

Weekly Current Affairs

25 May - 31 May 2020

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NATIONAL NEWS

1. Govt extends validity of vehicle documents till July 31

- The government has extended the validity of various motor vehicles related documents till July 31. No additional or late fee will be charged for delays in validation of documents pending from February 1.
- The ministry has earlier issued an advisory on March 30, 2020, to all regarding extension of validity of the documents related to Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989.
- It was advised that documents whose extension of validity could not or not likely be granted due to lock-down and which have expired since 1st of Feb, 2020 or would expire till 30th June 2020, Enforcement authorities were advised to treat such documents valid till 30th of June, 2020.
- But now this extension has been increased to 31 July.

2. India's KHUDOL initiative declared one of Top 10 Global Initiatives to fight COVID-19

- The United Nations listed the KHUDOL initiative of Manipur as one of the top 10 global initiatives to fight against COVID-19. KHUDOL is an initiative of a NGO called Ya_All.
- Under the initiative, the NGO provides food, hygiene and health of LGBTQ community, daily wage workers, people with AIDS.
- Through the volunteers the organization distributed 1000 health kits, 1500 condoms and 6500 sanitary pads.

3. Mizoram grants 'industry' status to sports to generate employment

- The north eastern Indian state Mizoram has accorded 'industry' status to sports. The Cabinet cleared the Sports and Youth Service department's proposal to recognise sports as an 'industry' in the state.
- The main aim of the decision is to professionalise sports in the state.
- Mizoram is known for its love for sports, especially football which is played competitively through the Mizoram Premier League, the state's highest football league.
- At least 100 Mizo players are part of the Indian Super League, one of the top premier football leagues in India.

4. Former Supreme Court Justice A K Sikri inaugurates Indian Dispute Resolution Centre

- Former Supreme Court judge Justice A K Sikri has inaugurated the Indian Dispute Resolution Centre (IDRC), which provides a paperless dispute resolution environment. The centre offers offline as well as e-alternate dispute resolution (ADR) facility through its state-of-the-art e-arbitration, e-mediation and e-conciliation software portal.
- It provides a completely paperless dispute resolution environment.
- The IDRCs are located at strategic commercial places in the country with its head office in Connaught Place in New Delhi.

5. Nitin Gadkari inaugurates breakthrough event of Chamba Tunnel under “Char dham Pariyojana”

- In a boost to the Rs 12,000 crore "Char Dham" project to connect Gangotri, Kedarnath, Yamunotri and Badrinath, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has achieved a milestone in construction of a tunnel below the densely populated Chamba town on Rishikesh-Dharasu road (NH-94) in Uttarakhand.
- Latest Austrian technology has been used in construction of the Chamba tunnel.
- The tunnel will be through for traffic by October 2020 almost three months before its scheduled date of completion of January 2021.
- The 6 km road and 450 metre tunnel is being constructed at a cost of Rs 88 crore.

6. PM Modi pays tribute to former PM Jawaharlal Nehru on his death anniversary

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 27 May paid tribute to India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on his 56th death anniversary.
- Nehru was born in Allahabad (now Prayagraj) on November 14, 1889. He died in Delhi on May 27, 1964.
- One of the principal leaders of the Indian freedom struggle along with Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru became the first prime minister of the country after Independence, a post which he held till his death. He died at the age of 74.
- Nehru is known as an architect of modern India.

7. India's GDP growth is expected to reach 1.2% in Q4 FY20: SBI Ecowrap report

- According to the State Bank of India's (SBI) Ecowrap report India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated to grow at 1.2% in the last quarter (Q4) of FY20 as economic activity came to a halt since last week of March due to the nationwide lockdown.
- The GDP is likely to be 4.2% for FY20 and (-)6.8% for FY21. The gross value added (GVA) growth would be nearly (-) 3.1% for FY21
- The estimates in the report are based on an assessment of current trends which may change rapidly as the cyclone disaster in West Bengal & the continued return of migrant labourers.

8. J&K's Dharmarth Trust cancels annual "Kheer Bhawani Mela" due to Pandemic

- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Annual Kheer Bhawani Mela on 30th May this year in Tulmulla village of Ganderbal district has been cancelled because of outbreak of Coronavirus pandemic.
- The devotees have been asked to cooperate with the authorities and perform the worship of the Goddess at their homes only. However, the holy rituals and Aarti of the Deity will be conducted as per the tradition which will be shared with the devotees via social media.
- Kheer Bhawani Mela is one of the biggest religious functions of Kashmiri Pandit Community.
- It is believed and rather has been seen that the colour of the water in the spring around the Kheer Bhawani Temple changes with the change in the circumstances of the Kashmir valley.

9. Chhattisgarh to give agriculture status to lac cultivation

- The Chhattisgarh government has decided to consider lac cultivation as an agriculture activity in the state and promote its farming as a livelihood option for farmers, particularly those living in remote and forest areas.
- Lac is a scarlet-coloured resin secreted by an insect called 'laccifer' or 'kerria lacca' that makes its home on trees. The resin is scraped off from trees, dried and processed to form lac which is used in jewellery and leather industries.
- Once lac farming gets the status of agriculture, farmers associated with its production would be able to avail loans via co-operative societies, like other cultivators.

10. NGMA commemorates 115th Birth Anniversary of Ramkinkar Baij


- The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) organised a virtual tour to commemorate the 115th Birth Anniversary of iconic artist Ramkinkar Baij. The virtual tour was titled as “Ramkinkar Baij | Journey through silent transformation and expressions” and was conducted in five different themes namely: Portrait, Life Study, Abstract & Structural Composition, Nature Study & Landscape, Sculptures.
- Ramkinkar Baij was the one of the most seminal artists of modern India. He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan Award by the Government of India in 1970, for his irrefutable contribution to Indian art.

11. PM pays tributes to Savarkar on the birth anniversary

- Prime Minister, Narendra Modi paid tribute to Vinayak Damodar Savarkar on his birth anniversary in Pune.
- Savarkar founded the “Abhinav Bharat Society”.
- He was also involved in the Swadeshi movement and later joined Tilak’s Swaraj Party.
- In 1920, many prominent freedom fighters including Vithalbhai Patel, Mahatma Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak demanded the release of Savarkar.
- On May 2, 1921, Savarkar was moved to Ratnagiri jail, and from there to the Yeravada jail. In Ratnagiri jail Savarkar wrote the book ‘Hindutva: who is hindu?’
- Vinayak Savarkar was a president of Hindu Mahasabha from 1937 to 1943.

12. Karnataka Government launched First of its Kind “State Health Register” for citizens

- The Karnataka State Government announced that it will launch a “State Health Register” to collect data of all its citizens. The register is first of its kind in the country.
- The register will hold names of all the citizens of the state.
- The need to maintain such a register has been raised by COVID-19.
- The project is to be launched from Chikkaballapur district in Karnataka.
- The survey is to be conducted through ASHA workers, educational department staffs, staffs in primary health centre and revenue officials.



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13. Finance Minister chaired 22nd Financial Stability and Development Council meeting

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired Financial Stability and Development Council meet.
- The meeting reviewed current domestic and global economic situation, financial vulnerabilities issues, liquidity of Micro financial institutions, Non- Banking Financial corporations, regulatory responses, etc.
- The financial stability and development council is an apex body constituted by GoI.
- The Council was set up in 2010 by the then Finance Minister Pranab Mukerjee.
- The Council deals with issues such as financial sector development, financial stability, inter-regulatory coordination, financial inclusion, financial literacy.

14. Maharashtra Gov modified The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 .

- The notification issued on May 18, 2020, stated that the Governor of Maharashtra Bhagat Singh Koshyari has made certain modifications in Section 6 of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, (also called as Forest Rights Act-FRA) in its application to the Scheduled Areas of the State of Maharashtra, by exercising the powers conferred upon him by Schedule V of the Constitution.
- Modification is to provide justice to the tribals whose Individual Forest rights or Community Forest rights have been rejected by the District Level Committee(DLC) constituted under FRA.
- As per the modification a provision has been incorporated to enable rightful claimants of the forest rights to appeal against the Order of the DLC.

15. . Salman Khan launches grooming and personal care brand FRSH

- Superstar Salman Khan has launched his own grooming and personal care brand FRSH.
- Considering the importance of hygiene and sanitisation during the coronavirus pandemic, Salman said he decided to launch a sanitiser as the first product under the brand.
- Other products will also be launched soon and can be purchased from <http://frshworld.com>.
- The products will also be available at various stores across the country once the supply begins.
- Salman already owns an apparel brand under Being Human - The Salman Khan Foundation, a charitable trust devoted to education and healthcare initiatives for the underprivileged in India.

International News & Foreign Affairs**1. USA withdraws from Open Skies treaty**

- The Treaty on Open Skies was signed in 2002 and recently US President Donald Trump has announced that the USA is to withdraw from Open Skies treaty accusing that Russia has not stuck to its part of the deal.
- This is the third international arms pact inline from which the US has pulled out since Donald Trump become President.

2. China successfully tests its first unmanned high-altitude helicopter drone

- China's first unmanned helicopter drone, AR500C unmanned helicopter, made its maiden flight at an AVIC base in Poyang in East China's Jiangxi Province. The drone was developed by the state-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC).
- China's first unmanned helicopter can take off at an elevation of 5,000 metres and has a ceiling of 6,700 metres.

3. China will launch its first Mars mission, the 'Tianwen-1' in July

- In July, China will launch its first Mars mission, the 'Tianwen-1', which is expected to land on the Red Planet's surface in the first quarter of 2021. Tianwen-1, an all-in-one orbiter, lander and rover will search the Martian surface for water, ice, investigate soil characteristics, and study the atmosphere, among other objectives.
- The Tianwen-1 mission will lift off on a Long March 5 rocket. The success of the mission will make
- China the third country to achieve a Mars landing after the USSR and the United States.
- The Chinese mission is expected to take off in late July, around the same time when NASA is launching its own Mars mission– the ambitious 'Perseverance' which aims to collect Martian samples and bring them back to Earth in a two-part campaign.

New Appointments and Person in News

1. Jahnabi Phookan appointed as National President of FICCI Ladies organisatio(FLO)

- Jahnabi Phookan was appointed as the 37th National President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Ladies Organization (FLO). She took over the position from Harjinder Kaur Talwar at the 36th FLO session in the presence of Om Birla, Lok Sabha Speaker. She was the founder member and founder Vice Chairperson of FLO North East chapter in 2007.
- FLO is the oldest women-led and -focused business chamber of Southeast Asia and the

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Women's wing of the apex chamber FICCI.

- The Objective of FLO is to encourage women to promote their talents, skills, experience and energies in many sectors.

2.PK Nair has been appointed as the Ambassador to Republic of Niger

- The government announced the appointment of Prem K Nair as Indian Ambassador to Niger.
- Mr Nair is currently posted as Consul General of India to Hambantota
- He is expected to take up the assignment shortly. Niger is a landlocked country in West Africa named after the Niger River.

3. Brazil's Marcos Prado Troyjo elected as new President of NDB

- The New Development Bank of the BRICS countries has designated Brazil's Marcos Prado Troyjo as its President. He will succeed eminent Indian banker Kundapur Vaman Kamath who took over as the first president of the bank in 2015. The decision regarding appointment was taken during the special virtual meeting of the Board of Governors.
- The Board also appointed Anil Kishora of the State Bank of India (SBI), as the vice president of the NDB to assist the emerging economies in infrastructure development loans.
- According to the Articles of Agreement (AoA) of the NDB, the Board of Governors elects a president from one of the founding member countries on a rotational basis. The president is the chief of the operating staff of the Bank, conducting ordinary business, under the direction of the Directors.

4.IOC appoints Narinder Batra as member of Olympic Channel Commission

- Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra, 63 years old, was appointed as a member of the Olympic Channel Commission. Badra also heads the International Hockey Federation (FIH).
- Batra also served as the president of Hockey India (2014-2016) and Asian Hockey Federation (2003-2013). He was also the treasurer of Delhi & District Cricket Association between 2003 to 2013.
- The Olympic Channel Commission advises the IOC (International Olympic Committee) session, the IOC Executive Board, the IOC President & provides guidance throughout the launch and operation of the Olympic Channel.

BANKING

1. LIC launches modified PM Vaya Vandana Yojana pension scheme for senior citizens

- Life Insurance Corporation of India(LIC) announced the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana-PMVVY (Modified- 2020) Scheme for those over and above 60 years. The sale will be available from May 26 for 3 financial years(up to March 31, 2023). This scheme can be purchased offline as well as online from LIC website.
- The Union Cabinet has recently extended the pension plan till 31 March 2023 which is a social security scheme for senior citizens.

2. Indian govt and ADB sign 177 million USD agreement to upgrade Maharashtra State Highways

- On May 28, 2020, the Government of India and the Asian Development Bank signed an agreement to construct state highways in Maharashtra.
- The funds received from the bank are to be used by the State Government of Maharashtra to improve road projects. The projects will be used to increase connectivity between urban and rural areas. This will help in increasing access to markets and employment opportunities.

3. SEBI imposes a penalty of Rs 7,00,000 on NHAI for delaying financial results

- Capital markets regulator SEBI imposed a penalty of Rs 7 lakh on the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for delay in making timely disclosure about financial results. SEBI had conducted an examination in the matter of NHAI from the financial year 2015-16 to 2018-19.
- During its investigation, SEBI found that NHAI delayed filing of its half-yearly financial results by 4 days to 78 days between 2015-16 to 2018-19. The regulator had advised NHAI for strict compliance with the LODR (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirement) Regulations in future.
- However, despite the advisory by SEBI, NHAI did not submit the financial results on time with respect to the half year ending on September 30, 2018 and March 31, 2019. The results were submitted with a delay of 19 days and 78 days, respectively.

4. NPCI launches AI virtual assistant ‘PAi’

- National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched an artificial intelligence (AI) based chatbot, ‘PAi’. The chatbot has been created to spread awareness around its products like FASTag, RuPay, UPI, AePS on a real-time basis.
- This is yet another NPCI’s initiative to improve digital financial inclusion in India. The AI virtual assistant, PAi is available round the clock helping users with access to accurate information on NPCI products.
- Customers can ask their queries in English and Hindi, via text or voice on the websites of NPCI, RuPay, and UPI Chalega. PAi is developed by Bengaluru based startup CoRover Private Limited.

Awards and Books

1. Indian Army Major “Suman Gawani” to be honoured with UN Military Gender Advocate award

- Major Suman Gawani, an Indian Army officer and woman peacekeeper who has served with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), has been selected for the prestigious United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award (2019).
- She has been awarded for her outstanding contribution to peacekeeping efforts in the UNMISS.
- This is the first time that an Indian peacekeeper is being given the UN Military Gender Advocate award.
- Created in 2016, the award honours the dedication and effort of individual military peacekeepers in promoting the UN principles on Women, Peace and Security in peace operations as nominated by Heads and Force Commanders of peace operations.
- Major Gawani was scheduled to visit New York for the award ceremony but due to COVID-10 pandemic, she will receive the award during an online ceremony.

2. IBM scientist Dr. Rajiv Joshi won the NYIPLA Inventor of the year Award 2020

- IBM Academy of Technology member Dr. Rajiv Joshi, an Indian-American scientist won The New York Intellectual Property Law Association (NYIPLA) 2020 Inventor of the Year Award, to honour for his work in advancing the electronic industry and improving artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities. He received the award through an online interview.
- Dr. Joshi's inventions like novel interconnect process technology for scaling, machine learning techniques for predictive failure analytics, high bandwidth, high performance and low power integrated circuits and memories and their usage in hardware accelerators for the applications in AI helps in advancing day-to-day life, global communications, medical fields etc.

3. JK Rowling releases children's book 'The Ickabog' online for free

- Harry Potter author JK Rowling released a new online Children's book named 'The Ickabog' to entertain children during Coronavirus lockdown. The new story will be serialized with a couple of chapters released for free online and posted on "The Ickabog" website every weekday from May 26, 2020 to July 10, 2020 in instalments.
- This is the first book of author JK Rowling aimed at children since "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows".
- The author also wrote books for adults — 'The Casual Vacancy' and 'The Cuckoo's Calling' (under the pseudonym of Robert Galbraith). Rowling will be donating her author royalties from this book to projects & organisations helping the groups most affected by COVID-19.

Science Tech & Defence

1. WHO adopts "Human Challenge Trial" to develop new vaccine for COVID-19

- The World Health Organization (WHO) recently announced eight candidates to enter human trials. Several people step forward to participate in human challenge trial as the race to develop new vaccine for the virus is increasing.
- The trial involves infecting volunteers intentionally with COVID-19 virus. This is done to speed up the process of vaccine development.
- The main benefit of the human challenge trial is that it accelerates testing. Many efficacious vaccines shall be available more quickly. Also, the number of people required in phase 3 of these trials is less than the regular trials.

2. India sets up military war game centre called 'INDIA' for Ugandan Defence forces in Jinja

- The Indian Association Uganda (IAU) and Indian Military Advisory and Training Team for Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) have jointly set up military war game centre called 'INDIA' at the Uganda Senior Command and Staff College in Kimaka in Jinja District of Uganda with a cost of over 1 billion Ugandan shillings or \$2,65,000.
- The centre was inaugurated by the Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. The center will not only help the college but also strongly support UPDF's transformation. In addition to Uganda, the East African region will also get benefitted in training peacekeeping troops that would cross the continent and beyond.

3. Fintech startup Zaggie ties up with Visa to launch innovative payments solutions for SMEs & startups

- Fintech startup Zaggie informed that it has partnered with payments technology major Visa to launch innovative payment solutions for Small and Medium Enterprises(SMEs) and startups so as to enhance productivity, efficiency, automate processes, reduce costs & focus on easy and fast credit with a unique card which will have forex, prepaid & credit.
- The platform will add over 600 SMEs every month. Special emphasis is placed on SMEs in the country who have been severely affected by the pandemic which will benefit with a credit line, digitized spending and ability to borrow more by being able to show more digital transactions. Zaggie will open this platform to a million SMEs.

4. Army Commanders Conference to be organised in two phases

- The Army Commanders' Conference, an apex level biannual event which was scheduled for April 2020 and postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic, will now be organised in two phases.
- The first phase of the conference will commence from 27 May which will continue till 29th of this month.
- The second phase will be held in the last week of June 2020. The apex level leadership of Indian Army will brainstorm on current emerging security and administrative challenges and chart the future course for Indian Army.
- The Army Commanders' Conference was scheduled for April and had to be postponed due to COVID-19. It is an apex biannual event that facilitates conceptual level deliberations leading to important policy decisions. The conference's first phase will be held at the South Block in Delhi.

5. Flipkart signs MoU with Karnataka State Mango Department to support farmers to sell mango online

- The Karnataka State Mango Department and Marketing Corporation Ltd.(KSMD&MCL) and Flipkart signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to support the mango farmers in this mango season to sell their produce through the online platform of Flipkart.
- The Flipkart will provide the platform for the Mango Board Farmer Producer Organisations, sellers, growers and traders by enrolling on the platform.
- The Indian Post Offices will support the delivery of produce to consumers as partners with the Mango Board. This partnership will create a potential revenue to the farmers by providing the needed market access to the consumers in the COVID-19 pandemic situations. To add a range of essentials to the platform, Flipkart has partnered with the Fast moving consumer goods(FMCG) and retail companies.

6. WHO suspended clinical trials of Hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19

- The World Health Organization recently suspended its trials on the efficacy of the drug Hydroxychloroquine in treating COVID-19. The HCQ trial is one of the four mega trials initiated by the organization.
- The four mega trials include HCQ, Lopinavir and Ritonavir, Lopinavir and Ritonavir along with Interferon and Remdesivir.

- In India the drug is mainly recommended for asymptomatic health care workers. It is not used to treat COVID-19 patients.

7. RIL rolls out WhatsApp chatbot to address rights issue queries

- Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has launched a “WhatsApp chatbot” to address rights issue queries of its 2.6 million shareholders on the offering. With a task of executing massive Rs 53,125 crore rights issue amid a nationwide lockdown, RIL has turned to WhatsApp Chatbot which has been developed by Jio Haptik Technologies.

Sports

1. Tennis star Naomi Osaka becomes world’s highest-paid female athlete

- Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka, 22 years old, became the highest-paid female athlete in the world, topping American great Serena Williams. Osaka has been ranked No.1 by the Women’s Tennis Association (WTA). The complete Forbes list, due to be released next week.
- Osaka, a two-time Grand Slam champion, ranks No. 29 on the 2020 Forbes list of the world’s 100 top-paid athletes while Williams is No. 33.
- Naomi Osaka was the winner of 2018 US Open and 2019 Australian Open and has secured lucrative deals with global brands like Procter & Gamble, All Nippon Airways, and Nissin.

2. Meghalaya prepares for National Games 2022 despite COVID-19

- Meghalaya is continuing its efforts in preparing for the 39th edition of the National Games in 2022 despite the prevailing health scenario caused by COVID-19.
- The Union Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment has sanctioned Rs 200 crore for construction of a disabled-friendly stadium for hosting of the National Games 2022.
- A significant progress has been made in infrastructure planning and team preparation. The 39th Edition of the National Games is slated to be held in the year 2022 in the State of Meghalaya.
- Recently, doubts have been raised on the conduct of the 36th National Games to be hosted by Goa even as the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has finalised October 20, next as the start date for the Goa National Games.

3. United States tennis player Jamie Hampton announces retirement

- American tennis player and former world number 24 Jamie Hampton has announced her retirement from the game.
- She had undergone numerous surgeries in the past few years, but those operations were not successful enough for her return to professional tennis.
- Hampton clinched five International Tennis Federation (ITF) titles during her professional tennis career.
- However, numerous injuries in the last five years as well as six surgeries over an 18-month period in 2014 and 2015 brought a sudden halt to her career.
- Hampton, who reached career-high ranking of World No.24 in July of 2013, concluded by saying that she is now looking forward to the next chapter of her life which will be attending college.

4. Sri Lanka's fast bowler Shehan Madushanka suspended for possessing heroin

- Sri Lankan fast bowler, Shehan Madushanka has been suspended from all forms of cricket with immediate effect for alleged possession of heroin.
- The decision to suspend will stand until the board conducts a full inquiry of the matter.

5. Spanish oldest ever footballer Aritz Aduriz announces retirement

- Spanish footballer, Athletic Bilbao striker Artiz Aduriz announced his retirement at the age of 39 after finding out that he requires prosthetic hip replacement surgery. Aritz Aduriz started with Athletic and also played for the Spanish clubs Valladolid, Mallorca and Valencia.
- In 2010 he won his first Spain cap. In the Spanish Super Cup 2015 final he scored four goals over the two legs and defeated FC Barcelona (5-1) on aggregate to win the title. He won 13 caps for Spain becoming the oldest player to score for Spain in 2016, he scored 141 goals in 296 appearances for Bilbao. He became a member of Spain's Vicente del Bosque's squad in the European Championship 2016, France.

Obituaries

1. Japanese pro wrestler Hana Kimura dies aged 22

- Japanese professional wrestler Hana Kimura died at the age of 22.
- While the cause of death is yet to be ascertained, Kimura had posted a number of troubling social media posts in recent days.
- Kimura is said to have been the target of hundreds of abusive tweets on a daily basis.
- Kimura began her professional career in 2016 when she played in Wrestle-1 against classmate Reika Saiki in a losing effort.
- Kimura was featured as a cast member on the Netflix reality series "Terrace House: Tokyo,"

2. Renowned vocalist Shyamala Bhave passes away at 76

- Noted Classical musician Shyamala G. Bhave, who was well versed in both the Hindustani and Carnatic styles passed away at the age of 76, in Bengaluru, Karnataka. She was born on March 14, 1941, in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Bhave was the daughter of late Govind Vitthal Bhave, who trained her in Hindustani music and her mother Lakshmi Bhave was also a classical vocalist. She was tutored in the Carnatic stream by noted vocalists A. Subbaraya and H.S. Doreswamy.
- She was honoured with the title of 'Ubhayagaana Vidushi' (expert in both styles) by Sir M Visvesvaraya, the 19th Diwan of Mysore.

3. Noted Urdu satirist and Padma Shri awardee, Mujtaba Hussain passes away at 84

- Famous Urdu author, humorist and satirist Mujtaba Hussain passed away at the age of 84, after a prolonged illness in Hyderabad, Telangana. He was born on July 15, 1936, in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- He was often described as the Mark Twain of Urdu. Hussain began his literary career from "Siasat", a leading Urdu daily published from Hyderabad.

4. Hockey legend Balbir Singh Sr passes away at 96

- Triple Olympic gold medallist Balbir Singh Senior breathed his last at Mohali hospital. Singh, who was member of the 1948 London Olympics gold medal-winning Indian hockey team, apart from being the vice-captain of the 1952 victorious side and skipper of the 1956 champions, had been admitted to the hospital earlier this month on May 8 due to pneumonia and was on ventilator support. Singh was also the oldest surviving Olympic medallist from India, a record which now passes on to his 1948 London Olympics team-mate Keshav Dutt.
- He had started his career as a goalkeeper with his school team at Moga before playing as a defender and later a centre forward. As a five-year-old, Singh was given a hockey stick by his freedom fighter father and he recalled it fondly in his autobiography “The Golden Hat-trick”.

Important Days

1. International Missing Children's Day: 25 May

- Every year, 25 May is commemorated as International Missing Children's Day. The proclamation followed the 1979 disappearance of a six-year-old boy, Etan Patz, on his way to school in New York City.
- It was first observed in 2001 through the efforts of the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC), European Commission, and the Missing Children Europe.
- Two out of three missing children in India remain untraced and the number has increased by almost 84 percent between 2013 and 2015.

2. May 28 is celebrated as World Hunger Day

- Every year, May 28 is marked as World Hunger Day. The World Hunger Day is an initiative of the Hunger Project.
- The United Nations aims to increase agricultural productivity. This is to feed 820 million people that are with inadequate food security. The UN predicts that 2 billion are to come under poverty and face hunger by 2050.
- In order to eliminate hunger, the Sustainable Development Goal of “Zero Hunger” was included.

3. International Day of UN Peacekeepers: 29 may

- Every year, the United Nations celebrates International Day of UN Peacekeepers on May 29. This year the day is being celebrated under the theme Women in Peacekeeping: A key to Peace.
- The International Day of UN Peacekeepers is celebrated to honour more than 3,900 peacekeepers that lost their lives serving under the United Nations.
- The first UN Peace Keeping mission was established on May 29, 1948. The Peace keeping mission was established to monitor the Armistice Agreement that was signed between Israel and Arab.

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