

Current Affairs=23/24-05-2020



India becomes world's second largest manufacturer of PPE body coveralls after China

India has become the **second-largest producer of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) kits in the world**, only behind **China**.

The Ministry of Textile has taken several steps to ensure both quality and quantity of PPE coveralls, to help India rise from zero to second largest in the world, within a very short span of time of two months.

The ministry is also taking steps to ensure that only certified players across the entire supply chain are allowed to supply body coveralls to governments.

Govt amends General Financial Rules to ensure procurement of goods & services below Rs 200 crore from domestic firms

The government has notified amendments to **General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017** to ensure that **goods and services** valued less than **Rs 200 crore are procured from domestic firms**. This will give big boost to domestic suppliers, especially micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The amendments will ensure that henceforth global tenders will be disallowed in government procurement up to Rs 200 crore, as announced in the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Package.

Govt forms high level panel to recommend reforms in India's drug regulatory system; Head- Rajesh Bhushan

The central government has formed a **high-level committee of experts** to recommend reforms in **India's drug regulatory system** so that approval processes can be fast-tracked.

The committee is headed by **Rajesh Bhushan, the OSD to the Union health minister**.

The committee will study the current drug regulatory system and submit recommendations for reforms, so as to bring the system in line with global standards and make it more efficient.

India Launches Five initiatives to share its best practices and experiences in conserving biodiversity with the rest of the world

The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar virtually launched five key initiatives towards conservation of biodiversity on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May 2020.

These include:



1. National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 'Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme' which proposes to engage 20 students with postgraduate degrees for a period of one year through an open, transparent, online competitive process.
2. Launch of UNEP Campaign on Illegal Trafficking of Endangered Species: 'Not all Animals Migrate by Choice'.
3. A Webinar Series on 'Biodiversity Conservation and Biological Diversity Act, 2002'
4. WWF Model Conference of Parties (MCoP), to involve the younger generation so they engage in conversations around impact of humanity's footprint on biodiversity.
5. An awareness campaign supported by WWF to highlight the crucial role played by nature through its free ecological services provided for humankind.

Chhattisgarh govt to observe May 25 as 'Jhiram Tribute Diwas'

The state government of Chhattisgarh will observe May 25, 2020 as 'Jhiram Shradhanjali Diwas' or 'Jhiram Tribute Diwas'.

Naxals had attacked a convoy of Congress leaders during the party's rally in Jhiram valley on May 25, 2013. In this attack, 29 people were killed including then state Congress chief Nand Kumar Patel, former leader of opposition Mahendra Karma and former Union minister Vidyacharan Shukla.

The day will be observed to pay tribute to Congress leaders who were killed in a Maoist attack in Jhiram Valley.

Indian economist, Abhas Jha appointed to key World Bank position in South Asia



Indian economist, **Abhas Jha** has been appointed as the **Practice Manager for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management for South Asia at World Bank.**

Abhas Jha's appointment comes at a time when Cyclone Amphan has badly hit West Bengal, Orissa in India and Bangladesh.

Naomi Osaka tops Forbes world's highest-paid female athlete list 2020

Japanese tennis player Naomi Osaka has become the **world's highest-paid female athlete**. She has replaced US rival, Serena Williams, from the top spot.

Osaka's had an earning of \$37.4 million while Serena Williams had an earning of \$36 million.

International Missing Children's Day: 25 May



Every year, 25 May is observed as International Missing Children's Day (IMCD) around the world to commemorate the missing children who have found their way home, remember those who have been victims of crime, and continue efforts to find those who are still

missing.

The symbol for IMCD is the forget-me-not flower.

The day was proclaimed in 1983, by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

The first IMCD was observed in 2001 through the joint efforts of the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC), Missing Children Europe, and the European Commission.

Uttarakhand becomes the first state to release report on conservation of endemic, threatened floras

Uttarakhand has become the first state to release a unique report on conservation of endemic, threatened floras.

The report highlights the conservation efforts of the state to save over 1,100 rare plants from extinction.