



May 2019

Miscellaneous

International Labour Day: May 1



The International Labour Day is celebrated every year on May 1 across the world to honour the contribution of working men and women. Observance of this day aims to pay tribute to sacrifices of workers in achieving economic and social rights all over world. The theme for this year's is "**Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement**".

Background

The International Labour Day also known as Workers' Day, Labour Day or May Day to honour the contribution of working men and women. The date was chosen by pan-national organization of socialist and communist political parties to commemorate Haymarket affair, which occurred in Chicago on 4 May 1886.

During industrialization at beginning of the 19th Century, industrialists used to exploit labour class and made them work up to 15 hours a day. The workers at Haymarket affair in Chicago had rose against this exploitation and demanded paid leaves, proper wages, breaks for the workforce and safety at work.

After the workers struggle, eight-hours was declared as the legal time for the workers in the national convention at Chicago by American Federation of Labour in 1886. So this day marks victory of the workers' movement for eight hours of work.

In India, the first Labour day was celebrated in Chennai in 1923. It was organised by Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan.

World Press Freedom Day: May 3



The World Press Freedom Day (WPDF) is celebrated every year on May 3 across the world to celebrate fundamental principles of press freedom as well as to evaluate freedom of press around the world. Observance of this day also serves as occasion to defend media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who died while doing their profession.

2019 Theme: “Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation”. It aims to discuss current challenges faced by media in elections, along with media’s potential in supporting peace and reconciliation processes.

Main Event: This year it is 26th edition of WPDF and main event was jointly organized by UNESCO, African Union Commission (AU) and Government of Ethiopia at the African Union (AU) Headquarters at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Background

The World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in December 1993, following recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference. The date 3 May marks anniversary of adaptation of Declaration of Windhoek on media pluralism and independence in 1991 by African journalists. The purpose of observance of this day is to provide opportunity to celebrate fundamental principles of press freedom, assess state of press freedom throughout world, defend media from attacks on their independence and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in line of duty.

Apurvi Chandela attains world No 1 in 10m air rifle



Indian ace shooter Apurvi Chandela attained world number one rank in the women's 10 metres air rifle event after consistent performances in recent years. Besides, her compatriot Anjum Moudgil was ranked number two. Chandela is among the five Indian shooters who have already secured 2020 Tokyo Olympics quotas for India in shooting event.

Apurvi Singh Chandela

She hails from Jaipur, Rajasthan. She competes in the 10 metre air rifle event.

She had shot world record score of 252.9 to win gold medal at International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup held in New Delhi in February 2019.

She also had won gold medal at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Game and bronze medal 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

In the 2018 Asian Games, she had won bronze medal in the 10m mixed rifle event.

World Asthma Day observed on May 7, 2019



The World Asthma Day is observed every year across the globe on first Tuesday of May to spread awareness about Asthma and its care around the world. This year it was observed on May 7, 2019. The theme of World Asthma Day 2019 was 'STOP for Asthma'. STOP stands for Symptom evaluation, Test Response, Observe and assess, Proceed to adjust treatment.

Background

Observance of World Asthma Day is annual initiative of Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) and is observed every year on first Tuesday of May. It was first observed in 1998 in conjunction with the first World Asthma Meeting held in Barcelona, Spain. Since then, GINA every year chooses theme of World Asthma

Asthma

It is common long-term inflammatory disease of airways of the lungs that causes breathing problems. It is characterized by variable and recurring symptoms, reversible airflow obstruction and easily triggered bronchospasms. Its symptoms include episodes of wheezing, coughing, chest tightness, and shortness of breath. It is thought to be caused by combination of genetic and environmental factors. There is no cure for asthma but its symptoms can be prevented by avoiding triggers, such as allergens and irritants, and by use of inhalers to prevent and relieve the symptoms.

World Thalassemia Day observed on May 8



The World Thalassemia Day is observed every year across the world on 8 May to raise awareness about thalassemia disease, its preventive measures and measures to avoid transmission among the people throughout the world.

Observance of this day seeks to commemorate honour of all patients suffering from this genetic disease also all scientists doing hardwork to provide improved quality of life to people with thalassemia across the globe.

The theme of 2019 World Thalassemia Day is **"Universal access to quality thalassemia healthcare services: Building bridges with and for patient"**.

Thalassemia

It is a genetic blood disorder with no cure except bone marrow transplant (BMT). It is characterised by abnormal production of haemoglobin in the body. The abnormality results in improper oxygen transport and destruction of red blood cells and leads to anemia. This leads to iron overload, bone deformities and in severe cases can cause heart diseases. It can be diagnosed by blood tests. It is difficult to prevent it as disorder is passed from parents to children. However, it is treatable disorder that can be managed with blood transfusions and chelation therapy. Some children can be cured by bone marrow transplant.

Road accidents still cause most deaths: WHO report



According to recently released World Health Organisation (WHO) report, road accidents are the leading cause of death among people in the 5-29 age-group worldwide. The report was released during global road safety week, observed from 6 to 12 May, 2019.

This year it was fifth edition of United Nations Global Road Safety Week. It had focused on leadership for road safety. Its campaign theme was: **Save Lives - #SpeakUp**.

Key Findings of the report

Road accidents are leading cause of death among people in the 5-29 age-group worldwide. More than 1.35 million lives are lost each year and 50 million sustaining injuries.

Since 2008, India is world number one in road crash deaths, inspite of being signatory to Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety.

As per Government data, road accidents killed close to 1,50,000 people each year in India. However, WHO claims that over 2,99,000 people are being killed in India each year.

The reasons of road accidents are rapid urbanisation, poor safety, lack of enforcement, distracted, influence of drugs or alcohol, speeding and failure to wear seat-belts or helmets.

Significance of Report

It shows that road crashes have emerged as single biggest killer of people in the age group of 15-45, making it a major pandemic. Strong political will

and leadership is need of the hour to address the issue. Existing road safety enforcement systems are outdated and needs urgent revision to meet needs of present times.

Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety

It was adopted at 2nd Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety hosted by Brazil and WHO in November 2015. It calls for member countries to reduce the number of road accidents and deaths to half by the year 2020. India had signed this declaration in 2015.

Notes

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World Migratory Bird Day: May 11



Every year World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is twice a year second Saturday in May and in October with objective of raising awareness and highlighting need for the protection of migratory birds and their habitats. First WMBD 2019 was observed on 11 May 2019. Its theme was “Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution!”. It seeks to put the spotlight on the negative impact of plastic pollution on migratory birds and their habitats.

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)

It is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the protection of migratory birds and their habitats. It was initiated as annual day in 2006 and from 2018, it is celebrated twice a year, on the second Saturday in May and in October.

It is organized by two international wildlife treaties administered by UN Environment Programme (UNEP) – Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) along with Environment for the Americas (EFTA).

Criczone: Women only first cricket magazine launched



The inaugural issue of world's first exclusive women's cricket magazine 'Criczone' was released recently. The first edition of this magazine features Indian women's cricket team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana on cover story. It was launched on sidelines of inauguration of upcoming women's T20 challenge in Jaipur, Rajasthan. This event was attended by top international women cricketers including Mithali Raj, Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Sophie Devine and Danielle Wyatt.

Criczone

It is the first sports magazine in the world to feature only women cricketers. It aims to be one stop solution, exclusively dedicated to providing updates, articles, news, interviews etc. from the world of women's cricket. Its stories will seek to empower young aspiring women cricketers to take the sport as a profession and able to make sustainable living. Its publisher is Yash Lahoti.

May 12: International Nurse Day



The International Nurse Day (IND) is observed every year across the world on May 12 to mark the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. It also celebrates supreme contribution of nurses towards the society, healthcare and wellbeing of people. (Note: May 12 is celebrated as Mother's Day)

The theme chosen by International Council of Nurses (ICN) for 2019 IND was '*Nurses: A voice to lead - Health for All*'. It focuses on need for nurses to become more active and vocal in policy development and implementation.

On this occasion, every year President of India conferred National Florence Nightingale Awards to nursing personnel from across the country for selfless services rendered by nurses with devotion, sincerity, dedication and compassion.

Background

The history of International Nurses Day dates back to 1965 when it was officially proclaimed and celebrated for first time by International Council of Nurses (ICN). It was first proposed by Dorothy Sutherland, officer from United States (US) Department of Health, Education and Welfare in 1953.

Why May 12? The date was chose to celebrate birth anniversary Florence Nightingale, of the founder of modern nursing and was famous as manager and trainer of nurses during Crimean War. She was born on May 12, 1820.

International Day of Families: 15 May



The International Day of Families is observed every year across world on 15th May. The purpose of this day is to promote awareness of issues related to families and increase knowledge about social, economic and demographic progression that affects families which are the basic unit of society.

2019 Theme

“Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG 13”. It focuses on families, family policies and advancing major SDG 13 targets –

SDG 13 target 13.2: Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.

SDG 13 target 13.3: Improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

Background

The International Day of Families was proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1993 by adopting resolution A/RES/47/237. Its objective is to reflect importance international community attaches to families and promote awareness of issues relating to families. Every year UN secretary-general makes to particular applicable motto (theme) attention to celebrate this day.

GLOBAL DRUG SURVEY 2019: Indians top to reduce drugs intake



According to recent global survey of recreational drug-use has found that Indians-more than from other nationalities surveyed are seeking help to reduce their alcohol intake. The survey was titled Global Drugs Survey (GDS) 2019 and for the first time polled respondents from

GDS 2019 Findings for India

For the first time it polled respondents from India (surveyed online October-December 2018,). It found that alcohol, tobacco and cannabis were the most common stimulants used by Indians.

Indians reported 'being drunk' on average of 41 times in last 12 months behind UK, US, Canada, Australia and Denmark but well above the global average of 33 times.

Indians are more than from other nationalities are seeking help to reduce their alcohol intake. 51%% of Indian respondents wanted to 'drink less' in the following year.

43% of surveyed Indians reported using cannabis but, similar to alcohol use. 51%% of Indian said they wanted to use 'less cannabis' in the following year; more than any other nationality.

About 6%% of female Indians surveyed reported seeking 'emergency medical treatment'. The global female average was about 13%.

None of the males in India surveyed reported seeking medical treatment, compared to the global average of 12%.

Global Findings in GDS 2019

Apart from alcohol and tobacco, the most used drugs globally were cannabis, cocaine, amphetamines, MDMA (or Ecstasy), LSD (or 'acid'), magic

mushrooms, benzodiazepines, prescription opioids, ketamine, nitrous oxide. Globally approximately 14% (11,000) reported being taken advantage of sexually while intoxicated in their lifetime. There were no figures from India available.

Global Drug Survey (GDS)

It is an independent research organisation based in London, UK. It runs largest global survey of recreational drug-use. It is anonymised, online survey that uses detailed questionnaire to assess trends in drug use and self-reported harms among regular drug users and early adopters of new trends. 2019 GDS was 8th annual report published by it.

Notes

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STRI: India finds OECD index for services trade faulty



India has found problems with current methodology of Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI) computed by OCED as biased and counter-intuitive. It shows Indian services sector as highly restrictive in areas such as FDI.

Grievances against STRI by India

According to study commissioned by Union Ministry of Commerce and Industries has found that this index has large number problems associated with it, including some significant design issues that render it impractical for use,

For example, it show Indian services sector as one of most restrictive, particularly in policy areas like foreign entry. It is against the current reality that FDI is one of the areas that has seen maximum liberalisation in India since 1991.

STRI has both theoretical and empirical inconsistencies in its methodology. For example, change in regulatory measures in one policy area can lead to dramatic changes in another policy area which is not very useful for policy purposes.

In addition, the data of STRI seems to have been generated by rather arbitrary procedures and reflects a developed country bias, India has approached several developing countries during recently-concluded WTO talks in New Delhi to try to build consensus around new method of measuring trade restrictiveness in services sector.

Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI)

It was launched by Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 2014. It ranks countries based on their services trade policies. In 2018 edition it has covered and ranked total of 45 economies (36 OECD and the rest non-OECD) and 22 sectors. These countries and sectors represent over 80% of global trade in services.

Notes

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World Telecommunication and Information Society Day: May 17



The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is observed every 17 May to mark anniversary of signing of first International Telegraph Convention (ITC) and creation of International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The purpose of the day is to help raise awareness of possibilities that use of Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge digital divide. This year it is 50th anniversary of WTISD and is celebrated annually since 1969. It is celebrated to mark founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865.

The 2019 Theme is **"Bridging the standardization gap"**. It seeks highlight importance of ITU standards in accelerating ICTs for all Sustainable Development Goals. It also seeks to allow participation of developing countries in ITU's standards-making process.

About International Telecommunications Union (ITU)

It is United Nations specialised agency that coordinate telecommunication operations and services throughout world. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

It was originally founded in 1865, as International Telegraph Union. This makes it oldest existing international organization. It is member of UNDP.

Membership: It has total 193 countries as its members and also 800 private-sector entities such like carriers, equipment manufacturers and academic institutions etc,

It consists of three sectors: (i) Radiocommunication (ITU-R): It ensures optimal, fair and rational use of the radio frequency (RF) spectrum. (ii) Telecommunication Standardization (ITU-T): It formulates recommendations for standardizing telecommunication operations worldwide. (iii) Telecommunication Development (ITU-D): It assists countries in developing and maintaining internal communication operations.

Functions: It sets and publishes regulations and standards relevant to electronic communication and broadcasting technologies of all kinds including radio, television, telephone, satellite and internet. It helps emerging countries to establish and develop telecommunication systems of their own. It conducts working parties, study groups and meetings to address current and future issues and to resolve disputes. Its recommendations are non-binding but its member countries adhere to them in interest of maintaining effective international electronic communication environment. It organizes and conducts exhibition and forum known as the Global TELECOM every four years.

India and ITU: India is active member of ITU since 1869. It has been regular member of ITU Council since 1952. In November 2018, India was elected as Member of the ITU Council for another 4-year term (2019-2022). In March 2019, ITU had decided to set up ITU South Asia Area Office and Technology Innovation Centre in New Delhi.

Notes

International Museum Day: May 18



The International Museum Day is observed every year across the world on May 18 across to raise awareness on how important museums are in the development of society. The 2019 theme was 'Museums as Cultural Hubs: The future of tradition'.

Background

The International Museum Day was proclaimed by International Council of Museums (ICOM) in 1977. Its objective is to raise awareness of museums as important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples.

International Council of Museum (ICOM)

It is the nodal and only organisation of museums and museum professionals with global scope. It is committed to promotion and protection of natural and cultural heritage, present and future, tangible and intangible. It was established in 1946. It is headquartered in Paris, France. It serves as network of museum professionals acting in wide range of museum- and heritage-related disciplines. It has more than 35,000 members in 137 countries.

World Metrology Day: May 20



The World Metrology Day is celebrated every year across the world on May 20. The day commemorates anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875. The theme for this year is "The International System of Units - Fundamentally better."

Metre Convention of 1875

It was signed by representatives of seventeen nations on 20 May 1875. It has set framework for global collaboration in science of measurement and in its industrial, commercial and societal applications. Its original aim was to bring world-wide uniformity of measurement and it still remains as important today as it was in 1875. It provides the basis for a coherent measurement system worldwide that underpins scientific discovery and innovation, industrial manufacturing and international trade, as well as the protection of the global environment.

International Organisations

International Organization of Legal Metrology: It is intergovernmental organization that promotes global harmonization of the legal metrology procedures that underpin and facilitate international trade. It was established in 1955 and is headquartered in Paris.

International Bureau of Weights and Measures: It is intergovernmental organization established by Metre Convention. It provides common platform to member states act together on matters related to measurement science and measurement standards.

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and : May 21



The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is observed every year across the world on May 21 to bridge gap between different cultures and promote tolerance. Observance of this day also seeks to help communities understand value of cultural diversity and learn how to live together in harmony.

Background

The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development was proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in November 2002 by adopting Resolution 57/249. It was adopted after UNESCO had adopted Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity in 2001. It aims to help communities understand value of cultural diversity and learn how to live together in harmony. This day was created as a result of destruction of 6th-century monumental Buddha statues (Gandhara style) carved into side of cliff in Bamyán valley in Hazarajat region of central Afghanistan in 2001 by Taliban.

UGC directs universities to observe May 21 as Anti-Terrorism day



The University Grants Commission (UGC) has directed universities and higher educational institutions to observe May 21 as Anti-Terrorism Day to wean the youth away from terrorism. It also suggested activities for the day including debates, discussions, symposium, pledge taking ceremony and screening of films as per recommendations of Ministry of Home Affairs.

Background

The Anti-Terrorism Day is observed every year throughout India on May 21 to spread awareness among people about dangers of terrorism and violence and its effect on people, society and the country as a whole. Its objective is to wean away the people from terrorism and violence and show how it is prejudicial to the national interest. It also aims to promote unity, peace and harmony across the nation.

Why May 21? The day marks the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who was assassinated at an election rally near Chennai by a suicide bomber from Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on 21 May 1991.

World Bee Day: May 20



World Bee Day is celebrated every year across the world on May 20. The purpose of this day is to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem. The theme for year 2019 is "Save the Bees".

Why this date?

May 20 coincides with birth anniversary of Anton Janča, who in 18th century had pioneered modern beekeeping techniques in his native country Slovenia and praised bees for their ability to work so hard, while needing so little attention.

Value of bees

Pollinators like bees, butterflies, bats and hummingbirds allow many plants, including many food crops, to reproduce. A third of the world's food production depends on bees. Bees are vital for preservation of ecological balance, biodiversity in nature and help reduce pollution.

They not only contribute directly to food security, but they are key to conserving biodiversity - a cornerstone of Sustainable Development Goals. They also serve as sentinels for emerging environmental risks and signal health of local ecosystems.

They are increasingly under threat from human activities. Invasive insects, land-use change, pesticides and monocropping practices may reduce available nutrients and poses greatest threats to bee colonies.

Background

The World Bee Day was proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by unanimously passing resolution proposed by Slovenia in December 2017. It is aimed at highlighting importance of preservation of bees and their significance for humanity. It also calls for the adoption of specific conservation measures.

International Day for Biological Diversity: May 22



International Day for Biological Diversity is celebrated every year on 22 May to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. This day marks coming in force of Convention on Biological Diversity at United Nations Environment Programme Headquarters, Nairobi on 22 May 1992. This day was proclaimed by UN General Assembly in 2000 via resolution 55/201.

2019 Theme

“Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health”. It highlights importance of biodiversity as foundation for our food and health. It aims to leverage knowledge and spread awareness of dependency of food systems, nutrition, and health on biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. It also celebrates diversity provided by natural systems for human existence and well-being on Earth, while contributing to other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including climate change mitigation and adaptation, ecosystems restoration, cleaner water and zero hunger, among others.

Impact of human diet on Biodiversity

The global diet as a whole is becoming more homogenized, and which is dangerous thing. In the last 100 years, more than 90% of crop varieties have disappeared from farmers' fields. Locally-varied food production systems are under threat, including indigenous, traditional and local knowledge.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

It is the international legal instrument for "the conservation of biological diversity" that has been ratified by 196 nations including India.

It is legally binding document. It is outcome of Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit 1992 and entered into force in December 1993.

Objectives: (i) Conservation of biodiversity, (ii) Sustainable use of its components and (iii) Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.

Notes

STUDY IQ

Gender diversity good for businesses: UN-ILO Report



According to recently released report titled “Women in Business and Management: The business case for change”, companies that improve gender diversity especially at the top perform better and rake in higher profits. It also noted that countries that increase women employment see better economic growth.

About report

It was released by United Nation’s (UN) International Labour Organization (ILO). Its findings are based on a survey of nearly 13,000 companies across 70 countries. It also had analysed data from 186 countries between 1991 and 2017,

Key findings of the report

Gender diversity is smart business strategy and companies that improve gender diversity perform better and reported higher profits hikes between 5 to 20%.

Growing number of women at top has made it easier to attract and retain talent. Besides there are improvements in creativity, innovation and openness. Moreover, effective gender inclusivity enhanced their company’s reputation.

Countries that increase women employment also see better economic growth. Thus, it is necessary to look at gender balance as bottom-line issue, not just a human resources issue.

World Thyroid Day observed on May 25



The World Thyroid Awareness Day is observed every year across the world on May 25 to spread awareness of thyroid health and educating about prevention and treatment of thyroid diseases. The objective of this day seeks to highlight five major goals to: (i) increase awareness of thyroid health, (ii) promote understanding of advances made in treating thyroid diseases, (iii) emphasize prevalence of thyroid diseases, (iv) focus on urgent need for education and prevention programs and (vi) expand awareness of new treatment modalities.

Thyroid gland

It is often referred to as simply thyroid, is one of the largest endocrine glands. It butterfly-shaped gland located in neck.

Its health is extremely important, as hormones produced by it influence critical body functions and regulate metabolism.

Disorders related to it are very common worldwide and they affect people of all ages and have large range of symptoms.

The most common thyroid disorders include hyperthyroidism (abnormally increased thyroid activity), thyroiditis or Goitre (inflammation of thyroid gland), hypothyroidism (abnormally decreased thyroid activity) and thyroid cancer.

They are often caused by iodine deficiency.

Background

The World Thyroid Awareness Day was officially proclaimed by European Thyroid Association (ETA) and American Thyroid Association (ATA). This day is devoted globally to Thyroid Gland and its numerous and often 'invisible' symptoms. It was observed for the first time in 2009 and since then, it is celebrated annually across the globe together with its extension, International Thyroid Awareness Week, which surrounds main Day.

International Day of UN Peacekeepers: May 29



The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is observed every year across the world on May 29, 2019. Observance of this day aims to pay tribute to invaluable contribution of civilian personnel and honours UN peacekeepers who have sacrificed their lives while rendering peacekeeping services. It also commemorates establishment of first UN peacekeeping mission on May 29, 1948. The theme of 2019 International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was "Protecting Civilians, Protecting Peace".

Background

The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was officially proclaimed by UN General Assembly (UNGA) by adopting Resolution 57/129 in December 2002. The day was instituted on official request of Government of Ukraine and Ukrainian Peacekeepers Association to the UNGA. It was first celebrated in 2003.

Why May 29? The May 29 marks the anniversary of establishment of UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in 1948. It was first UN peacekeeping mission established to monitor ceasefire after Arab-Israeli War 1948.

India has 20 health workers for 10,000 people: NSSO study



According to recent study of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), India has 20.6 health workers per 10,000 people. It is less than World health Organisation's (WHO) minimum threshold of 22.8 per 10000 people.

Findings of Study

- The numbers have increased from 19 health workers per 10000 people in 2012. This shows that India is moving in the right direction and size of the health workforce is steadily improving
- **Distribution of health workers:** It is highly uneven between urban and rural areas. Rural areas with nearly 71% of India's population have only 36% of health workers.
- Delhi has highest concentration of health workers followed by Kerala, Punjab, and Haryana.
- **Private vs Public Health Sector:** There is also uneven distribution of health workers is seen in private and public health sector. More than 80% of doctors and 70% of nurses and midwives are employed in the private sector.
- **Recommendations:** The Government policy should focus on enhancing quality of health workers and bringing professionally qualified persons into the health workforce.
- There is need for public sector and private sector collaboration to overcome the shortages in human resources for health sector.

World No Tobacco Day: May 31



The World No-Tobacco Day (WNTD) is observed every year across the world on 31 May. This day aims to spread awareness about health risks associated with consumption all forms of tobacco and advocates for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption. The theme for this year is **"Don't let tobacco take your breath away - Choose Health Not Tobacco"**. Focus of World No Tobacco Day 2019: **"Tobacco and lung health"**. It aims to increase awareness on negative impact that tobacco has on people's lung health, from cancer to chronic respiratory disease and fundamental role lungs play for the health and well-being of all people

Background

The World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) was instituted by World Health Assembly, the highest decision-making body of World Health Organisation (WHO) in 1999. Since then, is observed annually every year with different tobacco-related theme. It is one of eight official global public health campaigns or days observed by WHO. The purpose of observing this day is to raise awareness on harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure, and to discourage the use of tobacco in any form.



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