

Top 25 Current Affairs of 16 May 2020

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Govt introduces new scheme of 2% interest subvention on working capital loans for dairy sector



Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has introduced a new scheme “Interest subvention on Working Capital Loans for Dairy sector” for supporting Dairy Cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organizations (SDC&FPO) engaged in dairy activities. A budgetary provision of **Rs 100 Crore** earmarked for this and will be implemented during 2020-21.

Arjun Munda launches ‘GOAL’ for digital skilling of tribal youths



On 15th May 2020, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda launched the ‘**GOAL**’ – **Going Online As Leaders** of the Ministry of Tribal

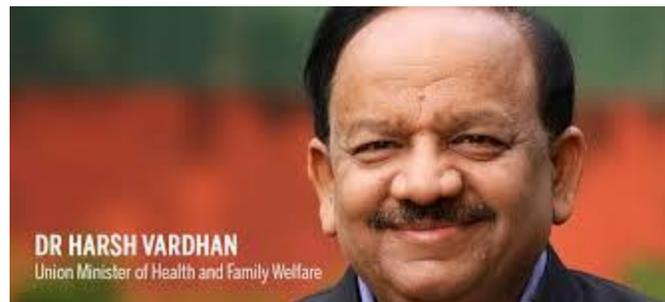
Affairs(MoTA) in partnership with Facebook at a Webinar in New Delhi. GOAL is designed to provide mentorship to tribal youth with digital mode.

Dr Harsh Vardhan dedicates COBAS 6800 testing machine to the nation



The COBAS 6800 is a fully automated, high-end machine for performing Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests for COVID-19. The machine has been placed at the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) because it requires a minimum BSL2+ (Biosafety Level Two Plus) containment level for testing, and cannot be placed at just any facility.

Harsh Vardhan participates in the 32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting



Union Health & Family Welfare Minister **Harsh Vardhan** participated in the **32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting** through Video Conference. The theme of the meeting is- '**Delivering a co-ordinated Commonwealth COVID-19 response**'.

Piyush Goyal participates in virtual session of G20 meet



On 14th May 2020, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal participated in a video conference of trade and investment ministers of G20 countries following the G20 trade ministers meet on March 30, 2020 to discuss on COVID-19 situation.

4 Ayush formulations against COVID-19 by AYUSH ministry & CSIR



Minister of State(Independent/Charge) for ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy(**AYUSH**), Shripad Yesso(Y) Naik has announced that AYUSH ministry & Council of Scientific & Industrial Research(**CSIR**) are working together to validate **4** Ayush formulations **Ashwagandha, Yashtimadhu (Mulethi), Guduchi Pippali(Giloy) and AYUSH-64(poly herbal formulation)** against COVID-19.

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan Part-2: Package for Poor, including migrants and farmers detailed by Nirmala Sitharaman



The Part 2 of “Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan” (self-reliant India Movement) is focused on providing relief to poor including migrant labours, street vendors, migrant urban poor, small traders, self-employed people, small farmers, housing and members of tribal community.

- Free food grains supply to migrants for 2 months; Rs 3500 cr allocated
- One Ration Card fully rolled out by March 2021
- Scheme for Affordable Rental Housing Complexes under PMAY for Migrant Workers and Urban Poor to be launched
- 2% Interest Subvention for 12 months for Shishu MUDRA loanees- Relief of Rs. 1,500 crore
- Rs 5,000 crore Credit facility for Street Vendors; Rs 10,000 working capital support
- Rs 70,000 crore boost to housing sector and middle income group through
- Rs 6000 crore employment push using CAMPA funds
- Rs 30,000 crore Additional Emergency Working Capital for farmers through NABARD
- Rs 2 lakh crore credit boost to 2.5 crore farmers under Kisan Credit Card Scheme

Delhi Police gets India's first 'Thermal Corona Combat Headgear' to enhance social distancing



On May 13, 2020, Delhi Police launched India's first '**Thermal Corona Combat Headgear**' to ensure the safety of frontline warriors and enforce social distancing. The initiative has been launched by the Delhi police in collaboration with Indian Robotics Solution. This equipment helps police personnel to detect the temperature of a large number of people from a distance of 10-15 metres.

India's CO2 emissions falls for the 1st time in four decades: Carbon Brief

COVID CUTS CARBON
➤ Country's CO2 emissions fall for the first time in 4 decades
➤ Emissions fell by around 15% in March and are likely to have fallen by 30% last month
➤ Fall in consumption of fossil fuels has led to the decline
➤ Electricity and transport sectors major contributors of CO2 pollution
➤ Consumption of oil and natural gas also saw a decline

According to an analysis by the environmental website, Carbon Brief, India's **Carbon Dioxide (CO2)** emissions fell by 30metric tonnes(1.4%) in the

fiscal year ending March, which is the first annual **decline** in **four decades**. Furthermore, emission fell by **15%** during the month of **March** and is likely to fall by **30%** in **April**.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Israel names street in Tel Aviv after Rabindranath Tagore on his 159th birth anniversary



On 7th May 2020, Israel named a street in Tel Aviv after Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore on his 159th birth anniversary to honor his valuable contributions in the field and to mankind. He was born on May 7, 1861, in Calcutta. In Bengal Rabindra Jayanti is celebrated on the 25th day of the Bengali month of Boishakh.

BANKING & FINANCE

World Bank approves 1 billion USD to support India's combat against COVID-19



On 15th May 2020, World Bank approves Rs 7500 crore (1 billion USD) to increase India's COVID-19 Social Protection response Program to help the nation's efforts in providing assistance for the poor and needy who are affected by the pandemic.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

COVID-19 may cost global economy loss of up to \$ 8.8 trillion: ADB report



According to a report “Updated Assessment of the Potential Economic Impact of COVID-19” released by Asian Development Bank (ADB), global economy is expected to lose between \$ 5.8 trillion to \$ 8.8 trillion (equal to 6.4 % to 9.7 % of global gross domestic product (GDP)) due to the outbreak of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

WTO Director General Roberto Azevedo to step down on August 31 before term expires



At the World Trade Organisation(WTO) members virtual meeting, the 6th Director-General **Roberto Azevedo**(62-year-old), a former Brazilian diplomat & 1st Latin American director announced that he will **step down** from the **7-year tenure**(since 2013) on **31st August** on personal grounds, cutting his second term in office short by exactly one year.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Indian coast guard ship sachet, interceptor boats C-450 and C-451 commissioned: Rajnath Singh



Union Defence minister Rajnath Singh has commissioned the indigenously-built Indian Coast Guard(ICG) Ship(**ICGS**) **Sachet**, the 1st in the series of five offshore patrol vessels (OPVs), and Interceptor Boats(**IB's**) **C-450** and **C-451** in Goa by video conference from New Delhi.

MHRD develops SAMARTH an e-Governance platform to provide quality education to students



The Ministry of Human Resource Development has developed an e-Governance platform, **SAMARTH** Enterprises Resource Planning (**ERP**) under National Mission of Education in Information and Communication Technology Scheme(**NMEICT**)

IITGN develops interactive dashboard “MIR AHD Covid-19 Dashboard” to help contain COVID-19 community infection post lockdown



On May 15, 2020, Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)- Gandhinagar (IITGN), Gujarat, have developed an interactive COVID-19 dashboard named “**MIR AHD Covid-19 Dashboard**”, that can help administrators, hospitals as well as public in planning optimised testing for the novel coronavirus and containing community infection in various post-lockdown scenarios.

SPORTS

China wins 1st edition of FIDE Chess.com online Nations cup 2020; India finishes fifth



China has won the 1st edition of **FIDE Chess.com online Nations Cup 2020** chess tournament took place from 5-10 May 2020, through a chess.com platform

OBITUARY

Bengali author Sahitya Akademi winner Debesh Roy passes away at 84



On 14th May 2020, Veteran Bengali author Debesh Roy passed away at 84 due to massive cardiac attack in a private hospital in Baguihati. He was born on December 17, 1936 in Pabna(present day Bangladesh).He won the Sahitya Akademi award for his novel ‘Tista Parer Brittanto’ in 1990.

Padma Bhushan awardee Professor Anisuzzaman passes away at 83



On May 14, 2020, Padma Bhushan recipient and Bangladesh’s National Professor **Anisuzzaman** passed away at the age of 83 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He was born on February 18, 1937, in Calcutta, Bengal Presidency, British India and

shifted to Bangladesh soon after the partition in 1947.

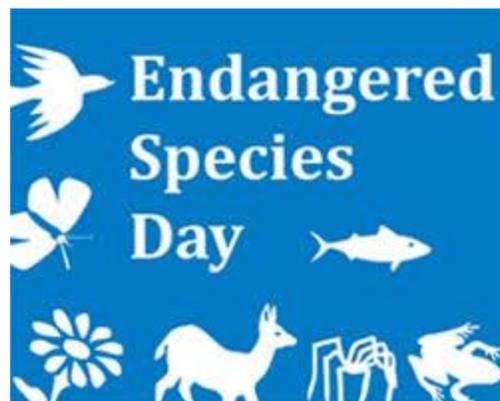
IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Families 2020: May 15



International Day of Families is observed every year on May 15 globally. The day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families.

National Endangered Species Day observed on May 15, 2020



In order to raise awareness about endangered species and wildlife in India, **National Endangered Species Day** is celebrated every year on the 3rd Friday of May. This year the day falls on **May 15, 2020**.

As per the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), at least 40 % species of animals, plants, and insects are at the risk of extinction around the globe.

STATE NEWS

Gujarat Govt launches 'Atmanirbhar Gujarat Sahay Yojna' to provide loans to small businessmen



In a bid to help people start a normal life which has been affected due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) lockdown , the **Gujarat** state government has launched a '**Atmanirbhar Gujarat Sahay Yojna (AGSY)**' under which small businessmen and a cross- section of people falling under the lower middle-income group can take a guarantee-free loan of **Rs 1 lakh** from banks at a **2 % annual interest** rate for a period of 3 years.

The government of West Bengal announces two new schemes



On 5th May 2020, The Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee launched two schemes ‘Sneher Porosh’ and to provide support for the migrant workers and ‘Prochesta’ to help the workers of the unorganised sector of Bengal to enable them to earn their living in the lockdown situation.

Jharkhand: Education dept with Doordarshan starts online classes for School children



In **Jharkhand**, the State Education Department (dept) in collaboration with **Doordarshan** (DD) started online classes and educational programmes to provide school education to students of the state through video and thematic lectures. The special educational lectures are designed for students from class 1 to 12 with special slots allotted for each class.

AC GAZE

Little Richard, rock'n'roll pioneer, passed away at 87

Little Richard, architect of rock 'n' roll , has passed away at the age of 87 years in Tullahoma, Tennessee due to bone cancer, who was a Grammy Award winner and an inductee to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1986.