

CURRENT AFFAIRS-MAY 1-31,2024

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TAMIL NADU



STATES



NATIONAL



INDIA & THE WORLD



INTERNATIONAL



SCHEMES



DEFENCE



SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY



EVS



ECONOMY



COURT VERDICTS



CONFERENCES &
SUMMITS



AWARDS



PERSONALITIES



BOOKS & AUTHORS



SPORTS



RANKS & REPORTS



DAYS



OBITUARY



NEWS OF THE MONTH



KNOWLEDGE



APPOINTMENTS



COMMITTEES



APPS / PORTALS



MISCELLANEOUS

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TAMIL NADU

➤ IIT Madras's ePlane's Electric Air Taxi set to 2025 launch

- ✓ The ePlane Company, incubated at IIT Madras, aims to debut an electric air taxi prototype by March 2025, focusing on reducing urban congestion.



- ✓ Satya Chakravarthy, the CEO, announced plans for initial drone commercialization and a certifiable eVTOL aircraft prototype, pending DGCA certification.
 - ✓ InterGlobe and Archer Aviation's partnership will start an electric air taxi service by 2026.
- ## ➤ Tamil Nadu's Economy May Grow Up to 10.69%
- ✓ Tamil Nadu's economy may grow at a rate of 8.08% to 10.69% in 2024-25.



- ✓ Providing these real growth rate figures, a study on the State economy, conducted by C. Rangarajan and K.R. Shanmugam, chairperson and director of the Madras School of Economics respectively, has estimated that in the recently concluded financial year of 2023-24, the State's growth rate varied from 8.08% to 9.44%.

- ✓ Being a “better-performing State,” Tamil Nadu’s growth would, in all probability, be faster than India’s.
- **Tamil Nadu Bans 23 ‘Ferocious’ Dog Breeds**

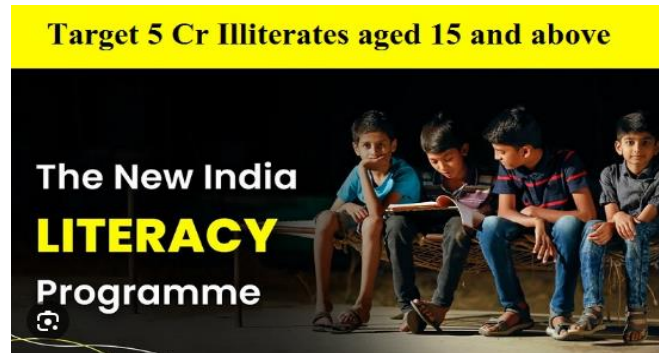


- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Animal Husbandry Department recently declared a prohibition on 23 dog breeds deemed ‘ferocious’, including well-known types like the Rottweiler, Pitbull Terrier and Tosa Inu. This decision was largely motivated by a distressing incident in Chennai where a Rottweiler severely injured a child.
- ✓ Several countries and regions implement bans or restrictions on specific dog breeds deemed ferocious or dangerous, often due to their potential for aggression and harm.
- ✓ These laws aim to decrease incidents of dog attacks and improve public safety.
- **T.N. govt.’s Business Champions Scheme**
- ✓ T.N. govt.’s Business Champions Scheme helped over 1,300 SC/ST entrepreneurs.



- ✓ A total of 1,303 new and existing entrepreneurs belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC) and the Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities in the State have availed themselves of 134.86 crore in capital subsidy for loans taken by them to start or promote their business under the State government’s flagship Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme (AABCS).

➤ **New India Literacy Programme (NILP) or Puthiya Bharatha Ezhutharivu Thittam**



- ✓ The School Education Department is undertaking a survey to identify people who are not literate under the New India Literacy Programme (NILP) or Puthiya Bharatha Ezhutharivu Thittam 2022- 2027 through the Tamil Nadu Directorate of Non-Formal and Adult Education.
- ✓ The School Education Department Secretary, J. Kumaragurubaran, stated that since the first week of May, so far, 97,594 individuals – 18,464 men and 79,130 women – in the age group of 15 and above were identified across the State for being trained for six months by over 2 lakh Illam Thedi Kalvi and Nehru Yuva Kendra volunteers in 25,000 centres.

NATIONAL

➤ Project ISHAN

- ✓ The Airport Authority of India kickstarted the process of unifying four airspace regions into one under Project ISHAN.



- ✓ Project ISHAN stands for Indian Single Sky Harmonized Air Traffic Management which is centred in Nagpur and fulfils governments One Nation One Airspace objective.
- ✓ The Indian airspace is currently divided into 4 flight information regions (FIRs) and sub-FIR.
- ✓ India is planning a major move to unify its four Flight Information Regions (FIRs) in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai into one continuous airspace in Nagpur.

➤ IREDA granted Navratna Status

- ✓ The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a PSU of the government of India was recently granted “Navratna Status”.



- ✓ The status was granted by the Department of Public Enterprises under the Ministry of Finance.
- ✓ The Government of India classifies all PSUs into three categories namely Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna.

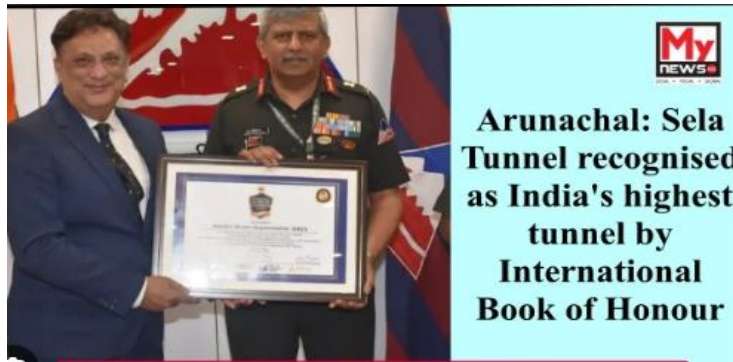
- **Centre Extends Ban Imposed on LTTE For Five More Years**
- ✓ The Centre has extended the ban on Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for a further five years.
- ✓ The Ministry of Home Affairs in its notification said the central government has taken the decision in view of the activities of the LTTE that continues to pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India.
- ✓ The government declared the LTTE as an unlawful association in May 2019 and banned it for five years.

- **UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register**
- ✓ India's Rich Literary Heritage And Cultural Legacy Enters UNESCO's Memory Of World Asia-Pacific Regional Register.



- ✓ The Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahrdayaloka-Locana have been included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register.
- ✓ The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) played a vital role in securing a historic moment during the 10th meeting of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific MOWCAP.

- **India's Highest Tunnel by International Book of Honour**
- ✓ **Sela Tunnel**, constructed by BRO India, is **officially recognised as the highest tunnel in the country by the International Book of Honour.**



- ✓ The 2.598 Km long tunnel is situated at an altitude of 13000 ft on the Tezpur-Tawang Road.
- ✓ Situated at an altitude of 13,000 feet, the strategically important Sela Tunnel will ensure all-weather connectivity to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh.

APP LO
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SCHEMES

➤ En Kalloori Kanavu Scheme



- ✓ With the aim of improving the higher education enrollment rate among students from the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) communities and reducing the number of dropouts, the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department has launched **En Kalloori Kanavu**, a higher education and career guidance initiative.
- ✓ This is a first-of-its-kind programme to help nearly 1.28 lakh SC and ST students who studied in government, government-aided, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare schools in the State and appeared for the Class XII board exams this year.

INTERNATIONAL

➤ **First Country to Lose All Glaciers**

- ✓ Venezuela has recently witnessed a poignant environmental milestone, marking a grim reality of the climate crisis.



- ✓ The nation has likely become the first in modern history to lose all its glaciers, with the reclassification of the Humboldt glacier as an ice field, its final icy vestige, earlier this month.
- ✓ This event serves as a stark reminder that climate change is not a distant threat but an urgent crisis demanding immediate action.

INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

➤ India & Maldives

- ✓ India, Maldives held talks to enhance trade cooperation.



- ✓ India and Maldives engaged in talks to boost economic ties, signifying a strengthened relationship with trade exceeding \$500 million in 2022.
- ✓ Under the 1981 India and Maldives trade agreement, provisions are made for the export of essential commodities.
- ✓ India emerged as Maldives' 2nd largest trade partner in 2022 and the largest in 2023.

➤ India and Ghana

- ✓ 4th Joint Trade Committee Meeting concluded between India and Ghana.



- ✓ The aim of enhancing bilateral trade and investment cooperation, the fourth session of the India-Ghana Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was recently held in Accra.
- ✓ During the two-day meeting on May 2-3, India and Ghana agreed to operationalize the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) UPI on the Ghana Interbank Payment and Settlement System (GHIPS) within six months.
- ✓ The possibility of both countries signing an MoU on digital transformation solutions and local currency settlement systems was also explored.

➤ **India and Iran sign Chabahar Port Operation Pact**

- ✓ Eight years after concluding the general framework of cooperation on the Chabahar port, India and Iran on Monday signed a 10- year contract for its operation.



- ✓ The long-term agreement was signed between Indian Ports Global Ltd. (IPGL) and Port and Maritime Organisation (PMO) of Iran, enabling operation of the Shahid-Behesti terminal.
- ✓ A memorandum of understanding for the development of the Chabahar port by India was signed in May 2015.
- ✓ The contract was executed on May 23, 2016.

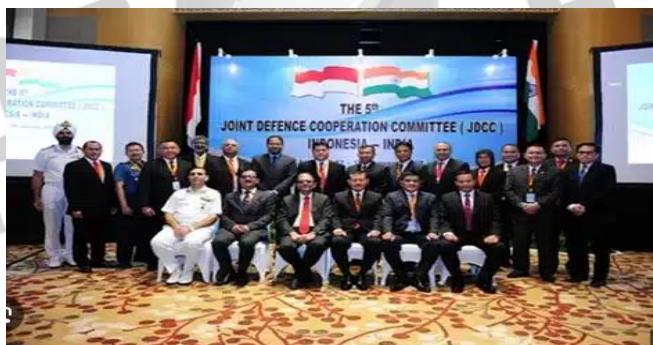
CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

➤ **India-Nepal B2B Meet**

- ✓ Embassy of India, Kathmandu organised Post Investment Summit India-Nepal B2B Meet.
- ✓ Embassy of India, Kathmandu organised the B2B meeting after the third Nepal Investment Summit in Kathmandu Valley.
- ✓ The B2B meeting was organised in collaboration with the Investment Board of Nepal (IBN) and Nepal India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NICCI).
- ✓ During the B2B meeting, a MoU for cooperation between MICCIA and NICCI was signed. The 3rd Nepal Investment Summit was organised from 28-29 April 2024.

➤ **India-Indonesia Joint Defence Cooperation Committee**

- ✓ On 3 May, the 7th India-Indonesia Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting held in New Delhi.



- ✓ During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction at the expanding scope of defense cooperation between the two countries.
- ✓ Both countries also reviewed the progress made on various bilateral defense cooperation initiatives deliberated in meetings of Working Groups on Defence Cooperation and Defence Industries Cooperation.
- ✓ India and Indonesia have a comprehensive strategic partnership and have reached a common vision of the Indo-Pacific.

➤ **World Hydrogen Summit 2024**

- ✓ India Showcases Its Green Hydrogen Potential At World Hydrogen Summit 2024 In Netherlands.



- ✓ The first time, India has set up its pavilion, at the World Hydrogen Summit 2024, being held in Rotterdam, Netherlands, during May 13 -15, 2024.
 - ✓ India launched its National Green Hydrogen Mission in January 2023 with an overall outlay of Rs. 19,744 crores.
 - ✓ India has set an ambitious target to achieve a green hydrogen production capacity of 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) by the end of the year 2030.
- **10th World Water Forum**
- ✓ The 10th World Water Forum, themed “Water for Shared Prosperity,” officially commenced on May 21 in Bali, Indonesia. Attendees included numerous country leaders and United Nations representatives.

The 10th World Water Forum - Bali 2024



- ✓ The forum focused on four critical topics: water conservation, clean water and sanitation, food and energy security, and mitigation of natural disasters.

DEFENCE

➤ India's First Indigenous Bomber UAV

- ✓ Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace Technologies launched FWD-200B in Bengaluru, marking India's entry into indigenous UAV manufacturing.



- ✓ This medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) drone is designed for both surveillance and precision strikes, boasting a 100 kg payload.
- ✓ It reduces dependency on costly imports of UAVs with a 12-20 hour endurance, 370 kmph speed, and 200 km station range.

➤ Gagan Strike-II

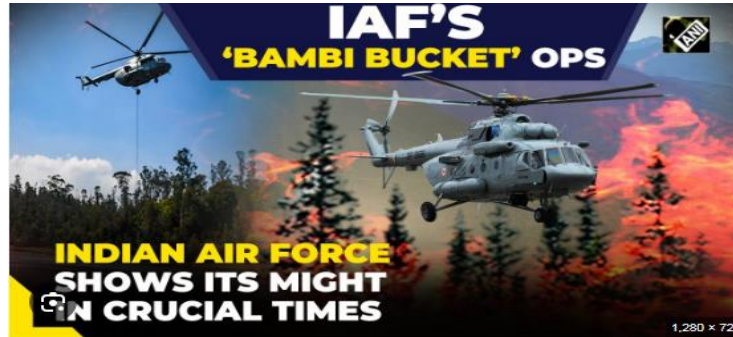
- ✓ The Indian Army's Kharga Corps, under the aegis of the Army's Western Command, successfully conducted a three-day joint exercise with the Indian Air Force (IAF) at multiple locations in Punjab.



- ✓ The exercise aimed to refine processes and validate the employment of attack helicopters in support of mechanized operations in developed terrain.
- ✓ The exercise, titled "Gagan Strike-II," incorporated various force multipliers, including Apache and ALH-WSI helicopters, Unarmed Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), and special forces of the Indian Army.

➤ **IAF's Bambi Bucket Operations**

- ✓ The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has been actively assisting the state in combating the forest fires.



- ✓ In response to the raging fires in the Pauri Garhwal sector, the IAF provided much-needed relief by undertaking **Bambi Bucket operations** using its **Mi17 V5 helicopters**.
 - ✓ In the last couple of days, the IAF has undertaken a total of **23 sorties**, spanning **11 and a half hours**, and utilized **44,600 litres** of water to combat the raging flames in the mountains.
- **Kadet Defence Launches India's First "LAM Systems".**
- ✓ Kadet Defence Systems (KDS), in collaboration with DRDO, has developed India's first indigenous Loitering Aerial Munitions (LAM).



- ✓ The LAM, featuring technologies like CALM and Combat UAVs, promises enhanced operational efficacy across diverse terrains, with a commitment to indigenous production citing over 90% local component sourcing.
- **Exercise 'Shakti'**
- ✓ India and France will carry out the 7 edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'Shakti' from 13-26 May.



- ✓ This exercise will be carried out in the Umroi region of Meghalaya.
 - ✓ The aim of the exercise is to enhance the joint military capacity of India and France to undertake Multi-Domain Operations in a Sub Conventional scenario.
 - ✓ This exercise will facilitate the development of interoperability between the Armed Forces of India and France.
- **Igla-s Air Defense Systems**
- ✓ The Indian Army is all set to begin receiving another set of Russian Igla-S very short-range air defence systems (VSHORAD) soon.



- ✓ It is a man-portable air defence system (MANPADS) developed by Russia.
 - ✓ It is a hand-held defence system that can be operated by an individual or crew.
 - ✓ It is designed to bring down low-flying aircraft and can also identify and neutralise air targets such as cruise missiles and drones.
- **Trilateral Maritime Security Workshop (TMSW)**



- ✓ The **second edition of India, Australia, Indonesia Trilateral Maritime Security Workshop (TMSW)** concluded after discussing the on-going maritime security challenges and opportunities for collaboration between the three maritime neighbours in the region.
- ✓ The theme of the workshop was 'Indian Ocean Region: Collaborative Efforts to Enhance Regional Maritime Security'.
- ✓ The exercise was conducted at INS Dronacharya, **Kochi, India.**
- **Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024**
- ✓ Head of the Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan started Cyber Suraksha – 2024 on May 22, 2024.
- ✓ Defence Cyber Agency of India is in charge of the event, which runs from May 20th to May 24th.
- ✓ The main goal of Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024 is to improve the cyber defence skills of all cybersecurity organizations in the country.
- ✓ The goal is for the military and key government agencies involved in cybersecurity to work together better and come up with a more unified approach.
- **Anti-Radiation Missile 'Rudram-II'**
- ✓ India has achieved a significant milestone with the successful flight test of the indigenously developed anti-radiation missile Rudram-II.



- ✓ Fired from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft off the coast of Odisha, this missile is poised to become a vital asset for the Indian Armed Forces, serving as a force multiplier in suppression of enemy air defenses (SEAD) missions.

➤ **Exercise 'Red Flag 24'**



- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) has joined a 16-day multi-nation mega military exercise in Alaska, United States, designed to provide realistic training to participating forces in a simulated combat environment.
- ✓ The exercise, known as 'Red Flag 24', commenced on May 30 and will continue until June 14.

ECONOMY

➤ **GST Collection for April hits a Record High**

- ✓ GST collection reached a record high of Rs 2.10 lakh crore in April, with a growth of 12.4 per cent over the year. After accounting for refunds, the net GST revenue for April 2024 stands at 1.92 lakh crore.



- ✓ The Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) was Rs 43,846 crore, while the State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) stood at Rs 53,538 crore. The highest GST has been recorded due to a strong increase in domestic transactions.
- ✓ This is the highest level of GST collections recorded since the indirect tax reform occurred in July 2017.

➤ **India Economic Perspectives**

- ✓ India is poised to become the world's third-largest consumer market by 2026, surpassing Germany and Japan.



- ✓ According to UBS's 'India Economic Perspectives' report, India is set to consolidate its position as a global economic powerhouse and become the world's third-largest consumer market by 2026.
- ✓ The forecast has been revealed as India's consumer market continues to grow and expand.

- ✓ According to the report, India will overtake Germany by 2024 and Japan by 2026 and strengthen its position as a global economic superpower.
- **Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI)**
- ✓ China was the largest trading partner of India with \$118.4 billion trade in 2023-24.



- ✓ According to the data of economic think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), US was India's second largest trading partner with \$118.3 billion.
- ✓ US was the top trading partner of India during 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- ✓ As per the data, India's exports to China increased by 8.7% to \$16.67 billion in the last fiscal.
- ✓ Imports from China increased by 3.24% to \$101.7 billion.
- ✓ India's exports to the US declined by 1.32% to \$77.5 billion in 2023-24 in comparison to \$78.54 billion in 2022-23.
- **UN Revises India's 2024 Economic Growth Projection Upwards to Nearly 7%**



- ✓ The United Nations has revised India's economic growth forecast for 2024, projecting a robust expansion driven by strong public investment and resilient private consumption.
- ✓ India's economy is now expected to grow by 6.9% in 2024, up from the 6.2% forecast in January, with a 6.6% growth rate projected for 2025. This optimistic

outlook highlights India's role in bolstering South Asia's overall economic performance.

➤ **India's Internet Economy Likely to Reach \$1 Trillion by 2030**



- ✓ India's internet economy is poised for significant growth, with industry experts predicting it will reach \$1 trillion by 2030.
 - ✓ This surge is primarily driven by the e-commerce sector, which is expected to grow at an annual rate of 25%, from \$60 billion in FY2023 to \$325 billion, making it the third largest globally.
- **UN Revises India's 2024 Growth Forecast to 6.9%**
- ✓ The United Nations (UN) has revised India's growth projections for 2024 and expects the economy to grow by 6.9% for FY24.



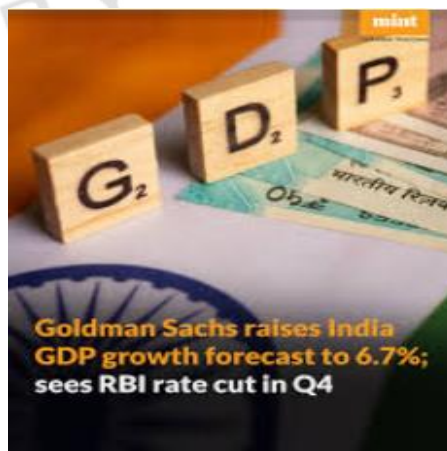
- ✓ According to the UN's **World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP)** report, India's economy is now forecast to grow by 6.9% in 2024. This is an increase from the earlier projection of 6.2% made in January.
- ✓ The report also predicts a growth rate of 6.6% for 2025, which remains unchanged from the previous forecast.

➤ **India's Fourth Largest Export Item**

- ✓ Smartphones are now the fourth-largest export item from India with 42 per cent growth to \$15.6 billion in FY24, up by one notch in the ranking from the preceding year.



- ✓ While India's top export items are dominated by petroleum products, smartphones replaced motor gasoline to become the fourth-largest exported commodity in FY24.
- ✓ According to commerce department data, the spike in smartphone exports was driven by a 158 per cent increase in shipments.
- **India's GDP Growth Forecast to 6.7%**
- ✓ Global investment bank Goldman Sachs has raised India's GDP growth forecast to 6.7% for the calendar year 2024.



- ✓ The latest data released by the bank said they expect a sustained growth momentum with additional fiscal space on account of a bumper dividend transfer from the RBI.
- ✓ The financial company said that in India, growth momentum remains strong and core inflation is expected to bottom out in April-June.

➤ Climate Investment Workshop



- ✓ The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank, is holding a two-day 'Baseline Measures Setting and Project Investments Workshop.'
- ✓ The workshop, inaugurated on Wednesday at the Commissioner's Conference Hall at the Kalaigal Muthamizharignar M. Karunanidhi Maligai, is a key step in developing the Climate Investment Opportunities Diagnostic (CIOD) for Chennai.
- ✓ The CIOD is designed to support the implementation of Chennai's Climate Change Action Plan.

APPOINTMENT

➤ **Dr Mallika Nadda**

- ✓ Dr Mallika Nadda, President of Special Olympics Bharat, has been appointed as the chairperson of the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Advisory Council, for a period of three years.



- ✓ Mallika Nadda, also runs an organisation called Chetna Sanstha in Bilaspur.
- ✓ In her new role as chairperson of the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Advisory Council, Dr. Mallika Nadda will represent 35 countries as she has been working in the field of disability for over 30 years.

➤ **Kareena Kapoor**

- ✓ UNICEF India Welcomes Kareena as National Ambassador.



- ✓ Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan has been appointed as the National Ambassador for UNICEF India.
- ✓ This prestigious role comes as a recognition of her long-standing association with the organization since 2014, where she has served as a Celebrity Advocate.

AWARDS

➤ 'Green Oscar' Whitley Gold Award 2024

- ✓ A wildlife biologist from Assam, **Dr Purnima Devi Barman** has won her second **Whitley Gold Award**, also known as the Green Oscar.



- ✓ She was honoured for her conservation effort of the endangered bird, Hargila or Greater Adjutant Stork and its wetland habitat.
- ✓ This is the second time that Dr Barman has been honoured with the Whitley Gold Award. She was also awarded the prize in 2017.

➤ International Newspaper Design Competition

- ✓ In a remarkable feat, The Hindu secured three prestigious awards at the 6th International Newspaper Design Competition organized by newspaperdesign.in.



- ✓ The accolades were garnered for their exceptional explainer page titled "The science behind Neeraj's skills," shedding light on Neeraj Chopra's remarkable journey and success in athletics.

➤ Sahitya Akademi Fellowship

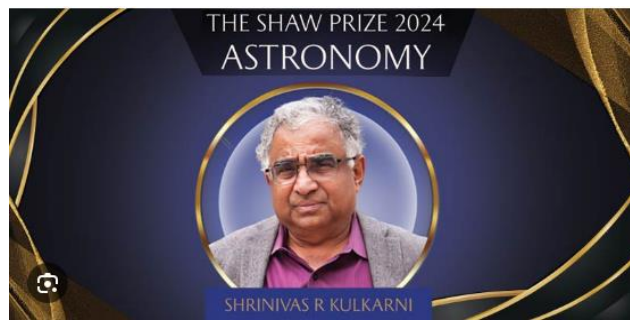
- ✓ Eminent author Ruskin Bond has been awarded the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship.
- ✓ He was Born on May 19, 1934 in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh.



- ✓ His notable works include Vagrants in the Valley, Once Upon a Monsoon Time, Angry River, Strangers in the Night, All Roads Lead to Ganga, Tales of Foster ganj, Leopard on the Mountain and Too Much Trouble.
- ✓ He has been honoured with Padma Shri in 1999 and Padma Bhushan in 2019, and the Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar in 2012.
- **IN-SPACE honoured with Geospatial World Forum Leadership Award**



- ✓ The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (**IN-SPACE**) has been **honoured** with the **Geospatial World Forum (GWF) Leadership Award** for “Public Policy: Enabling Industry Development” at the 2024 event in Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- ✓ The award recognizes their ground-breaking efforts in advancing India’s space sector and supporting non-government entities.
- ✓ GWF Leadership Awards commend innovation and contributions to the global geospatial field since 2007.
- **Shaw Prize in Astronomy**
- ✓ **Srinivas R. Kulkarni**, an Indian-origin U.S. scientist and brother of Sudha Murty, has been awarded the prestigious **Shaw Prize in Astronomy for 2024**.



- ✓ Kulkarni, who serves as the George Ellery Hale Professor of Astronomy and Planetary Science at Caltech.
- ✓ Kulkarni has been awarded for his ground-breaking discoveries on millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and other transient astronomical phenomena.

➤ **UK's Women's Empowerment Award**

- ✓ An 18-year-old woman E-rickshaw driver from the Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh, **Arti** has been conferred with the **Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award** by the King of the United Kingdom, Charles III.



- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government launched Mission Shakti in 2020 to empower the women of the state through safety, security, and self-reliance.
- ✓ The scheme aims to provide a secure environment for women and provide training and access to livelihood schemes so that they can change their lives and become self-independent.

➤ **All We Imagine As Light Wins Grand Prix at Cannes**

- ✓ Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia made history by winning the country's **first-ever Grand Prix Award** at the 77th Cannes Film Festival.



- ✓ Her Malayalam-Hindi film **All We Imagine As Light** stars Kani Kusruti and Divya Prabha as nurses working in Mumbai. The movie also stars Chhaya Kadam and Hridhu Haroon.
- ✓ After Shaji Karun's *Swaham*, which competed for the Palme d'Or at the 1994 Cannes, Kapadia's film was the first Indian title in 30 years to be selected for the prestigious Competition section.
- **UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award**



- ✓ Major Radhika Sen, an Indian military peacekeeper serving with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), has been awarded the prestigious 2023 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award.
- ✓ This award recognizes her dedication and efforts in promoting the principles of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security.

PERSONALITIES

➤ Nepal Climber Kami Rita Sherpa

- ✓ Nepali Sherpa climber Kami Rita has scaled Everest for the 29th time, surpassing his own record of 28 ascents.



- ✓ He now holds the record for the most ascents of the world's tallest peak in its 71-year climbing history.
- ✓ Kami Rita Sherpa is known as 'Everest man'.
- ✓ According to the Guinness Book of World Records, Kami Rita has scaled Everest nearly every year since his first climb, totalling 29 ascents now.

➤ Kaamya Karthikeyan

- ✓ Sixteen-year-old Kaamya Karthikeyan has become the youngest Indian mountaineer to scale Mt Everest from the Nepal side. She also becomes the second youngest girl in the world to achieve this feat.



- ✓ Kaamya has completed six milestones in her mission to summit the highest peak of all seven continents and aims to climb Mt. Vinson Massif in Antarctica this December to become the youngest girl to accomplish the '7summits challenge'.

➤ Jyoti Ratre

- ✓ Jyoti Ratre, an entrepreneur and fitness enthusiast from Madhya Pradesh, has etched her name in history by becoming the oldest Indian woman at the age of 55, to conquer Mount Everest.



- ✓ Ratre's triumphant ascent to the summit of the world's highest peak comes precisely six years after Sangeeta Bahl, at the age of 53, earned the title of 'India's oldest woman to climb Mount Everest' on May 19, 2018.

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SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ **6G Collaboration**

- ✓ India's Bharat 6G Alliance is set to sign a cooperation agreement with Europe's Industry Alliance 6G, following a similar agreement with the US.



- ✓ Established by India's Department of Telecommunications, the Bharat 6G Alliance aims to drive 6G technology development in India by bringing together industry players, academia, and research organizations.
- ✓ The Bharat 6G Alliance's participation in international organizations such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) solidifies India's voice in setting global standards for 6G technology.

➤ **Batillipes chandrayaani**

- ✓ A newly discovered tardigrade species named after the Chandrayaan-3 mission. A new species of marine tardigrade has been discovered on the coast of Tamil Nadu.



- ✓ It has been named 'Batillipes chandrayaani' after the Chandrayaan-3 moon mission by researchers.
- ✓ Tardigrades are commonly known as 'water bears'. These are microscopic marvels.

➤ **Glyptothorax punyabratai**

- ✓ Recently, the ICAR-NBFGR discovered a new catfish species in the pristine waters of Arunachal Pradesh, India and named it as Glyptothorax punyabratai.



- ✓ The species was collected from Tung Stream, a tributary of the Tissa River, in the Brahmaputra River basin. It is a new catfish species.
- ✓ Catfish represent one of the largest groups of freshwater fishes, with more than 2000 species.
- ✓ Most catfish are found in freshwater but a few are marine. Most species of catfish are nocturnal. Catfish are primarily benthic or bottom-dwellers.

➤ **ISRO Develops Semi-Cryogenic Engine Using Liquid Oxygen Kerosene**



- ✓ ISRO, through the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) with support from other launch vehicle centers, is advancing the development of a semi-cryogenic propulsion system.
- ✓ This system aims to enhance the payload capacity of Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) and future launch vehicles by utilizing a 2,000 kN thrust semi-cryogenic engine powered by a combination of liquid oxygen (LOX) and kerosene.

➤ **Extreme Solar Storm Hits Earth**

- ✓ On May 11, 2024, Earth experienced its most significant solar storm in over two decades.



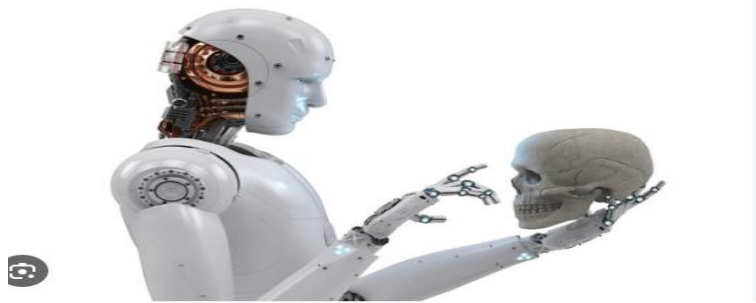
- ✓ The storm, triggered by multiple coronal mass ejections (CMEs) from the sun, stirred a global buzz due to its potent impact on communication networks, satellite functions, and power grids.
 - ✓ It was also visible in the form of dazzling auroras spanning from Tasmania to Britain.
 - ✓ Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) are massive bursts of solar wind and magnetic fields rising above the solar corona or being released into space.
- **New Liquid Rocket Engine**
- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully tested the new liquid rocket engine manufactured through Additive Manufacturing technology.



- ✓ The test was successfully carried out at ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri in Tamilnadu.
- ✓ This new redesigned PS4 engine has brought down the number of parts from 14 to a single piece and eliminated 19 weld joints.
- ✓ This will significantly save on the raw material usage per engine, reduce metal powder from 565 kgs to 13.7 kgs and reduce the production time by 60 percent.
- ✓ ISRO is planning to induct this PS4 engine into the regular PSLV program.

➤ **Deadbots**

- ✓ A new study urges caution in the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbots designed to mimic deceased loved ones, known as 'deadbots'.



- ✓ Deadbots are also known as griefbots, are AI-enabled digital representations of departed loved ones.
- ✓ These chatbots simulate their language patterns and personality traits to create a conversational AI that reflects their personality.
- ✓ Researchers have warned that these chatbots, while potentially comforting, could lead to psychological distress if not designed with safety in mind.

➤ **NASA Announces Plan To Build First Railway System On Moon**

- ✓ NASA has unveiled its ambitious plan to construct the first lunar railway system, known as FLOAT (Flexible Levitation on a Track), designed to revolutionize payload transport on the Moon.



- ✓ This innovative system aims to provide reliable, autonomous, and efficient transportation essential for the daily operations of a sustainable lunar base, aligning with NASA's Moon to Mars initiative and mission concepts like the Robotic Lunar Surface Operations 2 (RLSO2).

➤ **Highest Data Center Capacity in the Asia-Pacific Region**

- ✓ India overtakes Australia, Japan, and Singapore in data center capacity.



- ✓ India has become the country with the highest data center capacity in the Asia-Pacific region, surpassing major countries like Australia, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Singapore, and Korea.
- ✓ The country is expected to record the highest capacity addition of 850 MW during the 2024-2026 period, higher than major APAC countries.
- ✓ In 2023, there was an addition of 255 MW of new supply, resulting in a total stock of approximately 1,030 MW by the end of the year.

➤ **Mangalyaan-2 Unveiled**

- ✓ India Set to Become the Third Nation to Land on Mars.



- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is gearing up for a landmark mission that aims to land a rover and helicopter on Mars.
- ✓ This historic endeavor, named Mangalyaan-2, seeks to place India alongside the US and China as a significant player in interplanetary exploration.
- ✓ The project was unveiled during a presentation at the Space Application Centre on National Technology Day.

➤ **IndiaAI Mission**

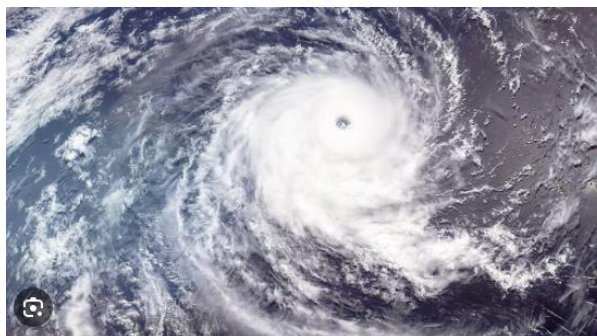
- ✓ The Cabinet has greenlit an ambitious financial allocation of over Rs 10,300 crore for the IndiaAI Mission, aimed at fortifying India's AI innovation ecosystem.



- ✓ Spearheaded by a public-private partnership model, this significant investment over the next five years is poised to catalyze various strategic initiatives, including compute infrastructure expansion, startup empowerment, and ethical AI deployment.
- ✓ A pivotal component of the IndiaAI Mission, the IndiaAI Compute Capacity project aims to erect a cutting-edge, scalable AI computing infrastructure.
- **Blue Origin's NS-25 Mission**
- ✓ Indian expatriate Gopi Thotakura joined the ranks of space explorers as the first Indian to embark on a journey beyond Earth's atmosphere.



- ✓ **The NS-25 mission**, part of Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin program, saw Thotakura and five other crew members lift off aboard the New Shepard spacecraft from a private ranch in West Texas.
- ✓ Among the crew was also **Ed Dwight**, marking the first time a Black astronaut ventured into space.
- ✓ **Gopichand Thotakura**: An entrepreneur and pilot of Indian origin, Thotakura secured his place among the six crew members for the NS-25 mission.
- **Cyclone Remal**
- ✓ A low-pressure system over the Bay of Bengal is set to intensify into Cyclone Remal, reaching Bangladesh and adjoining West Bengal coasts as a severe cyclonic storm.



- ✓ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasts the cyclone's progression, predicting it to become a severe cyclonic storm by May 25 morning and make landfall between Sagar island in West Bengal and Khepupara in Bangladesh by May 26 evening.

➤ **AI Anchors Krish And Bhoomi**

- ✓ Doordarshan Kisan (DD KISAN) is going to become the first government TV channel of the country to launch two AI anchors – AI Krish and AI Bhoomi.



- ✓ Agriculture Ministry said DD Kisan is coming with a new look and a new style among the farmers of India on 26th May where the presentation of the channel is going to be in a new avtar.
- ✓ It said the AI anchors can speak in **fifty languages** and read news 24 hours and 365 days without getting tired. The viewers will be able to see these anchors in all the states of the country.
- ✓ These AI anchors will provide necessary information about agricultural research in the country and global level, trends in Krishi Mandis, changes in the weather and information about government schemes.

➤ **Oedocladium sahyadricum**

- ✓ A group of phycologists from the Department of Botany at Catholocate College in Pathanamthitta has discovered a new algal species in the Western Ghats.



- ✓ Oedocladium sahyadricum is a new algal species.
- ✓ The name 'sahyadricum' refers to the Western Ghats, also known as Sahyadri, which is rich in plant diversity and provides ideal conditions for the growth of terrestrial microalgae.
- ✓ The alga was found as a thin mat of elongated strands on damp soil.
- **Agnikul Cosmos' Agnibaan - World's First 3D Printed Space Rocket Engine**
- ✓ Chennai-based startup Agnikul Cosmos has achieved a remarkable feat by successfully launching the world's first space rocket with a single-piece three-dimensional (3D) printed engine.



- ✓ After four failed attempts, Agnikul triumphed on its fifth try, launching its own rocket, named Agnibaan, into space.
- ✓ This launch marks India's first semi-cryogenic engine-powered rocket, which was completely designed and manufactured indigenously.

SPORTS

- **Shyaamnikhil of Tamil Nadu becomes India's 85th Chess Grandmaster**
- ✓ I.M.P. Shyam Nikhil became the 85th Indian to achieve the Grandmaster title at Dubai Police Masters 2024.



- ✓ The 31-year-old became the country's 85th player to achieve elite status.
 - ✓ R. Vaishali was the 84th Grandmaster of India.
- **Deepthi Jeevanji Smashes World Record**
 - ✓ **Twenty-year old Deepthi Jeevanji smashed the world record in the women's 400m T20 and grabbed her first gold at the World Para Athletics Championships at Kobe in Japan.**



- ✓ Deepthi clocked 55.07 seconds, breaking American Breanna Clark's earlier world record of 55.12 seconds, which she had set during last year's edition of the championships in Paris.
 - ✓ The T20 classification is for athletes who have intellectual impairment.
- **World Para Athletics**
 - ✓ **Mariyappan Thangavelu Breaks Championship Record to Win Gold in High Jump at World Para Athletics.**



- ✓ Tokyo Paralympics silver winner Thangavelu Mariyappan won a gold in T63 high jump with a World Para Athletics Championships' record of 1.88m.
- ✓ This was his first gold in a major event in eight years. The 28-year-old Mariyappan won gold in T42 high jump in the 2016 Rio Paralympics and a silver in the Tokyo edition in 2021 in T63.
- ✓ The T63 classification is for athletes with single through knee or above knee limb deficiency competing with a prosthesis.

➤ **Dipa Karmakar**

- ✓ Dipa Karmakar scripted history clinching India's first-ever gold medal at the Asian Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



- ✓ The 30-year-old Olympian registered an average score of 13.566 in the women's Vault final.
- ✓ This is the first time that an Indian gymnast has won a gold medal in any event at the Asian Championships.

REPORT

➤ Global Electricity Review

- ✓ Global energy think tank Ember released a new report stating that in 2023, India surpassed Japan as the world's third-largest producer of solar power.



- ✓ According to the report, India's solar energy deployment in 2015 ranked in ninth place.
- ✓ In 2023, solar energy generated a record 5.5% of the world's electricity.
- ✓ According to Ember's "Global Electricity Review", 5.8% of India's electricity was produced from solar power in the previous year.
- ✓ In 2023, it generated more than twice as much new electricity globally as coal.
- ✓ In terms of global solar generation growth in 2023, India ranked fourth (+18 terawatt hour, or TWh).

➤ Wealthiest Cities Report 2024

- ✓ Mumbai & Delhi Among 50 Wealthiest Cities of World: Henley & Partners.



- ✓ In a testament to India's sustained economic growth, Mumbai and Delhi have debuted in the top 50 wealthiest cities worldwide according to the Wealthiest Cities Report 2024 by Henley & Partners and New World Wealth.
- ✓ Mumbai secured the 24th position while Delhi claimed the 37th spot.

➤ **Gangetic Dolphins**

- ✓ According to a recent report by the Wildlife Institute of India, there are more than 4000 Gangetic dolphins in the Gangetic River basin.



- ✓ Over **2000 of these dolphins** are found in Uttar Pradesh, primarily in the Chambal River.
- ✓ This increase suggests that the **river's pollution levels are declining**, and the government's conservation efforts are proving effective. The Ganges river dolphin, also known as the blind dolphin, **Ganges susu, or Hihu**, has the scientific name **Platanista gangetica**.
- ✓ **Historically found** in the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems, the dolphin is now present in specific stretches of the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Barak river system in India, as well as in river systems in Nepal and Bangladesh.

RANKING

➤ World Press Freedom Index

- ✓ In the World Press Freedom Index, India ranked 159th below Pakistan among 180 countries.



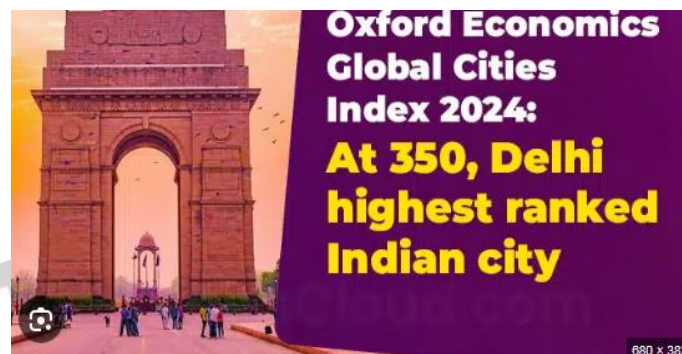
- ✓ Reporters Without Borders (RSF, short for Reporters sans frontières in French), an international non-profit organization, has released the latest annual World Press Freedom Index.
- ✓ India is ranked 159th in the list of 180 countries, while in the 2023 list, it was ranked 161st.
- ✓ However, Pakistan is ranked 152nd, seven places above India, which was ranked 150th in 2023.
- ✓ Norway, Denmark, and Sweden ranked 1st, 2nd, and 3rd respectively in the World Press Freedom Index.

➤ WEF Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024

- ✓ India Rises to 39th Position in WEF Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024.



- ✓ India has ascended to the 39th spot in the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024, marking a significant improvement from its 54th position in 2021.
 - ✓ While the US topped the list, India is ranked highest in South Asia and among the lower-middle-income economies, the WEF said.
 - ✓ Despite challenges posed by the pandemic, India showcases resilience and competitiveness in various aspects of its travel and tourism industry.
- **Oxford Economics Global Cities Index Report 2024**
- ✓ **Delhi** has been placed **350** in the **Oxford Economics Global Cities Index 2024**, making it the highest ranked Indian city. The ranking compares the world's 1000 cities.



- ✓ **Bengaluru, India's IT hub, stood at 411**, higher than the country's financial capital Mumbai, which stood at 427.
- ✓ On the other hand, Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh ranked last in the index, at 1000th place.
- ✓ **New York achieved the highest ranking in all five categories** with a score of 100, followed by London and San Jose securing the 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
May 01	International Labour Day	This year, the focus is on ensuring safety and health at work in a changing climate.
May 02	World Tuna Day	The main focus of World Tuna Day 2024 remains on the issue of overfishing and the importance of preserving them.
May 03	World Press Freedom Day	The theme for 2024 is "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis."
May 04	International Firefighters Day	This day holds special significance as it recognises the dedication and sacrifice of firefighters everywhere.
May 04	Coal Miners Day	This day is celebrated for the miners who are working in the field.
May 05	World Laughter Day	"Laugh Together, Heal Together." is this year's theme.
May 06	International No Diet Day	This year's theme, "Embrace Yourself: Reject Diet Culture, Love You."
May 07	World Asthma Day	The theme is "Asthma Education Empowers."
May 07	World Athletics Day	This year the theme for World Athletics Day is - 'World Mile Challenge'.
May 08	World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day	The theme of this year's World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, "Keeping Humanity Alive."
May 08	World Thalassaemia Day	This year's theme is: "Empowering Lives, Embracing

		Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassaemia Treatment for All''
May 11	World Migratory Bird Day	The theme for World Migratory Bird Day 2024 is "Insects"
May 11	National Technology Day	The theme for 2024 is 'School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate'
May 12	International Nurses Day	Theme - Our Nurses. Our Future. The economic power of care.
May 12	International Mother's Day	
May 12	International Day of Plant Health	Theme 2024 - Plant Health, Safe Trade, Digital Technology
May 15	International Day of Families	Theme is Embracing Diversity, Strengthening Families
May 16	International Day of Living Together in Peace	The Day is observed to highlight the importance of peace and living together in peace by the people of the world.
May 16	International Day of Light	The Theme is "Light in Our Lives, to let the light guide us the way forward"
May 17	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	Theme is, "Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development"
May 17	World Hypertension Day	The theme this year is "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, and Live Longer"
May 17	National Endangered Species Day	The theme of National Endangered Species Day 2024 is "Celebrate Saving Species"
May 17	International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and	

	Biphobia	
May 18	International Museum Day	The theme for this year, "Museums for Education and Research"
May 18	World's AIDS Vaccine Day	Theme this year is: "No one left behind: Equality, freedom and justice for all"
May 20	World Bee Day	The 2024 theme, "Bee engaged with Youth"
May 20	World Refugee Day	Theme 2024 - Hope Away from Home
May 20	World Metrology Day	The theme for World Metrology Day 2024 is 'Sustainability'
May 21	International Tea Day	
May 21	National Anti-Terrorism Day	In addition to honouring Rajiv Gandhi, the day also aims to raise awareness of the negative effects of terrorism and violence on society
May 22	International Day for Biological Diversity	The theme for 2024 is "Be Part of the Plan"
May 23	World Turtle Day	The theme of World Turtle Day 2024 is "Let's Party"
May 24	National Brother's Day	
May 25	World Football Day	In 2024, the world marks the 100th anniversary of the first international football tournament To honour this milestone, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution A/RES/78/281 on May 7, 2024, proclaiming May 25 as World Football Day.
May 25	Africa Day	Theme 2024 - Education Fit for the 21st Century

May 28	World Hunger Day	The theme for World Hunger Day 2024 is “Thriving Mothers, Thriving World”
May 28	World Dugong Day	Also called a sea cow, the dugong is a marine mammal that grazes on seagrasses in shallow coastal waters of the Indian and Western Pacific oceans.
May 29	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers	This year, the theme is “Fit for the Future: Building Better Together”
May 29	International Everest Day	On May 29, the world will observe International Everest Day in memory of Nepalese Tenzing Norgay and New Zealand’s Edmund Hillary , the first individuals to conquer the formidable Mt. Everest in 1953
May 30	International Potato Day	This year's theme, “Harvesting Diversity, Feeding Hope”
May 31	World No-Tobacco Day	This year's theme, “Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference”

