

# Current Affairs=17-05-2020



## International Day of Light 2020



**International  
Day of Light**  
May 16 2020

The **International Day of Light (IDL)** is celebrated every year on May 16 globally. The day marks the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, **Theodore Maiman**. Maiman's laser led to the subsequent development of many other types of laser.

**Mission:** An International Day of Light will offer UNESCO an opportunity to fulfill its mission of promoting international cooperation in the basic sciences and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Education and also to render science, technology and innovation accessible to all. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the 2020 celebrations are being observed digitally through #IDL2020 and **#SEETHELIGHT**.

### About UNESCO:

**Headquarters**– Paris, France.

**Director-General**– Audrey Azoulay.

## World Hypertension Day: 17 May



The World Hypertension Day (WHD) is celebrated on 17 May worldwide to promote public awareness of increasing **high blood pressure (BP)** and to encourage citizens of all countries to prevent and control this silent killer.

**The day was held for the first time in May 2005.**

World Hypertension Day (WHD) is an initiative of the World Hypertension League (WHL), an affiliated section of the International Society of Hypertension. **The theme for World Hypertension Day 2020 is Measure Your Blood Pressure, Control It, Live Longer.**

The WHL has announced that it will postpone the celebration of World Hypertension Day (WHD) 2020 until October 17, 2020, due to global COVID-19 pandemic.

## World Telecommunication and Information Society Day: 17 May



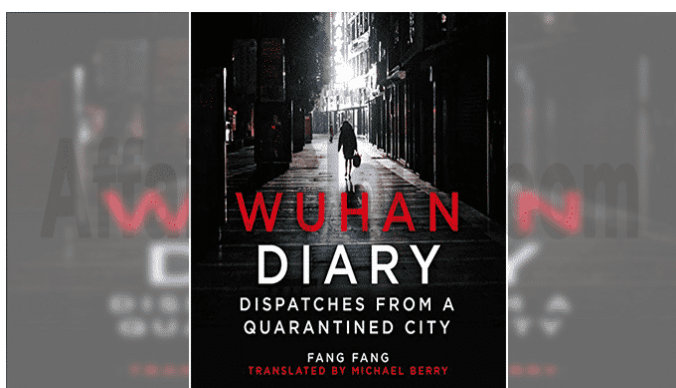
The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is observed every year on **17 May since 1969**, to **commemorate the founding of the International**

**Telecommunication Union (ITU).**

The theme of 2020 is **“Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”**

The ITU was founded on **17 May 1865**, when the first International Telegraph Convention was signed in Paris. **The main objective** of the day is to raise global awareness of the changes brought about by the Internet and new technologies in societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.

### A Book titled **“Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City”** authored by **Fang Fang**



The book titled as **“Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City”** authored by Chinese literary writer **Fang Fang** is a compilation of online diary entries and social media posts that document 60 days of lockdown during COVID-19. The book was released in **India** in an **ebook format** on May 15, 2020, published by **HarperNonFiction**,

the audio will follow on May 26.

It is translated by **Michael Berry**, the book documents the author’s voice against social injustice, abuse of power that impeded the response to the epidemic. The book will be translated into 15 languages.

## Zubair Iqbal appointed as MD of J&K Bank, Chibber to continue as chairman



On May 16, 2020, The **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) administration** approved the appointment of senior vice president (SVP) of HDFC bank **Zubair Iqbal** as the new Managing Director (MD) of Jammu and Kashmir Bank, for a period of 3 years. **Rajesh Kumar Chibber**, who

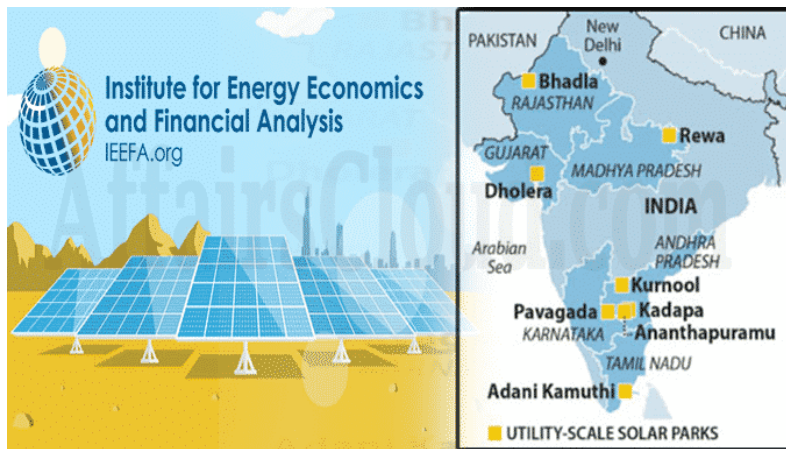
is currently MD and Chairman of J&K bank, has been reappointed as the Chairman for the period of 3 years.

### About Jammu & Kashmir Bank:

**Headquarters**– Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.

**Tagline**– Serving To Empower.

## Ultra-mega solar parks initiated India's clean energy transition: US-based IEEFA report



In accordance with a report “**India’s Utility-Scale Solar Parks—A Global Success Story**” by **Kashish Shah**, a researcher analyst at US-based Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), the installation of **utility-scale solar**

**parks** or ultra-mega power plant (UMPP) in India has started the India’s energy sector transition. This approach has attracted global investment. It should be noted that in 2016, the Indian government has set a target of installing 75 gigawatts of renewable energy by the **FY2021-22** and 275 gigawatts by **FY2026-27** to transform the country’s power sector

### **Efforts by India to transform its power sector**

As of now, India houses multiple ultra-mega solar parks with capacities of more than 1GW, and two of them are the largest commissioned solar installations in the world.

- The **Bhadla Solar Park** in Rajasthan is the world's largest such installation to date, covering more than 14,000 acres with a total capacity of 2,245 megawatts (MW) while **Pavagada Solar Park** in Karnataka with a total capacity of 1400 MW.
- Apart from above, under-construction **Ananthapuramu Solar Park** in Andhra Pradesh will be the largest solar power facility to be built from domestically manufactured solar cells and modules.

### 3rd advance estimates of production projects all time high foodgrain production of 295.67 million tonnes for 2019-20

## India's Foodgrains Production to Touch Record 295.67 MT in 2019-20 Crop Year



According to **Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare's 3rd Advance Estimates** of production of major crops for **2019-20**, the total **foodgrain production** in the country is estimated to achieve a record of all-time high **295.67 million tonnes** in 2019-20 for the **4th consecutive year** since 2016-17 crop year (July-June). This estimated output is **up 3.67%**(10.46 million tonnes) when compared to the **previous record 285.21 million tonne** during the 2018-19 crop year and has even crossed its target of 291.10 million tonne, which had been set before the beginning of the 2019-20 sowing season.

**Reason behind the hike**– The cumulative rainfall in the country during the monsoon season (June to September, 2019) has been 10% higher than the Long Period Average (LPA).

**Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan Part-3: Package for agriculture Fisheries and Food Processing Sectors FM / 4th tranche of economic support under the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan detailed by Nirmala Sitharaman**

In continuation to PM Modi's announcement of Rs 20 lakh crore boost to the economy, and the announcement made by her on May 13, 2020, May 14, 2020



and May 15, 2020 the Finance Minister of India, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has made the announcement of the **Part 3** of “Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan” (self-reliant India Movement) consisted of **11 measures**. 8 measures are for improving agricultural infrastructure and 3 measures are for administrative and governance reforms, including removing restrictions on sale and stock limits of farm produce and **fourth** tranche of economic support the Indian Economy’s fight against COVID-19. These are the announcements made on May 16, 2020. The announcement focusses on **reforming 8 sectors** which are (1) coal, (2) minerals, (3) defence production, (4) airports and airspace management, (5) MRO, (6) power distribution of companies in UTs, (7) space and (8) atomic energy.

### **AIIB Signs USD 145 million Loan Agreement with Government of India to improve irrigation services and flood management in West Bengal**



The Government of India, the Government of West Bengal and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has inked a loan agreement worth US\$145 million to improve irrigation services and flood management in the Damodar Valley Command Area (DVCA) in West Bengal. The loan sanctioned under

West Bengal Major Irrigation and Flood Management Project will benefit about 2.7 million farmers from five districts of West Bengal across 393,964 ha area.

### **Delhi Police Gets India’s First Ever ‘Thermal Corona Combat Headgear’ to detect body temperature from safe distance**



**Delhi Police**  
gets new  
thermal  
headgear

Delhi Police has launched and inducted in service first-of-its-kind thermal detection headgear named Thermal Corona Combat Gear (TCCH) through which the police personnel will be able to detect temperature of a large number of people from a distance of 10-15

metres.

The initiative has been launched by the Delhi police in collaboration with Indian Robotics Solution (IRS), to provide safety to frontline warriors.

### **Indian Navy commissions 7th ship of MK IV class Landing Craft Utility 'IN LCU L57' at Port Blair**

#### **7th Ship of Landing Craft Utility MK-IV -- INLCU L57**



Lt. General PS Rajeshwar PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC, Commanding-in-Chief of Andaman & Nicobar Command, has commissioned the 103<sup>rd</sup> Landing Craft Utility (LCU) MK IV class vessel 'INLCU L 57' (Yard no: 2098) into the **Indian Navy** at Port Blair.

This amphibious Ship, measuring 62.8 metres long, 11 metres wide and has a displacement of 830 tonnes, with a low draught of 1.7 metres, is based at the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), India's first and only tri-service command.