “**Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Invest in Nursing and respect rights to secure global health**”.

- In the year 1965, the first International Nurses Day was observed throughout the world. International Nurses Day is held to recognise the value of nurses worldwide and their contributions to the medical field.
- Every year, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) marks the day by creating and spreading information and tools.

International Day of Plant Health - 12th May

- To raise awareness for the safety of plants, The United Nations has announced that May 12 will mark the International Day of Plant Health.
- The day was promoted by Zambia and was taken into action by the UN General Assembly.
- The resolution under which they adopted the decision included Finland, Bolivia, the Philippines, Pakistan, and Tanzania.
- The United Nations declared 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH).
- Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Year was expanded until 1 July 2021.
- This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to promote global awareness about how plant health may aid in ending hunger, poverty reduction, environmental protection, and economic development.

World Migratory Bird Day - 14th May

- International Migratory Bird Day will be celebrated on 14 May and 8 October 2022.
- World Migratory Bird Day is marked twice a year since its inauguration in 2006.
- The theme for World Migratory Bird Day 2022 is "light pollution."

History of International Migratory Bird Day:

- International Migratory Bird Day was marked in 2006 when the United Nations decided that the world's population needs to be made aware of the worldwide migratory linkages.
- Since then, 118 countries participated in and organised the event.
- The United Nations (UN) Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds had envisioned the World Migratory Bird Day.
- International Migratory Bird Day came up as a part of the UN's agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds.

- The idea, initially to raise awareness about eliminating the threat faced by these birds, was developed in the **United States in 1993**.
- World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated across Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean on the second Saturday of October annually.
- While in the United States and Canada, the day is celebrated on the second Saturday in May.

International Day of Light- 16th May

- The **International Day of Light** is celebrated annually on **May 16**.
- It marks the anniversary of the **first successful operation of the laser in 1960** by physicist and engineer **Theodore Maiman**.
- The laser is a prime illustration of how a scientific breakthrough may help society in areas such as communications, healthcare, and many others.
- The **International Day of Light** is a global project that serves as an annual focal point for the continued enjoyment of light and its significance in science, culture, art, education, sustainable development, and disciplines as diverse as medical, communications, and energy.
- The broad topic of light will enable many diverse sectors of society across the world to engage in events that highlight how science, technology, art, and culture can assist **UNESCO** accomplish its aims of education, equality, and peace.

About UNESCO:

- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Director-General; Audrey Azoulay
- Founded: 16 November 1945

International Day of Families - 15th May

- **International Family Day or International Day of Families** is observed every year on **May 15**.
- In 1993, the **UN General Assembly** proclaimed the day to provide importance to families and the issues faced by them and to increase knowledge of the social, economic, and demographic processes affecting families.

- The theme of 2022 is **Families and Urbanisation** which aims to raise awareness of the importance of sustainable, family-friendly urban policies.
- According to the UN, Urbanisation is “**one of the most important megatrends shaping our world and the life and wellbeing of families worldwide**”.

History:

- In the 1980s, the United Nations focused its attention on families and issues related to them, based on recommendations of the Economic and Social Council.
- The Commission for Social Development in its resolution on the role of the family requested the Secretary-General to enhance awareness among decision-makers and the public of the problems and needs of the family, as well as of effective ways of meeting those needs.
- In 1993, the General Assembly decided in a resolution that May 15 of every year should be observed as the International Day of Families.

About UN:

- Founded: 24 October 1945
- Headquarters: New York, United States
- Secretary general: António Guterres

International Day of Living Together in Peace- 16 May

- The **International Day of Living Together in Peace** is celebrated every year on **May 16**.
- The day is meant to signify unity in differences and diversity.
- The day is celebrated on the 16th of May throughout the world and with its annual observance, it **aims to urge people to live together in a united and peaceful way**.
- Individuals can attain this by listening to each other and respecting one another despite their differences.

History:

- The **day first came** into being after the **United Nations General Assembly** adopted a resolution to declare **16 May as the International Day of Living Together in Peace on 8 December 2017**.
- The first International Day of Living Together in Peace was observed in 2018.

- Ever since the end of World War II, the United Nations has been on a mission to work towards world peace.
- The year 2000 was recognised as '**The International Year for a Culture of Peace**' and from 2001 to 2010, the UN declared it the "International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for Children of the World."
- Both of these events led to the adoption of a resolution for the formation of the International Day of Living Together in Peace.

About UNGA

- The United Nations General Assembly is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, serving as the main deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the UN.
- Currently, in its 76th session, its powers, composition, functions, and procedures are set out in Chapter IV of the United Nations Charter.
- President: Abdulla Shahid
- Headquarters: New York, United States

Statehood Day 2022 of Maharashtra and Gujarat:

- On May 1, 2022, Maharashtra and Gujarat celebrated their **statehood days**.
- The Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960, separated the bilingual state of Bombay into two independent states on May 1, 1960: Maharashtra for Marathi speakers and Gujarat for Gujarati speakers.
- Gujarat was admitted to the **Indian Union as the 15th state**.

About Maharashtra

- Capital: Mumbai
- Sex Ratio: 929 females per 1000 male
- Literacy: 82.34%
- Maharashtra has two major ports, Mumbai Port and Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNP) both located in Mumbai harbour.
- Maharashtra's forest cover accounts for 16.50 percent of the state's geographical area, according to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR)-2019.



About Gujarat

- Capital: Gandhinagar
- Sex Ratio: 919 females per 1000 male
- Literacy: 78.03%
- Kandla Port is the major port in Gujarat along with 41 minor ports.
- Gamit, Bhils, Dhodias, Bawcha, and Kunbi are the major tribes present in the state.
- Gujarat has the greatest area of wetlands within Recorded Forest Area/Green Wash (RFA/GW) in the country, followed by West Bengal, according to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR)-2019.

National Dengue Day 2022: 16th May

- **Every year on the 16th of May**, India commemorates **National Dengue Day**.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare created **National Dengue Day** to raise public **awareness about dengue fever and how to prevent it**.
- It also has people who understand how to prepare for and control dengue fever before the transmission season starts.

About dengue:

- Dengue fever is spread by the mosquito **Aedes Aegypti**.
- It's a female mosquito that bites humans and spreads dengue fever.
- Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne disease caused by the dengue virus, which has **four** different genotypes: **DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3, and DEN-4**.
- Dengue fever causes severe muscle pain and nausea, and if not treated appropriately, it can lead to death.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2022:

- **Every year on May 17th**, the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is commemorated to raise awareness of the advantages and opportunities that the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) give to nations, societies, and economies.

- This year's theme for World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is “**Digital technologies for older people and healthy ageing**”.
- It also aims to increase awareness of ways to bridge the digital gap.

History:

- WTISD marks the signing of the **first International Telegraph Convention** and the establishment of the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**.
- The International Telecommunication Union was founded on **May 17, 1865**, and **World Telecommunication Day was established in 1969** to celebrate that date.
- However, in 2005, the **World Summit on the Information Society** urged that the United Nations General Assembly declare May 17 as World Information Society Day.
- The **UN General Assembly decided in March 2006** that WISD would be held every year on May 17th.
- In 2006, the ITU decided to combine the two holidays and name its World Telecommunication and Information Society Day at a Plenipotentiary Conference in Antalya, Turkey.

Vesak Day or Buddha Purnima -16 May

- **Vesak Day, also known as Buddha Purnima**, was observed on **May 16, 2022**.
- For millions of Buddhists around the world, “**Vesak**,” or the **Full Moon Day in May**, is the most important day.
- The Gautama Buddha was born on the Day of Vesak two and a half millennia ago, in the year **623 B.C in Lumbini, Nepal**
- It was also on **Vesak Day** that the Buddha acquired enlightenment, and it was also on Vesak Day that the Buddha passed away in his **eightieth year at Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh**.

About Buddha:

- In countries such as India, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, Thailand, Tibet, China, Korea, Laos, Vietnam, Mongolia, Cambodia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka (where it is known as Vesak), Buddhists and Hindus commemorate Gautama Buddha's birth as the major festival of Buddha Purnima, but each country celebrates it differently.

- The teachings of the Buddha, and his message of compassion and peace, and goodwill have moved millions. Millions around the world follow the teachings of the Buddha and on the Day of Vesak commemorate the birth, the attainment of enlightenment, and the passing away of the Buddha.

World Hypertension Day: 17th May

- **Every year on May 17th, World Hypertension Day** is commemorated to raise awareness and support hypertension prevention, detection, and treatment.
- High blood pressure is a key risk factor for cardiovascular disease, and it is known as the "**Silent Killer**".
- Blood pressure is the force exerted by flowing blood on the walls of **the body's arteries, or primary blood vessels**.
- Hypertension is a condition in which blood pressure is abnormally high.
- Blood pressure is calculated using a **two-digit number**.
- The first number (systolic) indicates **the pressure in blood vessels when the heart contracts or beats**.
- The second number (diastolic) represents **the pressure in the arteries while the heart is not beating**.
- If the systolic blood pressure measurements on two distinct days are both **140 mmHg** and/or the diastolic blood pressure readings on **both days are 90 mmHg**, hypertension is diagnosed.

History:

- World Hypertension Day was recognised and started by the World Hypertension League (WHL), which is an umbrella organisation for 85 national hypertension societies and leagues (WHD).
- The day's purpose was to increase hypertension awareness.
- This was especially important because people with hypertension lacked the requisite knowledge. The WHL unveiled their first WHD on May 14, 2005.
- The World Hypertension League has declared May 17 as World Hypertension Day since 2006.
- Individuals with diabetes or chronic renal illness should have blood pressures of less than 130/80 mmHg.

- The following cut-off values have been proposed by international and Canadian authorities.

International Museum Day - 18th May

- **Every year on May 18, International Museum Day (IMD) is observed.**
- This day is commemorated to **emphasise the significance of museums in all cultures.**
- Museums have a significant role in cultural exchange, cultural enrichment, and the development of mutual understanding, collaboration, and peace among people.
- This year, the theme for International Museum Day is **‘The Power of Museums’.**
- Museums have the power to transform the world around us.
- As incomparable places of discovery, they teach us about our past and open our minds to new ideas — two essential steps in building a better future.

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY HISTORY:

- International Museum Day was first **held in 1977.**
- Since then, it has gained increasing attention.
- The International Museum Day in 2009 attracted 20,000 museums, hosting events in more than 90 countries.
- The very next year, **in 2010, 98 countries** were a **part of the International Museum Day celebration**, whereas, in 2011, 100 countries joined the celebration

ABOUT MUSEUMS:

- Museums play an important part in the development of society.
- They enlighten us about the numerous unknowns and take us to places we have never been before.
- A museum describes the journey of a nation from prehistory to modernity by displaying enriched historical artefacts such as tools, weapons, clothes, and jewellery.
- Hence, to mark the importance of the Museum, every year International Museum Day is observed.

Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation - Second World War:

- Every year on **May 8-9**, the **United Nations** observes the **Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation** for those who died during World War II.
- It is an annual International Day of Remembrance designated by the United Nations General Assembly on **November 22, 2004**.
- The day commemorates all World War II victims.
- This year marks the **77th anniversary of World War II**.

HISTORY

- On 2 March 2010, the **General Assembly** invited all **Member States, United Nations** system entities, non-governmental organisations, and **people to celebrate 8-9 May** in an appropriate manner to pay respect to all World War II casualties.
- In the second week of May 2010, the General Assembly conducted a special solemn gathering to commemorate all war victims on the 65th anniversary of the conclusion of World War II.

About World War II:

- World War II began in 1939 and ended in 1945, though conflicts before led to the world war.
- Nearly all nations at the time broke out into two warring factions, the Allies and the Axis.
- Allies included the United Kingdom, U.S.S.R, the United States, and others.
- The Axis comprised several nations, including Germany, Italy, and Japan.
- It was fought in Europe, Russia, North Africa, and Asia.

World AIDS Vaccine Day or HIV Vaccine Awareness Day:

- **World AIDS Vaccine Day**, also known as **HIV Vaccine Awareness Day (HVAD)**, is observed annually on **May 18th** around the world to raise awareness and provide information about **Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)**, a chronic, possibly deadly condition caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and its immunisation.

HISTORY:

- World AIDS Vaccine Day was inspired from former **United States President Bill Clinton's speech** on **May 18, 1997**, at Morgan State University in Maryland, United States of America (USA).

- The first World AIDS Vaccine Day, also known as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, was commemorated on May 18, 1998, to commemorate **US President Bill Clinton's 1997 announcement.**

Additional Info.

- The **National Institutes of Health (NIH) – National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), United States of America**, is organizing the celebration of this day.
- The **Red Ribbon** is a globally recognised AIDS awareness symbol.
- It is worn to show support for persons living with HIV and to remember those who have died as well.

International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia:

- The **International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia** is observed on **May 17**, with the purpose of coordinating international events to raise awareness of **LGBT rights violations and encourage interest in LGBT rights to work worldwide.**
- Until now, there have been commemorations in over 130 countries.
- Despite advances, consensual same-sex partnerships remain banned in roughly 70 countries.
- Only one in every three countries protects people from discrimination based on sexual orientation, one in every ten protects people based on gender identity, and a small number protect people based on sex characteristics

HISTORY:

- The day's concept **was conceived in 2004.**
- A year-long campaign culminated in the **first International Day Against Homophobia on May 17, 2005.**
- The **International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA)**, the **International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC)**, the **World Congress of LGBT Jews**, and the **Coalition of African Lesbians** all signed an appeal in favour of the **"IDAHO proposal".**
- Many countries took part in the festivities of the day, including the **first LGBT celebrations in the Congo, China, and Bulgaria.**

- The date was selected to commemorate the World Health Organization's decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder.

Additional Info.

- The architects of the **International Day Against Homophobia** established the **IDAHO Committee** to coordinate grassroots actions in many countries, promote the day, and advocate for **formal recognition on May 17**.
- That day was chosen to commemorate the **World Health Organization's (WHO)** decision to remove homosexuality from the **International Classification of Diseases in 1990**.
- In 2019, 69 nations outlawed same-sex relationships.
- Furthermore, transgender persons face criminal prosecution in 26 countries and are disproportionately exposed to violence around the world.
- IDAHOBIT is frequently used as a venue for organising actions to strengthen the campaign for **LGBT+ rights in many countries**, including Uganda, where homosexuality is prohibited.

World Bee Day -20th of May

- On **May 20**, the world celebrates **World Bee Day**.
- The purpose of **World Bee Day** is to recognise the importance of bees and other pollinators in the ecosystem.
- This year **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** will celebrate World Bee Day through a virtual event, under the theme **"Bee Engaged: Celebrating the diversity of bees and beekeeping systems"**
- The main goal of this day is to raise awareness about the importance of pollinators in our environment, the risks they face, and their critical role in ecosystem sustainability.

History:

- **World Bee Day** was established on **May 20, 2018**, and has been observed annually since then.
- This day marks **Anton Jansa's birth in 1734**.
- She is regarded as a beekeeping pioneer.
- Slovenia's bid to declare May 20th as **World Bee Day** was approved by the **United Nations Member States** in December 2017.

- Beekeeping is strongly ingrained in Slovenian heritage, and the country is one of the leading European countries in terms of beekeepers.

About Food and Agriculture Organization :

- Director-General: QU Dongyu
- Headquarters: Rome, Italy
- Founded: 16 October 1945.

National Endangered Species Day- 20th May

- Every year on the **third Friday of May**, people all over the world commemorate **National Endangered Species Day**.
- The day is observed on **May 20 this year**.
- The National Endangered Species Day theme 2022 is **“Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration”**.
- Every year the awareness campaign takes place around a theme.
- This year commemorates the **16th year of National Endangered Species Day**.
- The goal of National Endangered Species Day is **to educate people about conservation, ecological restoration, and biodiversity**.

History of the National Endangered Species Day:

- On December 28th, to highlight the importance of wildlife conservation and restoration activities for all endangered species.
- **The Endangered Species Act of 1973** was passed into law.
- **David Robinson and the Endangered Species Coalition** developed and launched National Endangered Species Day in **2006**.
- **Since 2006, the third Friday of May** has been commemorated as National Endangered Species Day.

Anti-Terrorism Day -21st May

- **Every year on May 21**, the day after the **death anniversary** of former Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi**, Anti-Terrorism Day is marked.

- He was slain by **LTTE terrorists on May 21, 1991**, while campaigning for the Congress Party in **Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu**.
- Rajiv Gandhi, 40, was sworn in as India's youngest Prime Minister.
- After Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984, he became the country's **sixth Prime Minister**.
- He served from **1984 to 1989**.

The Importance of Anti-Terrorism Day 2022:

- Anti-Terrorism Day is celebrated to promote peace and harmony.
- The day also helps us remember the sacrifices made by thousands of soldiers and policemen who fought against terrorism to protect their country and their people.

HISTORY:

- Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated at **Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu**, by a woman from the terrorist group **Liberation of Tamil Tigers Eelam (LTTE)**.

World Metrology Day - 20th May

- **World Metrology Day (WMD)** is celebrated yearly on **May 20th** around the world to raise awareness of metrology, the science of measuring, and its applications.
- The day focuses on the application of metrology in **scientific domains, innovation, industry, trading, and other areas**.
- The day commemorates the signing of the Metre Convention on May 20, 1875.
- The theme for World Metrology Day 2022 is “**Metrology in the Digital Era**”.

HISTORY:

- World Metrology Day commemorates the signing of the Metre Convention on May 20, 1875, by officials from seventeen nations.
- The Convention established the platform for global collaboration in measurement science and its industrial, economic, and societal applications.
- The initial goal of the Metre Convention - international measuring uniformity – is as relevant now as it was in 1875.

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development- May 21

- The **United Nations General Assembly** established **May 21 to be the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development** in a resolution.
- The purpose of the day is to celebrate the richness of the world's cultures and to highlight the importance of diversity as an agent of inclusion and good change in the pursuit of peace and sustainable development.

HISTORY:

- As a response to the destruction of the **Buddha statues of Bamiyan in Afghanistan** in 2001, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted the '**Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity**' 2001.
- The **UN General Assembly (UNGA)** then recognised 21 May to be World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development in its resolution 57/249 in December 2002.

International Tea Day- 21st of May

- **Every year on May 21**, the world celebrates **International Tea Day**.
- The day is celebrated to raise awareness about safe working conditions for tea workers, fair trade, and a sustainable environment in order to improve tea production.

The Origins of International Tea Day:

- Based on a proposal made by India at the **FAO Intergovernmental Group (IGG)** on Tea in October 2015, the **United Nations General Assembly** proclaimed **May 21 as International Tea Day**.
- Prior to 2019, December 15 was observed as International Tea Day in tea-producing countries like **Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Uganda, India, and Tanzania**.
- The first International Tea Day was hosted in **2005 in Delhi, India**.
- The Indian government requested the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in 2015 to spread this day globally.
- The day is marked in the month of May since most countries begin tea manufacturing at this time of year.

International Day to End Obstetric Fistula -23rd May:

- Since 2013, the **United Nations (UN)** has observed the **International Day to End Obstetric Fistula** on **May 23rd** to encourage action toward treating and preventing obstetric fistula, a disorder that affects many girls and women following childbirth in underdeveloped nations.
- The **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** and its partners started the global Campaign to **End Fistula** in 2003, a collaborative effort to prevent fistula and restore the health of people who have it.
- The day was made official in 2012.

About Obstetric fistula

- Obstetric fistula is a catastrophic birth injury that is both a public health and human rights issue.
- Two million women in low-income countries have an obstetric fistula, with 100,000 more developing one each year.

About United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):

- Headquarters: New York, United States
- Head: Natalia Kanem
- Founded: 1969.

International Day for Biological Diversity -22nd May:

- Every year on May 22nd, the **International Day for Biological Diversity**, also known as **World Biodiversity Day**, is held to raise awareness and understanding of biodiversity issues.
- The theme in 2022 is **Building a shared future for all life**.
- The slogan conveys the notion that biodiversity is the basis upon which we may rebuild better in the context of the ongoing **United Nations** Decade on Restoration, which emphasizes that biodiversity is the answer to various sustainable development concerns.

History:

- When the **UN General Assembly's Second Committee** established the **International Day for Biological Diversity** in late 1993, the date of coming into force of the **Convention on Biological Diversity** (December 29) was chosen.

- The **UN General Assembly** designated **22 May** as **IDB in December 2000** to celebrate the approval of the Convention's text by the **Nairobi Final Act** of the Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity on that date in 1992.

Indian Commonwealth Day 2022:

- **Commonwealth Day** is typically observed on the **second Monday of March** in the majority of the **Commonwealth's 54 member countries**, with the **British monarch delivering a radio address**.
- **However, it is observed on May 24 in India** and a few other nations.

THEMES:

- The theme for Commonwealth Day 2022 is '**Delivering a Common Future**' which showcases how the **Commonwealth's fifty-four member countries** are "innovating, connecting, and reforming" to assist achieve goals such as combating climate change, fostering good governance, and enhancing commerce.

HISTORY

- Previously, Commonwealth Day was known as **Empire Day**.
- Empire Day was **first marked in 1901**, following Queen Victoria's death on January 22, 1901.
- Empire Day was first marked on **May 24, 1902, the late Queen's birthday**.
- Even before it was formally recognised as an annual event, it was celebrated in many schools around the British Empire.
- The British Empire had begun to **dissolve by the 1950s**, as various colonies gained independence, and Empire Day had lost its significance.
- The majority of them, though, maintained relations with Britain and founded the Commonwealth of Nations.
- **In 1958, Empire Day was renamed Commonwealth Day**.
- The Royal Commonwealth Society advocated changing the date to 1973, and the
- Commonwealth Secretariat chose the second Monday in March as commemoration day.

World Turtle Day- 23rd May

- **Every year on May 23**, American Tortoise Rescue, a non-profit organisation, observes **World Turtle Day**.
- The day is observed to increase public awareness about the importance of protecting turtles and tortoises, as well as their diminishing habitats around the world.
- Tortoises and turtles serve a vital function in the Earth's ecological design.
- These reptiles have been observed to survive and thrive in a wide variety of settings around the world.

THEMES:

- This year's theme for World Turtle Day is **Shellebrate**".
- The theme asks **everyone to Love and Save Turtles**".

HISTORY:

- There would be no World Turtle Day if the **American Tortoise Rescue (ATR)** had not initiated it.
- This non-profit organisation was **founded in 1990** and began **commemorating World Turtle Day in 2001**.
- They are commemorating the **22nd International World Turtle Day**.
- **Susan Tellem and her husband Marshall Thompson** created the organisation, which has rescued and re-homed over 4,000 turtles and tortoises.

International Week of Solidarity with the People of Non-Self-Governing Territories- 25-31 May:

- **From May 25 to 31**, the United Nations will observe "**International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories**".
- The UN General Assembly established the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of **Non-Self-Governing Territories** on **December 6, 1999**.
- A Non-Self-Governing Territory is described in the UN Charter as a territory "**whose people have not yet reached a complete degree of self-government**."

HISTORY

- On December 6, 1999, the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** enacted **Resolution A/RES/54/91**, establishing an annual International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories beginning on **May 25**.

- The first week of the year was **observed** in 2000.

OBJECTIVES

- To take effective efforts **to protect and ensure the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories'** inalienable rights to their natural resources, including land.
- To create and maintain control over the future development of such resources, and to seek that the administering powers take steps to protect the peoples' property rights in these Territories.

Non-Self-Governing Territory:

- A Non-Self-Governing Territory is one that "has not yet reached a complete degree of self-government," according to the UN Charter.
- In 1946, UN Member States recognised a number of non-self-governing areas under their authority and added them to the UN list.
- Administering Powers are countries that administer Non-Self-Governing Territories.
- Several regions were deleted from the list as a result of the decolonization process.

World Thyroid Awareness Day- 25th May

- **World Thyroid Day** is marked on **May 25** to **raise awareness** and understanding of **thyroid illnesses, their symptoms, prevention, and treatments**.
- **The European Thyroid Association** proposed the creation of the day in 2008 (ETA).
- According to a Public Health Update article, more than 200 million people worldwide are believed to have thyroid abnormalities, with half of these cases going misdiagnosed.

THEME:

- This year's World Thyroid Day **has no specific theme**. However, for **Thyroid Awareness Week**, which takes place from **May 22 to May 28**, the **Thyroid Federation International** has announced the theme **"Its not you. Its your thyroid"**.

HISTORY:

- During the Annual General Meeting before the **European Thyroid Association (ETA)** congress in **September 2007**, the **25th of May** was formally designated as **World Thyroid Day**.
- The 25th of May is also the anniversary of **ETA's founding in 1965**.
- As a result, it was designated as a day dedicated to raising awareness about thyroid diseases.

International Missing Children's Day: May 25

- **International Missing Children's Day** is an annual awareness event held on **May 25th**.
- The day's goals are to bring attention to the **issue of child abduction**, **educate parents on how to protect their children**, and honour those who have never been found as well as those who have.
- This awareness event is co-sponsored by the **Global Missing Children's Network**.
- **The network, founded in 1998**, has 23 member countries that collaborate to share information and best practices to improve the effectiveness and success rate of missing children's investigations.

HISTORY:

- **Missing Children's Day** was first observed in the **United States in 1983**.
- The date was chosen in response to the abduction of 6-year-old Etan Patz from **New York City on May 25, 1979**.
- **International Missing Children's Day**, which falls on the same date, was established a **few years later in 2001** and is now recognized worldwide.

International Day of UN Peacekeepers-29th May

- **On the 29th of May**, the **UN Peacekeepers International Day** is commemorated around the world.
- The International Day of UN Peacekeepers also provides an opportunity to remember the over 4,200 peacekeepers who have died while serving under the UN flag, including 135 who died in the battle last year.
- This year's theme, according to **UN Secretary-General António Guterres**, the focus is the **Power of Partnerships**.

THEMES:

- The theme for 2022 is **"People. Peace. Progress. The Power of Partnerships"**
- Peacekeeping is one of the many tools used by the United Nations to secure global peace and security.
- UN Peacekeepers also known as the **Blue Helmets**, is a collective enterprise, which aims to change lives for the better.

**HISTORY:**

- The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) was founded on **May 29, 1948**, when the Security Council dispatched a small number of UN military observers to the Middle East to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbors.
- More than one million people have served in the United Nations' 72 peacekeeping missions since 1948.