

Some Key Current Info-Bits at Random (May 1 - May 15)

- On 1st May the **Labour Day** was observed across the globe.
 - It is *national holiday* in more than 80 countries.
 - It is also the *traditional European Spring holiday* of May Day.
 - *International Worker's Day* is the commemoration of the *May 4, 1886* Haymarket affair in Chicago.
 - The police were trying to disperse a public assembly during a general strike for the eight-hour workday, when an unidentified person threw a bomb at the police.
 - The police responded by firing on the workers, killing four demonstrators.
- On 2nd May 2014 **Microsoft released a bug fix for XP** .. for its millions of users of *Windows XP*
 - For the operating system *Windows XP*, Microsoft ended service support on April 8.
- After the *1st phase matches were held in UAE*, **IPL 2014 matches got back to Indian soil with a match with Kings XI Punjab and Mumbai Indians.**
- On May 3, 2014 the **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** celebrated its **20th foundation day**.
 - *44 employees* were awarded for their outstanding contribution to the Metro.
- Recently, The University of Florida honoured **Anil K. Rajvanshi**, an Indian academician, for his pioneering work in the field of rural development.
 - Rajvanshi has done commendable work in the field of *renewable energy* in India.
 - With this he became the *first Indian to receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award*.
 - It is the *highest award given by the University of Florida* to a graduate who has excelled in his or her field. Rajvanshi did his Ph.D. from the University of Florida in 1979.

- Rajvanshi has been working for the *past 33 years* in the areas of ***water pollution, energy and income inequality*** for **rural communities in India**.
- Recently, the Supreme Court has ruled that the **Election Commission (EC)** **has the authority to check the issue of paid news**.
 - It can launch an inquiry *if the election expenses don't match the details filed* by the candidates.
 - The Apex Court has also specified that EC can have a *hearing on a daily basis* regarding this matter, and give a decision on the complaint in a span of *45 days*.
- Recently, Lalit Modi was elected as the **President of the Rajasthan Cricket Association**.
 - The poll results were declared by the observers, who were appointed by the Apex Court.
 - The Supreme Court had asked the results of the elections held on December 19, to be announced.
 - 33 district units cast their votes, and Lalit Modi received 24 votes.
- **On May 7, 2014 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a policy initiative restricting the banks from imposing any penalty on individual borrowers** who do pre-payment of floating loans.
 - .. the banks will not be allowed to impose foreclosure charges with immediate effect.
 - At present, it is up to 2% of an outstanding loan.
- The recently released data by **WHO on “polluted cities in the world”**, had placed **Delhi as the most polluted city**.
 - Of the 20 most polluted cities, 13 have been marked in Punjab (Amritsar, Ludhiana and Khanna).
 - **India has rejected** the report as *misleading and biased*.
 - India will *test the sample data* procured from WHO to get a *conclusive result*.

- On 8th May 2014 **Indian Aviation Academy (IAA)** received **International Arch of Europe Award 2014** for the outstanding contribution quality and technology in Gold Category.
 - *Business Initiative Directives Group (BIDG), Madrid (Spain)* was the one who selected IAA for the award.
 - The award was received by Rajiv Goel, Director of IAA and later he presented to the *Chairman of Airports Authority of India Alok Sinha*.
 - The award was given by Jose E. Prieto, President & CEO of BID Group at a *function which held in Frankfurt*.
 - This Award is given to those companies who has worked flawlessly on their Total Quality Management, TQM includes Competitive Advantage, Balanced Scorecard and Growth theory. So basically award was presented to those companies who have good hand in quality, awareness and excellence.
- On 9th May 2014 the **World's first Electric Plane E-Fan** successfully completed its first flight.
 - Manufactured by the *Toulouse-based Airbus, it has* opened up a new era of a *cheapest* way to travel.
 - Costing around 16 USD dollars (while petrol Airplane cost approx. 55 USD) .. the *cost of travel is just one third of present travel cost*.
 - It is a *small experimental aircraft* and is powered by 120 lithium-ion polymer batteries and can fly with speed of 220 kmph.
 - Its *length is little more than 19 meters* and makes a noise *slightly more than hairdryer* and has a *co-friendly profile*.
- Recently, the Supreme Court **handed over the Saradha scam case to the CBI**, for further investigations.
 - It will also probe into the **Ponzi fund scam in Odisha**.
 - CBI has also been asked to probe into *the magnitude of the money laundering* that was involved in the scam.
- **ASSOCHAM** recently revealed that **minors below 13 years of age were extensively using Facebook**.
 - The report suggests that *73% of children in this age group were Facebook users*.

- The survey also indicated that the children with ***working parents*** were found to be *more addicted* to Facebook, due to absence of parental supervision.
 - The study was conducted on *4,200 parents of children between 8-13 years of age*, and the concerning factor was that *75% of the parents were even aware of that*.
- **Recently, six Indian children were named amongst 'flag bearers' at the forthcoming '2014 Football World Cup'.**
 - These children have been ***selected on the basis of their passion, knowledge and skill for football***.
 - 350 children took part in Bangalore, out of which two were selected.
 - All the six children will go to *Sao Paulo for a pre-quarter-final match* on 1st July.
 - 2014 Football World Cup is scheduled from 12 June to 13 July in Brazil.
- **World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)** was observed across the world on 10th – 11th May 2014.
 - The theme of the WMBD 2014 was **Destination Flyways: Migratory Birds and Tourism**.
 - The day was celebrated by the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) to promote their new Destination Flyways Project.
 - The project aims to build *local sustainable tourism* by linking together *key migratory bird sites, local communities and the global wildlife watching industry*.
- On 11th May 2014 **the Imperial War Museum of the United Kingdom launched the online database of World War I.**
 - The fully packed information was launched on the 100 anniversary of World War I.
 - The records have been gathered from existing archives and family collections.
- On 12th May 2014 the **General Kristin Lund of Norway** became **first woman ever to head a UN Peacekeeping Force**.
 - She is the first woman in the history of **United Nations at Cyprus (UNFICYP)** on 50th Anniversary.

- She works on assignments *like* Service with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Service with the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR). Some multinational projects like Deployment to Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm in 1991, NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Headquarters in Afghanistan.
- She will succeed the *Major General Chao Liu of China* who will retire on 13th August 2014 and take her charge on the same day.

- On 12th May 2014 the **Manipur women's football team defeated Orissa** to win **Senior National Women's Football Champions title 2014** at the *Golaghat Stadium in Assam*.
 - Manipur women's team had earlier won the title in 2010.

- On 12th May 2014 the **President of India Pranab Mukherjee** conferred the **Winner of National Florence Nightingale Awards 2014**.
 - These awards were given on **International Nurses' Day**.

- Recently the External Affairs ministry shared **plans to start a bus service from Imphal(Manipur) to Mandalay(Myanmar) to develop cross border relationships**.
 - Economic Ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) grouping would meet by the end of the year, and by then a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on investment and services would be prepared.
 - Efforts to build the *trilateral highway* connecting *Moreh* in India to *Mae Sot* in Thailand through Myanmar are being made.

- On May 12, 2014 the Sunday Times Rich List. listed **Hinduja brothers as richest men in Britain**.
 - With their *net wealth is 11.9 billion pounds* *Srichand* and *Gopichand Hinduja*, India born Hinduja brothers, edged out steel tycoon Lakshmi N. Mittal and **Russian magnate Alisher Usmanov**.
 - *Lakshmi Mittal* of Arcelor Mittal is third in the list, with a net worth of *10.5 billion pounds*.
 - **Britain has 104 billionaires**, with a total worth of more than *301 billion pounds*.
 - In Britain, *the number of billionaires has increased three times in a decade*.

- On 13th May 2014 the **Moldova** and **Georgia** agreed to sign (EU) **European Union Association Agreement** which is to be signed on 27th June 2014.
 - *Herman Van Rompuy* – the president of EC (Europe Council) made an announcement to this effect at Tbilisi, Georgia.
 - Moldova and Georgia can have a full membership in the to the 28-EU (Europe Union) block.

- On 13th May 2014 the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** become **member of Hockey India**, enabling CISF to take part in the national hockey championship.
 - Currently Hockey India has *26 permanent member units, 20 associate members, 2 members through State Olympic Associations, 5 Academy Members and 1 Hockey Member*.
 - CISF actually *came to existence in 1969* under the *Union Ministry of Home Affairs*.
 - CISF currently provides security cover to nuclear installations, seaports, power plants, space establishments, airports, sensitive Government buildings and ever heritage monuments.
 - Currently *Arvind Ranjan*, (IPS) is the **Director General** of CISF.

- **On May 12, 2014 Twitter** announced introducing a new "**mute**" **button** that allows users to silence their friends without unfollowing them.
 - Using this feature the user would not have to *unfollow or block* a user, but only to mute the tweets.
 - Twitter is an online social networking and microblogging service.
 - It enables users to send and read short 140-character text messages,
 - Twitter was created in March 2006 by **Jack Dorsey, Evan Williams, Biz Stone and Noah Glass**.
 - It was launched in July 2006.

- **On May 13, 2014, UN Envoy on Syria Lakhdar Brahimi resigned.**
 - He submitted on *13th May 2014* to **UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in New York**.
 - He was also the *League of Arab States Special Representative on the Syrian crisis*.

- He was appointed as the *peace-facilitator in Syria* on 17th August 2012 to replace the *former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan*.
- On 14th, May 2014 **Justice B.S. Chauhan** was appointed as the **Chairman of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT)**.
 - CWDT was constituted by the Government of India on 2nd June 1990 to *adjudicate the water dispute regarding inter-state river Cauvery and the river valley thereof*.
 - *Justice Chauhan will succeed the Justice N.P. Singh.*
 - The tribunal has been *without Chairman since April 2012*, when Justice N.P. Singh resigned on health grounds.
- On May 14, 2014 NCR Planning Board announced **revised norms restrict tourism in Green zones**.
 - As per revised norms, Tourism activities won't be allowed in the Natural Conservation Zones (NCZs) in NCR.
 - The board also decided that the sacred Mangar Bani and a 500-metre buffer radius around it will be earmarked as a no-construction zone.
- On 14th May 2014 **Kamal Haasan** *the famous actor and film maker* **led Indian delegation at 67th Cannes International Film Festival, at Cannes, France**.
 - **Kamal Haasan** is also a **Chairman of prestigious Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) Media and Entertainment Committee-South**.
 - He also *inaugurated the Indian Pavilion* which will *show and present the Indian cinema in a linguistic, cultural and regional diversity*.
 - The Indian pavilion is focusing on the international partnership to increase the sales, exposure, realms of distribution, script development, high level of technology which will be use in films, production etc.
 - **TITLI** starred by *Ranvir Shorey* will be screened in the film festival 2014.
- **Recently, Lt. Gen. Dalbir Singh Suhag** was named as the **next Indian Army Chief**.
 - General Bikram Singh, the current Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army, will retire on 31 July.

- Lt. Gen. Suhag was *commissioned on 16th June 1974*, and had a career of 40 years in which he has held many prestigious positions.
- Suhag's name was decided in the *last cabinet meeting of the UPA Government*.
- On *14 May 2014* the **largest diamond of World and Mughal necklace auctioned by Christie in Geneva**.
 - Dating back to 17th century, the seven Mughal engraved spinel bead necklace will be sold at Magnificent Jewels sale.
 - The pendent necklace engraved with names of Mughal emperors *Akbar* and *Jahangir* is expected to fetch well over **2000000 US dollar** for Christie.
- Recently, the Supreme Court held that **Candidates fighting elections can be disqualified** if they **fail to disclose the assets information**.
- On **May 15, 2014** six **Indo-Americans** were **felicitated with Ellis Island Medal of Honour**.
 - The recipients of the award included **Yash Paul Soi**, considered to be the pioneer in popularizing bollywood in the US, silicon valley entrepreneur **Narpat Bhandari** and Massachussets-based entrepreneur and philanthropist **Samir Desai**.
 - The prestigious *Ellis Island Medal of Honour* was founded by the *National Ethnic Coalition of Organization* (NECO).
 - It is **given annually to US citizens** *who have distinguished themselves within their own ethnic groups while exemplifying the values of the American way of life*.

Compiled by: ravi k mahajan
for IASC