

Dates & Themes Current Affairs

1. The 'International Labour Day' is being celebrated every year on **1st May**.

Note:

- The day marks the victory of the workers' movement for eight hours of work. It also aims to pay tribute to workers sacrifices in achieving economic and social rights all over the world.
- The theme of International Labour Day 2019 is "Sustainable Pension for all: The Role of Social Partners".
- Labour Day is known as Kamgar Din (Hindi), Karmikara Dinacharane (Kannada), Kamgar Divas (Marathi), Uzhaipalar dhinam (Tamil), and Thozhilaali Dinam (Malayalam).

2. Two states **Gujarat & Maharashtra** has been celebrated 60th foundation day on 1st May 2019.

Note:

- In 1960, two western states Gujarat and Maharashtra were formed from erstwhile Bombay state on this day.
- Every year the Government of Maharashtra issues a notification declaring the 1st of May to be a public holiday to be celebrated as Maharashtra Day.

3. The '**World Press Freedom Day**' is being observed every year across the world on **3rd May**.

Note:

- The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2019 is 'Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation'.
- It discusses current challenges faced by media in elections, along with the media's potential in supporting peace and reconciliation processes.
- World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference.

4. The **World Laughter Day** is being observed worldwide every year on the first **Sunday of May**.

Note:

- It is a day to raise awareness about laughter and its many healing benefits.
- The first time this day was celebrated on May 10, 1998, by Dr. Madan Kataria (founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement) in Mumbai.

5. The **World Asthma Day** is being celebrated every year on the **first Tuesday of May**.

Note:

- Asthma is a chronic disease of the lungs which causes breathing problems. Asthma usually appears through symptoms like coughing, tightness in the chest, breathlessness.
- The theme for this year World Asthma Day is 'Stop for Asthma'.
- In 1998, The first World Asthma Day was celebrated in more than 35 countries in conjunction with the first World Asthma Meeting held in Barcelona, Spain.

6. The 'World Red Cross Day' is observed annually on **8th May**.

Note:

- Henry Dunant was the founder of the Red Cross as well as the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- This day is dedicated to the people who suffer from food shortage, natural calamities, war as well as disease of the Epidemic.
- The theme for World Red Cross Day 2019 is "#love" or simply "love".

7. The 158th.birth anniversary of **Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore** is being celebrated all over West Bengal.

Note:

- Rabindra Nath Tagore reshaped Bengali literature and music, as well as Indian artwith Contextual Modernism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- The West Bengal Government has organised a special musical programme in Kolkata to pay tributes to Gurudev Tagore.



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- Rabindranath Tagore was the Author of the "profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful verse" of Gitanjali.
8. Fifth United Nations (UN) Global Road Safety Week is being held from **6 to 12 May 2019**.
- Note:**
- The theme for the weekly event in 2019 is "Leadership for road safety".
 - The UN Global Road Safety Weeks and its' campaigns are coordinated by United Nations Road Safety Collaboration, chaired by the World Health Organization (WHO).
9. The '**National Technology Day**' is observed **every year** in India on **11th May**.
- Note:**
- On May 11, 1998, India successfully test fired the Shakti-I nuclear missile at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range (in Rajasthan) in an operation led by aerospace engineer and late President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.
 - India conducted five underground nuclear tests at Pokhran test range in Rajasthan, on 11th and 13th of May in 1998. The first nuclear test Pokhran with a codenamed as 'Smiling Buddha' was carried out in May 1974.
10. The **World Migratory Bird Day** (WMBD) is being observed across the world on the **11th May (second weekend in May)**.
- Note:**
- The day raise awareness and highlight the need for the protection of migratory birds and their habitats.
 - This year, WMBD is being observed on 11th May.
 - It has a global outreach and is an effective tool to help raise global awareness of the threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.
11. The **International Nurses Day** (IND) is an international day celebrated around the world on **12th May**.
- Note:**
- Florence Nightingale (the foundational philosopher of the modern nursing) was born on 12th of May in 1820.
 - The theme of 2019 is "Nurses – A Voice to Lead – Health for All."
12. Mother's Day is celebrated on 12th May 2019_-- **second Sunday of May**.
- Note:**
- It is believed that the bond between a mother and her child is the strongest, and Mother's Day appreciates the same.
13. The **International Day of Families** is observed every year on **15th May**.
- Note:**
- The day provide an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families.
 - The theme of this year is "Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG13".
14. The **Government of India** (GoI) has declared **National Dengue Day** to mark the toll from the **deadly disease 'Dengue' -- 16th May**.
- Note:**
- The day has been taking in terms of lives and to reaffirm nationwide efforts to tackle the scourge by using both education and medical intervention.
 - Dengue is a viral disease which includes symptoms such as high-grade fever 2 to 7 days and headache, vomiting, muscle and joint pains, and a characteristic skin rash.
15. The **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day** (WTISD) is observed every year on **17th May**.
- Note:**
- The 2019 theme of WTISD is "Bridging the standardization gap".



- The WTISD raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.

16. Anti-Terrorism Day being observed on **21st May**.

Note:

- On 21st May, the UAE is celebrating World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development to highlight its efforts in promoting tolerance and cultural diversity.

17. The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is observed on **21st May**.

Note:

- The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development", is an opportunity to help communities understand the value of cultural diversity and learn how to live together in harmony.
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed this holiday due to UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity in November 2001.
- This day was created as a result of the destruction of the Buddha statues of Bamiyan in Afghanistan in 2001.

18. The International Day for Biological Diversity' (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues -- 22nd May.

Note:

- The theme of 2019 is 'Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health'.
- The International Day for Biological Diversity falls within the scope of the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals.

19. Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar's (popularly - Veer Savarkar) birth anniversary is being celebrated on -- **28th May 2019**.

Note:

- Savarkar was a revolutionary who fought against the British Government.
- On the occasion, a function to pay floral tributes to him held in the Central Hall of Parliament House and Prime Minister paid tributes to V D Savarkar.
- Savarkar was born on 28th May in 1883 near Nasik in Maharashtra.

20. The 'International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers' is being observed on 29th May.

Note:

- The theme for the 2019 International Day of UN Peacekeepers is "Protecting Civilians, Protecting Peace."
- International days are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity.

21. Goa celebrates its Statehood Day -- 30th May.

Note:

- On 30th May 1987, Goa became India's 25th state and Daman & Diu were separated from Goa and continue to be administered as a union territory.
- Earlier, Goa was a union territory (namely, Goa, Daman, and Diu) for all administrative and governance considerations.

22. The World No-Tobacco Day (WNTD) is observed every year across the world on -- 31st May.

Note:

- This day highlights the health risks associated with consumption of all forms of tobacco and advocating for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption.
- The focus of World No Tobacco Day 2019 is on "tobacco and lung health." In 1988, WHO's World Health Assembly had passed a resolution calling for the celebration of World No Tobacco Day, every year on 31st May.

