

# **MANTHAN**

## **Current Affairs Supplement**

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# Preface

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**Dear Readers,**

The 'Current Affairs' section is an integral part of any examination. This edition of Manthan has been developed by our team to help you cover all the important events of the month for the upcoming exams like Banking, Insurance, CLAT, MBA etc. This comprehensive bulletin will help you prepare the section in a vivid manner. We hope that our sincere efforts will serve you in a better way to fulfil aspirations.

Happy Reading!

**Best Wishes**

**Team CL**

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## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

### National



#### India was 4th biggest military spender last year

- **India** was the world's fourth biggest military spender last year behind the United States, China, and Saudi Arabia, according to new data from think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- **India** was the fifth largest military spender in 2017. France also figures on the list of top five spenders that together accounted for 60% of the global military spending in 2018. The think tank said with military spending of \$11.4 billion, Pakistan was at the 20th place on the list of the leading military spenders.
- According to the SIPRI data, **China** was the second-largest military spender last year. Beijing increased its military expenditure by 5% to \$250 billion in 2018. It accounted for 14% of global military spending. In contrast, **India's** military spending went up by 3.1% to \$66.5 billion. India accounts for 3.7% of the global defence spending.

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) is an international institute based in Sweden, dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament. Established in 1966, SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public. SIPRI is based in Stockholm. A Swedish Royal Commission chaired by Ambassador Alva Myrdal proposed in its 1966 report to establish an institute, later named the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, SIPRI.

#### India set to get Defence Cyber Agency to fight Pakistan, Chinese Hackers

- In a bid to bolster its capabilities to tackle threats emanating from hackers, mostly from China and Pakistan, **India** is all set to have Defence Cyber Agency (DCA).
- This agency will be headquartered in the capital. Senior Navy officer Rear Admiral Mohit Gupta will be the first head of this agency -- DCA.

#### Nirmala Sitharaman attends SCO Defence Ministers' conclave at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' conclave at Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan.
- **India** became a full member of the SCO in 2017. India is keen on deepening its security-related cooperation with the SCO and its Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure, which specifically deals with issues relating to security and defence.

Nirmala Sitharaman is currently a member of the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka. Nirmala Sitharaman became the first full-time Defence Minister to fly in a Sukhoi 30 MKI of the Indian Air Force. She is the first full-fledged woman defence minister of India. The first defence minister of independent India was Baldev Singh. She is the second woman since Indira Gandhi to hold this major post.

## Cyclonic Storm FANI 'to move northwestwards

- The Cyclonic Storm 'FANI' over southeast Bay of Bengal & neighbourhood moved north-northwestwards with a speed of about 18 kmph in last six hours and lay centred at near latitude 9.7°N and longitude 86.8°E over southeast Bay of Bengal & neighbourhood, about 620 km east-northeast of Trincomalee (Sri Lanka), 810 km east-southeast of Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and 950 km south-southeast of Machilipatnam (Andhra Pradesh).
- Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm Fani was the strongest tropical cyclone to strike the Indian state of Odisha since Phailin in 2013. The second named storm and the first severe cyclonic storm of the 2019 North Indian Ocean cyclone season, Fani originated from a tropical depression that formed west of Sumatra in the Indian Ocean on 26 April.

The name of the Cyclone 'Fani', pronounced as 'Foni' was suggested by Bangladesh. It means 'Snake' or 'hood of snake'. India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan and Thailand send names of tropical cyclones developing in the North Indian Ocean to the regional committee. Presently, each country has suggested eight names for cyclones occurring in future. The name 'Fani' was decided from a list containing 64 names.

## Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor no longer listed under BRI umbrella

- South Asia is covered by three major undertakings—the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC), the Nepal-China Trans-Himalayan Multi-dimensional Connectivity Network, including Nepal-China cross-border railway, as well as the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- India's decision to skip the Belt and Road Forum (BRF) may have led to the exclusion of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Economic corridor from the list of projects covered by the China-led Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) umbrella.

## India-Central Asia Summit in Kyrgyzstan in June

- The Indian PM and five Central Asian leaders will meet on the side lines of the SCO Summit on June 14-15 in Kyrgyzstan as part of Delhi's reinvigorated Central Asia policy.
- India has proposed setting up of an 'India-Central Asia Development Group' at the maiden India-Central Asia dialogue in Samarkand. Narendra Modi had visited all Central Asia states in 2015 in what first such endeavour for any Indian PM. The Indian PM will take this spirit forward when he meets all Central Asian leaders in Bishkek.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, and security organisation, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan; the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter was signed in June 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003. India and Pakistan have become latest full members in SCO in 2017.

## Indo-French naval exercise begins

- The first part of the Indo-French joint naval exercise, Varuna 19.1, began off the Goa coast and will continue till May 10.
- The Varuna exercise aims at developing interoperability between the two navies and fostering mutual cooperation by learning from each other's best practices to conduct joint operations.
- French Aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle, FN ships Provence, La Touche Treville, Forbin and tanker Marne along with an FN submarine will take part in the exercise with the Indian Navy,

The first bilateral naval exercise between India and France was held in 1983 and it was named 'Varuna' in 2001.

## Notified as new Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court

- Justice Abhay Oka, who was notified by the Centre as the next Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, had in recent years, but he will continue to be remembered, among other things, for battling for better living conditions in Mumbai and reiterating in many of his orders that right to live in a clean and pollution-free environment is a part of Article 21 (Protection of Life and Personal Liberty) of the Constitution..

Justice Oka was elevated as an additional judge of the Bombay High Court on August 29, 2003 and appointed a permanent judge on November 12, 2005.

## India delivers mixed performance in Asian varsity rankings

- India's universities delivered a mixed performance due to significant changes at individual institutions in the 2019 Asia University Rankings released in London.
- The rankings, collated annually by 'Times Higher Education', found that the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) held on to its 29th rank as a total of 49 Indian institutions made the cut to be included in the list.
- The number of entries was up from 42 last year, making India the third most-represented nation. "India's performance is mixed, with significant rises and falls for individual institutions," notes the rankings analysis.
- "However, its flagship, the Indian Institute of Science, remains in 29th place, while the Indian Institute of Technology, Indore joins the list at joint 50th," it said.
- The other Indian universities making the cut to be counted within this year's elite 100 include IIT Bombay and Roorkee at joint 54th, JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research (62), IIT Kharagpur (76), IIT Kanpur (82) and IIT Delhi (91).

China also emerged as the Asian rankings leader for the first time this year, with its Tsinghua University pushing the National University of Singapore to second place. The analysis noted that India also has more new entrants (five) among the top 20 newcomers in the table than any other country except Japan (also five). The "success story" of the Asian rankings, now in their seventh year, was classed as China, having overtaken Singapore to top the charts and claiming 72 positions overall - up from 63 last year.

## India, Australia agree to further deepen counter-terrorism co-operation

- PicIndia and Australia have agreed to further deepen counter-terrorism co-operation through regular exchange of information and sharing of best practices on countering extremism and radicalization. The two countries held the 11th Meeting of Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism at Canberra.

## Kerala capital to host Asia's largest tech startup conclave

- The second edition of "Huddle Kerala," one of Asia's largest startup ecosystem congregations, will be held at Kovalam, near Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, from September 27.
- The two day-event is envisaged to offer a unique platform for startups to showcase their products before a wide array of technology and industry leaders from around the world.

Huddle Kerala 2019, being organised by the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) in association with Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) at Hotel Leela Raviz. Kerala has more than 1,500 registered startups with \$38 million-plus funding received between 2017-18.

## India re-elected as observer to inter-governmental forum Arctic Council

- India has been re-elected as an observer to inter-governmental forum Arctic Council at the 11th Arctic Council ministerial meeting held in Rovaniemi, Finland.
- The Arctic Council promotes cooperation, coordination and interaction among Arctic states on common issues, particularly on sustainable development and environmental protection.



Arctic Council is a high-level intergovernmental forum that addresses issues faced by the Arctic governments and the indigenous people of the Arctic. Eight member countries constitute the council: Canada, Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States as these are the eight countries with sovereignty over the lands within the Arctic Circle. Outside these, there are some observer states. India is already an observer at the Arctic Council — a forum of countries that decides on managing the region's resources and popular livelihood and, in 2015, set up an underground observatory, called IndARC, at the Kongsfjorden fjord, half way between Norway and the North Pole. India has already established a high-altitude research station in the Himalayas, called HIMANSH, at Spiti, Himachal Pradesh. Himadri Station is India's first Arctic research station located at Spitsbergen, Svalbard, Norway.

### India ties up with IIT-Kanpur to upscale Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

- Common Service Centre's (CSC) e-Governance Services India Limited, a special purpose vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics & IT has tied up with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur to upscale 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'.
- 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' is an initiative of the Ministry of HRD. It aims to find solutions to accelerate sustainable growth in rural India.

### Varuna is largest Indo-French naval exercise to date

- The 17th edition of 'Varuna', an Indo-French naval exercise which is concluded in Goa, is the largest ever joint exercise undertaken by the two navies yet, and represents the climax of the strengthened maritime co-operation between India and France.
- The Indian Navy is represented by aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, destroyer INS Mumbai, the Teg-class frigate, INS Tarkash, the Shishumar-class submarine INS Shankul, and the Deepak-class fleet tanker INS Deepak.
- The second sea phase is scheduled to be held at the end of May in Djibouti, located on the Horn of Africa.

The first bilateral naval exercise between India and France was held in 1983, and it was named 'Varuna' in 2001. The joint exercises are held either in the Indian Ocean or the Mediterranean sea aiming to improve coordination of the two navies on capabilities like cross-deck operations, replenishment-at-sea, minesweeping, anti-submarine warfare and information sharing.

### Indian Navy launches fourth Scorpene class submarine

- The fourth of Indian Navy's stealth Scorpene class Submarines of Project 75 was launched at the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Limited at Mumbai in Maharashtra.
- The submarine has been named 'Vela' after an earlier submarine, which was the lead submarine, of the erstwhile Vela class, the second batch of the Foxtrot class submarines acquired from erstwhile USSR.
- INS Vela was first commissioned on August 31, 1973 in the Indian Naval Service and continued to serve for 37 years. It was the country's oldest submarine when it was decommissioned on June 25, 2010.

The state-owned Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited has entered into a contract for construction and transfer of technology for six Scorpene-class subs with French collaborator Ms Naval Group (formerly DCNS). INS Vela is the fourth in that series. The fifth Scorpene-class submarine will be launched soon. Before Vela, MDL launched Kalvari, Khanderi, Karanj submarines.

### INS Ranjit decommissioned at Visakhapatnam

- INS Ranjit, a Rajput class destroyer was decommissioned at a solemn grand ceremony at Naval Dockyard at Visakhapatnam.
- It was commissioned on 15 September 1983 by Captain Vishnu Bhagwat in erstwhile Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), the ship was used for yeoman service.

## PM Narendra Modi 2nd most followed politician globally on social media, says report

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the second most followed politician in the world on social media after former US President Barack Obama.
- Modi has a total audience of 110.9 million on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Obama's total following stood at 182.7 million, according to the report released by digital marketing platform SEMrush.

## Supreme Court pushes for 'full' strength of 31

- The Supreme Court Collegium, led by the Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, recommended the names of two judges to the court and rejected the Union government's disapproval of the elevation of two others.
- If the four judges are elevated without delay, the Gogoi Court would reach the full sanctioned judicial strength of 31 judges by the time it re-opens in July after the summer vacations.
- The Collegium refused the government's request to reconsider its April 12 recommendation to elevate Jharkhand High Court and Gauhati High Court Chief Justices Aniruddha Bose and A.S. Bopanna as Supreme Court judges. The Collegium said their names were recommended after all parameters were considered.

The Collegium system is one where the Chief Justice of India and a forum of four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court recommend appointments and transfers of judges. However, it has no place in the Indian Constitution. The system was evolved through Supreme Court judgments in the Three Judges Cases.

## UN: India, China are hot spots for illegal sand mining

- India and China top a list of countries where illegal sand mining has become a major environmental problem, according to a report released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- In 2017, China recorded the highest use of cement (which includes sand aggregates) in the world, at an estimated 2.4 billion tonnes. India came second, with 270 million tonnes, followed by the USA.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is an agency of United Nations and coordinates its environmental activities, assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices. It was founded by Maurice Strong, its first director, as a result of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference) in June 1972. UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

## Second Issue of ECI Magazine "My Vote Matters" Released

- Heads and Representatives of 20 Election Management Bodies (EMBs) from across the World have arrived in New Delhi to witness the ongoing General Elections to 17th Lok Sabha.
- More than 65 such delegates have been invited by Election Commission of India to join the Election Visitors Program. Second issue of ECI's quarterly magazine "My Vote Matters" was also released on this occasion by the Commission. The Magazine presents a comprehensive glimpse of preparatory initiatives in different States for the ongoing elections. First issue of this magazine was presented by Chief Election Commissioner Sh Sunil Arora to the Hon'ble President of India Sh Ram Nath Kovind on the National Voters' Day 25th January 2019.

Election Commission of India operates under the authority of Constitution per Article 324. The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, state Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country. Chief Election Commissioner of India is usually a member of the Indian Civil Service and mostly from the Indian Administrative Service. It is very difficult to remove the authority of the Chief Election Commissioner once appointed by the president, as two-thirds of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha need to vote against him for disorderly conduct or improper actions. Sukumar Sen was the first Chief Election Commissioner of India, serving from 21 March 1950 to 19 December 1958.



## Two Indians among 115 UN personnel staff honoured for sacrifice in line of duty

- An Indian police officer Jitender Kumar deployed to the UN mission in Congo and a consultant Shikha Garg with the UN development programme, killed in the Ethiopian Airlines plane crash, are among 115 UN peacekeepers and staff honoured by the global organisation for their sacrifice.
- Police Officer Jitender Kumar serving in the UN Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and Shikha Garg, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) consultant attached with India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, along with 113 UN personnel and staff, lost their lives in the service of peace between January 2018 and March 2019.

## Indian Army to commemorate 2019 as 'Year of next of kin'

- The Indian Army is commemorating this year as the 'Year of Next of Kin' and plans to reach out to the next of kin of battle casualties, ex-servicemen and serving soldiers to inform them of entitled financial benefits, welfare schemes and help resolve pension related problems.
- The matter comes in the backdrop of Army Chief General Bipin Rawat stating in January that the army will observe 2019 as the year for the next of kin.

The Indian Army is the land-based branch and the largest component of Indian Armed Forces. The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Army, and it is commanded by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), who is a four-star general. A Military Department was created within the Government of the East India Company at Kolkata in the year 1776.

## IAF receives first AH-64E Apache attack helicopter

- The first AH-64E Apache attack helicopter built for India was formally handed over to the Indian Air Force (IAF) at the Boeing production facility in Mesa, Arizona in the U.S. The Air Force had contracted 22 Apache helicopters from the U.S. Govt and Boeing in September 2015.

## For first time, CJI to be part of SC vacation bench

- In an unprecedented development, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi was part of the Supreme Court's vacation bench from May 25 to May 30, mainly to take care of any dispute that may arise in government formation after the Lok Sabha election results are declared on May 23.
- The top court has a vacation bench functioning every year during the summer holidays but the Chief Justice of India never presides over it. As per the notification of Vacation Benches, CJI Gogoi and Justice M.R. Shah will be part of the vacation bench from May 25 to 30 which will hear urgent miscellaneous matters and other regular matters.

The Supreme Court of India came into being on 28 January 1950. It replaced both the Federal Court of India and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council which were then at the apex of the Indian court system. The first Chief Justice of India was Sir H J Kania. Originally, the Constitution of India envisaged a supreme court with a chief justice and seven judges; leaving it to parliament to increase this number. At present, SC is consisting of the Chief Justice of India and 30 sanctioned other judges. The motto of the Supreme Court is 'Yato Dharmastato Jayah', means "whence law (dharma), thence victory". It is also referred to – as the wheel of righteousness, encompassing truth, goodness and equity.

## SC Collegium recommends names for appointment as CJs of 4 HCs

- The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the names of four High Court Judges for their appointment as Chief Justices of the High Courts of Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Telangana.

- **The Collegium**, comprising Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde and N V Ramana, recommended **Justice R S Chauhan**, who is the most senior Judge from the Rajasthan High Court, as the Telangana High Court Chief Justice. He currently functions as the Acting Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court.
- The Collegium also cleared the name of Justice V Ramasubramanian as the new Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court. The current Chief Justice, Surya Kant, has been recommended for elevation to the Supreme Court. Justice Ramasubramanian is the most senior Judge from the Madras High Court, and is currently on transfer in the Telangana High Court.
- While Justice A A Kureshi has been recommended for appointment as the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, Justice D N Patel has been recommended as the Delhi High Court Chief Justice.

### India to co-chair Consultative Group (CG) of Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)

- India is unanimously chosen as co-chair of the Consultative Group (CG) of Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for the fiscal year 2020.
- The decision was taken during the CG meeting of GFDRR held in Geneva, Switzerland, on the margins of the 6th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2019.

GFDRR is a global partnership that helps developing countries better understand and reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change. GFDRR is a grant-funding mechanism, managed by the World Bank that supports disaster risk management projects worldwide. It is presently working on the ground with over 400 local, national, regional, and international partners and provides knowledge, funding, and technical assistance. **India became member of CG of GFDRR in 2015** and expressed its interest to co-chair in last meeting of CG held in October 2018.

### India saw the third highest outflow of wealthy individuals last year

- India saw the **third highest outflow of wealthy individuals last year**. Nearly 5,000 millionaires, or high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs), left the country, which is 2 per cent of the total number of HNWIs in India, says the Global Wealth Migration Review (GWMR) 2019 by AfrAsia Bank and research firm New World Wealth.
- The net outflow of HNWIs that India saw in 2018 was even **faster than the UK**, which is in the middle of a political turmoil owing to Brexit. **The UK for the last three decades was ranked among the countries with the highest number of inflow of wealthy individuals** but the trend reversed sharply in the last two years.

### Mumbai girl is world's 1st to cross Atlantic Ocean in Light Sports Aircraft

- **Captain Aaroohi Pandit**, a 23-year-old pilot from Mumbai became the world's first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean solo in a Light Sports Aircraft (LSA).
- Aaroohi Pandit achieved the feat when she landed her tiny aircraft at Iqaluit Airport in Canada, after a gruelling 3,000 km long flight, under adverse and extreme weather conditions following take-off from Wick, Scotland (United Kingdom), with brief stopovers in Greenland and Iceland.

### NSG commandos summit Mt Everest in maiden attempt

- **Commandos of the National Security Guard (NSG)** scaled the Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, in their maiden attempt.
- A seven-member team led by Lt Col J P Kumar, successfully unfurled the Indian flag at the 8,848-metre tall peak. The team adopted the southeastern approach via South Col in Solukhumbu region of Nepal.

National Security Guard (NSG) is an Indian Special Forces unit under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). It was raised in 1984, following Operation Blue Star and the assassination of Indira Gandhi, "for combating terrorist activities with a view to protect states against internal disturbances".

## India's multilateral naval exercises proves its commitment for Act East policy

- INS Kolkata and INS Shakti are participating in a three-day International Maritime Defence Exhibition Asia (IMDEX) that commenced in Singapore.
- The IMDEX Asia-2019 also witnessed the participation of some of India's leading engineering and ship building firms, including Larsen & Toubro and BrahMos, which makes the state-of-the-art air, sea and ground launch cruise missiles.

Following the IMDEX, Indian Naval ships together with an Indian Navy surveillance aircraft P8I was participated in the 26th edition of Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) held from May 16 to 22. India and Singapore have commenced 26th SIMBEX, which is the longest uninterrupted bilateral naval exercise in the world.

## Nilekani-led panel on digital payments submits report to RBI

- A Reserve Bank of India-appointed committee headed by Aadhaar architect Nandan Nilekani has submitted its suggestions on promoting digital payments to Governor Shaktikanta Das.
- In January, the RBI had set up the five-member panel on deepening digital payments with a view to encouraging digitisation of payments and enhances financial inclusion through digitization.
- RBI will examine the recommendations of the committee and will link the action points, wherever necessary, in its Payment Systems Vision 2021 for implementation.

The 'Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019 - 2021', with its core theme of 'Empowering Exceptional (E)payment Experience', envisages to achieve "a highly digital and cash-lite society" through the goal posts of competition, cost effectiveness, convenience and confidence (4Cs).

## Kerala first Indian state to tap into masala bond market

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan opened trading on the London Stock Exchange by ringing the iconic bell after the state-owned Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) debuted its 'masala bond' issue of Rs 2,150 crore on the bourse.
- While Kerala is the first Indian state to tap into the market for masala bonds — debt papers sold overseas by an Indian entity that are denominated in rupees — to raise development funds, the move is rarer still for a communist government.
- After the bond issue debut, KIIFB became the first sub-sovereign entity in India to tap the offshore rupee international bond market.

Kerala is a state on the southwestern, Malabar Coast of India. It was formed on 1 November 1956 following the States Reorganisation Act by combining Malayalam-speaking regions. Kerala has the highest literacy rate 93.91% in the 2011 census; the highest life expectancy, 77 years; and the highest sex ratio, 1,084 women per 1,000 men. Palanisamy Sathasivam is the current Governor of Kerala. Kerala is known as "God's own country" and is one of the popular tourist destinations in India. Pinarayi Vijayan is the current Chief Minister of Kerala, in office since 25 May 2016.

## President Kovind greets people of Sikkim on statehood day

- Sikkim celebrated its 43rd statehood day on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The celebrations were held across the state with great fanfare.
- President Ram Nath Kovind has greeted the people of Sikkim on their statehood day. Sikkim became a part of India on this day in 1975.



Sikkim is the least populous and second smallest among the Indian states. In 2003, Sikkim decided to convert fully to organic farming statewide, and achieved this goal in 2015, becoming India's first "organic state". A referendum in 1975 led to Sikkim joining India as its 22nd state. Sikkim became India's first open defecation free state in 2008 followed by Himachal Pradesh and Kerala were declared ODF states.

### India's fastest train, Vande Bharat Express, clocks 1 lakh running kilometres

- The **indigenously-built Vande Bharat Express** has completed one lakh running kilometres without missing a single trip.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off India's first semi-high speed train, first engineless train, Train 18 or Vande Bharat Express, at New Delhi Railway Station.
- The train, named 'Train 18' at the concept stage, is a plush 16-coach, air-conditioned, self-propelled train set and doesn't have a locomotive.
- This is India's fastest train to date, capable of commercial speeds up to 160 km per hour. On the Delhi-Varanasi route, however, its top speed would be restricted to 130 km per hour.

Train 18 is an Indian semi-high speed train, an intercity electric multiple unit, a type of self-propelled train without a separate dedicated locomotive. It was designed and built by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Chennai. It is the country's fastest train. Train 18 is capable of touching 200 kilometres per hour provided the rest of Indian Railways' system, permit

### India sets Guinness World Records of 'largest laundry lesson'

- With 400 young Indian men participating across the country to learn laundry lessons to share the responsibility of cleaning clothes along with the female members of their homes, India achieved the Guinness World Records certificate for the largest laundry lesson. National award-winning actor Anil Kapoor joined the function which was initiated by Ariel India and hosted by Mandira Bedi.

### Sushma Swaraj participated in SCO's Council of Foreign Ministers meeting

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- This was the second CFM meeting that India was attended as a full member of SCO. Speaking on the occasion, External Affairs Minister said India's commitment to regional connectivity is evident from our involvement in International North-South Transport Corridor, Chabahar Port, Ashgabat Agreement and India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, and security organisation, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan; the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter was signed in June 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003. India and Pakistan have become latest full members in SCO in 2017.

### UNESCO includes Kailash Mansarovar in tentative list of world heritage sites

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) has included Kailash Mansarovar in its tentative list of world heritage sites.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) along with Ministry of Environment and Forests sent a proposal to UNESCO to list Kailash Mansarovar into its world Heritage sites.
- In the proposal, Kailash Mansarovar was categorized under both as a natural as well as a cultural heritage. If Kailash Mansarovar officially becomes the part of UNESCO world heritage sites permanently, the north-

Indian state, Uttarakhand, a major transit point of the annual Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage, will be benefited.

Kailash Mansarovar, popularly known as Mount Kailash, is the highest peak in Kailash range located in Lake Mansarovar in the remote south-western portion of the Tibet Autonomous Region of China and adjacent districts in the far-western region of Nepal. The Kailash Mansarovar is expanded across an area of 6,836 sq km within India; the area is flanked in the east by Nepal and bordered by China on the north. The Indian site is part of the larger landscape of 31,000 sq km. Both China and Nepal have proposed the landscape as a world heritage site to UNESCO.

### 8th Indo – Myanmar Coordinated Patrol

- Myanmar Navy Ship UMS King TabinShweHtee (773) and UMS Inlay (OPV-54) have arrived Port Blair on 20 May for the opening ceremony of the 8th Indo-Myanmar coordinated patrol (IMCOR), at Andaman and Nicobar Command.
- Myanmar ships UMS King TabinShweHtee and UMS Inlay would undertake a coordinated patrol with Indian Naval Ship Saryu from 20 – 28 May 19. The patrolling effort will be augmented by Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both the navies. The ships would patrol along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) between the two countries covering a distance of approximately 725 Kms over a period of four days.

The CORPAT initiative between the two navies is meant to address issues of terrorism, illegal fishing, drug trafficking, human trafficking, poaching and other illegal activities inimical to interest of both nations. Started in March 2013, the CORPAT series has enhanced the mutual understanding and fostered improved professional interaction between the two navies for maritime interoperability.

### India performs poorly in kid's right index, ranks 117

- India stands in a lowly 117th position out of 181 countries in the KidsRight Index, the annual global index which ranks how countries adhere to and are equipped to improve child rights. Countries are judged on five indicators: right to life, right to education, right to health, right to protection and enabling environment for child rights.
- KidsRights Index is an initiative of Kids Right Foundation in cooperation with Erasmus University, Rotterdam.
- They release annual reports every year by pooling data from UNICEF, UNDP and UN Committee on the Rights of the Child by considering individual country reports.
- India has a score of 0.64 out of 1 in the overall category. Out of all categories, it performed better in protection and child rights environment and secured 94th rank with a score of 0.8 in the protection category and performed worst in the health indicator being ranked 153 with a score of 0.54.

According to the KidsRights Index, some economically developed countries such as the UK and New Zealand have also scored poorly on the basic principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). These principles include: non-discrimination, acting in the child's best interests, child participation and having a basic policy infrastructure for children's rights. Iceland secured the top position in the index with a score of 0.967, followed by Portugal with a score of 94.8.

### Centre clears names of four judges to SC

- The Centre has cleared four names recommended by the Collegium for elevation as Supreme Court judges. With their appointment, the court will reach its full sanctioned strength of 31 judges.
- The government has cleared the names of Jharkhand High Court and Gauhati High Court Chief Justices Aniruddha Bose and A.S. Bopanna.



- The government also gave its nod to the Collegium's May 8 recommendation for elevation of Justice B.R. Gavai, a judge of the Bombay High Court, and Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court Surya Kant.

### NDA wins 352 seats, BJP crosses 300 mark

- With the official count in the Lok Sabha elections over, the **BJP has secured 303 seats, which is 22 more than it got in the 2014 elections** and along with its allies the **NDA took its tally up to 352 in the 17th Lok Sabha.**
- The **NDA complement of 352 comprises 303 of BJP, 18 of Shiv Sena, 16 of JD(U), 6 of Lok Janshakti Party, 2 each of Akali Dal and Apna Dal and 1 each of All Jharkhand Students Union, Loktantrik Party, Mizo National Front and National People's Party and one independent backed by the BJP in Karnataka.**
- On the other hand, the **Congress won 52 seats**, eight more than what it had in the outgoing Lok Sabha polls. The UPA-led by Congress has secured a total of 87 seats. **The UPA comprises of 52 of Congress, DMK 23, NCP 5, IUML 3, and one each of RSP, KC (M), JMM and VCK.**

### Jagan Mohan Reddy sworn in as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

- In Andhra Pradesh, **YSR Congress Chief Jagan Mohan Reddy has been sworn in as chief minister of Andhra Pradesh on 30th of this month at Vijayawada.**
- **Governor E S L Narasimhan administered the oath of office and secrecy to the 46-year-old leader, whose party emerged victorious in 151 seats in the 175-member strong state assembly.**

Andhra Pradesh is the first state in India to be formed under the State reorganisation act in 1956 and first state to be created based on the language in India. On 2 June 2014, the north-western portion of Andhra Pradesh was separated to form the new state of Telangana. The longtime capital of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, was transferred to Telangana as part of the division. Amaravati is the de facto capital city of the Andhra Pradesh. Nara Chandrababu Naidu was first chief minister of the state since it was divided from Telangana.

### Naveen Patnaik took oath as chief minister of Odisha

- **Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Naveen Patnaik was sworn in as Chief Minister of Odisha for the fifth consecutive term in Bhubaneswar.**
- **Mr. Patnaik and his ministerial colleagues were administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Ganeshi Lal.**

The modern state of Odisha was established on 1 April 1936, as a province in British India. The ancient kingdom of Kalinga, which was invaded by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka in 261 BCE resulting in the Kalinga War, coincides with the borders of modern-day Odisha. Konark Sun Temple is a 13th-century CE sun temple at Konark about 35 kilometres northeast from Puri on the coastline of Odisha, India. The temple is attributed to king Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty about 1250 CE. Dr. Senayangba Chubatoshi Jamir is current Governor of Odisha.

### P S Golay sworn in as Sikkim chief minister

- **Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) president Prem Singh Tamang, popularly known as P S Golay, took oath as the chief minister of Sikkim.**
- **Eleven SKM MLAs were also administered the oath by Governor Ganga Prasad at Paljor Stadium. Golay, who is not a member of the state assembly at present as he did not contest the polls, was elected as the SKM Legislature Party leader. The SKM, founded in 2013, won a slender majority in the 32-member Sikkim Legislative Assembly by bagging 17 seats against 15 won by the SDF.**
- **Mr. Golay is the sixth Chief Minister of the Himalayan State, started his career as a school teacher.**

Sikkim is the least populous and second smallest among the Indian states. In 2003, Sikkim decided to convert fully to organic farming statewide, and achieved this goal in 2015, becoming India's first "organic state". A referendum in 1975 led to Sikkim joining India as its 22nd state. Sikkim's capital and largest city is Gangtok. The 36th Amendment repealed the 35th Amendment, and made Sikkim a full state, adding its name to the First Schedule of the Constitution.

### IAF all-woman crew flies Mi-17 chopper for first time

- In yet another achievement by women officers, an **all-woman crew flew a medium-lift helicopter for the first time in India**, the Indian Air Force (IAF) said.
- The crew, comprising **Flight Lieutenant Parul Bhardwaj (Captain)**, **Flying Officer Aman Nidhi (co-pilot)** and **Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal (flight engineer)**, flew a **Mi-17 V5 helicopter** for a Battle Inoculation Training Mission, taking off and landing from restricted areas at a forward air base in the South Western Air Command.
- **Flight Lieutenant Bhardwaj hails from Mukerian in Punjab** and is incidentally also the **first woman pilot to fly the Mi-17 V5**. **Flying Officer Nidhi hails from Ranchi** and is also the **first woman IAF pilot from Jharkhand** while **Flying Officer Jaiswal hails from Chandigarh** and is the **first woman Flight Engineer of the IAF**.

**Indian Air Force (IAF)** is the **air arm of the Indian Armed Forces**. Its complement of personnel and aircraft assets ranks **fourth amongst the air forces of the world**. Its primary mission is to **secure Indian airspace and to conduct aerial warfare during armed conflict**. It was **officially established on 8 October 1932** as an **auxiliary air force of the British Empire** which honoured India's aviation service during World War II with the prefix Royal. With the government's transition to a Republic in 1950, the prefix Royal was removed after only three years. **Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa** is the **25th Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force**.

### Pema Khandu took oath as Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister for second term

- **Pema Khandu** has been **sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh for the second time**. **Khandu was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Brig (Retd) B D Mishra** at the Dorjee Khandu Convention Centre.
- After having a **landslide victory in the Assembly elections with 41 seats in the 60-seat house**, the BJP held it's Legislature Party Meeting in Itanagar.

**Arunachal Pradesh** is the **northeastern-most state of the country**. **Itanagar** is the **capital of the state**. **Brigadier (Dr.) B. D. Mishra** is the **present Governor of Arunachal Pradesh**. **Pema Khandu** is the **current Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh**. The **McMahon Line** is the **demarcation line between the Tibetan region of China and the North-east region of India** proposed by British colonial administrator **Henry McMahon** at the **1914 Simla Convention** signed between British and Tibetan representatives.

### India elected to Executive Board of first UN-Habitat Assembly

- **India** has been **elected to the Executive Board of the first UN-Habitat Assembly** at the Plenary Session of the Assembly started in Nairobi, Kenya.
- The special theme for the UN-Habitat Assembly is **"Innovation for Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities"**.

**UN-Habitat** maintains its **headquarters at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya**. It is **mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all**. It is a **member of the United Nations Development Group**.

## BIMSTEC leaders invited to Prime Minister designate Modi's oath-taking ceremony

- India has invited the leaders of the BIMSTEC Member States for the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Invitations have also been sent to the President of Kyrgyzstan Sooronbay Jeenbekov who is the current Chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth, the Chief Guest at this year's Pravasi Bhartiya Divas.

BIMSTEC was set up in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration and includes India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The theme includes counter-terrorism in semi-urban terrain and cordon and search, and each side will bring in some 30 soldiers. BIMSTEC countries held a disaster management exercise in 2017, but this is the first military exercise of the grouping which brings together important neighbours of India in South and Southeast Asia. BIMSTEC permanent secretariat is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

## Madhya Pradesh's Orchha makes it to tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- The architectural heritage of Orchha town in Madhya Pradesh which depict peculiar style of the Bundela dynasty have been included in UNESCO's tentative list of world heritage sites following a proposal sent by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to the U.N. body.
- According to the rules, to be a part of UNESCO's World Heritage sites, the heritage or any historical site first has to be on the tentative list. After it makes to the tentative list, another proposal is sent to the UNESCO.

Madhya Pradesh (meaning Central Province) is a state in central India. Its capital is Bhopal. Nicknamed the "Heart of India" due to its geographical location in India. Madhya Pradesh is the second-largest state in the country by area after Rajasthan. This state was the largest in India by area until 2000, when its southeastern Chhattisgarh region was made as a separate state. MP has the largest reserves of diamond and copper in India.

## Telangana to have India's first blockchain district

- With an eye on the emerging market opportunities in Blockchain, the Telangana government is going to set up the country's first 'Blockchain district' to create an ecosystem for all the start-ups and institutes working in the space.
- Though the Blockchain technology encompasses all domains, the district would focus on banking, financial services and insurance; pharma and healthcare; logistics and supply chain; and the government sectors.

Telangana is the newly formed 29th state of India with Hyderabad as its permanent capital in 2014. Kalvakuntla Chandrashekhar Rao is the first and the current Chief Minister of Telangana. E. S. L. Narasimhan is the Governor of Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

## Record 78 women MPs elected to 17th Lok Sabha

- The highest-ever number of women have been elected in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. Out of 542 MPs who will take oath as members of the lower house in the next few days, 78 are women with Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal leading at 11 each.
- According to the Election Commission, the number has grown from the previous 62 women who were elected to the 16th Lok Sabha in 2014.
- In the country's first general elections in 1951, twenty-four women were elected to the Lower House, and since then, the number has been increasing.
- With over 14 per cent female MPs, the 17th Lok Sabha will have the highest number of women candidates since 1952. In 16th Lok Sabha, 64 women had won, while 52 women were elected to the 15th Lok Sabha.



- A total of 724 women candidates contested from across the country with Congress fielding the maximum women at 54 followed closely by BJP at 53.
- As many as 27 out of 41 sitting women MPs, including Sonia Gandhi, Hema Malini and Kirron Kher, retained their seats in Lok Sabha polls, but the likes of Smriti Irani and Pragya Thakur stole the show with their victories over their more renowned rivals. **Irani emerged as a giant-slayer -- this time scripting a historic win by dethroning Rahul Gandhi in the Congress' home turf Amethi.**

**In 14th Lok Sabha 52 women candidates won, in 13th Lok Sabha 52 women candidates won, in 12th Lok Sabha 44 women candidates won, in 11th Lok Sabha 41 women candidates won. In 10th Lok Sabha 42 women candidates won. There were 28 women in 9th Lok Sabha while the 8th Lok Sabha had 45 women MPs. Before that, the maximum of 37 women won in 3rd Lok Sabha. There were 24 women MPs each in the first and the second Lok Sabha.**

### Jagan Mohan Reddy sworn in as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

- YSR Congress party president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has been sworn-in as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.
- Governor ESL Narasimhan administered him the oath of office and secrecy at Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium in Vijayawada. **Mr Reddy is the second Chief Minister of bifurcated Andhra Pradesh.**
- Governor E S L Narasimhan administered the oath of office and secrecy to the 46-year-old leader, whose party emerged victorious in 151 seats in the 175-member strong state assembly.

**Andhra Pradesh is the first state in India to be formed under the State reorganisation act in 1956 and first state to be created based on the language in India. On 2 June 2014, the north-western portion of Andhra Pradesh was separated to form the new state of Telangana. The longtime capital of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, was transferred to Telangana as part of the division. Amaravati is the de facto capital city of the Andhra Pradesh. Nara Chandrababu Naidu was first chief minister of the state since it was divided from Telangana.**

### Goa celebrates its statehood day

- Goa celebrates its Statehood Day on 30th May. People's demand for full statehood was attained on 30th May 1987, when Goa became India's 25th state. Daman and Diu were separated from Goa and continue to be administered as a union territory.
- Earlier, Goa was a union territory, namely, Goa, Daman and Diu for all administrative and governance considerations. Attaining statehood opened several windows of development for the state.

**Goa is a state in India within the coastal region known as the Konkan, in Western India. It is India's smallest state by area and the fourth smallest by population. Panaji is the state's capital, while Vasco da Gama is its largest city. Mridula Sinha is the current Governor of Goa.**

### IAF chief's squadron to be first Rafale combat aircraft unit

- The first Rafale combat aircraft would be inducted into the Indian Air Force's 'Golden Arrows' 17 Squadron which was commanded by Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa during the Kargil war in 1999.
- "The first unit to receive the Rafale combat aircraft would be the 17 Squadron which was earlier located in Bhatinda in Punjab and will now be shifted to Ambala in Haryana".

### A bid to re-green Meghalaya

- Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma announced on social media the launch of the 'One Citizen One Tree' campaign ahead of the World Environment Day for re-greening the State affected by unregulated coal and limestone mining.

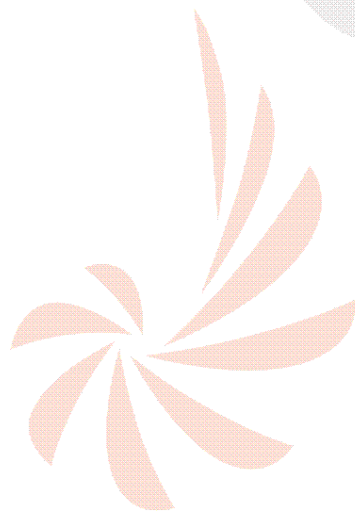
- “All districts will be covered in the mass plantation drive wherein all indigenous plants raised by the communities across the State will be provided to citizens who want to participate in the campaign”.

Meghalaya is a state in northeastern India. The name means “the abode of clouds” in Sanskrit. The capital of Meghalaya is Shillong. During the British rule of India, the British imperial authorities nicknamed it the “Scotland of the East”. Conrad Sangma is the 12th and current Chief Minister of the State of Meghalaya. Tathagata Roy is currently serving as Governor of Meghalaya since August 2018.

### Modi takes oath with 57 Ministers at glittering event

- Narendra Modi took oath as Prime Minister for the second term along with 57 Ministers, at a grand swearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- The size of the event, however, was not the only thing that made news, with BJP chief Amit Shah finally deciding to join the Union government, and former Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar making a surprise entry into the Union Cabinet, among the top 10 Ministers.

Narendra Damodardas Modi is serving as the 14th and current Prime Minister of India since 2014. He was the Chief Minister of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014, and is the Member of Parliament for Varanasi. Modi is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a Hindu nationalist volunteer organisation. He is the first prime minister outside of the Indian National Congress to win two consecutive terms with a full majority, and the second one to complete five years in office after Atal Bihari Vajpayee.





## International



### Corridor linking India, Myanmar no longer under BRI framework

- **India's decision to skip the Belt and Road Forum (BRF)** may have led to the exclusion of the **Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) economic corridor** from the list of projects covered by the **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) umbrella**.
- In an annex tagged with the Joint Communiqué of the Leaders' Roundtable of the BRF, which concluded in Beijing, the **Chinese Foreign Ministry website has not listed the BCIM as a project covered by the BRI** — the giant connectivity initiative spearheaded by China to revive the ancient Silk Road across Eurasia and Africa.

The **Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM EC)** is an initiative conceptualised for significant gains through sub-regional economic cooperation within the BCIM. The multi-modal corridor will be the first expressway between India and China and will pass through Myanmar and Bangladesh.

### Socialist Party wins Spanish election

- **Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez's Socialists** have won snap elections, without the necessary majority to govern solo, in a fragmented political landscape marked by the far-right's entry into Parliament.
- With more than 99% of votes counted, the **socialist party, PSOE, has won Spain's 2019 general election** and looks set to enter negotiations with Podemos to form a **leftwing coalition government** with prime minister **Pedro Sánchez** as leader. **PSOE won 123 of the 350 seats in parliament**.

Spain is a sovereign state mostly located on the Iberian Peninsula in Europe. Madrid is the capital of Spain and the largest municipality in both the Community of Madrid and Spain as a whole. Euro is the currency of Spain. Pío García-Escudero; Count of Badajoz has been the President of the Senate of Spain since 2011.

### In Japan, end of an era as Emperor Akihito steps down

- **Japan begins a new era**. On May 1, 2019, **Japan** entered into a new era when the **Crown Prince Naruhito, 59, acceded to the Chrysanthemum Throne** following abdication, the day before, by his father **Emperor Akihito**, ending his nearly 30 years of reign, the first emperor to do so in 200 years world's oldest monarchy.

Tokyo is the capital city of Japan. The yen is the official currency of Japan. Shinzo Abe is currently serving as the 57th Prime Minister of Japan.

### Lebanon sets new Guinness World Record

- **Lebanon's capital Beirut** has set a Guinness World Record for the number of national flags raised in a city for 24 hours. The Beirut Alive Association raised a total of 26,852 Lebanese flags breaking New York's Waterloo record of 25,599 flags.

Lebanon is a sovereign state in Western Asia. It is bordered by Syria to the north and east and Israel to the south, while Cyprus is west across the Mediterranean Sea. Beirut is the capital and largest city of Lebanon. Lebanese pound is the currency of Lebanon. Michel Naim Aoun is the current President of Lebanon.

## Benjamin Netanyahu sworn-in as Israel's PM

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was among the 120 newly-elected members who were sworn into country's new Parliament, three weeks after his victory in national election.
- Ahead of the swearing-in ceremony in Jerusalem, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin delivered a message of national unity to the 120 members of Parliament.
- Mr Netanyahu will seek to form a governing coalition in the days ahead. His Likud party won 35 seats in the election, the same as his main opponent from the centrist Blue and White alliance, led by former military chief Benny Gantz.

Israel is a country in the Middle East, Jerusalem is one of the oldest cities in the world, and is considered holy to the three major Abrahamic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Both Israel and the Palestinian Authority claim Jerusalem as their capital, however, neither claim is widely recognized internationally. Knesset is the unicameral national legislature of Israel. Israeli new shekel is the currency of Israel. Reuven Rivlin is serving as the 10th and current President of Israel since 2014.

## UN Security Council designates Masood Azhar as global terrorist

- In a huge diplomatic win for India, the United Nations designated Masood Azhar as a "global terrorist" after China lifted its hold on a proposal to blacklist the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed chief, a decade after New Delhi approached the world body for the first time on the issue.
- Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar was listed as a designated terrorist by the UN Security Council 1267 Committee.

Permanent members of the United Nations Security Council also known as the Permanent Five, Big Five, or P5 are the five states which the UN Charter of 1945 grants a permanent seat on the UN Security Council (UNSC), China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Antonio Guterres is a Portuguese politician and diplomat who is serving as the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations. Previously, he was the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees between 2005 and 2015.

## New initiative measuring violent deaths worldwide

- SIPRI has set up a new initiative aiming to establish the annual number of violent deaths worldwide.
- SIPRI's Global Registry of Violent Deaths (GReVD) will count deaths caused by all forms of violence and display these in an open-source database that will allow researchers, policymakers and the general public to track trends in violence at global, regional, national, provincial, city and municipal levels.

## UK parliament becomes first in the world to pass motion declaring a 'climate emergency'

- The UK parliament has become the first in the world to pass a motion declaring an "environment and climate emergency", as pressure on the government to adopt a net zero emission target as soon as possible continued to intensify.
- The emergency declaration was proposed by Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn. The motion was approved without a vote and registers the views of the House of Commons without compelling the government to act on any particular policy proposal.

The Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, commonly known internationally as the UK Parliament, British Parliament, or Westminster Parliament and domestically simply as Parliament, is the supreme legislative body of the United Kingdom, the Crown dependencies and the British Overseas Territories. Parliament is bicameral but has three parts, consisting of the Sovereign (the Queen-in-Parliament), the House of Lords, and the House of Commons (the primary chamber). The two houses meet in the Palace of Westminster in the City of Westminster, one of the inner boroughs of the capital city, London.

## US Air Force General Tod Wolters sworn in as top military officer of NATO

- US Air Force General Tod D. Wolters has been sworn in as the top military officer of the 29-nation NATO military alliance.
- The former pilot, who has served in Afghanistan and Iraq, became Supreme Allied Commander Europe at a ceremony at NATO's military headquarters in Mons in southern Belgium.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 29 North American and European countries based on the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949. NATO Headquarters are located in Haren, Brussels, Belgium, while the headquarters of Allied Command Operations is near Mons, Belgium. Jens Stoltenberg has been serving as the 13th Secretary General of NATO since 2014.

## London top choice for Indian investors with record investments in 2018: Report

- London emerged as the top choice for Indian investors ahead of other cities such as Dubai and Singapore, with investments by Indian companies in the British capital reaching an all-time high last year.
- The UK emerged as the top most country to attract Indian FDI with 52 projects, ahead of the US (51) and the UAE (32), in 2018, said London & Partners (L&P), the Mayor of London's promotional agency, in the new analysis.

## Coronation of Thailand's 'Rama X' begins

- To the boom of cannons, pipes and chants, King Maha Vajiralongkorn was crowned in a ceremony governed by centuries-old rituals, vowing a righteous reign and calling for "national security" and "happiness" in a remarkable display of royal power.
- King Vajiralongkorn is the 10th monarch of the Chakri dynasty, which has reigned over the kingdom since 1782. He ascended the throne over two years ago following the death of his beloved father.

Thailand officially the Kingdom of Thailand and formerly known as Siam is a country at the center of the Southeast Asian Indochinese peninsula. The capital and largest city is Bangkok, a special administrative area. Prayut Chan-o-cha serves as the Prime Minister of Thailand. The baht is the official currency of Thailand.

## Stevo Pendarovski wins North Macedonia's presidential election

- Stevo Pendarovski, supported by the ruling Social Democrats (SDSM), has won the North Macedonian presidency in a run-off vote.
- The 56-year-old garnered 51.66 percent of the vote in North Macedonia, beating nationalist VMRO's Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova which got 44.73 percent.

North Macedonia, officially the Republic of North Macedonia, is a country in the Balkan Peninsula in Southeast Europe. It is one of the successor states of the former Yugoslavia, from which it declared independence in 1991. It is a landlocked country. Skopje is the capital and largest city of the Republic of Macedonia. The denar is the currency of the Republic of Macedonia. Zoran Zaev is serving as the Prime Minister of Macedonia.

## Panama election: Cortizo wins unexpectedly close race

- In an unexpectedly close race, Mr Cortizo finished two percentage points ahead of his centre-right rival, Rómulo Roux.
- The country's electoral tribunal says 95% of ballots have been counted, with Mr Cortizo winning 33% of votes, followed by Mr Roux with 33%.



Panama officially the Republic of Panama is a country in Central America. Panama City is the capital and largest city of Panama. Juan Carlos Varela is the current President of Panama since 2014. Laurentino Cortizo is president-elect of the Panama. The balboa is, along with the United States dollar, one of the official currencies of Panama.

### US unveils strategy to detect and respond to health security threats globally

- The United States government has come up with a first of its kind strategy to prevent, detect and respond to threats from infectious diseases occurring naturally or accidentally, in an effort to help improve the world's ability to stop and contain deadly outbreaks before they spread between countries.
- The Global Health Security Strategy, unveiled, defines the actions the US administration will take by adopting a whole-of-government approach to health security.

### Mali President names new government

- In Mali, the president has named a new government after its predecessor resigned last month. President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita announced the new executive of 37 members under Prime Minister Boubou Cisse.

Mali is a landlocked country in West Africa, a region geologically identified with the West African Craton. Mali is the eighth-largest country in Africa. Bamako is the capital and largest city of Mali. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita or as he is often known, IBK, has been President of Mali since 2013. West African CFA franc is the currency of eight independent states in West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

### India scores another UN win as Jagjit Pavadia re-elected to INCB

- India scored another victory at the United Nations when Jagjit Pavadia was re-elected to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for another term, posting the highest tally of 44.
- Pavadia has been a member of the International Narcotics Control Board since 2015, and second vice-president and chair of the standing committee on estimates since 2015 and 2017.
- India has been on roll at UN elections in recent year, including the most celebrated re-election of Dalveer Bhandari to the International Court of Justice in 2017, beating the UK nominee in a testimony to India's growing clout globally.

The INCB is an independent, quasi-judicial expert body established in 1968 as a monitoring body for the implementation of the United Nations international drug control conventions.

### Imran Khan's PTI Pakistan's richest political party: ECP

- Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehrekk-i-Insaf party ( PTI) is Pakistan's richest political entity with assets worth over 375 million rupees.

### Iran's President announces partial withdrawal from nuclear deal

- Iran's President Hassan Rouhani in a televised address has announced that it will partially withdraw from some of the commitments made under the 2015 International Nuclear Deal.
- United States has also announced to cancel waivers to countries, including India, who have been purchasing oil from Iran.

In May 2018, US President Donald Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal, and re-impose sanctions against Iran that had been lifted under the agreement. The first round of restrictions came into force in August and the second on 5 November 2018.

## 180 nations agree to curb export of plastic waste

- Around 180 governments agreed on a new UN accord to regulate the export of plastic waste, some eight million tonnes of which ends up in the oceans each year.
- The 1,400 representatives, meeting in Geneva reached the agreement after 12 days' discussion on what Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) called "one of the world's most pressing environmental issues".

## UN to hold 2020 ocean conference in Lisbon

- United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) decided to hold its 2020 high-level conference in Portugal's Lisbon to support the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources.
- The UNGA "decides to convene the high-level 2020 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Lisbon," according to a resolution adopted by the 80th plenary meeting of the UNGA 73rd session.

United Nations General Assembly is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN), the only one in which all member nations have equal representation, and the main deliberative, policy-making, and representative organ of the UN. Its powers are to oversee the budget of the UN, appoint the non-permanent members to the Security Council, and appoint the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The General Assembly currently meets under its president or secretary-general in annual sessions at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York City. María Fernanda Espinosa is the current President of the United Nations General Assembly for the 73rd session.

## Pakistan reaches agreement with IMF, to get \$6 billion over 3 years

- Pakistan reached an agreement with the IMF on a bailout package under which the cash-strapped country will receive \$6 billion over three years, according to a top official. The latest deal would be the 22nd bailout package since Pakistan became member of the IMF in 1950.
- The deal comes after months of negotiations over what will be Pakistan's 22nd bail out aimed at staving off a potential balance-of-payments crisis as the country struggles with a stagnating economy.

Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi is the 13th and current President of Pakistan. Pakistan is a country in South Asia. It is the fifth-most populous country. Islamabad is the capital city of Pakistan. Pakistani rupee is the currency of Pakistan. Imran Khan is the current Prime Minister of Pakistan.

## South Africa elections: ANC keeps power in South Africa but scandals cost it votes

- The African National Congress retained control of South Africa's parliament but its share of the vote fell, a rebuke from voters fed up with corruption scandals and racial inequalities that remain entrenched a generation after the party took power.
- Provisional results showed the ruling party secured 57.51% of the votes in general election. The main opposition party Democratic Alliance (DA) picked up 20.76% and the leftist Economic Freedom Fighters garnered 10.79%.

South Africa is the southernmost country in Africa. It is the southernmost country on the mainland of the Old World or the Eastern Hemisphere. Pretoria is one of the country's three capital cities, serving as the seat of the administrative branch of government (Cape Town is the legislative capital and Bloemfontein the judicial capital), and of foreign embassies to South Africa. Cyril Ramaphosa is the fifth and current President of South Africa. South African rand is the official currency of South Africa.



## Cyril Ramaphosa inaugurated as president of South Africa on 25 May

- Cyril Ramaphosa's party African National Congress (ANC) won the general elections, with his party securing the 57.51 per cent votes.
- Ramaphosa took over as the president of South Africa in February 2018 after the then President Jacob Zuma was forced to resign due to charges of corruption. Incidentally, this is for the first time that ANC has got less than 60 per cent votes in national polls.

## CTBTO invites India to be an observer at meetings

- The executive secretary of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), Lassina Zerbo, has invited India to be an observer in the CTBT. This system can detect even small nuclear explosions using seismology, hydroacoustics, and infrasound and radionuclide technology.

Being an observer would give India access to data from the International Monitoring System a network which when complete will consist of 337 facilities (321 monitoring stations and 16 radionuclide labs) located in 89 countries.

## Former Supreme Court judge Justice Madan Lokur appointed to Supreme Court of Fiji

- Justice (retired) Madan B Lokur has been appointed to the Supreme Court of Fiji as a judge of its non-resident panel. Justice Lokur, who demitted office as a Supreme Court justice on December 31 2018, has been appointed in the new role for a period of three years.
- The Supreme Court of Fiji has three sessions in a year. Justice Lokur will join it for the session from August 15 to August 30, 2019. Other nations from which Fiji has invited judges to join its Supreme Court include Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa and Sri Lanka.

Fiji is an island country in Melanesia, part of Oceania in the South Pacific Ocean. Suva is the capital and largest metropolitan city in Fiji. George Konrote has been President of Fiji since 2015. The Fijian dollar has been the currency of Fiji.

## The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

- The world's foremost gathering on reducing disaster risk and building the resilience of communities and nations, the Global Platform for Disaster Reduction was first held in 2007.
- It takes place every two years, with the 2015 edition rolled into the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Its sixth session took place in Geneva, Switzerland from 13 to 17 May, 2019 under the theme Resilience Dividend: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is a biennial forum for information exchange, discussion of latest developments, knowledge and partnership-building across sectors, with the goal of improving implementation of disaster risk reduction through better communication and coordination amongst stakeholders. Its core function is to enable governments, NGOs, scientists, practitioners, and UN organizations to share experience and formulate strategic guidance for the implementation of global disaster risk reduction agreements: the 2005 Hyogo Framework for Action and its post-2015 successor the Sendai Framework.

## India signs 'Christchurch Call to Action'

- India signed the 'Christchurch Call to Action'. The agreement came in the backdrop of the attacks on mosques on March 15 and is aimed at stopping abuse of the Internet by extremists.
- "The dissemination of such content online has adverse impacts on the human rights of the victims, on our collective security and on people all over the world," declared a statement issued by the 17 signatory countries.

## Taiwan legalizes same-sex marriage in landmark first for Asia

- In a landmark first for Asia, Taiwan's Parliament passed a bill legalising same-sex marriage.
- The bill would allow same-sex couples to form 'exclusive permanent unions' and would let them apply for a 'marriage registration' with government agencies. Australia and New Zealand are the only places in the wider Asia-Pacific region to have passed gay marriage laws.

## Trump unveils merit-based immigration system

- US President Donald Trump has rolled out a merit-based immigration system from which foreigners, including hundreds and thousands of Indian professionals and skilled workers, waiting to get Green Cards or permanent legal residency stand to benefit.

As a permanent resident (Green Card holder), you have the right to: 1. Live permanently in the United States provided you do not commit any actions that would make you removable under immigration law, 2. Work in the United States at any legal work of your qualification and choosing. (Please note that some jobs will be limited to U.S. citizens for security reasons), 2. Be protected by all laws of the United States, your state of residence and local jurisdictions.

## Saudi Arabia approves permanent residency for first time

- The Saudi government has approved for the first time a scheme that gives permanent residency to certain expatriates, allowing them to own real estate in the kingdom and reside with their families without a Saudi sponsor.
- The "Privileged Iqama" system will offer a permanent residence scheme and one that can be renewed annually to highly skilled expatriates and owners of capital funds.

Saudi Arabia is a sovereign Arab state in Western Asia. Saudi Arabia is the largest country in the Middle East. Riyadh is the capital and most populous city of Saudi Arabia. Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud has been King of Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques since 23 January 2015. Mohammad bin Salman is the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, also serving as First Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Council for Economic and Development Affairs and Minister of Defense—the world's youngest office holder at the time. Saudi riyal is the currency of Saudi Arabia.

## Saudi Arabia calls an emergency meeting of GCC in Makkah on May 30

- Saudi Arabia has called the leaders of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) member states as well as the heads of state of Arab League to convene two emergency summits in Makkah on the 30th of this month.
- The emergency meetings called by Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to look into the recent acts of sabotage against commercial vessels off the UAE waters and the terror attacks on two Saudi pumping stations, and their consequences on the region.

Gulf Cooperation Council is a regional intergovernmental political and economic union consisting of all Arab states of the Persian Gulf except Iraq. Its member states are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. The Charter of the Gulf Cooperation Council was signed on 25 May 1981.

## For Indians in Scotland, River Clyde is the new Ganga

- A quiet spot on River Clyde in the town of Port Glasgow has been designated as the first official spot in Scotland where, instead of travelling to towns along the Ganga, Sikhs and Hindus can scatter ashes as part of rituals after funerals.

- Following talks with the Indian community, the **Inverclyde Council** has **become the first local authority in Scotland to recognise the ritual**, and has installed railings at the Newark slipway in Port Glasgow, 35 km from Glasgow.

**Scotland** is a country that is part of the United Kingdom. **Edinburgh** is the capital city of Scotland. **Nicola Sturgeon** is the current First Minister of Scotland.

### Austrian Vice-Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache resigns

- **Austrian Vice-Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache**, a key figure of the European far-right, has **resigned after explosive revelations from a hidden camera sting**, just days before key EU elections.
- In the recordings, **Strache and his party's group leader in parliament, Johann Gudenus**, are seen discussing with a woman purporting to be the niece of a Russian oligarch how she can invest in Austria. He would be replaced by Transport Minister Norbert Hofer.

**Austria** is a country in Central Europe comprising nine federated states. Its capital, largest city and one of nine states is **Vienna**. **Brigitte Bierlein** has been serving as Chancellor of Austria since 3 June 2019. Following the Ibiza affair, Austrian president Alexander Van der Bellen named Bierlein interim chancellor on 30 May 2019, after a parliamentary motion of confidence dismissed the government of Sebastian Kurz. Euro is the currency of Austria.

### UK council gets first Sikh woman cabinet member

- **Jasbir Jaspal**, who was elected from Heath Town in Wolverhampton has been **appointed to the council's cabinet by the new leader, Ian Brookfield (Labour)**, making her the **first Sikh woman to hold the post**.
- **Jaspal**, who has been a councillor in the City of Wolverhampton Council since 2012, is responsible for policy areas that include resilience and business continuity, community safety and cohesion, healthy ageing and healthy life expectancy.
- **She is hailing from Kala Sanghian, Jalandhar**, Jaspal moved to Wolverhampton aged 2, and has since lived in the city in the west Midlands with a large population of Indian and Sikh origin. **Her husband, Milkinder Jaspal**, is also a councillor and former mayor.

**London** is the capital and most populous city of England and the United Kingdom. Pound sterling is the official currency of the United Kingdom. Theresa Mary May is serving as the current Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. **Elizabeth II** is Queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms. She is the longest-lived and longest-reigning British monarch as well as the world's longest-reigning queen regnant and female head of state, the oldest and longest-reigning current monarch and the oldest and longest-serving current head of state.

### Australian PM Scott Morrison wins federal elections

- **In Australia**, Prime Minister Scott Morrison's Liberal-National Coalition won the federal elections.
- **Prime Minister Morrison** has declared victory after his coalition defied opinion polls and secured a surprise win over the opposition Labor Party. **Australia** has **mandatory voting for people aged 18 and over**.

**Australia** is the largest country in Oceania and the world's sixth-largest country by total area. **Australia's capital is Canberra**, and its largest city is **Sydney**. Elizabeth II is the Head of the Commonwealth and queen regnant of seven independent Commonwealth countries: the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon.

## TAPI gas pipeline meeting held in Turkmenistan

- A delegation led by Special Assistant to Prime Minister Imran on Petroleum Nadeem Babar departed for Ashgabat, Turkmenistan to **participate in the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline meeting.**
- **Groundbreaking of the TAPI gas pipeline will be held in Pakistan** in October, according to sources. The Pakistani delegation is travelling to Turkmenistan to finalise the plans for the groundbreaking of the project.
- **The TAPI gas pipeline project is expected to be completed by 2022 in Pakistan.** Once completed; **Pakistan is expected to receive 1.320 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas.**

The TAPI project, supported by the United States and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), has been touted by Turkmenistan since the 1990s. But the start of work was delayed because of the problem of crossing Afghanistan. The ADB is acting as the facilitator and coordinator for the project.

## Turkey, Russia to jointly produce missile systems

- **Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said Turkey and Russia would jointly produce S-500 defence systems** after Ankara's controversial purchase of the S-400 missile defence system from Moscow.
- **Turkey's push to buy the S-400s** has further strained already tense relations with the U.S.

**S-400 Triumf** previously known as the **S-300 PMU-3** is an **anti-aircraft weapon system developed in the 1990s by Russia's Almaz Central Design Bureau** as an upgrade of the S-300 family. It has been in service with the Russian Armed Forces since 2007.

## Volodymyr Zelenskiy takes oath as Ukraine's new President

- **In Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskiy took oath as country's new President,** announcing snap parliamentary elections at the same ceremony. **Zelenskiy became Ukraine's youngest post-Soviet President** after he scored a landslide election victory against **incumbent Petro Poroshenko.**

**Ukraine is a sovereign state in Eastern Europe.** Its capital and largest city is **Kiev.** **Petro Oleksiyovych Poroshenko** is the **fifth and current President of Ukraine.** **Volodymyr Groysman** has been the **Prime Minister of Ukraine** since 14 April 2016. The **hryvnia**, sometimes **hryvnya** has been the **national currency of Ukraine** since 2 September 1996. The **Crimean peninsula** was **annexed from Ukraine by the Russian Federation** in February–March 2014 and since then has been administered as two Russian federal subjects—the **Republic of Crimea** and the federal city of **Sevastopol.**

## Theresa May to resign as prime minister

- **British Prime Minister has announced that she would resign as the UK's Conservative leader on June 7 "in the best interests of the country",** paving the way for a contest to decide the new Prime Minister after she failed to win over her ministers with a revised strategy to withdraw Britain from the European Union.
- **Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt** has become the latest MP to say that he will run, joining **Boris Johnson, Esther McVey and Rory Stewart.**

**In July 2016,** following a **Brexit referendum** in which a **majority of those voting supported leaving the European Union,** **Davis** was **appointed by new Prime Minister Theresa May as Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union,** with responsibility for negotiating the UK's prospective exit from the EU. **Brexit is the impending withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU).** In a referendum on 23 June 2016, **51.9% of the participating UK electorate voted to leave the EU.**



## First black woman sworn in as Chicago mayor

- **Lightfoot is the first black female and first openly gay leader of the Chicago city, which will now be the largest in United States history to have an openly LGBTQ mayor, and again the largest U.S. city to be headed by a woman.**

## Joko Widodo elected President of Indonesia for second term

- **Indonesia's Joko Widodo has been re-elected as president of the country, beating rival Prabowo Subianto, a retired general.**
- **The elections commission has said Widodo and his vice-presidential running mate Ma'ruf Amin won the election by a 55.5 percent to 44.5 percent margin over Subianto and Sandiaga Uno.**

**Indonesia is a sovereign state in Southeast Asia, between the Indian and Pacific oceans. It is the world's largest island country, with more than thirteen thousand islands. With over 261 million people, it is the world's 4th most populous country as well as the most populous Muslim-majority country. Java is the world's most populous island. Jakarta is the country's capital. The rupiah (Rp) is the official currency of Indonesia. Joko Widodo also known as Jokowi is the seventh and current President of Indonesia.**

## UAE launches 'Golden Card' scheme to woo wealthy investors, exceptional talents

- **The United Arab Emirates launched a permanent residency scheme to woo wealthy individuals and exceptional talents, a move that could attract more Indian professionals and businessmen to the Gulf nation.**
- **The "Golden Card" programme unveiled by UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum is open to investors and "exceptional talents" such as doctors, engineers, scientists, students and artists.**

**Abu Dhab is the capital and the second most populous city of the United Arab Emirates (the most populous being Dubai), and also capital of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the largest of the UAE's seven emirates. United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a federal sovereign absolute monarchy in Western Asia. Khalifa Al Nahyan is the current President of the United Arab Emirates. Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is the Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, and Ruler of the Emirate of Dubai. United Arab Emirates dirham is the currency of the United Arab Emirates.**

## Trump names woman as head of US Air Force

- **US President Donald Trump had nominated a former ambassador and Arizona businesswoman to lead the Air Force.**
- **Barbara Barrett served as the US ambassador to Finland from 2008 to 2009 under the George W. Bush administration. She also chaired an aeronautics research and development center, The Aerospace Corporation, until 2017.**

**United States of America (USA) is a federal republic composed of 50 states and capital is Washington, D.C.,. Donald John Trump is the 45th and current President of the United States. He became the oldest and wealthiest person ever to assume the presidency, the first without prior military or government service, and the fifth to have won the election while losing the popular vote.**

## US, Japan, South Korea, and Australia hold first joint naval drills

- **US Navy ships have conducted joint drills with warships from Japan, Australia and South Korea in their first combined exercise in the Western Pacific.**
- **The Pacific Vanguard exercise near the US island of Guam started, in advance of President Donald Trump's visit to Japan this weekend, as Washington looks to allies in Asia to help counter China's military might in the region.**



## U20 leaders call on G20 to accelerate SDG goals progress

- Global leaders must act fast on climate change, social inclusion and sustainable economic growth, urged the mayors of 30 major cities from across the world.
- The issues highlighted by the mayors and city governors of 2019 Urban 20 Tokyo Mayors Summit Communiqué on May 22 are represented in the United Nations-mandated sustainable development goals, the deadline of which is 2030.

The G20 or Group of Twenty is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union. It was founded in 1999; the G20 aims to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability. Membership of the G20 consists of 19 individual countries plus the European Union (EU).

## Donald Trump becomes the first world leader to meet Japan's new emperor

- President Donald Trump got the red carpet treatment at Japan's Imperial Palace where he made history, becoming the first world leader to meet with the new emperor of Japan.
- Emperor Naruhito ascended to the throne on May 1, opening what is called the era of "Reiwa," or "beautiful harmony."
- The president and first lady Melania Trump kicked off the formal visit with handshakes and greetings with Naruhito and Empress Masako.

Naruhito is the Emperor of Japan. He acceded to the Chrysanthemum Throne on 1 May 2019, beginning the Reiwa era, following the abdication of his father, Emperor Akihito, on 30 April 2019. He is the 126th monarch according to Japan's traditional order of succession. Shinzo Abe is serving as Prime Minister of Japan and Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) since 2012.

United States of America (USA) is a federal republic composed of 50 states and capital is Washington, D.C.,. Donald John Trump is the 45th and current President of the United States. He became the oldest and wealthiest person ever to assume the presidency, the first without prior military or government service, and the fifth to have won the election while losing the popular vote.

## European Parliament elections: EPP win 178 seats

- European Parliament published the provisional results for this year's elections, showing the European People's Party group winning 178 seats and remaining the largest political group in the legislature.
- The second largest group is the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) with 152 seats, in the 751-member legislature.
- The combination of two largest parties, traditionally forming a grand alliance big enough to be in the control in the legislature, fell short of a majority. The third largest group is the ALDE group plus France's Renaissance with 108 seats. The group of Greens and European Free Alliance came in fourth place with 67 seats. The European Conservatives and Reformists group is the fifth-largest with 61 seats.
- European Parliament announced that EU-wide turnout has risen over 50 per cent, the highest in 20 years and the first significant increase in turnout since 1979.

European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 28 member states that are located primarily in Europe. The Maastricht Treaty established the European Union in 1993 and introduced European citizenship. A monetary union was established in 1999 and came into full force in 2002 and is composed of 19 EU member states which use the euro currency. Brussels is the de facto capital of the European Union. Jean-Claude Juncker is serving as President of the European Commission since 2014. Donald Franciszek Tusk has been the President of the European Council since 2014.

## Trump government begins process to ban work permits for spouses of H1-B holders

- In a major blow for H1-B visa holders, the Trump administration has begun the process to ban work permits for spouses of H1-B visa holders. The move, which was first proposed in 2017, would affect thousands of Indian techies in the US.
- The H4 visa is issued to dependent family members (spouse and children) of H1-B visa holders. Employment Authorization Document (EAD) for H4 visa holders allows H4 visa dependent spouses of H1-B non-immigrants to legally work in the United States.
- The H4 EAD rule was implemented with the intention of retaining highly skilled foreign workers and decreasing the interruption to US businesses that results from H1-B workers choosing not to stay in the US. The Obama administration expected the rule to reduce economic burdens among H1-B non-immigrants and their families.
- From February 25, 2015, spouses of H-1B visa holders who were in the process of obtaining a green card were given work permits. DHS now seeks to remove this from its regulations. DHS now seeks to remove this from its regulations.

The H-1B is a visa in the United States under the Immigration and Nationality Act, section 101(a)(15)(H) that allows U.S. employers to temporarily employ foreign workers in specialty occupations. A specialty occupation requires the application of specialized knowledge and a bachelor's degree or the equivalent of work experience. The duration of stay is three years, extendable to six years; after which the visa holder may need to reapply. Laws limit the number of H-1B visas that are issued each year: 180,440 new and initial H-1B visas were issued in 2017.

## Russia Launches New Nuclear-Powered Icebreaker

- Russia has launched the third and final Project 22220 LK-60YA-class nuclear-powered icebreaker at the Baltic Shipyard in Saint Petersburg.
- The Ural was laid down at the Baltic Shipyard, part of the United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC), in July 2016. The ship is expected to be commissioned in 2021. Its sister ships Arktika and Sibir were laid down in 2013 and 2015 respectively and will be commissioned in June 2019 and November 2020.

Vladimir Putin first became President of Russia in 1999. He has held the office since then except for one term when Dmitry Medvedev was in office due to term-limit restrictions. The presidential term in Russia is six years but it was four years during Putin's first two terms. A duma is a Russian assembly with advisory or legislative functions. Moscow is the capital and most populous city of Russia. Russian ruble or rouble is the currency of it.

## Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz ousted in no-confidence vote

- Austrian Parliament has removed Chancellor Sebastian Kurz from office as he lost the no confidence in a special Parliamentary session. Opposition parties brought forward the two no-confidence votes - one against Kurz and the other against his government.
- His previous coalition ally, the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ) and the opposition Social Democrats (SPÖ) backed the no-confidence motions. The FPÖ had become embroiled in a political scandal caused by a secret video, which ended the coalition.

Austria is a country in Central Europe comprising nine federated states. Its capital, largest city and one of nine states is Vienna. Brigitte Bierlein has been serving as Chancellor of Austria since 3 June 2019. Following the Ibiza affair, Austrian president Alexander Van der Bellen named Bierlein interim chancellor on 30 May 2019, after a parliamentary motion of confidence dismissed the government of Sebastian Kurz. Euro is the currency of Austria.

## Malawi election: President Mutharika re-elected after court battle

- **Malawi's President Peter Mutharika** has been **narrowly elected to a second term in office with 38.5% of the vote**. The MEC say **President Mutharika**, who heads the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), **gained a narrow victory by about 159,000 votes**.
- **Challenger Lazarus Chakwera**, who **finished in second place**, had sought to delay the results because of **concerns over voting irregularities**. **Mr Chakwera**, from the **Malawi Congress Party (MCP)**, came close behind with **about 35.4% of the vote**. He had also placed as runner-up five years ago.

Malawi officially the **Republic of Malawi**, is a **landlocked country in southeast Africa** that was **formerly known as Nyasaland**. Its **capital is Lilongwe**, which is also Malawi's largest city. The **country is also nicknamed "The Warm Heart of Africa"** because of the **friendliness of the people**. The **kwacha** is the **currency of Malawi** as of 1971, replacing the Malawian pound.

## Sri Lanka signs tripartite agreement with India and Japan

- **Sri Lanka** has **signed a tripartite agreement with India and Japan for development of eastern terminal of Colombo port**.
- **Sri Lanka Port Authority (SLPA)** will hold **51 per cent majority stake in the port development** while **Japan and India** will have **combined stake of 49 per cent**.
- **The deal is significant as over 70% of India's transshipment business** is handled at Colombo ports.

**Sri Lanka** is an island country in **South Asia**, located in the **Indian Ocean** to the southwest of the **Bay of Bengal**. **Sri Lanka** is separated from the **India** by the **Gulf of Mannar** and the **Palk Strait**. **Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte** is the official, administrative capital of **Sri Lanka**. **Colombo** is the **commercial capital and largest city of Sri Lanka**. **Maithripala Sirisena** is the **current and 7th and current President of Sri Lanka**, in office since **January 2015**. **Ranil Wickremesinghe** is the **Prime Minister of Sri Lanka** since **9 January 2015**. **Sri Lankan rupee** is the **currency of Sri Lanka**.

## Scott Morrison sworn in as Australia's Prime Minister

- **Scott Morrison** has been **sworn in as Australia's Prime Minister**, 11 days after retaining the position in the country's general election.
- **He was sworn in by Queen Elizabeth's official representative in Australia**, Governor-General **Sir Peter Cosgrove**, at a ceremony in the capital, **Canberra**. **Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack** was also sworn in.

**Australia** is the **largest country in Oceania** and the **world's sixth-largest country by total area**. **Australia's capital is Canberra**, and its **largest city is Sydney**. **Elizabeth II** is the **Head of the Commonwealth** and **queen regnant of seven independent Commonwealth countries**: the **United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon**.

## Papua New Guinea chooses James Marape as new prime minister

- **Papua New Guinea** has **appointed a new prime minister after weeks of political upheaval**. **Lawmakers voted overwhelmingly to elect James Marape**, a former finance minister, who resigned in April in protest against a gas project.
- **Papua New Guinea**, a **South Pacific nation of 7.3 million people**, has rich reserves of **copper, gold, and oil**, but development has been **hampered by public order issues, rugged terrain and disputes over land**.

**Papua New Guinea** is a country in **Oceania** that **occupies the eastern half of the island of New Guinea** and its offshore islands in **Melanesia**, a region of the southwestern Pacific Ocean north of **Australia**. Its **capital, located along its southeastern coast, is Port Moresby**. The **kina** is the **currency of Papua New Guinea**.



## UN extends sanctions against South Sudan

- The UN Security Council has extended an arms embargo and sanctions on South Sudan for a year, despite resistance from African countries, Russia and China.
- A US-drafted resolution was adopted by a vote of 10 in favour with five abstentions. Resolutions in the 15-member council require a minimum of nine votes for adoption.

Permanent members of the United Nations Security Council also known as the Permanent Five, Big Five, or P5 are the five states which the UN Charter of 1945 grants a permanent seat on the UN Security Council (UNSC), China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Antonio Guterres is a Portuguese politician and diplomat who is serving as the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations. Previously, he was the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees between 2005 and 2015.

## Ramaphosa announces gender-balanced Cabinet

- South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced a new cabinet in which, for the first time in the country's history, half of all ministers are women.
- South African President Cyril Ramaphosa cut the number of Cabinet Ministers from 36 to 28, in a move he said would tackle the country's "bloated" government.
- Half the new ministers are women, making South Africa one of the world's few gender-balanced governments.

South Africa is the southernmost country in Africa. It is the southernmost country on the mainland of the Old World or the Eastern Hemisphere. Pretoria is one of the country's three capital cities, serving as the seat of the administrative branch of government (Cape Town is the legislative capital and Bloemfontein the judicial capital), and of foreign embassies to South Africa. Cyril Ramaphosa is the fifth and current President of South Africa. South African rand is the official currency of South Africa.

## Mahathir proposes 'common currency'

- East Asia should consider a common regional trading currency based on gold to promote commerce, and free the region from relying on dollar transactions, Malaysia's Prime Minister Mohamad Mahathir said. He said the exchange rate would "relate to" the performance of individual countries.

## India to lose preferential trade terms with U.S.

- India will lose access to preferential trade terms with the U.S. under the latter's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) programme.

The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a U.S. trade program designed to promote economic growth in the developing world by providing preferential duty-free entry for up to 4,800 products from 129 designated beneficiary countries and territories. GSP was instituted on January 1, 1976, by the Trade Act of 1974.

## Nayib Bukele sworn in as president of El Salvador

- In the Central American country of El Salvador, Nayib Bukele has been sworn-in as the nation's President. Bukele was sworn-in by the Speaker of the National Assembly in downtown San Salvador. Delegations from 83 countries attended the ceremony.

El Salvador is the smallest and the most densely populated country in Central America. El Salvador's capital and largest city is San Salvador. United States dollar is the official currency of the El Salvador.



## **ECONOMY AND FINANCE**



### **Economy News**

#### **Supreme Court gives RBI ‘last chance’ to alter disclosure policy**

- The Supreme Court gave the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) “a last opportunity” to withdraw a November 2016 Disclosure Policy to the extent to which it stonewalls revelation of every other kind of information under the Right to Information Act, including the list of wilful defaulters and annual inspection reports.
- A Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and M.R. Shah found the policy of the central bank to be directly contrary to the court’s judgment of December 2015 that the Reserve Bank could not withhold information sought under the RTI Act.

#### **EIU set to lower India's growth outlook for 2019-20**

- Indian economy will grow below its potential in 2019-20, said a report from the Hong Kong-based The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) while warning it is set to lower its own current estimate of 7.2 per cent for the country's GDP growth rate in its next forecast round.

#### **India biggest recipient of funds from ADB last year**

- India was the biggest recipient of funds from Asian Development Bank last year and would continue to get sovereign loans in excess of USD 3 billion in 2019 as well.
- India received nearly 25 per cent of the total loans sanctioned last year. New commitments included USD 21.6 billion in loans, grants and investments from ADB's own resources.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966, which is headquartered in the Ortigas Center located in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines. Takehiko Nakao is the current and ninth president of the Asian Development Bank.

#### **Netherlands emerges as third largest foreign direct investor in India during FY18**

- With investments estimated at about USD 2.7 billion across sectors, the Netherlands has emerged as the third largest foreign direct investor in India during 2017-18.
- The Netherlands was also the second largest destination for foreign investment by Indian companies, after Singapore, with investments worth \$12.8 billion in 2017. During 2017-18, the bilateral trade topped \$ 8.77 billion while the Indian exports to the Netherlands grew at 14.7 per cent, imports were up by 18.2 per cent.

The Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad, and the Netherlands Business Support Office in Hyderabad jointly organised the ‘Dutch-India Dialogue on Trade & Technology’ in connection with the National Day celebrations of the Netherlands.

## Asia-Pacific to grow 5.7% this year: ADB

- The Asia-Pacific region is expected to power ahead growing at 5.7% this year but escalating trade tensions are a source of worry, according to Takehiko Nakao, President and Chairperson, Asian Development Bank.

## WTO Ministerial Meeting of Developing Countries in New Delhi

- A WTO Ministerial meeting of developing countries is hosted by India in New Delhi. Sixteen developing countries, Six Least Developed Countries (LDC) (Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Brazil, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, China, Egypt, Guatemala, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Malaysia, Nigeria, Oman, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, and Uganda) and DG, WTO are participated in the meeting.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. World Trade Organization has replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which commenced in 1948. Roberto Azevedo is the current Director-General of the WTO. The WTO has 164 members and 23 observer governments. Liberia became the 163rd member on 14 July 2016, and Afghanistan became the 164th member on 29 July 2016.

## Income tax e-filers drop by over 6.6 lakh in FY19: Official data

- In a first in recent history of tax filings, income tax e-filings in FY2019 have dropped by more than 6.6 lakh, a trend that analysts said was surprising as tax base was expected to increase post demonetisation.
- According to statistics put out on Income Tax Department's e-filing website, income tax e-filings in FY 2018-19 was 6.68 crore, down from 6.74 crore in the previous fiscal. E-filers in FY 2016-17 were 5.28 crore.

## KVIC distributes over 1 lakh bee-boxes under 'Honey Mission'

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has distributed more than one lakh bee-boxes among farmers and unemployed youths across the country in less than two years under its 'Honey Mission' initiative.
- The commission has so far distributed 1, 01,000 bee-boxes, which had happened for the first time in India.

## Hyderabad airport ranked top 10 airports in the world

- The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad was ranked among one of the top 10 airports in the world after a survey conducted by AirHelp, a company which deals with the rights of air passengers.
- According to the survey, Hamad International Airport in Doha in Qatar was rated the world's best airport with 8.39 out of 10, followed by Tokyo International Airport in Japan and Athens International Airport in Greece. The Hyderabad airport was ranked eighth, with a score of 8.27 out of 10.

## Qantas passengers in world-first 'zero waste' flight

- Mini Vegemite servings were out and compostable crop starch cutlery was in on what Qantas says was the world's first zero-waste commercial flight.
- Passengers flying from Sydney to Adelaide sipped from water bottles destined for an Adelaide recycling plant and ate meals out of containers made from sugar cane as the Australian carrier trialled an initiative it says will cut 100 million single-use plastics by the end of next year and eliminate 75 per cent of the airline's waste by the end of 2021.

## Trump raises tariffs on Chinese goods

- The trade war between the U.S. and China took a turn for the worse as the Trump administration increased tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods. Tariffs on 5,700 categories of goods increased from 10% to 25%.

## 17 developing countries call for strengthening WTO

- Seventeen developing countries have stressed on working collectively to strengthen the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to promote development and inclusivity for the benefits of all members.
- A 13 point declaration was signed by these nations at the end of the two-day Ministerial meeting of developing countries in New Delhi.
- The countries include Egypt, Barbados, Jamaica, Malaysia, India, Indonesia and South Africa. A total of 22 countries attended the meeting.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. World Trade Organization has replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which commenced in 1948. Roberto Azevedo is the current Director-General of the WTO. The WTO has 164 members and 23 observer governments. Liberia became the 163rd member on 14 July 2016, and Afghanistan became the 164th member on 29 July 2016.

## UK rich list: Hinduja brothers grab top spot, Reuben brothers in 2nd place

- Indian-origin brothers dominate the annual rich list of Britain's wealthiest, with the Hinduja brothers ranked at No. 1 with a fortune of 22 billion pounds followed by Mumbai-born Reuben brothers in second place with 18.66 billion pounds.
- Sri and Gopichand Hinduja, who run the Hinduja Group of companies in the UK, registered a 1.35 billion pounds jump in their fortunes over the previous year to return to the top of the Sunday Times Rich List' after topping it back in 2014 and 2017.
- Another Indian-origin billionaire, Lakshmi N. Mittal, suffered 3.99 billion pounds in losses to slip down to No. 11 in this year rich list, from No. 5 in 2018. The Rajasthan-born steel magnate logged a business worth 10.66 billion pounds last year as he gets set to take control of his first steel plant in India with a purchase from Essar Steel. Meanwhile, chemicals firm founder Sir Jim Ratcliffe, who topped last year's list, has slipped to third place, with 18.15 billion pounds.

The list, which estimates the 1,000 richest people in the UK, is based on identifiable wealth including land, property, other assets such as art, and shares in companies. It does not include the amount contained in people's bank accounts.

## India among Asian economies set to dominate 7% growth club during 2020s

- The 2020s are set to be the Asian decade, with the continent dominating an exclusive list of economies expected to sustain growth rates of around 7 per cent.
- India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Myanmar and the Philippines should all meet that benchmark, according to a research note from Madhur Jha, Standard Chartered's India-based head of thematic research, and Global Chief Economist David Mann. Ethiopia and Côte d'Ivoire are also likely to reach the 7 per cent growth pace, which typically means a doubling of gross domestic product every 10 years. That'll be a boon to per-capita incomes, with Vietnam's soaring to \$10,400 in 2030 from about \$2,500 last year, they estimate.
- China is a notable absence from the latest ranking after being a member of the club for almost four decades -- reflecting both a slowdown in economic growth and a progression toward higher per-capita incomes that makes faster growth rates more difficult to sustain. Standard Chartered estimates the world's No. 2 economy will keep up a 5.5 per cent economic growth pace in the 2020s.

## Bharat Pe ropes in Salman Khan as brand ambassador

- Merchant service and UPI payments app BharatPe has roped in Bollywood actor Salman Khan as its brand ambassador.



- The new brand campaign with Khan will be focused towards educating merchants and users about UPI payments along with driving adoption of BharatPe app for all their business needs.

### Mint Globetrotter Index: Dubai costlier than Delhi

- On the Mint Globetrotter Index, the “others” category comprises seven cities across Africa, West Asia and the Indian Ocean. It is a heterogeneous mix of cities which didn’t make it to the individual regions as they are standalone cities from the above mentioned areas.
- Among the seven cities, Victoria, the capital of Seychelles, is the most expensive with an index value of 192 and a rank of 28. Dubai is way more costlier than Delhi and ranks 24 on the overall cost index.

### Indian YouTuber Ajey Nagar one of TIME's top 10 'Next Generation Leaders'

- Indian YouTuber Ajey Nagar has been named by Time magazine in its list of top 10 'Next Generation Leaders' 2019.
- The 'Next Generation Leader' is a list of 10 young people from around the world who are establishing new paths in politics, music and other spheres. Nagar has a YouTube channel, named as Carry Minati which has 6,827,342 subscribers.

YouTube is an American video-sharing website headquartered in San Bruno, California. Three former PayPal employees—Chad Hurley, Steve Chen, and Jawed Karim—created the service in February 2005. Google bought the site in November 2006 for US\$1.65 billion; YouTube now operates as one of Google's subsidiaries.

### Domestic stocks register biggest single day gain in 10 years

- Registering a biggest single day gain in 10 years, domestic stocks markets surged after most exit polls showed that the ruling NDA government at the Centre is likely to return to power.

### Government plans introducing artificial intelligence system in MCA 21 portal

- The government plans to introduce artificial intelligence system in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs 21 (MCA 21) portal as it seeks to make the compliance process easier as well as ensure routine enforcement activities are done round-the-clock on autopilot basis.
- MCA 21 is the electronic backbone for the dissemination of information to all stakeholders, including the regulator, corporates and investors. All filings under the company’s law are submitted to the ministry through this portal.

### Niti Aayog proposes Rs 7,500-crore plan for Artificial Intelligence push

- The NITI Aayog has drawn up a plan for creating an institutional framework for artificial intelligence (AI) in the country. It has circulated a cabinet note to provide Rs 7,500 crore in funding for creation of cloud computing platform called AIRAWAT and research institutes.
- The note proposes that the new government pump in Rs 7,500 crore initially over a three-year period and set up a high-level taskforce to oversee roll-out and implementation of AI. According to the proposal, the funding would be used to set up five institutes or centres of research excellence (CORE), 20 international centres for transformational AI (ICTAI), along with AIRAWAT, a cloud computing platform that can be accessed by anyone.

The National Institution for Transforming India, also called NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on January 1, 2015. NITI Aayog is the premier policy ‘Think Tank’ of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs. The current chairman of NITI Aayog is Shri Narendra Modi, current vice chairman is Dr. Rajiv Kumar and the current chief executive officer is Shri Amitabh Kant.



## High-level committee submits its recommendations on crude oil imports

- A High-Level Committee constituted by the Centre has submitted its recommendations to bring down India's dependence on crude oil imports.
- It has recommended short term, medium term and long term strategies in the report, clearly bringing out the strategy to reduce the import dependency of the nation.
- The High-Level Committee consisted of Dr Anil Kakodkar, eminent Scientist and Sidharth Pradhan, an expert on financial and tax issues.

## Asian Development Bank to Provide \$750 Million Loan to India For Railway Track Electrification Project

- Multilateral funding agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed an agreement to provide USD 750 million equivalent in Indian rupee long-term financing to electrify railway tracks in India.
- It is the largest single non-sovereign loan ever committed by ADB to Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) to fund the railways track electrification project.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966, which is headquartered in the Ortigas Center located in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines. Takehiko Nakao is the current and ninth president of the Asian Development Bank.

## India's lead over China as world's fastest-growing economy will widen in coming years

- The latest economic outlook report released by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) shows that India not only continues to be the world's fastest growing major economy but is also steadily widening its lead over China.
- The Paris-based global economic forum sees India's economic growth regaining strength and touching 7.5 per cent by 2020 from 7.2 per cent in 2019. "Accommodative monetary policy and additional fiscal support will boost economic growth, despite subdued demand from partner countries," the report added.
- On the other hand, China is expected to decelerate to 6 per cent in 2020 from 6.2 per cent in the last fiscal. The neighbouring nation had posted a 6.8 per cent GDP growth rate in 2017. So the gap between India and China in terms of GDP growth is set to widen from just 0.4 per cent in 2017 and 2018 to 1.4 per cent next year.

## High-level panel pitches for 'Elephant Bonds' for infra projects, investing undisclosed income

- The high-level panel also recommended a host of other measures that include a road map for doubling India's exports of goods and services to over USD 1,000 billion by 2025.
- A government-appointed advisory group has suggested issuance of 'Elephant Bonds' wherein people declaring undisclosed income will have to mandatorily invest half of that amount in these securities.

## Bengaluru, Gurgaon among top 5 locations in APAC for tech firms: Report

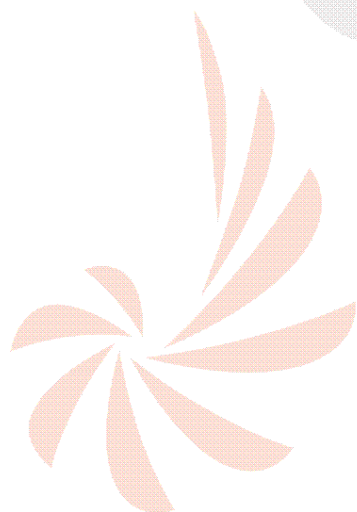
- Bengaluru and Gurugram are among the top 5 preferred destinations in Asia Pacific to set up offices by technology companies because of better business conditions as well as availability of engineers and real estate for growth, according to a report.
- The report by property consultant CBRE said technology companies continue to fuel office demand in the APAC region, despite absence of any principal city or cluster of the same status as Silicon Valley. Technology sector accounted for 23 per cent of total leasing activity in 2018. "Leading cities are Beijing, Bengaluru, Shanghai, Singapore and Gurugram.

The study has ranked 15 cities of Asia Pacific in three categories based on their performance with regard to business conditions, innovation environment, and cost and availability. **Business conditions and innovation environment** were each given a weightage of 40 per cent while **cost**, a relatively less important consideration for tech firms, was given 20 per cent weightage.

### US remove India from its currency monitoring list

- The **Trump administration** removed **India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners**. It cited certain developments and steps being taken by New Delhi which address some of its major concerns.
- **Switzerland is the other nation that has been removed by the US from its currency monitoring list. The list includes other countries like China, Japan and Germany.**
- **India's bilateral trade surplus with the US stood at \$21 billion in 2018.** India's overall merchandise exports growth fell sharply to 0.64% in April 2019.

**India was first included in the currency watch list in 2017** after the Reserve Bank of India had added \$52 billion — which was 1.8% of the country's GDP then — in the foreign exchange reserves in the first half of the year with regular intervention in the forex market. **India has been removed from the monitoring list in this report, having met only one out of three criteria a significant bilateral surplus** with the US for two consecutive reports, the Treasury Department said in its latest semi-annual report on macroeconomic and foreign exchange policies of major trading partners of the US sent to the Congress.



## Banks in News

### SBI links interest rate of large savings accounts to repo rate

- India's largest bank State Bank of India (SBI) has moved to a new interest rate regime on large savings account deposits as well as short-term loans.
- In March, SBI had announced that it will link its interest rate on savings account with balance above Rs.1 lakh and short-term loans like overdraft and cash credit facility to Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) repo rate, effective 1 May 2019.
- Or in other words, interest rates on large SBI savings account deposits and interest rate on some short-term loans will automatically change as and when RBI changes its repo rate.

On April 1, 2017, the State Bank of India, which was India's largest bank, merged with five of its associate banks (State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore), and with the Bharatiya Mahila Bank. Rajnish Kumar is the current chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI). Imperial Bank of India was the oldest and the largest commercial bank of the Indian subcontinent, and was subsequently transformed into State Bank of India in 1955.

### Canara Bank, Canara HSBC OBC Life launches 'Webassurance'

- Public sector lender Canara Bank and its life insurance partner Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance announced the launch of 'Webassurance'
- Four life insurance products of Canara HSBC OBC Life would be made available to customers of Canara Bank, covering the key needs of child future, savings and investments, retirement planning and protection.

Canara Bank is one of the largest public sector banks owned by the Government of India. It is headquartered in Bengaluru. It was established at Mangalore in 1906 by Ammembal Subba Rao Pai.

### ADB Launches \$5 Billion Healthy Oceans Action Plan

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) launched the Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies for the Asia and Pacific region at the 52nd Annual Meeting of ADB's Board of Governors in Fiji.
- The Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies will expand financing and technical assistance for ocean health and marine economy projects to \$5 billion from 2019 to 2024, including cofinancing from partners.

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### SBI Card raises RS.700 crore from banks, including parent bank to fund growth

- SBI Card raised Rs.700 crore from several financial institutions including its parent State Bank of India (SBI) in the second half of FY19 as it aims to grow above the industry average
- SBI Cards and Payment Services Pvt. Ltd (SBI Card) raised Rs.100 crore from ICICI Securities Primary Dealership Ltd, Rs. 250 crore from State Bank of India and Rs.50 crore each from Canara Bank and Axis Bank by issuing non-convertible debentures (NCDs) at 9.15% coupon, documents available with the Registrar of Companies (RoC).

### RBI imposes fines on PPIs for violating norms

- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed penalties on five prepaid payment instrument (PPI) issuers, including Vodafone m-pesa and PhonePe, for violation of regulatory norms.

## RBI releases vision document for e-payment system

- Reserve Bank of India has released a vision document for ensuring a safe, secure, convenient, quick and affordable e-payment system.
- The move comes as the apex bank expects the number of digital transactions to increase more than four times to 8,707 crore in December 2021.
- According to RBI release the 'Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019 - 2021', with its core theme of 'Empowering Exceptional E-payment Experience', envisages to achieve "a highly digital and cash-lite society" through the goal posts of competition, cost-effectiveness, convenience and confidence (4Cs).

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is India's central banking institution, which controls the monetary policy of the Indian rupee. It commenced its operations on 1 April 1935 in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. RBI was nationalised on 1 January 1949. Foreign exchange reserves of India are India's holdings of cash, bank deposits, bonds, and other financial assets denominated in currencies other than India's national currency, the Indian rupee. Shaktikanta Das is the current Governor of RBI.

## RBI directs banks to enhance housing loan limits for eligibility under PSL

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed banks to enhance the housing loan limits for eligibility under priority sector lending (PSL) to Rs 35 lakh in metropolitan centres (with population of ten lakh and above) and Rs 25 lakh in other centres.
- In order to bring the RRBs and SFBs at a level playing field with other Scheduled Commercial Banks, it has now been decided to enhance the housing loan limits for eligibility under PSL.

## Nabard announces Rs. 700-cr venture capital fund for agri, rural startups

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) announced a Rs 700-crore venture capital fund for equity investments in agriculture and rural-focused startups.
- NABARD has been contributing to other funds till now and this is the first time that the rural development bank has launched a fund of its own.
- The fund has been launched by Nabventures, a subsidiary of NABARD, and has a proposed corpus of Rs 500 crore with an option to retain over-subscriptions of Rs 200 crore, called as the greenshoe option.

NABARD came into existence on 12 July 1982 by transferring the agricultural credit functions of RBI and refinance functions of the then Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC). NABARD is headquartered at Mumbai. The Bank has been entrusted with "matters concerning policy, planning and operations in the field of credit for agriculture and other economic activities in rural areas in India".

## RBI names Gandhi to Yes Bank board

- The Reserve Bank of India has appointed its former Deputy Governor R. Gandhi as an, additional director on the board of private sector lender Yes Bank with immediate effect.
- Mr. Ravneet Gill took charge on March 1 after Rana Kapoor's term was not extended by the RBI for three years, as approved by the board. The appointment is for two years that is till May 13 2021

## ICICI Bank joins hands with travel portal Goibibo to launch multi-currency card

- ICICI Bank announced the launch of a co-branded multi-currency card with online travel booking portal Goibibo.
- Customers can instantly transfer money from one currency to another through ICICI Bank's internet portal and reload currency into the card anytime, anywhere, using the bank's mobile and internet banking platform.



**ICICI Bank, stands for Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India, it is an Indian multinational banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai. Sandeep Bakhshi is the current managing director and chief executive officer of ICICI Bank.**

### Ujjivan Small Finance Bank appoints Nitin Chugh as next MD and CEO

- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited has appointed Nitin Chugh as its next Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from December 1, 2019.**
- **Nitin Chugh will join the bank by August 2019 as President and will work closely with Samit Ghosh, existing MD and CEO to ensure a smooth transition. He will take over as the MD and CEO from December 1, 2019 upon the Samit Ghosh's retirement.**

**Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited is a bank licensed under Section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to carry out small finance bank business in India. The holding company is Ujjivan Financial Services Limited. The bank commenced operations on 1 February 2017. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank received Scheduled Bank status from the Reserve Bank of India in August 2017.**

### RBI wants NBFCs with assets over Rs.5, 000 crore to appoint chief risk officers

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) with assets of more than Rs.5,000 crore must appoint a chief risk officer (CRO).**
- **The central bank said that with the increasing role of NBFCs in direct credit intermediation, there is a need for NBFCs to augment risk management practices.**

**A non-banking financial company (NBFC) is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956, NBFCs are doing functions akin to that of banks, however there are a few differences: NBFC cannot accept demand deposits (demand deposits are funds deposited at a depository institution that are payable on demand -- immediately or within a very short period -- like your current or savings accounts.) and it is not a part of the payment and settlement system and as such cannot issue cheques to its customers.**

### World Bank, CommBank Team Up for ‘World First’ Blockchain Bond Transaction

- **The World Bank and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CommBank) have teamed up to enable recording of secondary market bond trading using blockchain tech.**
- **The institutions announced that their successful recording of a secondary transaction for bond-i, a blockchain-operated debt instrument, on a distributed ledger shows the “vast potential” of the technology, and marks the first bond to have both issuance and trading recorded on a blockchain platform.**
- **Bond-i was first issued last August by the World Bank, with the CommBank being a sole arranger. The experiment helped the World Bank raise \$81 million at the time.**

**The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. The World Bank Group comprises five institutions managed by their member countries. It was established in 1944, the World Bank Group is headquartered in Washington, D.C. Jim Yong Kim has been serving as the 12th President of the World Bank since July 1, 2012. Together, IBRD and IDA form the World Bank, which provides financing, policy advice, and technical assistance to governments of developing countries. IDA focuses on the world's poorest countries, while IBRD assists middle-income and creditworthy poorer countries.**

### Public sector banks recover Rs 1.2 lakh cr from bad loans in 2018-19

- **Public sector banks (PSBs) have recovered close to Rs 1.2 lakh crore from stressed assets during the financial ended March, primarily helped by resolution under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).**

- During the first half of the previous fiscal, banks recovered Rs 60,713 crore from bad loans. Due to non-resolution of some big accounts referred under NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal), PSBs could not achieve the resolution target of Rs 1.80 lakh crore. But, these accounts should be resolved in the current financial year. Compared to Rs 74,562 crore in 2017-18, the recovery in the previous financial year nearly doubled to Rs 1.2 lakh crore.

**Public Sector Banks (PSBs) or Nationalised Banks in India are banks where a majority stake i.e. more than 51% is held by a government. In 1969 the Indian government nationalised 14 major private banks, one of the big bank was Bank of India. In 1980, 6 more private banks were nationalised. They dominate the banking sector because of their large size and widespread networks.**

### RBI forms two panels to strengthen sale of stressed corporate assets and housing loan portfolios

- The Reserve Bank of India has appointed two separate six-member panels to create a more transparent framework for the sale of bad corporate assets and securitisation of housing loans in a bid to make these processes more open and structural.
- The panel on secondary market for corporate loans, headed by Canara Bank Chairman T N Manoharan, has been asked to gauge the possibility of setting up a loan transaction platform for the sale stressed asset and creation of a loan contract registry to standardise information.

### RBI panel on home finance securitization

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted a committee to review the existing state of mortgage securitisation in India and suggest measures to deepen it. The panel has also been asked to assess the role of various counterparties, including servicers, trustees, rating agencies, in the securitisation process and suggest the steps required.
- The mortgage securitisation market in India is primarily dominated by direct assignments among a limited set of market participants on account of various structural factors impacting the demand and the supply side..

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## Firms in News

### Bombay Stock Exchange appoints first independent woman Director M Jayshree Vyas

- BSE, formerly known as the Bombay Stock Exchange, has finally appointed its first independent woman director M Jayshree Vyas, though still late by at least a few weeks from the deadline of April 1 given to all top 500 listed companies based on their market capitalisation for appointing an independent woman director on their board.
- As of April 6, 51 of the top 500 NSE-listed companies by market capitalisation (including BSE) did not have independent woman director, according to nseinfobase.com run by Prime Database.
- The Companies Act of 2013 mandates a certain class of companies to have at least one woman director on board. Sebi, in compliance with the Companies Act 2013, made it compulsory to have at least one woman on a board from October 2014.

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) is an Indian stock exchange located at Dalal Street, Mumbai. It was established in 1875. BSE is Asia's first stock exchange. BSE claims to be the world's fastest stock exchange, with a median trade speed of 6 microseconds.

### Paytm launches recurring payments service for merchants

- Paytm has launched recurring payment (auto pay) service for merchants that are working on a digital subscription model. The move will allow the subscription-based businesses to collect payments from their subscribers effortlessly.
- The auto pay service is targeted at people who use Paytm for bill payments, content subscription, grocery purchases, membership fees, housing society payments etc.
- The service is being offered as an additional mode of payment other than credit/debit cards, internet banking and other Paytm proprietary instruments.

Paytm is an Indian e-payments and e-commerce brand based in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India. It was launched in August 2010. Vijay Shekhar Sharma is the founder of mobile payments company, Paytm. Sharma is India's youngest billionaire.

### BSNL launches 'Bharat Fibre' broadband service in Kashmir Valley

- State-owned telecom firm BSNL has become the first operator to start optical fibre-based high-speed broadband service in Pulwama with the launch of 'Bharat Fibre'.
- "This is the first such FTTH (fibre-to-the-home) service deployment in the (Kashmir) Valley under this unique revenue share model.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is an Indian state-owned telecommunications company headquartered in New Delhi. It was incorporated on 15 September 2000 and assumed the business of providing telecom services and network management from the 1 October 2000. BSNL is India's oldest communication service provider. It has footprints throughout India, except for Mumbai and New Delhi, where telecommunications are managed by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam (MTNL).

### BHEL successfully commissions two units of lift irrigation project in Telangana

- The Central Public Sector undertaking Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned two motor - pump set units for the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (LIS) in Telangana.
- In Telangana, BHEL has so far commissioned 27 pump-motor projects totalling to 753 MW. In addition, it is also executing 38 projects of 5,125 MW capacity in Telangana.

- It is also noteworthy that BHEL is presently executing hydro-electric projects of more than 2,900 MW across the country, in addition to 3,904 MW in Bhutan and Nepal.

**Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** owned and founded by the Government of India, is an engineering and manufacturing Maharatna status company based in New Delhi, India. It was established in 1964, BHEL is India's largest power generation equipment manufacturer.

### Vodafone Idea signs multi-million dollar IT deal with IBM

- India's largest telecom operator Vodafone Idea Ltd announced a five-year multi-million-dollar IT outsourcing deal with tech giant IBM.
- The collaboration will provide Vodafone Idea with a hybrid cloud based digital platform to enable more intimate engagement with its over 387 million subscribers (as of 31 December, 2018), enhancing business efficiency, agility and scale plus simplification of its business processes,

Vodafone Group is a British multinational telecommunications conglomerate, with headquarters in London. Idea Cellular is an Indian mobile network operator based at Mumbai, Maharashtra. On 20 March 2017, Idea and Vodafone India announced that their respective boards had approved a merger of the two companies. The newly merged entity was named as Vodafone Idea Ltd.

### LIC HFL launches Udyam centre

- LIC Housing Finance (LIC HFL) has launched 'Udyam', a skilling centre in Bengaluru. It was launched in association with Lok Bharti Education Society, the implementing partner.

### Myntra appoints Virat Kohli, Anushka Sharma as first brand ambassadors

- Flipkart-owned fashion e-commerce platform Myntra announced that it had appointed celebrity couple Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma as its first brand ambassadors.
- According to celebrity management sector estimates, Myntra may be shelling out upwards of Rs.10 crore for the couple as brand endorsement fee. This is would be the couple's second big brand endorsement deal after men's ethnic wear brand Manyavar, which they have been associated with since 2017. Myntra has launched an integrated campaign called 'Go Myntra-la-la' which will be promoted across television, print, digital and outdoor.

Flipkart Pvt Ltd. is an Indian electronic commerce company based in Bengaluru, India. Founded by Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal in 2007, the company initially focused on book sales, before expanding into other product categories such as consumer electronics, fashion, and lifestyle products. Kalyan Krishnamurthy is the current chief executive officer of Flipkart.

### Microsoft unveils its own Blockchain-based service

- Joining the Blockchain bandwagon, Microsoft has unveiled fully-managed Azure Blockchain Service that would simplify the formation, management and governance so that businesses can focus on workflow logic and application development.
- Instead of supporting cryptocurrency transactions, Azure Blockchain Service will let businesses develop their applications on its Cloud-based platform.

Microsoft Corporation is an American multinational technology company with headquarters in Redmond, Washington. Microsoft was founded by Paul Allen and Bill Gates on April 4, 1975, to develop and sell BASIC interpreters for the Altair 8800. The first versions of two classic Microsoft products, Microsoft Word and the Windows operating system, were released in 1983. By 1991, Microsoft's operating systems were used by 93 percent of the world's personal computers.



## Microsoft unveils software for secure, verifiable voting

- In a bid to help countries ensure secure and verifiable voting, **Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella** has announced **"ElectionGuard"** -- a **free open-source software development kit (SDK)**.
- **"ElectionGuard"** will enable **end-to-end verification of elections**, open results to **third-party organisations for secure validation**, and allow individual voters to confirm their votes were correctly counted.

## BharatPe launches India's first UPI Bahi Khata for merchants

- **BharatPe** - **India's first Fintech start-up enabling payments for merchants through interoperable UPI QR codes**, has announced its foray into merchant services with a new app.
- **The app allows merchants to record their cash/credit (Udhar) sales customer wise**, request accounts receivable from customers via SMS payment links, and keep track of accounts payable to suppliers, among other services.

## Morgan Stanley downgrades RIL

- **Morgan Stanley** has **downgraded Reliance Industries Limited's (RIL) stock to 'equal weight' (EW)**, leading to a 3.41% fall in the company's shares to Rs. 1,255.15.
- With this fall, the company has again lost the tag of **India's most-valued firm to Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** as **RIL's market capitalisation fell to Rs. 7,98,628.55 crore** compared with TCS's Rs. 8,13,779.67 crore.

## Facebook chooses London as base to develop WhatsApp's mobile payments service

- **Facebook** has selected **London as the center to develop WhatsApp's drive into the mobile payments industry**. The messaging service will ramp up hiring, taking on 100 new software engineers for its payments platform. Most of the hires will be based in London, with additional roles in Dublin.

Facebook is an American online social media and social networking service company based in Menlo Park, California. Its website was launched on February 4, 2004, by Mark Zuckerberg along with Eduardo Saverin, Andrew McCollum, Dustin Moskovitz, and Chris Hughes.

## New ITC chairman

- The country's largest cigarette maker **ITC** informed exchanges that its **board of directors has appointed Managing Director Sanjiv Puri as its Chairman with immediate effect** following the demise of **YC Deveshwar**, who was the chairman and non-executive director of the diversified conglomerate.

## Paytm First Card launched 'Universal Unlimited Cashback'

- **Paytm** has **tied up with Citi to launch a credit card, called the Paytm First Card**. The new credit card is touted to offer one percent **"universal unlimited cashback"** to customers along with no restrictions on earning categories.
- While the **Paytm First Card** comes with an annual fee of **Rs. 500**, the fee is claimed to be waived if the spends exceed **Rs. 50,000 per year**. The **Paytm First Card** is similar to co-branded credit cards that retailers and airlines offer.

**Paytm** is an **Indian e-payments and e-commerce brand** based in **Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India**. It was launched in **August 2010**. **Vijay Shekhar Sharma** is the founder of mobile payments company, **Paytm**. **Sharma** is **India's youngest billionaire**.

## HDFC Ergo and IBM to jointly setup data lab in India

- General insurance company **HDFC Ergo** and technology major **IBM** have jointly set up a lab in India to run deep analytics on customer data and subsequently develop customised solutions to **improve business efficiency and profitability**.
- The ‘**IBM Garage**’ with a team of **25 experts**, including data scientists, technology architects and design engineers from **IBM** and experts from **HDFC Ergo**, are working on various test cases aimed at improving customer experience.

**International Business Machines Corporation (IBM)** is an **American multinational information technology company** headquartered in **Armonk, New York, United States**, with operations in over 170 countries. The company began in **1911** as the **Computing-Tabulating-Recording Company (CTR)** and was renamed "**International Business Machines**" in **1924**. **Charles Ranlett Flint** was the founder of the **Computing-Tabulating-Recording Company** which later became **IBM**. **IBM India Private Limited** is the Indian subsidiary of **IBM**.

## BSNL Partners With Google to Expand WiFi Footprint

- State-run telecom major **BSNL** has partnered with **Google** to increase access to its **WiFi footprint** in the country. With the launch of this service, people across the country will be able to enjoy **BSNL's free WiFi services**.
- This initiative will allow customers use **BSNL's high speed internet services on WiFi**. **BSNL** is also taking steps to increase the rural WiFi footprint, promoting the government's '**Digital India**' initiative.

**Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** is an **Indian state-owned telecommunications company** headquartered in **New Delhi**. It was incorporated on **15 September 2000** and assumed the business of providing telecom services and network management from the **1 October 2000**. **BSNL** is **India's oldest communication service provider**. It has footprints throughout India, except for **Mumbai and New Delhi**, where telecommunications are managed by **Mahanagar Telephone Nigam (MTNL)**.

## Facebook Registers New Fintech Firm, Libra Networks LLC in Switzerland

- Facebook registered the trademark “**Libra**” with the **United States Patent and Trademark Office**, reportedly as a part of its secretive in-house crypto project.
- The firm has additionally hired two **cryptocurrency compliance experts** who formerly worked at the major crypto exchange **Coinbase**. Anonymous sources have claimed that **Facebook** could release a **native stablecoin** sometime in the third quarter of **2019**.

## RIL becomes India's biggest company in revenue terms

- **Richest Indian Mukesh Ambani's oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries** has **toppled state-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC)** to become the country's biggest company by revenue.
- **Reliance** in the **2018-19 fiscal year** that ended **March 31**, reported a turnover of **Rs 6.23 lakh crore**. In comparison, **IOC** posted a turnover of **Rs 6.17 lakh crore** for the fiscal, according to regulatory filings by the two companies.

**Reliance Communications (RCom)** is a **telecommunication company** headquartered in **Navi Mumbai, India**. **Reliance Communications** was founded in **India** in **2002**. A subsidiary of **Reliance Group**, its services include **GSM (voice; 2G, 3G and 4G)**, fixed-line broadband and voice, and direct-to-home satellite television (depending upon area in India). The company ended its **2G and 3G service (including all voice service)**, offering only **4G data service**, on **29 December 2017** as a result of debt and a failed merger with **Aircel**. **Anil Dhirubhai Ambani** is the chairman of **Reliance Group**.

## Goldman Sachs invests \$250 mn in India

- New York-based investment and financial services Major Goldman Sachs has pumped in \$250 million to construct one of its largest global workspaces in Bengaluru.

The Goldman Sachs Group is leading global investment banking, securities and investment management firm that provides a wide range of financial services to a substantial and diversified client base that includes corporations, financial institutions, governments and individuals. Founded in 1869, the firm is headquartered in New York and maintains offices in all major financial centres around the world.

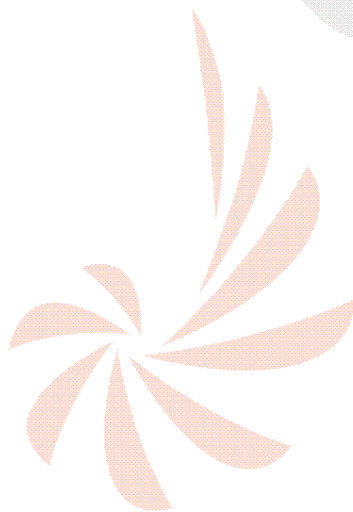
## Three PSUs ink joint venture pact for buying rare metals

- Three public sector units — National Aluminium Company (NALCO), Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. and Hindustan Copper Ltd. — are set to sign, a joint venture (JV) agreement for making overseas acquisition of reserves of rare metals like lithium and cobalt.
- The first acquisition is likely to be made within six months NALCO will hold 34% of the proposed Rs. 100 crore equity, with the other two companies holding 33% each. “The JV will acquire assets in overseas countries,”.

## ONGC topples IOC to regain most profitable public sector company

- ONGC, India's top oil and gas producer, has toppled Indian Oil Corp (IOC) to regain crown of being the country's most profitable public sector company.
- According to earnings statements of the listed companies, Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) reported a 34 per cent jump in its 2018-19 fiscal net profit to 26,716 crore rupees.

ONGC Videsh Ltd., a Miniratna Schedule “A” Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) of the Government of India under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas is the wholly owned subsidiary and overseas arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), the flagship national oil company (NOC) of India.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



### ISRO seeking to launch first of its kind rover landing on Moon's South Pole

- In what could be a **first of its kind landing of a rover on the Moon's south pole**, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is seeking to **create history by attempting to launch India's second lunar mission — Chandrayaan-2**.
- The space agency further informed that **so far, no country has attempted to land a spacecraft in Moon's South Pole region**. Earlier this week, ISRO informed that the three modules for the upcoming lunar mission — **Orbiter, Lander (Vikram) and Rover (Pragyan)** were undergoing development stages.

**Chandrayaan-2** is India's second lunar exploration mission after Chandrayaan-1. Developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the mission is planned to be launched to the Moon by a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III). It includes a lunar orbiter, lander and rover, all developed by India. If successful, Chandrayaan-2 will be the **first-ever mission to land a rover near the lunar south pole**.

### Scientists print flexible electronics

- Scientists have developed a process to **3D-print transparent and flexible electronic circuits**, paving the way for improved wearable devices in the future.
- **The electronics consists of a mesh of silver nanowires** that can be printed in suspension and embedded in various flexible and transparent plastics, according to the **researchers from the University of Hamburg and Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron in Germany**.
- **This technology can enable new applications such as printable light-emitting diodes, solar cells or tools with integrated circuits**. The researchers are demonstrating the potential of their process with a flexible capacitor, among other things.

### Meghalaya: GSI North Eastern Region installed geological display boards at Mawmluh cave, Therriaghat

- In Meghalaya, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) North Eastern Region (NER) installed **two geological display boards** at two important geological sites in the State with geo-scientific information which will help in creating awareness among visiting tourists, students and the general public.
- **The stalagmite in the Mawmluh cave has been tagged a Global Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP)** which is the **first formally ratified marker of a geological time period in India**. Meanwhile, **Therriaghat** marks the Cretaceous (K)-Palaeogene (Pg) mass extinction event.



## GRSE to build eight ASWSWCs for Indian Navy

- The public sector **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE)** has been awarded a **Rs.6,311 crore contract to build eight anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft** for the Indian Navy.

**Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd** abbreviated as **GRSE**, is one of **India's leading shipyards**, located in **Kolkata, West Bengal**. It builds and repairs **commercial and naval vessels**. It was founded in **1884** as a small privately owned company on the eastern bank of the **Hooghly River**. The company was **nationalised by the Government of India in 1960**.

## Government Clears Rs. 3600 Crore Deals with Russia for 10 Kamov-31 Choppers

- The Defence Ministry approved Indian Navy's proposal to acquire **10 Kamov-31 choppers** from **Russia** at a cost of around **Rs. 3,600 crore** to strengthen its capability **against aerial threats to its aircraft carriers** and large warships.
- The Navy already has a fleet of **12 of these Kamov-31 choppers** which sanitise the air space around the aircraft carriers and destroyers operating in open seas.

## Government and IIT-Delhi to set up a Centre of Excellence for Waste to Wealth Technologies

- To commemorate the **150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**, the **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA)** to the Government of India and **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi)** have come together to bring the best of science and technology to implement waste management in India.
- **Principal Scientific Advisor to the Govt of India, Prof K. Vijay Raghavan** and **Director, IIT Delhi, Prof V. Ramgopal Rao** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** in New Delhi for setting up a **Centre of Excellence for Waste to Wealth Technologies** for implementation of sustainable, scientific and technological solutions for waste management, through validation and deployment of available technologies for transformation of waste to wealth.

The **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi)** is one of the **premiere educational and research institutions of India**, offering a variety of world class bachelors, post graduate and research programs across multiple streams with an expert pool of **550 professors engaged in research important for the society and industry**. The office of the **PSA** acts as a 'think-tank' and 'action-tank' for science, technology and innovation activities.

## Momo-3 is Japan's first private rocket to reach space

- A **Japanese aerospace startup** successfully launched a small rocket, making it the **country's first privately developed model to reach outer space**.
- **Interstellar Technology Inc.** said the **unmanned Momo-3** launched from its test site in **Hokkaido** and reached about **110 kilometers (68 miles)** in altitude before falling into the **Pacific Ocean** after **10 minutes of flight time**.

**Interstellar Technology** company, founded in **2013** by former **Livedoor Co. President Takafumi Horie**, aims to develop **low-cost commercial rockets to carry satellites** into space. This success came after two failures in **2017** and **2018**. It is **Japan's first privately developed rocket to reach the outer space**.

## The US Air Force successfully tested a laser system to shoot down missiles

- The **US Air Force** announced that it has **successfully used a laser weapons system to shoot down multiple missiles while in flight**.
- The system, called the **Self-Protect High Energy Laser Demonstrator (SHIELD)**, was used from the ground, and was used to shoot down "multiple air launched missiles in flight."

## Singapore reports first case of rare monkey pox virus

- Singapore has reported its first ever case of monkey pox, brought in by a Nigerian man thought to have contracted the rare virus by eating bush meat at a wedding.
- Symptoms in humans of monkey pox -- which is endemic in parts of Central and Western Africa -- include lesions, fever, muscle ache and chills.
- Transmission is usually via close contact with infected animals such as rodents and monkeys and is limited between people.

## Amazon unveils space vision, moon lander

- Jeff Bezos, who heads both Amazon and space company Blue Origin, unveiled a lunar lander that would be used to transport equipment, and possibly human beings, to the south pole of the moon by 2024.
- The goal is to land on the moon's South Pole, where ice deposits were confirmed in 2018. Water can be exploited to produce hydrogen, which in turn could fuel future exploration of the solar system.

## Chandrayaan-2 will carry 14 payloads from India

- Chandrayaan-2, the lunar lander mission planned to be launched, will have 14 Indian payloads or study devices, a mission update of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- The 3,800-kg spacecraft includes an orbiter which will circle the moon at 100 km; a five-legged lander called Vikram that will descend on the moon on or around September 6; and a robotic rover, Pragyan, that will probe the lunar terrain around it.

Chandrayaan-1 was India's first lunar probe. It was launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation in October 2008, and operated until August 2009. India launched the spacecraft using a PSLV-XL rocket from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Andhra Pradesh. Chandrayaan-2 is India's second lunar exploration mission after Chandrayaan-1. The mission is planned to be launched to the Moon by a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III).

## Scientists carry out genetic study on people of Lakshadweep Islands

- Genetic studies done on the people of the archipelago by a team, led by K. Thangaraj at CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), for the first time have shown that a majority of human ancestry in Lakshadweep is largely derived from South Asia with minor influences from East and West Eurasia. And, there was no evidence of early human migration through the Lakshadweep islands.

## ISRO launched RISAT on May 22

- ISRO successfully launched radar imaging satellite RISAT-2B on-board PSLV-C46 from Sriharikota.
- RISAT-2B was placed into an orbit of 555 km with an inclination of 37 degree to the equator.
- This is the fourth flight unit of the RISAT programme and it would be used for reconnaissance, strategic surveillance and disaster management.

RISAT-2B is going to RISAT-2, which was placed in the orbit in 2009. RISAT-2 was RISAT-1's replacement, a microwave remote sensing satellite that was launched in 2012. RISAT-2 was actively used India to monitor activities in camps across the border in Pakistan to thwart infiltration bids by terrorists.

Indian Space Research Organisation is the space agency of the Government of India headquartered in the city of Bangalore. ISRO was formed in 1969. ISRO built India's first satellite, Aryabhata, which was launched by the Soviet Union on 19 April 1975. Dr Kailasavadivoo Sivan Nadar is current the chairperson of the ISRO.

## Amazon's Bezos unveils lunar lander project 'Blue Moon'

- **Jeff Bezos**, who heads both **Amazon** and space company **Blue Origin**, unveiled a lunar lander that would be used to transport equipment, and possibly human beings, to the south pole of the Moon by 2024.
- **"This is Blue Moon,"** the 55-year-old said at a carefully choreographed presentation in Washington, as curtains lifted to show a model of a huge vessel. It will **weigh more than three metric tons empty, 15 fully fueled**, and be **capable of carrying 3.6 tons to the lunar surface -- or 6.5 in a variant model**. It is supported by four legs, with an upper deck where equipment can be fixed. A large tank of liquefied nitrogen fuel occupies its center.

Amazon is a multinational technology company focusing in e-commerce, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence in Seattle, Washington. Amazon is the largest e-commerce marketplace and cloud computing platform in the world as measured by revenue and market capitalization. Amazon.com was founded by Jeff Bezos on July 5, 1994 in Seattle, Washington, U.S.

## Chinese navy launches two new guided missile destroyers

- **China**, which is developing its navy at a feverish pace, has commissioned two more guided missile destroyers taking the total of such warships to 20 with more in the pipeline. Two Type 052D guided missile destroyers were launched in Dalian, a coastal city.
- Their commissioning marked the 19th and 20th of launches of their kind, the report said and quoted Chinese analysts as saying that plans are afoot to build more guided missile destroyers. **China now has 20 Type 052Ds either in active service or being fitted out for service soon.**

## Young Scientist Programme 'Yuvika 2019' inaugurated

- The Young Scientist Programme 'Yuvika2019' was inaugurated by Indian Space Research Organisation, (ISRO) Chairman Dr K Sivan, through video mode in Bengaluru.
- The two-week residential summer vacation programme spread over four ISRO centres in Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, Ahmedabad and Shillong are attended by 110 students.

## DRDO Successfully Conducts Flight Test of ABHYAS

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** conducted successful flight test of **ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)** from Interim Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha.
- The flight test was tracked by various RADARS & Electro Optic Systems and proved its performance in fully autonomous way point navigation mode.
- **The configuration of ABHYAS is designed on an in-line small gas turbine engine and uses indigenously developed MEMS based navigation system** for its navigation and guidance.
- The performance of the system was as per simulations carried out and **demonstrated the capability of ABHYAS to meet the mission requirement for a cost effective HEAT.**

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is an agency of the Republic of India, charged with the military's research and development, headquartered in New Delhi, India. It was formed in 1958 by the merger of the Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production with the Defence Science Organisation.

## Assam produces an orchid link to the Orient

- An Assam forest officer's chance discovery has given India one of its smallest orchids in terms of size and duration of bloom to be recorded botanically.
- **Lecanorchis taiwaniana** adds to the orchid wealth of northeast India, which has 800 of some 1,300 species in the country.
- About 300 species are found in the Western Ghats and 200 in the northwestern Himalayas.

## DNA database coming up for Indian rhino

- The Union Environment Ministry has embarked on a project to create DNA profiles of all rhinos in the country.
- By 2021, the project's deadline, the Indian rhino could be the first wild animal species in India to have all its members DNA-sequenced.
- The project's proponents, including the World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF-India) and the Centre-funded Wildlife Institute of India (WII), said the exercise would be useful in curbing poaching and gathering evidence in wildlife crimes involving rhinos.
- There are about 2,600 rhinos in India, with more than 90% of the population concentrated in Assam's Kaziranga National Park.

The **Indian rhinoceros** (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), also called the **greater one-horned rhinoceros** and **great Indian rhinoceros**, is a rhinoceros native to the Indian subcontinent. It is listed as **Vulnerable** on the **IUCN Red List**, as populations are fragmented and restricted to less than 20,000 km<sup>2</sup> (7,700 sq mi).

## Algeria and Argentina are officially malaria-free, says World Health Organization

- Malaria has been eliminated from Algeria and Argentina, the World Health Organization (WHO) said, an important milestone in fighting the mosquito-borne disease.
- WHO said there were now 38 countries and territories that have been declared free of the disease, which has been making a comeback globally.

World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is concerned with international public health. It was established on 7 April 1948, and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The current Director-General of WHO is Tedros Adhanom, who started his five-year term on 1 July 2017.

## CSIR-NPL introduce Redefined International System of Units

- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) introduced redefined International System of Units for the country, on World Meteorology Day.
- The redefined systems are kilogram, kelvin, mole and ampere. The purpose of a system of units is to enable world-wide coherence of measurements.

The CSIR- National Physical Laboratory of India, situated in New Delhi, is the measurement standards laboratory of India. It maintains standards of SI units in India and calibrates the national standards of weights and measures.

## ISRO plans to conduct seven mega missions over next 10 years

- Space Agency ISRO, which is gearing up for the ambitious Chandrayaan-2 this July, has loftier plans ahead.
- It's planning to accomplish six other mega missions over the next 10 years, apart from Chandrayaan-2. Of these, only two have been defined — XPoSat and Aditya-L1 missions.
- The four other undefined missions, which are in the planning stage, are: Mangalyaan-2, Venus mission, Lunar Polar Exploration and Exoworlds. The XPoSat, or the X-ray Polarimeter Satellite, is a dedicated mission to study polarisation.

Indian Space Research Organisation is the space agency of the Government of India headquartered in the city of Bangalore. ISRO was formed in 1969. ISRO built India's first satellite, Aryabhata, which was launched by the Soviet Union on 19 April 1975. Dr Kailasavadivoo Sivan Nadar is current the chairperson of the ISRO.



## Israeli scientists make a brew with 5,000-year-old yeast

- Israeli researchers raised a toast to celebrate a long-brewing project of making beer and mead using yeasts extracted from ancient clay vessels, some over 5,000 years old.
- Archaeologists and microbiologists from the Israel Antiquities Authority and four Israeli universities teamed up to study yeast colonies found in microscopic pores in pottery fragments. The shards were found at Egyptian, Philistine and Judean archaeological sites in Israel spanning from 3,000 BC to the 4th century BC.

## Successful Firing of BrahMos Air Launched Missile from Su-30 MKI Aircraft

- IAF successfully fired the BrahMos air version missile from its frontline Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft. The launch from the aircraft was smooth and the missile followed the desired trajectory before directly hitting the land target.
- The air launched BrahMos missile is a 2.5 ton supersonic air to surface cruise missile with ranges of close to 300 km, designed and developed by BAPL. The IAF became the first Air Force in the world to have successfully fired an air launched 2.8 Mach surface attack missile of this category on a sea target.

BrahMos Aerospace Limited is a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India and the Federal State Unitary Enterprise NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM) of Russia under BrahMos Aerospace. The BrahMos missile is named after two rivers, the Brahmaputra and the Moskva. India is a member of the MTCR, India and Russia are now planning to jointly develop a new generation of Brahmos missiles with 600 km-plus range.

## Pune scientist wins German chemistry prize

- In a international competition 'Elsevier Foundation-ISC3 Green and Sustainable Chemistry Challenge', a project idea by Ankur Patwardhan from Pune has bagged the second prize of €25,000.
- His project named 'Butterfly attractant for pollination and ecosystem health' is about the relation between chemistry and ecosystem.

Patwardhan is currently working as head of the 'Annasaheb Kulkarni Biodiversity Department' at Abasaheb Garware College, Pune. Ankur Patwardhan developed the project idea with the help of Tejaswini Pachpor and Dattatray Naik. Patwardhan serves as a member of the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board.

## AN-32 fleet of IAF allowed to use bio-jet fuel

- In a significant move, the fleet of AN-32 transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force was certified to fly on blended aviation fuel containing up to 10 per cent bio-jet fuel.
- The approval for use of bio-fuel to fly the Russian made fleet was given by the Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC).

## Pakistan successfully test-fires ballistic missile Shaheen-II capable of hitting India

- "Shaheen-II Missile is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads upto a range of 1,500 km. Shaheen-II is a highly capable missile which fully meets Pakistan's strategic needs towards maintenance of desired deterrence stability in the region,".

## ISRO chairman flags off shipment of India's largest liquid hydrogen storage tank

- ISRO Chairman K Sivan flagged off the shipment of India's largest liquid hydrogen storage tank at the VRV Asia Pacific's manufacturing plant at Sri City in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh.
- VRV Asia Pacific manufactured the storage tank with a Liquid Nitrogen (LIN) shield, in a collaborative effort with Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, under the Make in India initiative. The storage capacity of the tank is 120 kilo liters.

## Isro's new commercial arm New Space India officially inaugurated

- NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), was officially inaugurated in Bengaluru.
- NSIL's main objective is to scale up industry participation in Indian space programmes. NSIL was inaugurated by Isro's honorary adviser, Dr K Kasturirangan in the presence of Chairman Dr K Sivan.

## DRDO test fires guided bomb from Sukhoi combat jet

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired an indigenously-developed 500 kg class guided bomb from a Sukhoi combat jet at Pokhran in Rajasthan. The guided bomb achieved the desired range and hit the target with high precision.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is an agency of the Republic of India, charged with the military's research and development, headquartered in New Delhi, India. It was formed in 1958 by the merger of the Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production with the Defence Science Organisation.

## DRDO successfully test fires Akash-1S surface to air defence missile system

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the Akash-1S surface to air defence missile system.
- Akash-1S is a new version of the missile which is fitted with an indigenous seeker. Developed by the DRDO, the Akash missile system has the capability to neutralise aerial targets such as fighter jets, cruise missiles and air-to-surface missiles as well as ballistic missiles. The Akash surface-to-air missile was designed to intercept enemy aircraft and missiles from a distance of 18 to 30 km.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is an agency of the Republic of India, charged with the military's research and development, headquartered in New Delhi, India. It was formed in 1958 by the merger of the Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production with the Defence Science Organisation.

## IAF signs MoU with ISRO for crew selection, training for Gaganyaan Programme

- Indian Air Force has signed a MoU with ISRO for crew selection and training for the prestigious Gaganyaan Programme.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day address last year had announced the launch of Gaganyaan - India's maiden human spaceflight programme by 2022. This programme will provide a unique micro-gravity platform in space for conducting experiments and test for future technologies.

Indian Human Spaceflight Programme (HSP) was created by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to develop the technology needed to launch crewed orbital spacecraft into low Earth orbit. The first crewed flight is planned with a spacecraft called Gaganyaan for December 2021 on a home-grown GSLV-III rocket.

## Image manipulation, duplication in 106 papers from CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research

- There are 33 more papers from the Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIR-IITR), Lucknow that have been posted on Pubpeer website for image manipulation and duplication. This comes a day after 73 problematic papers from CSIR-IITR were found listed on Pubpeer, taking the grand total to 106 papers.
- Indian researchers are now being exposed for a different kind of scientific fraud that is lot harder to detect — manipulating images, and reusing images in the same paper or in different papers.

## Inventions/Discoveries

### Genes of climate-resistant chickpea varieties identified

- An international team led by the Hyderabad-based International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has identified in chickpea four important genes for heat tolerance and three important genes for drought tolerance.
- With rising temperatures and increasing climatic fluctuations due to climate change, the identification of these climate-resistant genes will help in developing newer chickpea varieties which can tolerate temperatures up to 38 ° C.

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is an international organization which conducts agricultural research for rural development, headquartered in Patancheru (Hyderabad, Telangana). It was founded in 1972 by a consortium of organisations convened by the Ford and the Rockefeller foundations. Its charter was signed by the FAO and the UNDP. Since its inception, host country India has granted a special status to ICRISAT as a UN Organization operating in the Indian territory making it eligible for special immunities and tax privileges.

### Jamia team develops ultrasensitive quantum thermometer

- Researchers at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, have developed an ultrasensitive quantum thermometer using graphene quantum dots.
- The thermometer can precisely measure a wide range of temperature: 27 degree C to –196 degree C.
- The thermometer has high sensitivity when measuring different temperatures and can measure very minute (micro Kelvin) changes in temperature.

### Water found in samples from asteroid Itokawa

- Scientists, including one of Indian origin, have found water in the samples from the surface of asteroid Itokawa that were collected by the Japanese space probe Hayabusa.
- The first-ever measurements of water contained in the samples from Itokawa suggest that impacts early in Earth's history by similar asteroids could have delivered as much as half of our planet's ocean water, said researchers from the Arizona State University (ASU) in the US.

### IIT Madras team develops easy OCR system for nine Indian languages

- Taking a cue from European languages, several of which have the same (Roman letter-based) script, Srinivasa Chakravathy's team at IIT Madras has, over the last decade, developed a unified script for nine Indian languages, named the Bharati script. The team has now gone a step further since developing the script: it has developed a method for reading documents in Bharati script using a multi-lingual optical character recognition (OCR) scheme.

### Scientists find antidote for box jellyfish sting

- Australian researchers believe they have found an antidote to a sting from the world's most venomous creature, the much-feared box jellyfish.
- Researchers at the University of Sydney had been investigating how the venom is so deadly that one box jellyfish can kill 60 people. The team noticed the venom needs cholesterol to kill human cells and decided to test whether existing drugs could stop it.

## World's first parent-wise genome for water buffaloes developed

- The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has developed world's first complete parent-wise genome assembly called "NDDB\_ABRO\_Murrah" of riverine buffaloes. This comes on the back of successful launch of INDUSCHIP, a customized genotyping chip for indigenous cattle and their crosses.
- Seen as a milestone for the dairy body, for the first time a trio binning was used for separating haplotypes of a buffalo, using a father-mother-offspring trio aimed at ensuring better accuracy. The genome assembly developed by NDDB has achieved more than 99 per cent genome coverage.

## CCMB scientists sequence Asiatic lion genome

- For the first time, the entire genome of Asiatic lion, an endangered species, has been sequenced by scientists from CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad.
- De novo sequencing and annotation have resulted in a draft assembly of the entire genome of a male Asiatic lion.

Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) is an Indian biotechnology research establishment located in Hyderabad that operates under the aegis of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. CCMB is a designated "Center of Excellence" by the Global Molecular and Cell Biology Network, UNESCO. CCMB was set up initially as a semi-autonomous Centre on 1 April 1977.

## New vine snake species after a gap 113 years

- Zoologists have discovered a new vine snake species from the eastern State of Odisha. A new taxon of vine snake is being found after a gap of over a century. The last time a vine snake species was described was in 1906.
- Seven vine snake species are found in India. The taxonomy of Ahaetulla vine snake is not fully understood and there is no consensus on species characterization.

## IIT Madras develops material with properties suitable for quantum optoelectronics

- Materials such as tungsten diselenide (WSe<sub>2</sub>) and molybdenum diselenide are being studied keenly for their opto-electronic properties – a combination of optics and electronics. A key property of these materials is photoluminescence, in which the material absorbs light and re-emits it as a spectrum.
- Researchers from IIT Madras have found a way of enhancing this property about 30 times in tungsten diselenide, by drop-casting gold nanoparticles on to a two-dimensional film. The work is published in Applied Physics Letters.

## Evidence of water found on Ultima Thule: NASA

- NASA has found evidence for a unique mixture of methanol, water ice, and organic molecules on Ultima Thule's surface — the farthest world ever explored by mankind.
- The U.S. space agency has published the first profile of Ultima Thule — an ancient relic from the era of planet formation — revealing details about the complex space object.
- On Ultima Thule researchers are investigating on features like bright spots and patches, craters and pits, hills and troughs on it. NASA's New Horizons spacecraft discovered Kuiper Belt object 2014 MU69, nicknamed Ultima Thule early this year.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is an independent agency of the executive branch of the United States federal government responsible for the civilian space program, as well as aeronautics and aerospace research. President Dwight D. Eisenhower established NASA in 1958. James Frederick Bridenstine is an American politician and the current administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He became the first member of Congress to lead NASA.



## Most Distant Space Object Looks like Man in Meditation

- **NASAs New Horizons mission team has published the first image of the farthest world ever explored -- a planetary building block and Kuiper Belt object clicked during New Year's 2019 flyby of Ultima Thule which looks like a human being in deep meditation.**
- **Called "2014 MU69", the object -- detailed of which are published in the May 17 issue of journal Science -- looks like a human being sitting in a meditative pose, an ancient relic from the era of planet formation.**
- **The flyby of Ultima Thule was the farthest exploration of an object in history - nearly 6.4 billion km from Earth. The object is a contact binary, with two distinctly differently-shaped lobes.**

## Ancient seawater dating back to Ice Age discovered in Indian Ocean

- **In a first, scientists have discovered the remnants of seawater dating back to the Ice Age, tucked inside rock formations in the middle of the Indian Ocean.**
- **Researchers from the University of Chicago in the US made the discovery on a months-long scientific mission exploring the limestone deposits that form the Maldives.**
- **The ship, the JOIDES Resolution, is specifically built for ocean science and is equipped with a drill that can extract cores of rock over a mile long from up to three miles beneath the seafloor.**

**Indian Ocean is the third largest of the world's oceanic divisions, covering 70,560,000 km<sup>2</sup>, approximately 20% of the water on the Earth's surface. It is bounded by Asia on the north, on the west by Africa, on the east by Australia, and on the south by the Southern Ocean or, depending on definition, by Antarctica. It is named after India.**

## 3D-printed artificial corneas mimic human eyes

- **Scientists have 3D printed artificial corneas that mimic the human eye -- using the bioink made of stem cells -- an advance that may help reduce the need for eye donations.**
- **Researchers at the Pohang University of Science and Technology and Kyungpook National University in South Korea 3D printed an artificial cornea using the bioink which is made of decellularised corneal stroma and stem cells.**
- **The cornea is made of corneal tissue-derived bioink, according to the research published on Biofabrication. It is biocompatible, and 3D cell printing technology recapitulates the corneal microenvironment, therefore, its transparency is similar to the human cornea.**

## 'Forbidden' planet discovered in Neptunian Desert

- **Astronomers say they have discovered a rogue exoplanet with its own atmosphere in the Neptunian Desert. The Neptunian Desert is the region close to stars where no Neptune-sized planets are found, they said.**
- **NGTS-4b, nick-named 'The Forbidden Planet' is smaller than Neptune but three times the size of Earth, said researchers led by the University of Warwick in the UK.**

**The exoplanet, described in the journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, has a mass of 20 Earth masses, a radius 20 per cent smaller than Neptune, and temperature of 1000 degrees Celsius. It orbits around the star in only 1.3 days — the equivalent of Earth's orbit around the Sun of one year. It is the first exoplanet of its kind to have been found in the Neptunian Desert, researchers said.**

## Health/ Disease

### India facing critical shortage of healthcare providers: WHO

- Despite the health sector employing five million workers in India it continues to have low density of health professionals with figures for the country being lower than those of Sri Lanka, China, Thailand, United Kingdom and Brazil, according to a World Health Organisation database.
- This workforce statistic has put the country into the “critical shortage of healthcare providers” category. Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan are the worst hit while Delhi, Kerala, Punjab and Gujarat compare favourably.

World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is concerned with international public health. It was established on 7 April 1948, and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The WHO is a member of the United Nations Development Group. Tedros Adhanom has been Director-General of the World Health Organization.

### Human body mapping— how cells, tissues react when in a disease stage

- For the first time, Indian scientists will be mapping every single tissue of the human body to have deeper understanding of the roles of tissues and cells linked to various diseases. Department of Biotechnology (DBT) launched MANAV: Human Atlas Initiative on May 10, towards improving knowledge on human physiology.
- It is a project funded by DBT, which aims at creating a database network of all tissues in the human body from the available scientific literature.

### WHO launches global strategy for prevention and control of snakebite envenoming

- WHO released full details of its strategy to prevent and control snakebite envenoming, a neglected tropical disease that affects 1.8–2.7 million people each year, claiming 81 000–138 000 lives and causing 400 000 cases of permanent disability

### Kolkata researchers use novel compound to kill cancer cells

- Researchers at Kolkata's the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (CSIR-IICB) and the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) have designed and synthesised about 25 quinoline derivatives that show potent anticancer activity.
- The compounds were tested in vitro against human Topoisomerase 1 (topo1) activity and their efficacy to kill cancer cells was carried out using breast, ovarian, cervical and colon cancer cell lines.
- The results of topo1 inhibition activity, cellular mechanisms and the cancer cell line studies carried out at IACS and the compounds designed and synthesised by IICB researchers were published in the Journal of Medicinal Chemistry.

### World-first GM virus treatment

- A British teenager has made a remarkable recovery after being the first patient in the world to be given a genetically engineered virus to treat a drug-resistant infection.
- Isabelle Holdaway, 17, nearly died after a lung transplant left her with an intractable infection that could not be cleared with antibiotics. After a nine-month stay at Great Ormond Street hospital, she returned to her home in Kent for palliative care, but recovered after her consultant teamed up with a US laboratory to develop the experimental therapy.
- In June 2018, Isabelle returned to Great Ormond Street and after some safety tests, was given the cocktail twice daily via an intravenous drip and on her skin. Six weeks later a liver scan revealed the infection had essentially disappeared.

### US has cleared first dengue vaccine with conditions

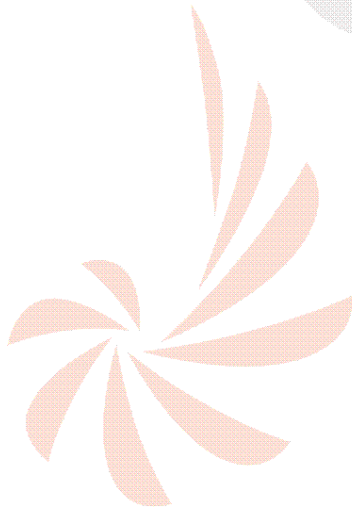
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- Sanofi Pasteur's controversial vaccine **dengvaxia** has been **approved by the US Food & Drug Administration**, the **first dengue vaccine to get the regulatory nod in the US**.
- **Dengvaxia is basically a live, attenuated dengue virus**. An attenuated virus is a virus that retains its properties of triggering an immune response in the body but its ability to lead to a disease is compromised.

### Microbes in body could help predict future health

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- We share our bodies with trillions of microbes that are critical to staying healthy, but now **scientists are getting a much-needed close look at how those bugs can spur disease**.
- **A single test to see what gut bacteria you harbour** would not tell much. Research published found that repeat testing **spotted the microbial zoo changing in ways that eventually may help doctors determine who's at risk of preterm birth, inflammatory bowel disease, even diabetes**.



## **ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT**



### **G7 environment ministers meet to discuss climate crisis**

- **Environment ministers of the G7 nations met in France** a day ahead of the release of what is expected to be another alarming report on the state of the planet.
- **Ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States** gathered for the two-day meeting in the northeastern city of Metz.

The Group of Seven or G7 is a group consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. These countries, with the 7 largest advanced economies in the world, represent more than 62% of the global net wealth (\$280 trillion).

### **Binny, India's Only Orangutan Dies In Odisha Zoo**

- A 41-year-old **orangutan at Odisha's Nandankanan Zoological Park** died following a prolonged illness.
- **"Binny", the country's lone orangutan** passed away due to old-age related ailments followed by respiratory tract infection.

**Orangutans are one of the world's three extant species of great apes and are native to Indonesia and Malaysia. Orangutans are currently found only in the rain forests of Borneo and Sumatra.**

### **FAME-II could reduce transport energy needs by 64%, emissions by 37% by 2030: CII**

- The government's **FAME-II plan for electric mobility** stands to reduce 64% of the anticipated road-based energy demand by 2030 and 37% of carbon emissions by then, according to CII.
- The government had earlier this year notified the **second phase of its scheme for the Faster Adoption and Manufacture of (hybrid and) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India)** which sought to boost the adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles in the country.
- The tentative aim is to have 30% electric vehicles by 2030.

### **Over 300 nests of grizzled giant squirrel spotted near Gingee**

- **For the first time**, researchers have sighted nests of the grizzled giant squirrel, an endangered species listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 at Pakkamalai Reserve Forests near Gingee in the Eastern Ghats.
- The grizzled giant squirrel is usually known to nest in the Western Ghats in Southern India ranging from Chinnar Wildlife sanctuary in Kerala to Anamalai Tiger Reserve and Palani hills in Tamil Nadu. Owing to habitat loss and poaching, the species has been categorised as near threatened by the Red List and listed under Schedule II of CITES.



## India's rare life-size figurine unearthed in Phanigiri of Telangana

- Archaeologists in Telangana have unearthed a rare treasure in the form of a life-size stucco sculpture from a Buddhist site in Phanigiri in Suryapet. So far, it is the largest stucco sculpture found in the country.
- According to the heritage department officials, it is believed that the life-size figure found in the excavations represents one of Bhodhisattva in Jathaka Chakra.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), under the Ministry of Culture, is the premier organization for the archaeological researches and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation. It was founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham who also became its first Director-General. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

## Economic growth reducing groundwater faecal pollution in North India: IIT study

- Economic growth is reducing faecal pollution in groundwater in North India, which a key factor is causing water-borne diseases in the densely populated Indo-Ganges-Brahmaputra river basin, a study by researchers at IIT Kharagpur has found.
- About 100,000 children in India die every year from waterborne enteric diseases like diarrhoea.
- The study, published in the International Journal of Information Management, made first-time observations on significant reduction of faecal coliform pathogen concentration in the spatially variable groundwater from 2002 to 2017.

## UN: Humans Put 1 Million Species at Risk of Extinction

- Human's impact on nature has been revealed in a new United Nations report and experts think a "mass extinction event" is already underway.
- The report states that up to one million species are now at risk of extinction due to the behavior of humans. A draft of the report was obtained by AFP and the full version will be released next month.

## 'Rain-loving' snake discovered in Mizoram

- Herpetologists took 12 years to document *Smithophis atemporalis*, a predominantly aquatic species
- It's literally raining reptiles in the Northeast, and the latest to be discovered has a Mizo name that means rain-loving. A month after a Russian journal published the discovery of a reddish-brown pit viper in Arunachal Pradesh, the New Zealand-based journal Zootaxa has come out with the discovery of a non-venomous snake in Mizoram.

## Tawang yields a new species of dung beetle

- A new species of dung beetle has been discovered in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh. The species, *Enoplotrupes tawangensis*, is shining dark blue in colour and, measuring up to 27 mm, is relatively bigger than most of the dung beetles.
- The specimens were first collected and studied by two scientists from the Zoological Survey of India, Kailash Chandra and Devanshu Gupta. David Král, a Czech scientist who is an expert on dung beetles, confirmed that he had in his collection similar specimens from Bhutan, which borders Tawang.

Dung beetles belong to the super family scarabaeoidea, having clubbed antennae and pro-tibiae (pro-legs) modified for burrowing dung inside the soil. These groups of insects are considered beneficial to the environment as they help in nutrient cycling of the soil. Often referred to as little recyclers, these scavenger beetles require mammalian dung to survive.

## Melting glaciers may add 10 inches to sea levels worldwide by 2100: Report

- Melting glaciers worldwide could result in almost 10 inches of sea level rise by the end of this century, a study warns.

- The research, published in the Journal of Glaciology, **indicates that the smaller glaciers could play a much larger role in sea level rise** than researchers had previously thought.
- **The review is the most comprehensive global comparison of glacier simulations ever compiled**, researchers said. It estimates that **glaciers worldwide are likely to lose anywhere from 18 to 36 per cent of their mass by 2100.**

### Campaign launched to raise awareness on illegal wildlife trade

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- **UN Environment India and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau of India launched an awareness campaign ‘Not all animals migrate by choice’ to be displayed at major airports across the country ahead of the International Day of Biological Diversity celebrated on 22nd of May.**

### Exotic Flightless Bird evolves back for first time in 136,000 years

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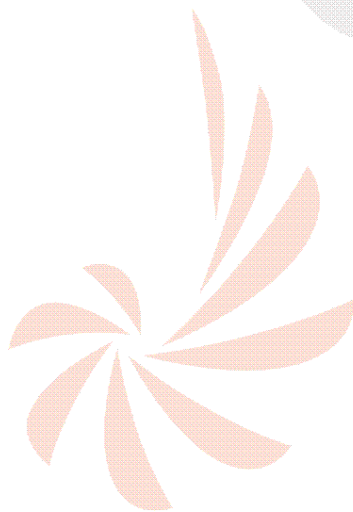
- **The Natural History Museum in the UK has found the last surviving native flightless rail on Aldabra in the Seychelles, 390 miles east of Tanzania in the Indian Ocean.**
- **The research team led by paleontologist Julian Hume discovered the descendant of the flying white-throated rail had lost its ability to fly twice across a 16,000-year period.**

### New species of wasp identified in Goa

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- **A new species of wasp from the genus Kudakrumia has been recently identified by scientists in Goa. The new species was collected in the forests of Western Ghats.**
- **The wasp, Kudakrumia rangnekari, has been named after Goa-based researcher Parag Rangnekar.**

**Mr. Rangnekar, who is the founder-president of the Goa Bird Conservation Network, has now taken up the documentation of the dragonflies in the State. The holotype is from Kotigao Wildlife Sanctuary of Goa of northern Western Ghats and the paratype is from Ranipuram hill of Kerala of southern Western Ghats. He is the author of a book “Butterflies of Goa”, which is perhaps a first field guide with photographs of the species found in this region.**



## SPORTS



### Sports Personalities in News

#### Jacques Kallis honoured by South Africa Presidency

- Former South Africa all-rounder Jacques Kallis has been honoured with an Order of Ikhamanga from the Presidency for his contribution to cricket and placing the team on the world sporting map.

#### Japan's Kento Momota retains his Badminton Asia Ch'ship

- World number one Kento Momota retained his Badminton Asia Championships title in Shanghai. He defeated Shi Yuqi of China 21-12, 11-11, 21-18.

#### Valtteri Bottas wins Azerbaijan Grand Prix with Lewis Hamilton second

- The Azerbaijan Grand Prix, scene of some dramatic racing for the past two seasons, fell with barely a whimper to the flawless perfection of what appears to be an unstoppable Mercedes juggernaut.

#### Bajrang Punia is set to become the first Indian Wrestler to Fight at New York's Iconic Madison Square Garden

- Bajrang Punia is set to become the first wrestler from India to fight at the iconic Madison Square Garden in New York. Bajrang Punia will take part in the "Grapple at the Garden -- Beat the Streets" fight night.
- The 25-year-old, who won the gold medal in the 65-kg category at the ongoing Asian Wrestling Championships earlier this week, is the first Indian wrestler to be invited by the American governing body.

#### Fast-rising Sathiyam becomes first Indian to break into top-25 of ITTF rankings

- India's G Sathiyam scaled new heights in his rapidly rising career by becoming the first Indian to break into the top-25 of world rankings.
- Sathiyam rose four spots to be 24th in the latest ITTF rankings, following his impressive sixth place finish in the Asia Cup in Yokohama earlier this month. Last week, he was the sole Indian to reach the round of 32 in the World Championships in Hungary.

#### Raheem Sterling named 2019 FWA footballer of the year

- Raheem Sterling has been named the 2019 footballer of the year by the Football Writers' Association (FWA). The Manchester City and England forward topped the poll of the 400-strong FWA membership as a clear winner, with 62 percent of the votes.

## Apurvi Chandela is world number one in 10m air rifle, Anjum claims second position

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- Indian shooting ace Apurvi Chandela attained the World No.1 position in the women's 10m air rifle event while compatriot Anjum Moudgil rose to No.2 after consistent performances in recent years. The rifle ace from Jaipur is among the five Indian shooters to have already secured 2020 Olympics quotas for the country.

## Bajrang Punia bags gold in Ali Aliyev wrestling tournament

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- World number one Bajrang Punia won the gold medal as he defeated Viktor Rassadin in the finals of men's 65kg freestyle in the Ali Aliyev wrestling tournament in Kaspiisk, Russia.

## Sangakkara becomes first non-British MCC President

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- Former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara has been appointed as the first non-British president of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
- MCC, which owns Lord's and acts as the guardian of the laws of the game, was founded in 1787 and lists 168 presidents in its history.

## Assam's Riyan Parag becomes youngest batsman to score 50 in IPL

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- Seventeen-year-old Riyan Parag struck two maximums and four fours to reach 50 off 49 before holing out to Sherfane Rutherford off the last ball of Rajasthan's innings.
- Before Parag, Rajasthan team-mate Sanju Samson held the record for the youngest batsman to maiden an IPL 50. Samson achieved the feat when he was 18 years old.
- Hailing from Assam, Parag is one of the most promising cricketers in this year's IPL and was a part of the India Under-19 side for the two youth Tests in England. He was India's second highest run-getter behind Parthiv Shaw in the youth Tests and played a crucial role during India's win in Chesterfield.

## Solanki, Kaushik bag gold in Poland

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- Gaurav Solanki and Manish Kaushik bagged a gold each as Indian boxers finished with six medals at the 36th Feliks Stamm International boxing tournament in Warsaw. Besides the two golds, Indians clinched a silver and three bronze to wrap off their campaign on a high.

## Ghosal and Joshna script history

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- Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa emerged champions in the Asian squash championship. This is the first time two Indians have finished on top in the same tournament.

## Amit Mishra second player given out for obstructing the field in IPL history

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- Amit Mishra was second cricketer in the history of IPL to be declared out for obstructing the field during the IPL Eliminator between Delhi Capitals and Sunrisers Hyderabad. Before this, Yusuf Pathan was given out for obstructing the field in a match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Pune Warriors in 2013.

## Novak Djokovic wins Madrid Open title

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- Top seed Novak Djokovic of Serbia beat Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece 6-3, 6-4 to win his third Madrid Open title.
- Djokovic lifted the title in Madrid after progressing through the week without losing a set and has now won 33 Masters 1000 titles - the same number as Rafael Nadal and five more than Roger Federer.

## IPL 2019: David Warner wins Orange Cap

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- David Warner had held on to his position in the Orange Cap standings.
- Warner finished the season with 692 runs from 12 matches before joining up with his international teammates for World Cup preparation.



## Pakistan's Sana Mir became the most successful spinner in women's one-day international

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- Sana Mir picked up her 147th ODI wicket in her 118th game.
- She is third on the list of all-time leading wicket-takers in women's cricket, behind fast bowlers Jhulan Goswami (218) from India and Cathryn Fitzpatrick (180) from Australia.

## CEAT Awards: Virat Kohli bags International batsman and cricketer of the year

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- India captain Virat Kohli bagged the International Cricketer and Batsman of the Year award during the CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) International awards 2019.
- Pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who made a mark for India and IPL franchise Mumbai Indians, was adjudged as International Bowler of the Year.
- Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan was awarded for outstanding bowling and Australian batsman Aaron Finch for his exceptional performance in T20.

## India's GS Lakshmi first woman on ICC international panel of match referees

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- India's G.S. Lakshmi has become the first woman to be appointed to ICC's international panel of match referees and will be eligible to officiate in international games with immediate effect.
- Claire Polosak had become the first ever woman umpire to stand in a men's ODI.

## Karolina Pliskova wins Italian Open

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Czech fourth seed Karolina Pliskova swept past Britain's Johanna Konta 6-3, 6-4 to win the WTA Italian Open in Rome. She clinched her 13th career title, in the final major warm-up tournament on clay.

## Tennis: Rafael Nadal clinches Italian Open 2019 title

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- In Tennis, defending champion Rafael Nadal of Spain has clinched the Italian Open 2019 title after beating Novak Djokovic in the final in Rome. This is Nadal's ninth Italian Open title. It is the 81st title of Nadal's career.

## India's Mahesh Mangaonkar wins Sekisui Open

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- In squash, India's Mahesh Mangaonkar triumphed for the second time in the Sekisui Open in Kriens, Switzerland. Three years back he had won it the first time.
- Sekisui Open is a Challenger tour event of the Professional Squash Association (PSA), the world body which governs the sports.

## Indian Open Boxing: Mary Kom, Sarita Devi, Amit Panghal bag gold

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- Sarita Devi's eyes welled up in tears as she looked up at the heavens to pay respect to her late mother within seconds of beating Simranjit Kaur for the women's 60kg gold medal in the India Open international boxing tournament at the Karmabir Nabin Chandra Bordoloi Indoor Stadium.
- Multiple World champion M.C.Mary Kom beat former National champion Vanlal Duati 5-0 in 51kg to earn her second gold. Asian Games gold medallist Amit Panghal asserted his class to get the better of a promising Sachin Siwach in the 52kg final with a 4-1 verdict.

## Apurvi Chandela bags gold medal in 10m Air Rifle in ISSF World Cup

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- Indians had a good day at the year's third International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle and Pistol tournament in Munich, Germany.
- Apurvi Chandela grabbed a gold winning the women's 10m Air Rifle competition after a closely-fought contest. She shot a score of 251 in the final to outshine Wang Luyao of China, who shot 250.8.

- This was Apurvi's second ISSF World Cup gold of the year followed by a world record score in New Delhi in February. This was also her career's fourth ISSF medal. Another Indian in the fray, Elavenil Valarivan also made it to the finals. But she missed out on a bronze medal to Xu Hong of China by just 0.1 points and finished fourth.

### Lewis Hamilton dedicates Monaco Grand Prix victory to Niki Lauda

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- Lewis Hamilton survived a late collision with Max Verstappen to deliver the perfect tribute to Niki Lauda - his third ever win at the Monaco Grand Prix.
- Victory saw Hamilton extend his championship lead over Mercedes teammate Bottas to 17 points, while Vettel has fallen to a full 55 points back.

### ISSF World Cup: Saurabh Chaudhary wins 10m Air Pistol gold; beats own World record

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- In ISSF shooting World Cup, in Munich Germany, India's Saurabh Chaudhary has won 10m Air Pistol Gold beating his own World Record.
- The 17-year old Chaudhary scored 246.3 bettering his previous best of 245 points that was set in New Delhi World Cup Shooting in February this year.

### Rahi Sarnobat books Olympic berth for India at ISSF WC

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- In the ISSF World Cup rifle pistol stage in Munich, Germany, Rahi Sarnobat has booked an Olympic quota place for India winning gold in women's 25m pistol event.
- Asian Games champion Rahi clinched her career's second World Cup Gold, which helped India win its sixth quota place in shooting for 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

## Sport Events

### Jaipur to host Asian youth Women Handball Championship

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- Jaipur will host the 8th Asian Youth Women Handball Championship in which 10 teams, including defending champions South Korea, will be participating.

### Messi fires Barca to 26th La Liga title

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- Lionel Messi clinched an eighth La Liga title for Barcelona in 11 seasons as he scored the only goal in a 1-0 win at home to Levante.
- The Argentine star struck his league-leading 34th goal of the campaign after coming off the bench for the second half to help Barca wrap up the title with three games remaining.

### ISSF World Cup: India wins 3 golds, 1 silver

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- India topped the standings at the International Shooting Sport Federation, ISSF World Cup on the final day in Beijing, bagging four medals comprising 3 Gold and a Silver.

### Indian para-athletes clinch medals at Asian Road para-cycling championships

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- Indian para-athletes came up with brilliant performance to secure silver and two bronze medals at the Asian Road para-cycling championships at Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- Divij Shah clinched silver while Asian Para Games bronze medallist Gurlal Singh and Hand cyclist Sudhakar Marathe claimed bronze.

### Chess: TePe Sigeman & Co International tournament begins in Sweden

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- In chess, the TePe Sigeman & Co International tournament, begins in Malmo, Sweden.

- Fourteen-year-old Indian Grandmaster Nihal Sarin is training his sight to become the youngest Indian to break the 2600 rating barrier from this event.

### Windies record highest ODI first-ever 350+ run opening stand

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- Windies openers John Campbell & Shai Hope shattered the record for the highest first-wicket partnership in one-day internationals (ODIs) with a stand of 365 against Ireland in Dublin.

### Supernovas pips Velocity in edge-of-the-seat thriller

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- Supernovas became the champion in the final of the Women's T20 Challenge, winning by four wickets, off the last ball of the match, just as Harmanpreet Kaur's girls did last year.

### Indian racer Jehan Daruvala wins inaugural round of FIA Formula 3 Championship

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- Young Indian racer Jehan Daruvala, driving for Prema Racing, won the inaugural round of the FIA Formula 3 Championship, one of the support events to Formula One in Barcelona. The all-new FIA F3 Championship was created by merging the erstwhile GP3 Championship and FIA F3 European Championship, resulting in an ultra-competitive 30 car grid.

### Inaugural edition of world's first women's cricket magazine 'CRICZONE' hits stands

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- The inaugural issue of world's first exclusive women's cricket magazine 'Criczone' was released with Indian team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana featuring as the cover story.

### Mumbai beat Chennai by one run to win record 4th IPL title

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- Mumbai Indians became IPL champions for the fourth time after defeating Chennai Super Kings by one run in a thrilling final in Hyderabad last night.
- Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni became the most successful wicket-keeper in the history of IPL by taking his dismissals tally to 132, surpassing his India teammate Dinesh Karthik.
- Rohit Sharma became the most successful player in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL) when he led Mumbai Indians to their record fourth championship as they beat defending champions Chennai Super Kings by one run in Hyderabad in the IPL 2019 final.
- This gave Rohit his fifth IPL title which is the most for any player in the league's 12-year existence. The only other players to have been part of four successful IPL seasons are Yusuf Pathan, Harbhajan Singh and Ambati Rayudu.

### Manchester City retain Premier League title

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- Manchester City held off a titanic challenge from Liverpool to become the first side in a decade to retain the Premier League title by coming from behind to beat Brighton 4-1.

### In a first, India to host part of International Army Games

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- India for the first time will host and participate in a major army competition involving eight countries, including China and Russia, in Jaisalmer.
- The event called the 'Army International Scout Masters Competition 2019' will be held in August this year.

### Football: China to host 2023 Asian Cup after Korea withdraw bid

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- South Korea have abandoned their bid to stage Asian Cup Football tournament in 2023, leaving the sole other bidders China with a free run to become hosts.
- The Korea Football Association (KFA) said in a statement that it had pulled out to strategically focus on a joint bid with North Korea to host the Women's World Cup in the same year.

## First all-female trio set to officiate AFC Cup game

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- Referee Yoshimi Yamashita and assistants Makoto Bozono and Naomi Teshirogi are set to make AFC Cup history by becoming the first all-female trio to officiate a match at the tournament.
- The three Japanese women will take charge of Yangon United's final Group F match against Cambodia's Naga World after passing a fitness test similar to the one required for male officials.

## USD 10 million on offer in ICC World Cup, winner to earn 4 million

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- Ten million US Dollars or little more than 70 crore rupees are on offer in the upcoming ICC men's cricket World Cup.
- The 46-day tournament will be played across 11 venues in the United Kingdom from 30th of this month.
- Besides a trophy, the World Cup winner will earn a cash award of 4 million US dollars or about 28 crore rupees which is the highest prize money on offer in the history of the tournament. The runners-up take home 2 million US Dollars or about 14 crore rupees.

## ICC announces plans for digital distribution, broadcast of World Cup 2019

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- The ICC announced plans for digital distribution and broadcast of upcoming Men's cricket World Cup which will be broadcast live to more than 200 territories. These will provide cricket fans across the globe with the widest range of platforms to tune into the World Cup.
- The tournament will also be broadcast across seven regional language feeds in India. A select 12 matches will be available in Malayalam. All other matches will be available in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Bangla and Marathi.
- For the first time in history, cricket will be brought to fans in Afghanistan via state broadcaster Radio Television Afghanistan (RTA), who are participating in their first ever World Cup.

## Second India Open International Boxing Tournament begins

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- The Second India Open International Boxing Tournament begins at Sarusajai stadium in Guwahati.
- 16 countries will participate in the tournament where nearly 200 boxers will vying for the podium.

## China beat Japan to win 2019 Sudirman Cup

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- China won the badminton world mixed-team championship, Sudirman Cup 2019 in Nanning.
- They beat Japan in men's doubles, women's singles and men's singles to clinch the title for an 11th time.

## Indian stars endorse Air badminton, a new version of outdoor badminton

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- Airbadminton was globally launched at Guangzhou by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) with new dimensions of the court and an innovative shuttlecock called Airshuttle.
- Airshuttle, the most important component of the format, has been designed to have similar trajectory, acoustics and feel to that of a traditional indoor shuttle.

## India bags 57 medals at India Open International tournament

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- India bags a total of 57 medals including 12 Gold, 18 Silver and 27 Bronze at India Open International Boxing tournament in Guwahati.
- MC Mary Kom, Shiva Thapa, L Sarita Devi and Naman Tanwar won gold in their respective finals.

## Archery World Cup: Indian men's compound team wins bronze

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- Indian men's compound team of Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan and Aman Saini won the bronze after defeating Russia in the playoffs at Archery World Cup Stage 3 in Antalya, Turkey



## Pakistan to host Asia Cup

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- The next edition of the Asia Cup could also be UAE-bound with Pakistan given the hosting rights of the tournament in 2020, as organising it in its own country will cast serious doubts on India's participation owing to diplomatic tensions.

## Europa League final: Chelsea beat Arsenal 4-1

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- Chelsea got the better of its English Premier League rivals to win the Europa League final, beating Arsenal 4-1 in the Baku Olympic Stadium.

## ICC launches criiiio campaign on eve of men's World Cup

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- The ICC launched the criiiio campaign on the eve of the men's World Cup, bringing together 460 million people playing cricket globally to celebrate the magnificent diversity of cricket.
- The ICC asked the fans to join the social cricket tribe by sharing pictures and videos of where and how they play cricket across the world using the newly launched hashtag #criiio and visiting the site criiio.com.

## India concludes best ever ISSF WC performance in Munich

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- In Shooting, India produced their best ever show at the ISSF World Cup with a total tally of five gold medals in Munich, Germany.
- India topped the medals tally with five golds and silver. Second-placed China bagged nine medals - two gold, two silver and five bronze medals.

## ICC announces content partnerships with Facebook, YouTube, Twitter for World Cup

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- ICC will provide cricket fans greater access to the content from World Cup event, the teams and the stars than ever before.
- ICC has entered into content partnerships with global social media platforms Facebook, YouTube and Twitter to cater to the huge interest from fans in this event. Fans can enjoy recaps, reports, live scores and s, behind-the-scenes and other content across the ICC's digital channels.

## Liverpool beat Tottenham Hotspur to win Champions League trophy

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- In Football, Liverpool breezed past Tottenham at Madrid to win the Champions League for the sixth time.
- An early goal from Mohamed Salah and a late one from Divock Origi gave Liverpool a 2-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur in all-English Champions League final as coach Juergen Klopp finally got his hands on Europe's biggest prize.



## AWARDS



### Ex-ISRO Chairman AS Kiran Kumar Awarded France's Highest Civilian Honour

- **Former ISRO chairman A S Kiran Kumar** was conferred with France's highest civilian award - **Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Lgion d'Honneur** - for his contribution to India-France space cooperation.
- According to an official statement, on behalf of the President of France, Ambassador of France to India, **Alexandre Ziegler** conferred Kumar with the highest civilian honour of France.
- Throughout his career at the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, including as its chairman from **2015 to 2018**, Kumar fostered the historic and ambitious space cooperation between India and France.

Created in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, the **Ordre national de la Lgion d'Honneur** (National Order of the Legion of Honour) is the highest civilian award given by the French for outstanding service to France, regardless of the nationality of the recipient. The President of the French Republic is the Grand Master of the **Ordre national de la Lgion d'Honneur**.

### Goldman Prize Honors Environmental Activists Who Risk Their Lives

- The **Goldman Environmental Foundation** recognized six environmental activists this week. They are winners of the **2019 Goldman Environmental Prize**, also known as the “Green Nobel.”
- It honors ordinary men and women who take great risks to protect the natural environment. They are often community leaders from small villages or areas that lack financial resources.
- **2019 Goldman Environmental Prize** winner is **Alberto Curamil**. He is part of the **Mapuche** community, a group of people who have historically lived in central Chile.

### Lawyer fighting palm oil industry wins ecology prize

- **Mr. Brownell**, an environmental lawyer and activist, blamed the devastation on the palm oil company **Golden Veroleum Liberia**.
- **Mr. Brownell** was awarded the **Goldman Environmental Prize** for exposing alleged abuse by the company and helping to prevent it from converting about **50 km<sup>2</sup>** of forest that is home to elephants, pygmy hippopotamuses and chimpanzees.

### Trump awards highest U.S. civilian honor to Tiger Woods

- US President **Donald Trump** bestowed **Tiger Woods** with the **Presidential Medal of Freedom**, the nation's highest civilian honour, describing the golfer as “one of the greatest athletes in the history of sports.”

- Woods, 43, is only the fourth and the youngest golfer ever to have received the highest American civilian award.
- With 81 PGA Tour victories, Woods is one shy of Sam Snead's all-time record, and with 15 major tournament victories, he trails only Nicklaus, who has 18.

### Madonna honoured at GLAAD Media Awards New York

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- Popular singer Madonna was among the many artistes who were honoured at GLAAD Media Awards New York.
- Following the Los Angeles ceremony in March, the 30th GLAAD Media Awards went to New York to continue honouring the celebrities, films, shows and media organisations that have made strides in supporting the LGBTQ+ community this past year.
- Drag superstar Shangela hosted the event, which presented Madonna with the Advocate for Change award and host Andy Cohen with the Vito Russo award, reports variety.com.

### Indian-origin journalist conferred with V K Krishna Menon award

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- G D 'Robert' Govender, an Indian-origin journalist in South Africa, has been honoured in the UK with 2019 V K Krishna Menon award for his outstanding contribution as a pioneer of decolonised journalism.
- The South Africa-born journalist was awarded posthumously to mark the 123rd birth anniversary of Indian diplomat and politician V K Krishna Menon.

### IPS officer who oversaw Nirbhaya rape case receives McCain Institute Award

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- IPS officer Chhaya Sharma, who led the investigation team of the infamous Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case, has been awarded the 2019 McCain Institute Award for Courage and Leadership.
- "A resolute guardian of human rights, Chhaya has led teams in detection and investigation of sensitive criminal cases and protection of human rights during her career spanning over 19 years.

### UNDRR confers Dr P.K. Mishra Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister with the prestigious Sasakawa Award 2019

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- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) conferred Sasakawa Award 2019 for Disaster Risk Reduction to Dr. Pramod Kumar Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister of India.
- The award was announced at the Award Ceremony during the ongoing 6th Session of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2019 at Geneva.
- Dr. P. K. Mishra from India received the 2019 Sasakawa award in recognition of his long-term dedication to improve the resilience of communities most exposed to disasters and his personal commitment to social inclusion as a critical principle to reduce inequality and poverty, enhancing the safety net of the socially and economically marginalized.

### Indian short Seed Mother Bags third prize at Cannes

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- An Indian filmmaker, Achyutanand Dwivedi, made amends for his nation's disappointing no-show in the 72nd Cannes Film Festival.
- His three-minute film, Seed Mother, won the third prize in the international section of Nespresso Talents 2019 in Cannes.

### Sunny Pawar bags Best Child Actor award at New York Indian Film Festival

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- Actor Sunny Pawar has bagged the Best Child Actor award for Chipka at the 19th New York Indian Film Festival.
- The 11-year-old, who hails from a slum in Kunchi Kurve Nagar in Mumbai, shot to fame with Australian director Garth Davis' acclaimed 2016 film Lion.

## Oman author Jokha Alharthi wins Booker International Prize

- An author from Oman has won the prestigious Man Booker International Prize for "Celestial Bodies", the story of three sisters of a desert country confronting its slave-owning past and a complex modern world.
- Jokha Alharthi, the first Arabic-language writer to take the prize, will split the 50,000 pounds or 64,000 US dollar purse with her UK-based translator, Marilyn Booth.

Man Booker Prize for Fiction (formerly known as the Booker–McConnell Prize and commonly known simply as the Booker Prize) is a literary prize awarded each year for the best original novel written in the English language and published in the UK. The prize was originally known as the Booker–McConnell Prize, after the company Booker, McConnell Ltd began sponsoring the event in 1968; it became commonly known as the "Booker Prize" or simply "the Booker". In 1970, Bernice Rubens became the first woman to win the Booker Prize, for *The Elected Member*.

## Shyam Saran to be conferred with Japan's 'Order of the Rising Sun' award

- Former foreign secretary Shyam Saran will be conferred with Japan's second highest national award for his contributions to strengthen the strategic ties and enhancing mutual understanding between India and Japan.
- The Government of Japan announced that in its 2019 Spring Imperial Decorations, it will confer 72-year-old Saran, 'the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star'.

The Order of the Rising Sun is a Japanese order, established in 1875 by Emperor Meiji. The Order was the first national decoration awarded by the Japanese government, created on 10 April 1875 by decree of the Council of State. The badge features rays of sunlight from the rising sun. The design of the Rising Sun symbolizes energy as powerful as the rising sun in parallel with the "rising sun" concept of Japan ("Land of the Rising Sun").

## Dominic Sangma and Payal Kapadia win laurels

- Two independent Indian filmmakers — Mumbai-based Payal Kapadia and Dominic Sangma from Meghalaya — have been selected for the International Film Festival of Rotterdam's prestigious Huber Bals Fund for script and project development for Spring 2019.

## Bengaluru-Based Doctor Gets Global Asian of the Year 2018-19

- Bengaluru-based medical doctor Hema Divakar was honoured with the 'Global Asian of the Year 2018-19' award in Dubai for her yeomen services and contributions to the women's healthcare ecosystem, in India, said its organiser 'Asia One' magazine's publisher. Hema received the award at the Asian Business & Social Forum 2019 under the 'In Service of the Society and the Nation' category from UAE's Trade Promotion Director Mohammed Naser Hamdan Al Zaabi.

## Contemporary artist Nalini Malani becomes first Indian to win \$78K Joan Miro Prize

- Indian contemporary artist Nalini Malani has won the Joan Miro Prize for 2019, the Barcelona-based Fundacio Joan Miro has announced.
- One of the most prestigious contemporary art awards in the world, it recognises present-day work by artists who show the same spirit of exploration, innovation, commitment and freedom that characterized Spanish painter and sculptor Joan Miro's life and work.

Fundacio Joan Miro, the Spanish art museum that gives the award along with the bank La Caixa, also noted Malani's "complex artistic quest based on immersive installations". La Caixa will provide Malani a €70,000 (Rs 54.5 lakh) award and cover the production of an exhibition of her work in 2020 in Barcelona. Past recipients of the prize are Olafur Eliasson, Pipilotti Rist, Mona Hatoum, Roni Horn, Ignasi Aballí and Kader Attia. Joan Miró set up the Fundació Joan Miró in 1975. He died in 1983.



## U.S. author Siri Hustvedt wins top Spanish award

- U.S. writer Siri Hustvedt has been awarded Spain's prestigious Princess of Asturias prize for literature for her work. Ms. Hustvedt is the author of bestsellers **What I Loved** and **The Summer Without Men**.
- The 64-year-old is the author of a book of poetry, three collections of essays, a work of non-fiction, and six novels, including the international bestsellers "What I Loved" and "The Summer Without Men". Her works have been translated into over 30 languages.
- Other recent winners of the award include US novelist Richard Ford, Israeli writer Amos Oz and Canada's Margaret Atwood.

Auster won the Asturias prize for literature in 2006. The 50,000-euro (\$56,000) award for literature is one of eight prizes handed out yearly by a foundation named after Spain's Princess Leonor. Other categories include the arts - British theatre director Peter Brook won it this year - sports and international cooperation.

## Antano and Harini honoured by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

- Antano and Harini - Legacy Accelerators received the 'Award of Honour' from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India for the unprecedented work they have been doing to help people change the trajectory of their lives and help people create a personal legacy in compressed time.
- In addition to honouring Antano and Harini, the Ministry also appreciated the quality of work of 20 of their Excellence Installation Specialists and Change Agents who have been mentored by Antano and Harini for the last 3 years. These 20 specialists received an appreciation letter along with a sapling appreciating their skill and commitment.

## Nancy Pelosi honored with JFK Profile in Courage Award

- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has been honored with the 2019 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.
- Pelosi was recognized for her efforts to pass former President Barack Obama's 2010 health care law and for helping Democrats reclaim control of the U.S. House during last year's elections.

The Profile in Courage Award is a private award given to recognize displays of courage similar to those John F. Kennedy described in his book of the same name. It is given to individuals (often elected officials) who, by acting in accord with their conscience, risked their careers or lives by pursuing a larger vision of the national, state or local interest in opposition to popular opinion or pressure from constituents or other local interests.

## Guy Gunaratne wins Dylan Thomas prize for 'urgent' London novel

- Debut novelist Guy Gunaratne has won the £30,000 Swansea University International Dylan Thomas prize for **In Our Mad and Furious City**, an "urgent, timely and compelling" account of life on a London housing estate during city-wide riots.

The Dylan Thomas Prize is a leading prize for young writers presented annually. The prize, named in honour of the Welsh writer and poet Dylan Thomas, brings international prestige and a remuneration of £30,000 (~\$46,000). It is open to published writers in the English language under the age of forty. The prize was originally awarded bi-annually, but became an annual award in 2010. Entries for the prize are submitted by the publisher, editor, or agent; for theatre plays and screenplays, by the producer. A Dylan Thomas literary prize was first awarded during the 1980s, known as the Dylan Thomas Award, following the campaign to have a plaque in the poet's memory placed in Westminster Abbey.

### Cannes 2019: Dark comedy 'Parasite' wins Palme d'Or; Antonio Banderas gets best actor award for 'Pain & Glory' role

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- South Korean film "Parasite", a dark comedy by Bong Joon-ho, won the coveted Palme d'Or at the 72nd Cannes Film Festival, where Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon A Time" was praised highly but returned empty handed.
- At the Cannes closing ceremony, Joon-ho got a standing ovation and a loud cheer from the audience when his film was named the **Palme d'Or winner**, reported hollywoodreporter.com. **Jury president Alejandro González Iñárritu** said the **Palme d'Or decision** was "unanimous".
- **Antonio Banderas** won the best actor award for his role as a past-his-prime director in Pedro Almodóvar's "Pain & Glory", and **Mati Diop's "Atlantics"** landed the runner-up **Grand Prix** award.

### Acharya Balkrishna receives 'UNSDG 10 Most Influential People in Healthcare Award'

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- **Patanjali Ayurved Limited's Managing Director, Acharya Balkrishna** received the '**UNSDG 10 Most Influential People in Healthcare Award**' on behalf of Patanjali Group of Institutions in Geneva.
- The five keynote speakers of the **UNSDG (United Nations Sustainable Development Goals)** organisation included **Randy Oostra**, UNICEF executive director **Henrietta H Fore**, WHO director-general **Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, **Abe Lee** and **Acharya Balkrishna**.

### Hindi version of Digital Dilemma launched by Oscar academy President John Bailey

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- **President of Oscar Academy, John Bailey** e-launched the **Hindi translation of an Academy Publication, "Digital Dilemma"**, at a function in Delhi.
- Mr Bailey said that the **translation of the Academy publication into Hindi** is important in order to reach out to film fraternity in India.

### Mumbai writer Annie Zaidi wins \$100,000 global prize

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- **Indian writer Annie Zaidi** was announced as the **2019 winner of the \$100,000 Nine Dots Prize**, a prestigious book prize created to award innovative thinking that addresses contemporary issues around the world.

**Mumbai-based Zaidi**, a freelance writer whose work includes reportage, essays, short stories, poetry and plays, won for her entry '**Bread, Cement, Cactus**' — combining memoir and reportage to explore concepts of home and belonging rooted in her experience of contemporary life in India.

## PERSONS IN NEWS

### Jairam Ramesh pens biography of diplomat-politician V K Krishna Menon

- Former union minister and writer **Jairam Ramesh** is penning the biography of celebrated Indian nationalist, diplomat, and politician **V K Krishna Menon**.
- Titled "**Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of V K Krishna Menon**", the book will hit stands in the **first quarter of 2020**.

### CEA included in finance panel's advisory council

- **Chief Economic Advisor Krishnamurthy Subramanian** has been included in the **Advisory Council of the 15th Finance Commission** as its member.
- The **Advisory Council** was set up in **April 2018** to advise the commission on any issue or subject related to the **terms of reference (ToR)** of the commission, and also to **assist in the preparation of any paper or research study** which would enhance the commission's understanding on the issue contained in its ToR.
- The council now has **12 members**, including **NIPFP Professor Pinaki Chakraborty**, noted economists **Surjit Bhalla, Arvind Virmani, Indira Rajaraman** and **M Govinda Rao**.

### Ramachandra Menon appointed Chhattisgarh CJ

- **Justice P.R. Ramachandra Menon**, **Kerala High Court Judge**, has been appointed **Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court**.
- A notification announcing the **appointment of justice Menon as the Chief Justice** by the **President** was issued by the **Ministry of Law and Justice**. He was **sworn in as an additional judge of the Kerala High Court on January 5, 2009**.

### VP Venkaiah Naidu releases postage stamp to commemorate 750th birth anniversary of Sri Vedanta Desikan

- **Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu** released a **postage stamp to commemorate the 750th birth anniversary of Sri Vedanta Desikan in New Delhi**.
- '**Sri Vedanta Desikan is one of the most prominent preceptors in the Srivaishnava tradition and one of the most effulgent luminaries to have graced this land**', the **Vice President** added. Initiatives like **bringing out commemorative postage stamps** were not only meant to **pay tribute to the great contributions of visionaries like Sri Vedanta Desikan** but also aimed at inspiring our younger generation to follow in their footsteps.

### Actress Dia Mirza, Alibaba chief among 17 new 'SDG Advocates' of UN

- **Indian actress Dia Mirza and Alibaba chief Jack Ma** are among the **17 global public figures** appointed by **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** as the new advocates to drive action and solidify global political will for the **ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- The new class of '**SDG Advocates**' is **17 influential public figures** "committed to raising awareness, inspiring greater ambition and pushing for faster action on the SDGs," which were **adopted by world leaders on September 25, 2015**.

### Former SC Judge K S Radhakrishnan Appointed Member of Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal, London

- **K S Radhakrishnan, former Supreme Court Judge**, has been appointed as a member of the **Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal, London**. He will render his services as a member of the Tribunal for a period of four years from 1st of June, 2019 to 31st of May, 2023.

## Pakistan appoints ex-IMF official as new SBP governor

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- **Reza Baqir**, an economist working for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been **appointed as the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)**, as the cash-strapped country seeks to finalise a multi-billion dollar bailout package from the global lender.

## Sanjib Chattopadhyay, Sonal Mansingh, Pt. Swapan Chowdhury conferred with D. Litt degrees by RBU

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- Noted writer **Sanjib Chattopadhyay**, Classical dancer **Sonal Mansingh** and Tabla Maestro **Pt. Swapan Chowdhury** were conferred with honorary **D.Litt degrees** by the **Rabindra Bharati University (RBU)** in Kolkata.
- The **Chancellor of the University** and **West Bengal Governor Mr. Keshari Nath Tripathi** presented the degrees at the Annual Convocation.

## ITC Chairman YC Deveshwar Passes Away

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- Noted industry leader and **ITC Chairman YC Deveshwar**, who transformed the cigarette major into a diversified player with interests in FMCG, hospitality, IT and other sectors, **passed away after a brief illness**.
- **Deveshwar stepped down from the executive role as chairman and CEO in 2017** but remained as a non-executive chairman.

## Simon Armitage is named the UK's new Poet Laureate

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- **Simon Armitage** has been named the **U.K.'s new Poet Laureate**, succeeding **Carol Ann Duffy** in the 10-year post. **Queen Elizabeth II** has approved the appointment, Britain's highest literary honour.

## Jeffrey Rosen confirmed as US deputy attorney general

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- In the **United States**, the **Senate** has voted to confirm **Jeffrey Rosen** as **deputy attorney general**, the **second-ranking official at the Justice Department**. The vote was 52-45. Rosen replaces **Rod Rosenstein**, who left the department last week.

## Justice A. K. Sikri Appointed As Chairperson of the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA)

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- **Former Supreme Court Judge Justice A. K. Sikri** has been **appointed as the Chairperson of the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA)**.
- **Justice Sikri succeeded Justice R. V. Raveendran**, who completes his term on **May 25, 2019**.

## Anil Kapoor to be felicitated by CEUCC

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- Actor **Anil Kapoor** was **felicitated by the Council of European Chambers of Commerce (CEUCC) in India** and a **European Union delegation** as part of the 'Europe Day' celebrations.
- "**Anil Kapoor** was **felicitated for his decade-long support to promoting the cause of children's rights and his collaboration with the EU and Plan India in their girls' rights endeavours**".

## Major General A K Dhingra appointed as the first Special Operations Division Commander

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- **Ace Special Forces operative and Sri Lanka war veteran Major General AK Dhingra** has been **appointed as the first head of country's first tri-services Special Operations Division** comprising commandos from all three services.
- The **Division** is also expected to be the first choice of the government for undertaking any major counter-terrorism operation both within and outside the country.



## Nepal climber scales Mount Everest for record 23rd time

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- A Nepalese Sherpa climber Kami Rita has scaled Mount Everest for a 23rd time, breaking his own record for the most successful ascents of the world's highest peak.

## Sculptor Anish Kapoor ranks first on Hurun India Art list

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- With sales estimated at Rs. 168.25 crore, contemporary sculptor Anish Kapoor has topped the first edition of the Hurun India Art List.
- He is followed by artists Akbar Padamsee and Krishen Khanna, whose works were sold for Rs. 45.84 crore and Rs. 9.48 crore respectively.
- The Hurun Research Institute has ranked the top 50 Indian artists alive based on the sales of their works at public auction from April 2018 to March 2019.

## Odisha tribal woman to become youngest-ever MP

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- Chandrani Murmu, 25 years 11 months and eight days old, who won the Keonjhar Lok Sabha seat (reserved for STs ) on a BJD ticket by a margin of 66,203 votes, will enter the Lok Sabha as the youngest member in the Lower House's history.

## Bhawana Kanth Scripts History, Becomes India's First Woman Pilot to Qualify for Combat Missions

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- Scripting history, Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth became the first woman pilot of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to qualify to undertake combat missions on a fighter jet.
- "She is the first woman fighter pilot to be qualified to undertake missions by day on a fighter aircraft".

## Kapil Sharma feted by World Book of Records as most viewed stand-up comedian in India and abroad

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- Comedian-actor Kapil Sharma has been acknowledged as the most viewed stand-up comedian in India and abroad by the World Book of Records London.

## Indra Nooyi Receives Honorary Degree from Yale University for Achievements in Business

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- Former PepsiCo chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi was presented with an honorary degree by the prestigious Yale University, her alma mater, in recognition of her achievements in business and for being a global role model who encouraged women and girls to see themselves as top corporate executives.
- Nooyi, who received a degree in Master of Public and Private Management from the university's Yale School of Management in 1980, was presented with the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

## Satara girl Priyanka Mohite scales world's fourth highest mountain Mt Lhotse

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- A 26-year-old Satara-based mountaineer, Priyanka Mohite, successfully climbed Mount Lhotse, the fourth highest mountain in the world at 8,516 metres (27,940 ft).

## Justice DN Patel appointed next Chief Justice of Delhi High Court

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- The Central Government has cleared the appointment of Justice DN Patel as the next Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.
- The appointment was made pursuant to a Collegium resolution passed earlier this month. The resolution was passed in view of the impending retirement of current Chief Justice Rajendra Menon in June this year.

## Saray Khumalo becomes the First Black African Woman to Conquer Everest

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- A South African business executive reached the top of Mount Everest in what is believed to be the first summit of the world's highest mountain by a black African woman.
- Saray Khumalo reached the top of the 8,848-metre mountain after three previous bids were thwarted by bad weather, injury and tragedy.

## Admiral Karambir Singh takes over as Navy chief

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- Admiral Karambir Singh assumed office as the 24th Chief of the Naval Staff. He took over from Admiral Sunil Lanba who stepped down upon retirement. Admiral Singh was the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command, headquartered in Visakhapatnam.

## Amit Shah gets Home in new Cabinet

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- Nirmala is new Finance Minister, Rajnath Singh moved to Defence Nitin Gadkari and Ravi Shankar Prasad retains their portfolios S. Jaishankar is MEA, joins Cabinet Committee on Security.
- One of the major gainers among Cabinet Ministers was former Minister of State for Agriculture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, who will head the newly created “Jal Shakti” Ministry. Mr. Modi had said at the BJP’s manifesto launch in April that the Ministry would be a priority area for the new government.

## Justice AK Mittal sworn in as Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court

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- Justice A K Mittal was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court. Governor Tathagata Roy administered the oath of office to Justice Mittal at the Raj Bhavan.

## Guterres appoints Indian-origin Anita Bhatia as UN-Women’s deputy executive director

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- Indian-origin official Anita Bhatia, a veteran in strategic partnerships and resource mobilisation, has been appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as the Deputy Executive Director in UN Women, the agency focussed on women empowerment and gender equality.

## Brij Mohan Khaitan passes away

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- Industrialist Brij Mohan Khaitan, who hogged the limelight by acquiring the Indian business of Union Carbide in the 1990s, passed away. Mr. Khaitan was the patriarch of the Williamson Magor Group that deals in dry-cell battery, tea and engineering services.

## Mohana Singh becomes first woman fighter pilot to fly Hawk jet

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- Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh has become the first woman fighter pilot to fly by day a Hawk advanced jet aircraft. She achieved the feat at the Kalaikunda Air Force Station in West Bengal.

## Sonia Gandhi elected leader of Congress Parliamentary Party

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- United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairperson Sonia Gandhi was elected leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) at a meeting in New Delhi.
- Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh proposed Ms. Gandhi’s name, which was unanimously approved by all the MPs.

## S.N. Patro elected Odisha House Speaker

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- Senior Biju Janata Dal leader and seven-time legislator Surjya Narayan Patro was unanimously elected the Speaker of the 16th Odisha Legislative Assembly.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Indian Navy ships Kolkata, Shakti arrive in South Korea to participate in ADMM-PLUS

- In a demonstration of the country's 'Act East' policy and Indian Navy's increasing footprint and operational reach, Indian Naval Ships Kolkata and Shakti arrived at Busan, South Korea. Indian Navy ships will participate in ADMM-Plus Maritime Security Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Busan.

### Indian Navy launches Massive Rescue and Rehabilitation Effort

- In the aftermath of the devastation caused by Extremely Severe Cyclone 'Fani', the Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy has launched a massive rescue and rehabilitation effort in Odisha.

### Govt has mandated Green Number plates on all electric vehicles in India

- The Central Government has asked the state road transport departments to make green number plates mandatory on all types of electric vehicles irrespective of them being brand new or used.

### Run to vote mini-marathon held at Leh

- A mini-marathon titled 'run to vote' was held in Leh district of Jammu and Kashmir's Ladakh region which is going to polls in the last phase of the Lok Sabha elections on May 6. The objective of the marathon was to promote voter awareness and educate the target population about EVM and VVPAT.

### DD-Kashir launches Kashmiri version of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati'

- DD-Kashir launched the Kashmiri version of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' at the Doordarshan Kendra's Srinagar Studios. The show is named, 'Kus Bani Koshur Karorpaet'.

### Committee constituted to oversee clean air programme

- The Union Environment Ministry has constituted a committee to implement the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), which aims to reduce particulate matter (PM) pollution by 20%-30% in at least 102 cities by 2024.
- The committee will be chaired by the Secretary, Union Environment Ministry and has among its members the Joint Secretary (Thermal), Ministry of Power; Director-General, The Energy Resources Institute (TERI), the Delhi-based think-tank; and Professor Sachidananda Tripathi, Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur (IIT-K).

### Coffee Table book on Architecture & Landscape of Rashtrapati Bhawan presented

- Ambassador Navdeep Suri presented UAE Minister of Tolerance Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan with the coffee Table book titled Work of Beauty: Architecture and Landscape of Rashtrapati Bhawan. The book has been published by Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

### Mangaluru police gets all-women patrol unit

- Mangaluru City Police has launched an all-women police patrol unit in the city. Flagging off the 'Rani Abbakka Force' in Mangaluru Commissioner of Police, said the Karnataka police is giving utmost importance to the protection of women and children.

### Article on coalgate wins ACJ Award for Investigative Journalism

- The article titled 'Coalgate 2.0' authored by Nileena M S and published in The Caravan magazine in March last year has won the ACJ Award for Investigative Journalism, 2018.
- The award, which comprises a trophy, a citation and Rs lakh 200,000/- cash prize, was presented to the winner by John Micklethwait, Editor-in-Chief of Bloomberg News, who was the chief guest at the journalism school's annual convocation ceremony.

### **CBIC organises meeting of Regional Heads of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) in Kochi**

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- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) is organised a meeting of the Regional Heads of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) in Kochi from 08th to 10th May, 2019.
- India is hosted this meeting in its capacity as Vice Chair of the Asia Pacific region that it assumed on 1st July, 2018 for a two-year period.

### **Commerce ministry, Indian High Commissions and 11 African nation-embassies organised interaction to improve India-Africa trade ties**

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- A two-day interaction was organised by the Commerce Ministry and Indian High Commissions and embassies of eleven African countries to strengthen the India-Africa trade ties.
- The interaction was arranged over Digital Video Conference (DVC) over two days, on May 3rd and May 6th with the Indian business community in Africa. The DVC was attended by over 400 members of the Indian business community in 11 African countries.

### **Desert Storm 2019 set to start**

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- Desert Storm 2019, touted to be the longest Cross-Country Rally in India is set to kick off. The first stage, covering a distance of 158 km, is starting from Bikaner in Rajasthan
- The four-day-long Rally will see over 100 teams competing in high temperatures, treacherous dune crossings and fast technical gravel straights

### **Nepali Girl Dances for 126 Hours Straight To Set New World Record**

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- A Nepali teenager danced continuously for 126 hours to set a Guinness World Records on "Longest Dancing Marathon by an Individual", a feat previously hold by an Indian.
- Bandana Nepal beat the record set by Kalamandalam Hemlatha, who danced continuously for 123 hours and 15 minutes in 2011.

### **India, UK to strengthen ties on Indo-Pacific cooperation**

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- The dialogue reviewed a year of progress since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the UK in April 2018 for the Commonwealth Summit, where he and British Prime Minister Theresa May had agreed on closer collaboration across trade and technology, security and people-to-people links.
- "The two countries have, over the past year, identified specific areas to work together as a force for good, for example on a global coalition on climate resilience, on disaster relief and on development. Bilateral trade has grown by 14 per cent, and visas for Indian students have increased by 35 per cent".

### **CJI Ranjan Gogoi skips Russian event; justice Bobde to attend**

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- Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi in a last minute decision has pulled out from the May 14-18 St Petersburg International Legal Forum (SPBILF). India was represented at the meet by senior Supreme Court judge Sharad Arvind Bobde.
- Justice Bobde is in line to be next CJI after Gogoi. Bobde's presence at SPBILF will also enable India and Russia to explore partnership in the field of law and related issues.
- SPBILF is one of the prestigious global legal conferences and precursor for St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) --considered mini-Davos of Eurasia. In 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the chief guest at SPIEF. SPBILF is a unique international conference that brings together the leading minds of the legal profession.



## Devotees Gather to Celebrate Thrissur Pooram Festival in Kerala

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- Thrissur Pooram festival is a cultural celebration held annually at the Vadakkunnathan Temple, Kerala.
- It is considered to be a ceremony where deities come together to pay obeisance to lord Shiva at the Vadakumnathan Temple.
- The annual festival is considered as the mother of all temple festivals in the state. The Tusker, Thechikottukavu Ramachandran, symbolically pushed open the gate of the temple, signaling the start of the festivities

## Indian Navy's Service Selection Board Inaugurated at Kolkata

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- Admiral Sunil Lanba, the Chief of Naval Staff inaugurated Indian Navy's first full-fledged Service Selection Board (SSB) at Diamond Harbour, near Kolkata.
- This is the fifth Service Selection Board of the Indian Navy and caters for selection of both Permanent and Short Service Commission officers.

## Lokpal website launched

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- The website of the Lokpal has been launched. The website, [www.lokpal.gov.in](http://www.lokpal.gov.in), was inaugurated by Chairperson Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose in presence of all the Members of Lokpal in New Delhi.
- It provides basic information about the working and functioning of the anti-corruption ombudsman.

## 11th Joint Consular Committee meet between India, Iran held in Delhi

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- The 11th Joint Consular Committee meeting between India and Iran took place on 14th of this month in New Delhi.
- Both sides discussed the early conclusion of Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance on civil and commercial matters and extending the longer duration of e-Visa for each other nationals on reciprocity.

## Women to handle entire work of counting votes in Harda district

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- In Madhya Pradesh, women will handle the entire work of counting votes in Harda district of the state. The initiative is probably the first of its kind.
- "Harda district is a part of Betul parliamentary seat and the counting of votes of Timarni and Harda assembly segments will take place at Harda district headquarters. At present, 84 women are being trained for counting in Polytechnic College.

## Israel proposes India to be the focus country in Jerusalem Film Festival, 2020

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- Israel has proposed India to be the focus country at Jerusalem Film Festival next year during a meeting between the delegations of the two countries at the Cannes International Film Festival.

## First NCC Girls Expedition Team from Sikkim Flagged off to Mt Tenchenkhang

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- The National Cadet Corps (NCC) Girls' Mountaineering Expedition to Mt. Tenchenkhang in Sikkim was 'Flagged Off'.
- This is the first NCC cadets' expedition in Sikkim ever since 1970. The team will be attempting to scale Mt. Tenchenkhang (6010m) by the end of June 2019.

## China to host fest of Indian New Wave

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- A retrospective of Indian New Wave Cinema from the 50s to 70s is set to play this October in China at the Pingyao International Film Festival.
- The 12-film package will arguably be the biggest retrospective of its kind in China. The country normally is known to not allow more than 10 films in a foreign retrospective.

## Arunachal has 35 pc of India's graphite deposits, says GSI

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- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has revealed that 35 per cent the country's Graphite deposits of the country is found in Arunachal Pradesh.

## Fall Armyworm detected in Arunachal

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- In Arunachal Pradesh, Fall Armyworm, a pest which can cause extensive damage to standing crops within a very short time has been detected.
- A report from the College of Horticulture & Forestry in East Siang District has said that the highly invasive pest has been found in maize in its campus.

## Indian peacekeeper to be honoured posthumously by UN

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- An Indian peacekeeper is among the 119 military, police and civilian personnel who will be honoured with a prestigious UN medal this year for courage and sacrifice in the line of duty.
- Police Officer Jitender Kumar made the supreme sacrifice while serving in the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Central African country of Congo.
- He will be honoured posthumously with the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal as the world organisation observes the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

## Assam Rifles & Coast Guard sign 'Charter of Affiliation'

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- In Meghalaya, the Assam Rifles and the Indian Coast Guard signed a historic 'Charter of Affiliation' to utilize each other's assets for operational training, sports and adventure.

## 5th Smart Cities India 2019 expo inaugurated

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- The 5th Smart Cities India 2019 expo, including Transport India, Solar India, Buildings India and Water India expos, was inaugurated by Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, at the Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

## Indian delegation participates in second SCO Mass Media Forum in Kyrgyzstan

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- The Indian delegation is participated in the second Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Mass Media Forum at Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan. The Forum aims to strengthen the exchange and cooperation in the field of mass media amongst SCO countries. The Forum was inaugurated by the President of Kyrgyz Republic Mr. S. Jeenbeko.

## Indian's charity in UAE enters Guinness World Records for holding longest iftar

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- A charity run by an Indian in the UAE has entered the Guinness Book of World Records for its hunger relief efforts during the holy month of Ramzan in Abu Dhabi.
- The charity set the new Guinness World Records for "Longest Line of Hunger Relief Package" in Abu Dhabi.

## Nepal bans Chinese digital wallets

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- Nepal banned popular Chinese digital wallets Alipay and WeChat to prevent the loss of foreign currency earnings from tens of thousands of Chinese tourists.

## Voynich manuscript dubbed 'world's most mysterious text' FINALLY decoded by UK genius

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- A MYSTERIOUS 600-year-old manuscript that has been deemed "unreadable" by the world's top cryptographers has finally been deciphered
- That's the claim by one Bristol academic who has cracked the legendary Voynich manuscript and revealed its secrets.

## IAF chief leads 'missing man' formation in MiG-21

- **Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa led a four aircraft, MiG-21 'Missing Man' formation flypast, at Air Force Station Bhisiana in Bhatinda, Punjab to honour the valour and supreme sacrifice of men killed in action during Operation Safed Sagar at Kargil.**

## Meghalaya: Chief Minister Conrad launches Aroma Mission

- **Meghalaya chief minister Conrad K Sangma launched the Aroma Mission at Byrwa in Ri-Bhoi district with an aim to strengthen the livelihood condition of farmers and create employment opportunities in the state.**

## US-UAE defense agreement comes into force

- **The United States and the United Arab Emirates have announced that mutual defence cooperation agreement (DCA) has come into force, amid increasing tensions between Washington and Tehran.**

## Maldives parliament Majlis passes resolution for PM Modi's speech at Parliament

- **Maldives parliament or Majlis passed a resolution for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech at the Parliament during his upcoming visit to Maldives. The resolution was passed with unanimous votes of all 80 MPs present.**

## J&K government unveils Healthcare Investment Policy-2019

- **Jammu and Kashmir Government unveiled Healthcare Investment Policy-2019. This follows the State Administrative Council decision taken in this regard on March 08, 2019. The new policy will promote and encourage the private parties and entrepreneurs for setting up healthcare infrastructure in the state by providing subsidies and incentive.**

## First session of 17th Lok Sabha likely from June 6

- **The 17th Lok Sabha's first session is likely to start from June 6 and go on till June 15, sources have said. President Ram Nath Kovind will address the joint sitting of the two houses of Parliament on June 6, the first day of the session. A pro-tem speaker of the Lok Sabha is also likely to be appointed the same day. The pro-tem speaker will administer the oath of office to all the newly elected MPs before the speaker's election expected on June 10, the sources said.**

## Chennai: First-of-its-kind ambulance aids, relocates trees in distress

- **Chennai already has the dubious distinction of having the lowest green cover among all the metropolitan cities in the country, with each person in the city having just 0.46sqm of open space and only one tree for every 33 people on city roads. In what can be an effective initiative to better this condition, a unique tree ambulance was inaugurated on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity, by the Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu.**

## Song 'Hawa Aane De' launched to spread awareness about Air pollution

- **Union Environment Ministry launched the song 'Hawa Aane De' to spread awareness about Air pollution. The song was launched by Secretary, Ministry of Environment C K Mishra ahead of the World Environment Day on 5th of June. This year the theme of Environment Day is Air Pollution.**

## Tripura to host 10th National Science Film Festival of India in 2020

- **In an effort to raise awareness about science and environment through films, the 10th National Science Film Festival of India (NSFFI) will be organised in Tripura on January and February 2020. The NSFFI debuted in Chennai eight years ago in 2011. This the second time the show will be held in a north Eastern city.**

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Workers' Day

- **International Workers' Day**, also known as **Workers' Day**, **Labour Day** in some countries and often referred to as **May Day** is a **celebration of labourers** and the working classes that is **promoted by the international labour movement** which occurs every year on **May Day (1 May)**, an ancient European spring festival.
- The date was chosen by a pan-national organization of socialist and communist political parties to commemorate the Haymarket affair, which occurred in Chicago on 4 May 1886.

### International Dance Day

- In 1982 the Dance Committee of ITI founded **International Dance Day** to be celebrated every year on the 29th April, the birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727-1810), creator of modern ballet.

### World Day for Safety and Health at Work observed on 28th April

- The **World Day for Safety and Health at Work** is an **annual international campaign** to promote safe, healthy and decent work. It is held on 28 April and has been observed by the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** since 2003.

### Gujarat celebrates its foundation day

- The **60th Foundation Day of Gujarat** is celebrated on **1st May**. Every year, the day is celebrated in different districts by launching various welfare schemes.

### World Password Day

- **World Password Day** is observed on **May 2** every year to raise awareness on the **criticality of using strong passwords**.

### World Press Freedom Day: 3 May

- **World Press Freedom Day** was proclaimed by the **UN General Assembly in December 1993**, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference. Since then, 3 May, the **anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek** is celebrated worldwide as **World Press Freedom Day**.
- **2019 Theme is: Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation.**

### International Firefighters' Day

- **International Firefighters' Day (IFFD)** is observed on **May 4**. It was instituted after a proposal was emailed out across the world on January 4, 1999 due to the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia.

### World Laughter Day

- **World Asthma Day** is an annual event organized by the **Global Initiative for Asthma** to improve asthma awareness and care around the world. **World Laughter Day** takes place on the **first Sunday of May** of every year.
- The celebration of **World Laughter Day** is a **positive manifestation for world peace** and is intended to build up a global consciousness of brotherhood and friendship through laughter.

### World Asthma Day

- **World Asthma Day** takes place on the first Tuesday of May.



- **Asthma Day 2019: STOP for asthma is the theme this year.** STOP means Symptom evaluation, Test response, Observe and assesses, Proceed to adjust treatment. Here's everything you need to know about World Asthma Day and tips for asthma prevention.

### World Athletics Day 2019

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- The **World Athletics Day** is commemorated annually on the **7th of May** in order to **give importance to sports among the youth**.
- The **objective behind celebrating World Athletics Day** is to **promote athletics as the primary sport in schools and institutions** and to encourage and introduce new talent and youngsters in the field of athletics.

### International No Diet Day

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- **International No Diet Day** is observed on **May 6**, and its symbol is a **light blue ribbon**.

### World Thalassemia Day

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- **World Thalassemia Day** is observed on **May 8**. This day is meant to raise awareness about thalassemia, an inherited blood disorder which is characterised by less haemoglobin and lesser than normal blood cells.
- A person suffering from thalassemia has at least one of the parents as carrier of the disease.

### World Migratory Bird Day, 11 May 2019

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- **World Migratory Bird Day** is celebrated on **11 May 2019**
- This year's **World Migratory Bird Day** is dedicated to highlighting the problem of pollution with the **theme, 'Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution.'**

### National Technology Day

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- **National Technology Day** is observed across India on **12th May** every year to mark India's technological advancements and to promote the development of technology in various fields.
- The day acts as a reminder of the anniversary of **Shakti**, the Pokhran nuclear test which was held on **11, 1998**.

### International Nurses Day 2019 observed on May 12

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- **International Nurses Day** is celebrated around the world every **May 12**, the anniversary of **Florence Nightingale's birth**. ICN commemorates this important day each year with the production and distribution of the International Nurses' Day (IND) resources and evidence.
- The theme for the 2019 is- **Nurses: A voice to lead - Health for All**.

### International Day of Families: 15 May

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- The **International Day of Families** is observed on the **15th of May every year**. Activities include workshops and conferences, radio and television programmes, newspaper articles and cultural programmes highlighting relevant themes.
- **2019 Theme: "Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG 13.**

### International Day of Light

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- The **International Day of Light** is celebrated on **16 May** each year, the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, **Theodore Maiman**.

- This day is a call to strengthen scientific cooperation and harness its potential to foster peace and sustainable development.

### World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 17 May

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- 17 May marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- This year, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, which has been celebrated annually since 1969.

### National Dengue Day 2019

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- May 16 is observed as National Dengue Day. An attempt of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, National Dengue Day is meant to raise awareness about dengue and its preventive measures.

### 2019 International Day of Vesak: 15th May

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- The United Nations (UN) Day of Vesak has kicked off in Vietnam's northern Ha Nam province, with the participation of more than 1,650 international delegates from over 100 countries and regions.
- The opening ceremony of the UN Day of Vesak, or the birth of Buddha, also brought together over 20,000 Vietnamese Buddhist dignitaries, monks, nuns and followers.
- National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha, ICDV and IABU are the key organizers of UN Day of Vesak 2019.

### International Day of Living Together in Peace

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- The UN General-Assembly declared 16 May the International Day of Living Together in Peace, as a means of regularly mobilizing the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity.
- The Day aims to uphold the desire to live and act together, united in differences and diversity, in order to build a sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony.

### International museum day

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- IMD (International Museum Day) is a global day celebration that takes place annually around or on 18 May.
- The theme of International Museum Day 2019 is— “Museums as Cultural Hubs: The future of tradition”.

### May 20 observed as World Metrology Day

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- May 20 is World Metrology Day, commemorating the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875.
- This treaty provides the basis for a coherent measurement system worldwide that underpins scientific discovery and innovation, industrial manufacturing and international trade, as well as the improvement of the quality of life and the protection of the global environment.
- The theme for World Metrology Day 2019 is The International System of Units - Fundamentally better.

### World Bee Day: 20 May

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- To raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development, the UN designated 20 May as World Bee Day.

### World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development: 21 May

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- In 2001, UNESCO adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and in December 2002, the UN General Assembly, declared May 21 to be the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.

## UAE to celebrate World Day for Cultural Diversity on May 21

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- On 21st May, the UAE celebrated World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development to highlight its efforts in promoting tolerance and cultural diversity.
- The event was coincide with the country's declaration of 2019 as the Year for Tolerance and its hosting of many related events. The UAE has cultural relations with many countries and is an active member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, UNESCO.

## International Day to End Obstetric Fistula: 23 May

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- Women with fistula are often shunned by their communities. The United Nations has observed the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula since 2013. The day, 23 May, is meant to raise awareness of this issue and mobilize support around the globe.
- Obstetric fistula is one of the most serious and tragic injuries that can occur during childbirth. It is a hole between the birth canal and the bladder or rectum caused by prolonged, obstructed labour without treatment.

## World Turtle Day: 23rd May

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- The purpose of World Turtle Day, May 23, sponsored yearly since 2000 by American Tortoise Rescue, is to bring attention to, and increase knowledge of and respect for, turtles and tortoises, and encourage human action to help them survive and thrive.

## International Missing Children's Day

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- International Missing Children's Day is celebrated on May 25, the same day as the United States' National Missing Children's Day designated by Ronald Reagan in 1983.

## International Day of UN Peacekeepers: 29 May

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- The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, 29 May, offers a chance to pay tribute to the uniformed and civilians personnel's invaluable contribution to the work of the Organization.
- The theme for this year's Day is "Protecting Civilians, Protecting Peace" to mark the upcoming 20th anniversary when for the first time the Security Council explicitly mandated a peacekeeping mission (UNAMSIL in Sierra Leone) to protect civilians.

## World Digestive Health Day

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- The WGO celebrates World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) every May 29, initiating a worldwide public health campaign through its national societies and 50,000 individual members.

## World No Tobacco Day 2019

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- Every year, on 31 May, the World Health Organization (WHO) and global partners celebrate World No Tobacco Day (WNTD).
- The focus of World No Tobacco Day 2019 is on "tobacco and lung health." The campaign will increase awareness on: the negative impact that tobacco has on people's lung health, from cancer to chronic respiratory disease, the fundamental role lungs play for the health and well-being of all people.

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**QUESTIONS**

1. A mini-marathon titled 'run to vote' was held in:  
(a) Jammu and Kashmir (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Bihar (d) Gujarat
2. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting, which was held in:  
(a) New Delhi (b) Bishkek (c) Lahore (d) Beijing
3. Which of the following countries is not associated with the BCIM economic corridor?  
(a) Bangladesh (b) China (c) India (d) Malaysia
4. According to the report from the Hong Kong-based The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), Indian economy will grow below its potential in 2019-20 at \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) 7.0 per cent (b) 7.2 per cent (c) 7.5 per cent (d) 7.9 per cent
5. Which of the following banks has launched 'Webassurance'?  
(a) Canara Bank (b) Axis Bank (c) HDFC Bank (d) SBI Bank
6. Scientists from \_\_\_\_\_ have developed a process to 3D-print transparent and flexible electronic circuits, paving the way for improved wearable devices in the future.  
(a) India (b) China (c) Germany (d) USA
7. Name the South African cricketer, who has been honoured with an Order of Ikhamanga from the Presidency for his contribution to cricket and placing the team on the world sporting map.  
(a) Jacques Kallis (b) Graeme Smith (c) AB Devilliers (d) H. Gibbs
8. How many La Liga title won by Lionel Messi for Barcelona team?  
(a) 5 (b) 6 (c) 8 (d) 10
9. Who among the following has retained his Badminton Asia Championships title 2019 in Shanghai?  
(a) Chen Long (b) Kento Momota (c) K. Srikant (d) Lee Chang Wei
10. The World Day for Safety and Health at Work is an annual international campaign to promote safe, healthy and decent work. It is held on:  
(a) 26 April (b) 27 April (c) 28 April (d) 29 April
11. Who is the recently appointed first independent woman Director of Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)?  
(a) M Jayshree Vyas (b) B Subhalaxmi (c) Rita Narain (d) Amita Gadia
12. According to data think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which country is the biggest military spender in 2018?  
(a) India (b) Saudi Arabia (c) China (d) USA
13. Recently, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' conclave in:  
(a) Kazakhstan (b) Kyrgyzstan (c) Tajikistan (d) Uzbekistan



14. Which of the following IIT's has developed a unified script for nine Indian languages, named the Bharati script recently?  
(a) IIT Bombay (b) IIT Kanpur (c) IIT Madras (d) IIT Roorkee
15. An international team led by the Hyderabad-based International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has identified in \_\_\_\_\_ four important genes for heat tolerance and three important genes for drought tolerance.  
(a) Chickpea (b) Mustard (c) Watermelon (d) Paddy
16. Who won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix Formula-One recently?  
(a) Lewis Hamilton (b) Sebastian Vettel (c) Charles Leclerc (d) Valtteri Bottas
17. Who is set to become the first wrestler from India to fight at the iconic Madison Square Garden in New York?  
(a) Bajrang Punia (b) Sushil Kumar (c) Yogeshwar Dutt (d) Saurav Gurjar
18. International Dance Day is celebrated every year on:  
(a) 27th April (b) 29th April (c) 30th April (d) 2nd May
19. Recently a lawyer from \_\_\_\_\_ who stopped the destruction of over half a million acres of the country's tropical forests, has been awarded the prestigious Goldman Environment Prize.  
(a) Nigeria (b) Liberia (c) Panama (d) Ivory Coast
20. Which of the following capital cities has set a Guinness World Record for the number of national flags raised in a city for 24 hours recently?  
(a) Brussels (b) Rome (c) Beirut (d) Male
21. Who has been appointed as the Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court recently?  
(a) Justice Pradeep Rammanna (b) Justice Venkateshwar Narayanan  
(c) Justice P.R. Ramachandra Menon (d) Justice Sateesh Reddy
22. India is all set to have Defence Cyber Agency (DCA), who will be the first head of this agency (DCA)?  
(a) Rear Admiral Mohit Gupta (b) Rear Admiral Amit Ranjan Negi  
(c) Rear Admiral Mohammad Maqsood (d) Rear Admiral Thomas Philip
23. As part of Delhi's reinvigorated Central Asia policy, The Indian PM and five Central Asian leaders will meet on the side lines of the SCO Summit in:  
(a) Kazakhstan (b) Kyrgyzstan (c) Tajikistan (d) Turkmenistan
24. Name the Emperor of Japan, who formally stepped down resulting in the first abdication for 200 years in the world's oldest monarchy.  
(a) Emperor Hirohito (b) Emperor Akishino (c) Emperor Naruhito (d) Emperor Akihito
25. Which of the following companies has launched recurring payment (auto pay) service for merchants that are working on a digital subscription model recently?  
(a) Paytm (b) Google India (c) Flipkart (d) Amazon India
26. Recently, a study by researchers at \_\_\_\_\_ has found that Economic growth is reducing faecal pollution in groundwater in North India.  
(a) IIT Kanpur (b) IIT Kharagpur (c) IIT Madras (d) IIT Delhi
27. Who is the first Indian to break into the top-25 in the latest ITTF rankings?  
(a) Sharath Kamal (b) Manika Batra (c) G Sathian (d) Mouma Das

28. Name the footballer, who has been named the 2019 footballer of the year by the Football Writers' Association (FWA).  
(a) Lionel Messi (b) Cristiano Ronaldo (c) Romelu Lukaku (d) Raheem Sterling
29. International Workers' Day, also known as Workers' Day is celebrated every year on:  
(a) 29th April (b) 30th april (c) 1st May (d) 5th May
30. Who among the following former Union Minister is penning the biography of celebrated Indian nationalist, diplomat, and politician V K Krishna Menon titled "Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of V K Krishna Menon"?  
(a) Shashi Tharoor (b) Jairam Ramesh (c) P Chidambaram (d) Subodh Kant Sahay
31. Recently, The Union Environment Ministry has constituted a committee to implement the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). The committee will be chaired by:  
(a) Secretary, Union Environment Ministry  
(b) Joint Secretary (Thermal), Ministry of Power  
(c) Director-General, The Energy Resources Institute (TERI)  
(d) Professor Sachidananda Tripathi
32. The first part of the Indo-French joint naval exercise, Varuna 19.1, began off in:  
(a) Sikkim (b) Goa (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Uttarakhand
33. Name the Jaish-e-Mohammad chief who was listed as a designated terrorist by the UN Security Council 1267 Committee?  
(a) Masood Gul (b) Anwarul Haque (c) Masood Azhar (d) Ziaur Rehman
34. Which of the following Indian banks has moved to a new interest rate regime on large savings account deposits as well as short-term loans?  
(a) State Bank of India (b) Punjab National Bank (c) Canara Bank (d) Indian Overseas Bank
35. The stalagmite in the Mawmluh cave in \_\_\_\_\_ has been tagged a Global Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) which is the first formally ratified marker of a geological time period in India.  
(a) Nagaland (b) Sikkim (c) Meghalaya (d) Manipur
36. Recently, researchers of \_\_\_\_\_ believe that they have found an antidote to a sting from the world's most venomous creature, the much-feared box jellyfish  
(a) New Zealand (b) Australia (c) Canada (d) USA
37. Who has been appointed as the first non-British president of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) recently?  
(a) Sachin Tendulkar (b) Wasim Akram (c) Sanath Jayasuriya (d) Kumar Sangakkara
38. Recently, The Goldman Environmental Foundation recognized \_\_\_\_\_ environmental activists.  
(a) 4 (b) 5 (c) 6 (d) 9
39. Name the female shooter, who has attained the World No.1 position in the women's 10m air rifle event.  
(a) Apurvi Chandel (b) Anjum Moudgil (c) Heena Siddhu (d) Deepika Namwar
40. The 60th Foundation Day of \_\_\_\_\_ is celebrated on 1st May, 2019.  
(a) Gujarat (b) Rajasthan (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Madhya Pradesh

41. Which of the following country has become the first in the world to pass a motion declaring an "environment and climate emergency"?
- (a) Russia (b) Canada (c) UK (d) Finland
42. Recently, who has been notified by the Centre as the next Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court?
- (a) Justice Jyotirmaya Bannerjee (b) Justice Abhay Oka  
(c) Justice Mandaar Tawde (d) Justice Shantanu Goel
43. In the 2019 Asia University Rankings, which of the following university held on to its 29th rank as a total of 49 Indian institutions made the cut to be included in the list?
- (a) University of Delhi (b) Indian Institute of Science (IISc)  
(c) Manipal Academy of Higher Education (d) Anna University, Chennai
44. Recently, The Central Public Sector undertaking Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned two motor - pump set units in:
- (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Maharashtra (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Telangana
45. Which of the following telecom operator has become the first operator to start optical fibre-based high-speed broadband service in Pulwama with the launch of 'Bharat Fibre'?
- (a) BSNL (b) Reliance Jio (c) Airtel (d) Vodafone Idea
46. Which of the following countries was the biggest recipient of funds from Asian Development Bank last year?
- (a) India (b) Pakistan (c) Nepal (d) Bangladesh
47. Recently, the largest stucco sculpture in India has been unearthed from:
- (a) Telangana (b) Karnataka (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Maharashtra
48. Recently, the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India and \_\_\_\_\_ have come together to bring the best of science and technology to implement waste management in India.
- (a) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi)  
(b) Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay)  
(c) Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)  
(d) Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur)
49. Name the Indian, who won the gold medal in the finals of men's 65kg freestyle in the Ali Aliyev wrestling tournament in Kaspiisk, Russia.
- (a) Deepak Rathi (b) Yogeshwar Dutt (c) Sushil Kumar (d) Bajrang Punia
50. World Password Day is observed every year on:
- (a) 27th April (b) 29th April (c) 1st May (d) 2nd May
51. The second edition of "Huddle Kerala," one of Asia's largest startup ecosystem congregations, will be held at:
- (a) Munnar (b) Kochi (c) Kovalam (d) Alappuzha
52. At present, NATO's military headquarters is in:
- (a) Mons (b) Brussels (c) Belgrade (d) Rocquencourt
53. According to London & Partners (L&P), the Mayor of London's promotional agency, which of the following places emerged as the top choice for Indian investors?
- (a) Paris (b) New York (c) London (d) Brussels

54. According to Takehiko Nakao, President and Chairperson, Asian Development Bank, the Asia-Pacific region is expected to power ahead growing at \_\_\_\_\_ this year.  
(a) 3.4% (b) 4.1% (c) 4.7% (d) 5.7%
55. Recently, Scientists, have found water in the samples from the surface of asteroid \_\_\_\_\_ that were collected by the Japanese space probe Hayabusa.  
(a) 4 Vesta (b) Ceres (c) 2 Pallas (d) Itokawa
56. In a first of its kind landing of a rover on the Moon's \_\_\_\_\_ the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is seeking to create history by attempting to launch India's second lunar mission - Chandrayaan-2.  
(a) South Pole (b) North Pole (c) East Pole (d) West Pole
57. Which of the following Indian cities is set to host the 8th Asian Youth Women Handball Championship?  
(a) Kanpur (b) Jaipur (c) Kolkata (d) Patna
58. TePe Sigeman & Co International tournament is a tournament of:  
(a) Bridge (b) Chess (c) Squash (d) Table Tennis
59. Who has been conferred with France's highest civilian award - Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Lgion d'Honneur - for his contribution to India-France space cooperation recently?  
(a) Vijayant Sinha (b) A S Kiran Kumar (c) Tessy Thomas (d) Madhav Shergill
60. World Press Freedom Day is celebrated every year on:  
(a) 28th April (b) 30th April (c) 1st May (d) 3rd May
61. In the aftermath of the devastation caused by Extremely Severe Cyclone 'Fani', the Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy has launched a massive rescue and rehabilitation effort in:  
(a) Odisha (b) Kerala (c) Telangana (d) Karnataka
62. PicIndia and \_\_\_\_\_ have agreed to further deepen counter-terrorism co-operation through regular exchange of information and sharing of best practices on countering extremism and radicalization.  
(a) Spain (b) Australia (c) Germany (d) Canada
63. King Vajiralongkorn is the \_\_\_\_\_ monarch of the Chakri dynasty, which has reigned over the kingdom since 1782.  
(a) 10th (b) 12th (c) 14th (d) 16th
64. Which of the following has set up a new initiative aiming to establish the annual number of violent deaths worldwide?  
(a) Red Cross (b) SIPRI (c) UNO (d) International Amnesty
65. India's largest telecom operator Vodafone Idea Ltd announced a five-year multi-million-dollar IT outsourcing deal with which of the following companies?  
(a) Reliance (b) IBM (c) Microsoft (d) Google
66. Who has been included in the Advisory Council of the 15th Finance Commission as its member in May 2019?  
(a) Arvind Goswamy (b) Vivek Debroy  
(c) Krishnamurthy Subramanian (d) Anantha Negeswararao



67. The Defence Ministry approved Indian Navy's proposal to acquire 10 Kamov-31 choppers from \_\_\_\_\_ at a cost of around Rs. 3,600 crore to strengthen its capability against aerial threats to its aircraft carriers and large warships.  
(a) Russia (b) USA (c) France (d) Japan
68. Who has become the youngest batsman to score maiden an IPL 50?  
(a) Riyan Parag (b) Prithvi Shaw (c) Sanju Samson (d) Subman Gil
69. International Firefighters' Day (IFFD) is observed on:  
(a) May 1 (b) May 2 (c) May 3 (d) May 4
70. The article titled 'Coalgate 2.0' authored by \_\_\_\_\_ has won the ACJ Award for Investigative Journalism, 2018.  
(a) Nileena M S (b) Vikram Baru (c) Sanjay Seth (d) Vijay Kumar
71. The 36th Feliks Stamm International boxing tournament is held in:  
(a) Ireland (b) Iceland (c) Poland (d) Finland
72. Recently, Common Service Centre's (CSC) e-Governance Services India Limited, a special purpose vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics & IT has tied up with \_\_\_\_\_ to upscale 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'.  
(a) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur (b) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras  
(c) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kharagpur (d) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi
73. Recently, who has been appointed as the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)?  
(a) Reza Baqir (b) Shahbaz Miyan (c) Mohammad Rizwan (d) Abdulla Qayoom
74. Who among the following has been appointed as first brand ambassadors of Flipkart-owned fashion e-commerce platform Myntra?  
(a) Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone (b) Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma  
(c) Dinesh Karthik and Deepika Pallikal (d) Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor
75. Which among the following recently launched the Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies for the Asia and Pacific region?  
(a) World Bank (b) Asian Development Bank  
(c) International Monetary Fund (d) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
76. What is the name of Japan's first private rocket to reach space recently?  
(a) Momo-3 (b) Hayabusha 2 (c) Jacuchi5 (d) Dukoyo 2
77. Who among the following have emerged as champions in the Asian squash championship 2019 recently?  
(a) Harinder Pal Sandhu and Bhuvneshwari Kumari (b) Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa  
(c) Saurav Ghosal and Deepik Pallikal (d) Joshna Chinappa and Deepik Pallikal
78. The Generalized System of Preference (GSP) is the largest and oldest \_\_\_\_\_ trade preference programme designed to promote economic development.  
(a) U.S. (b) UK (c) Russia (d) France
79. Name the singer, who has been awarded at GLAAD Media Awards New York recently.  
(a) Deepak Parashar (b) Britney Spears (c) Madonna (d) Pankaj Udhas

80. World Laughter Day takes place every Year on:  
(a) First Sunday of May (b) First Monday of May (c) First Saturday of May (d) First Friday of May
81. Recently, who has won the North Macedonian presidency in a run-off vote?  
(a) Zoran Zaev (b) Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova  
(c) Stevo Pendarovski, (d) Gjorge Ivanov
82. Recently, SBI Card raised \_\_\_\_\_ from several financial institutions including its parent State Bank of India (SBI) in the second half of FY19 as it aims to grow above the industry average.  
(a) Rs.300 crore (b) Rs.400 crore (c) Rs.700 crore (d) Rs.1000 crore
83. Recently, The fourth of Indian Navy's stealth Scorpene class Submarines of Project 75 was launched. What is the name of the submarine?  
(a) Vela (b) Gala (c) Mala (d) Rela
84. Who has been newly appointed as the Prime Minister of Mali?  
(a) Boubou Cisse (b) Ibrahim Boubacar Keita  
(c) Abdoulaye Idrissa Maïga (d) Moussa Mara
85. Recently, which of the following was decommissioned at a solemn grand ceremony at Naval Dockyard at Visakhapatnam?  
(a) INS Rajdoot (b) INS Vikrant (c) INS Ranjan (d) INS Ranjit
86. Recently, Environment ministers of the G7 nations met in \_\_\_\_\_ a day ahead of the release of what is expected to be another alarming report on the state of the planet.  
(a) Germany (b) France (c) Finland (d) Ireland
87. The government's FAME-II plan for electric mobility stands to reduce 64% of the anticipated road-based energy demand by \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) 2020 (b) 2023 (c) 2025 (d) 2030
88. Recently, G D 'Robert' Govender, an Indian-origin journalist in \_\_\_\_\_ has been honoured in the UK with 2019 V K Krishna Menon award for his outstanding contribution as a pioneer of decolonised journalism.  
(a) South Africa (b) West Indies (c) Canada (d) USA
89. Which of the following Asian countries teenager danced continuously for 126 hours to set a Guinness World Records on "Longest Dancing Marathon by an Individual", a feat previously hold by an Indian?  
(a) Bhutan (b) Bangladesh (c) Nepal (d) Pakistan
90. Every Year, International No Diet Day is observed on:  
(a) 3rd May (b) 4th May (c) 6th May (d) 29th April
91. The Desert Storm 2019, touted to be the longest Cross-Country Rally in India is set to kick off in:  
(a) Jaisalmer (b) Jaipur (c) Bikaner (d) Jodhpur
92. Name the Indian, who was re-elected to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for another term recently.  
(a) Mohinder Singh (b) Anandita Malhari (c) Jagjit Pavadia (d) Jaspreet Sandhu

93. Which of the following political party is Pakistan's richest political entity with assets worth over 375 million rupees?  
(a) Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (b) Tehrekk-i-Insaf Party ( PTI)  
(c) Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (d) Pakistan Muslim League (F)
94. Recently, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed banks to enhance the housing loan limits for eligibility under priority sector lending (PSL) to \_\_\_\_\_ in metropolitan centres (with population of ten lakh and above).  
(a) Rs. 10 lakh (b) Rs 15 lakh (c) Rs 20 lakh (d) Rs 35 lakh
95. Which of the following company has unveiled fully-managed Azure Blockchain Service that would simplify the formation, management and governance so that businesses can focus on workflow logic and application development?  
(a) Apple (b) Microsoft (c) Wal-Mart (d) Google
96. Recently, The US space agency NASA revealed details about its plan to hit a small moonlet target in a double asteroid system with a spacecraft in 2022. Name the asteroid:  
(a) Didymoon (b) Sidymoon (c) Midymoon (d) Tidymoon
97. The theme of World Asthma Day 2019 is:  
(a) You Can Control Your Asthma (b) Allergy and Asthma  
(c) STOP for asthma (d) Better air better breathing
98. Name the cricket team, which shattered the record for the highest first-wicket partnership in one-day internationals (ODIs) with a stand of 365.  
(a) Ireland (b) West Indies (c) England (d) Pakistan
99. Name the two Indians, who are among 115 UN peacekeepers and staff honoured by the global organisation for their sacrifice.  
(a) Jitender Kumar and Shikha Garg (b) Samar Pratap and Laxmi Shetty  
(c) Rupak Ghosh and Devyani Singh (d) Anil Parashar and Anita Diwan
100. The World Athletics Day is commemorated annually on:  
(a) 3rd May (b) 5th May (c) 6th May (d) 7th May
101. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) is organised a meeting of the Regional Heads of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) in:  
(a) Kochi (b) Gurugram (c) Kolkata (d) Vizag
102. Which of the following countries recently announced that it will partially withdraw from some of the commitments made under the 2015 International Nuclear Deal?  
(a) USA (b) Iraq (c) Iran (d) India
103. In less than two years under 'Honey Mission' initiative, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has distributed more than \_\_\_\_\_ bee-boxes among farmers and unemployed youths across the country.  
(a) One lakh (b) Five lakh (c) Ten lakh (d) Fifteen lakh
104. Recently, Students of \_\_\_\_\_ have developed 'AJIT', a microprocessor conceptualised, designed, developed and manufactured in India.  
(a) Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-Bombay)  
(b) Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-Delhi)  
(c) Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-Kanpur)  
(d) Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-Madras)

105. Recently, India's newest pit viper is found in:  
(a) Manipur (b) Mizoram (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Nagaland
106. Recently, US President conferred highest U.S. civilian honor to:  
(a) Tiger Woods (b) Michael Jordan (c) Nick Jonas (d) Serena Williams
107. Who became the second player given out for obstructing the field in IPL history recently?  
(a) Amit Mishra (b) Rishabh Pant (c) Manish Pandey (d) Kane Williamson
108. Recently, Genetic studies done on the people of archipelago for the first time have shown that a majority of human ancestry in \_\_\_\_\_ is largely derived from South Asia.  
(a) Lakshadweep (b) Andaman & Nicobar (c) Both (a) and (b) (d) Majuli
109. World Thalassaemia Day is observed every year on:  
(a) 5th May (b) 6th May (c) 8th May (d) 10th May
110. Who among the following is not conferred with honorary D.Litt degrees by the Rabindra Bharati University (RBU) in Kolkata recently?  
(a) Pt. Swapan Chowdhury (b) Babul Supriyo  
(c) Sanjib Chattopadhyay (d) Sonal Mansingh
111. Recently, who has been appointed as a member of the Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal, London?  
(a) Justice K S Radhakrishnan (b) Justice Prafulla Chandra Pant  
(c) Justice B.S. Chauhan (d) Justice S.J. Mukhopadhyaya
112. The Indian Army is commemorating year \_\_\_\_\_ as the 'Year of Next of Kin'.  
(a) 2019 (b) 2020 (c) 2021 (d) 2022
113. What is the name of the first dengue vaccine to get the regulatory nod in the US?  
(a) Zexovia (b) Dengvaxia (c) Xengvaxia (d) Denguerita
114. For the first time, researchers have sighted nests of the grizzled giant squirrel, an endangered species listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 at:  
(a) Kukrail Reserve Forest (b) Nanmangalam Reserved Forest  
(c) Pakkamalai Reserve Forest (d) Amarambalam Reserve Forest
115. Recently, Morgan Stanley has downgraded \_\_\_\_\_ stock to 'equal weight' (EW).  
(a) Tata Sons (b) Adani Wilmar  
(c) Reliance Industries Limited (d) Bharti Airtel
116. Which is the world's first 'zero waste' flight?  
(a) Air India (b) Lufthansa (c) Qantas (d) Qatar Airways
117. At present, the full sanctioned judicial strength of Supreme Court of India is:  
(a) 25 (b) 30 (c) 31 (d) 35
118. According to the report released by digital marketing platform SEMrush, who is the most followed politician in the world on social media?  
(a) Narendra Modi (b) Donald Trump (c) Vladimir Putin (d) Barack Obama



119. According to AirHelp's rankings which Indian airport is among top 10 airports in the world?  
(a) Indira Gandhi international airport  
(b) Rajiv Gandhi international airport  
(c) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose international airport  
(d) Chhatrapati Shivaji international airport
120. Recently, In a bid to help countries ensure secure and verifiable voting, which company has announced "ElectionGuard" -- a free open-source software development kit (SDK)?  
(a) Google (b) Apple (c) Microsoft (d) Sony
121. Recently, A WTO Ministerial meeting of developing countries is hosted in:  
(a) Sri Lanka (b) Pakistan (c) Bangladesh (d) India
122. According to a report released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which of the following countries top a list of countries where illegal sand mining has become a major environmental problem?  
(a) Japan and South Korea (b) India and China  
(c) Japan and Malaysia (d) Bangladesh and Pakistan
123. United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) decided to hold its 2020 high-level conference in \_\_\_\_\_ to support the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources.  
(a) Spain (b) Germany (c) Portugal (d) Belgium
124. Recently, Donald Trump administration increased tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods. Tariffs on 5,700 categories of goods increased from 10% to:  
(a) 15% (b) 20% (c) 25% (d) 40%
125. Which of the following countries recently has developed world's first complete parent-wise genome assembly called "NDDB\_ABRO\_Murrah" of riverine buffaloes?  
(a) Pakistan (b) Bangladesh (c) India (d) Japan
126. Which of the following countries recently reported first case of rare monkey pox virus?  
(a) Malaysia (b) Singapore (c) Mexico (d) Indonesia
127. Chandrayaan-2, the lunar lander mission planned to be launched, will have \_\_\_\_\_ Indian payloads or study devices, a mission update of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).  
(a) 8 (b) 10 (c) 14 (d) 18
128. Recently, Noted industry leader YC Deveshwar passed away after a brief illness. He was associated with:  
(a) ITC (b) HUL (c) P&G (d) E&Y
129. In 2019, World Migratory Bird Day was observed on:  
(a) 4th May (b) 6th May (c) 11th May (d) 12th May
130. National Technology Day in India is observed every year on:  
(a) 7th May (b) 8th May (c) 10th May (d) 11th May
131. How many nations recently agreed on a new UN accord to regulate the export of plastic waste, some eight million tonnes of which ends up in the oceans each year?  
(a) 85 (b) 105 (c) 135 (d) 180

132. Name the team , which won recently Women's IPL T20 Challenge 2019.  
(a) Supernovas (b) Trailblazers (c) Hurricanes (d) Velocity
133. Recently, The first AH-64E Apache attack helicopter built for India was formally handed over to the Indian Air Force (IAF) at the Boeing production facility in:  
(a) France (b) Russia (c) USA (d) UK
134. Recently, Facebook has selected \_\_\_\_\_ as the center to develop WhatsApp's drive into the mobile payments industry.  
(a) London (b) Beijing (c) Tokyo (d) Lisbon
135. According to a World Health Organisation database, which of the following states in India is not among the world's worst hit for the "critical shortage of healthcare providers in India?"  
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Maharashtra (c) Jharkhand (d) Rajasthan
136. What is the name of the inaugural issue of world's first exclusive women's cricket magazine?  
(a) Cricregion (b) Criczone (c) Cricmania (d) Criczeal
137. Recently, who has been named as the U.K.'s new Poet Laureate?  
(a) Simon Armitage (b) Carol Ann Duffy (c) Darel S Machan (d) Muchhan Derister
138. International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world every year on:  
(a) 8th May (b) 10th May (c) 11th May (d) 12th May
139. Name the Indian actress, who is among the 17 global public figures appointed as the new advocates to drive action and solidify global political will for the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).  
(a) Madhuri Dixit (b) Dia Mirza  
(c) Aishwarya Rai Bachchan (d) Kangana Ranaut
140. Who has been awarded the 2019 McCain Institute Award for Courage and Leadership recently?  
(a) Roshan Jacob (b) Kinjal Singh (c) Deepika Verma (d) Chhaya Sharma
141. In an unprecedented development for the first time, who among the following will be part of the Supreme Court's vacation bench from May 25 to May 30, mainly to take care of any dispute that may arise in government formation after the Lok Sabha election results are declared on May 23?  
(a) Attorney General of India (b) Present Chief Justice of India  
(c) Solicitor General of India (d) Retired Chief Justice of India
142. According to the latest report by Global Wealth Migration Review (GWMR) 2019 by AfrAsia Bank and research firm New World Wealth, which of the following countries saw the third highest outflow of wealthy individuals last year?  
(a) UK (b) India (c) China (d) France
143. Which of the following countries reached an agreement with the IMF on a bailout package under which the cash-strapped country will receive \$6 billion over three years in May 2019?  
(a) Greece (b) Argentina (c) India (d) Pakistan
144. The 2020s are set to be the Asian decade, with the continent dominating an exclusive list of economies expected to sustain growth rates of around \_\_\_\_\_ per cent.  
(a) 7.0 (b) 6.6 (c) 7.5 (d) 8.2

145. Indian-origin brothers dominate the annual rich list of Britain's wealthiest, with the Hinduja brothers ranked at No. 1 with a fortune of \_\_\_\_\_pounds.  
(a) 12 billion (b) 15 billion (c) 22 billion (d) 30 billion
146. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) would launch RISAT, radar imaging earth observation satellite, on May 22. The PSLV-C46 is the \_\_\_\_\_of PSLV in 'core-alone' configuration.  
(a) 10th flight (b) 12th flight (c) 14th flight (d) 16th flight
147. Jeff Bezos, who heads both Amazon and space company Blue Origin, unveiled a lunar lander that would be used to transport equipment, and possibly human beings, to the south pole of the Moon by?  
(a) 2020 (b) 2022 (c) 2023 (d) 2024
148. Who became the most successful player in the history of the Indian Premier League with 5 IPL Trophies?  
(a) Rohit Sharma (b) M.S.Dhoni (c) Yuvraj Singh (d) Virat Kohli
149. Who won his third Madrid Open title in May 2019?  
(a) Stefanos Tsitsipas (b) Novak Djokovic (c) Rafael Nadal (d) Roger Federer
150. India was represented at the St Petersburg International Legal Forum (SPBILF) meet by:  
(a) President of India Shri Ramnath Kovind (b) Supreme Court judge Sharad Arvind Bodbe  
(c) Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi (d) Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi
151. Recently, The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the names of four High Court Judges for their appointment as Chief Justices of the High Courts. Which of the following states / Union territory is not among the recommended list for Chief Justices?  
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh  
(c) Delhi (d) Himachal Pradesh
152. Which of the following political parties retained control of South Africa's parliament in the recent parliamentary election?  
(a) African National Congress (b) National Liberation Party  
(c) Democratic Alliance (d) Economic Freedom Fighters
153. Which of the following countries recently, has commissioned two more 052D guided missile destroyers taking the total of such warships to 20 with more in the pipeline?  
(a) Russia (b) China (c) India (d) USA
154. Recently, The fund launched by Nabventures, a subsidiary of NABARD has proposed corpus of \_\_\_\_\_crore with an option to retain over-subscriptions of Rs 200 crore, called as the greenshoe option.  
(a) Rs 500 (b) Rs 1,000 (c) Rs 1,500 (d) Rs 2,000
155. Who is the newly appointed Chairman of ITC?  
(a) Sujeet Maheshwari (b) Gautam Sahay (c) Nikhil Nanda (d) Sanjiv Puri
156. d Recently, Herpetologists took 12 years to document Smithophis atemporalis, a predominantly aquatic species in:  
(a) Nagaland (b) Arunachal Pradesh (c) Manipur (d) Mizoram
157. Recently, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) launched \_\_\_\_\_Human Atlas Initiative, towards improving knowledge on human physiology.  
(a) MANAV (b) SAREER (c) SANRACHNA (d) HUMAN

158. Recently, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted successful flight test of \_\_\_\_\_ from Interim Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha.  
(a) ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)  
(b) PRAYAS- High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)  
(c) VISWAS- High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)  
(d) DHRUVA- High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)
159. Who won the "Orange Cap" for most runs scored in IPL 2019?  
(a) Shikhar Dhawan (b) David Warner (c) Rohit Sharma (d) K.L.Rahul
160. International Day of Families is observed every year on:  
(a) 11th May (b) 13th May (c) 15th May (d) 18th May
161. Recently, India is unanimously chosen as co-chair of the Consultative Group (CG) of Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for the fiscal year:  
(a) 2020 (b) 2021 (c) 2022 (d) 2024
162. Name the former Supreme Court Justice, who has been appointed to the Supreme Court of Fiji's non-resident panel for three years.  
(a) Justice Prafulla Chandra Pant (b) Justice Shiva Kirti Singh  
(c) Justice Madan Lokur (d) Justice Jasti Chelameswar
163. How many developing countries have stressed on working collectively to strengthen the World Trade Organisation-WTO to promote development and inclusivity for the benefits of all members?  
(a) 5 (b) 11 (c) 15 (d) 17
164. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Merchant service and UPI payments app BharatPe?  
(a) Aamir Khan (b) Shahrukh Khan (c) Salman Khan (d) Saif Ali Khan
165. Recently, Paytm has tied up with \_\_\_\_\_ to launch a credit card, called the Paytm First Card.  
(a) Citi (b) HDFC (c) Kotak Mahindra (d) Yes
166. Recently, The Reserve Bank of India has appointed its former Deputy Governor \_\_\_\_\_ as an, additional director on the board of private sector lender Yes Bank.  
(a) R. Gandhi (b) H. R. Khan (c) Usha Thorat (d) S. S. Mundra
167. Who became the most successful spinner in women's one-day international recently?  
(a) Shikha Sharma (b) Harmanpreet Kaur (c) Sana Mir (d) Sophie Molineux
168. Name the Indian cricketer, who bagged the International Cricketer and Batsman of the Year award during the CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) International awards 2019.  
(a) Rohit Sharma (b) K.L.Rahul (c) Virat Kohli (d) Shikhar Dhawan
169. Who is the first woman to be appointed to ICC's international panel of match referees and will be eligible to officiate in international games?  
(a) G.S. Lakshmi (b) Sudha Subbulaxmi  
(c) Renuka Hathurasinghe (d) Ayesha Khan
170. International Day of Light is celebrated every year on:  
(a) 12th May (b) 13th May (c) 15th May (d) 16th May



171. Who is the world's first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean solo in a Light Sports Aircraft (LSA) recently?  
(a) Captain Aaroohi Pandit (b) Captain Arushi Pandey  
(c) Captain Deepika Rana (d) Captain Meghna Mishra
172. Recently, who has been appointed as the first head of country's first tri-services Special Operations Division comprising commandos from all three services?  
(a) Major General Virendra Saraswat (b) Major General AK Dhingra  
(c) Major General SK Chopra (d) Major General CK Lal
173. The sixth session of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was held in:  
(a) New Delhi (b) Christchurch (c) New York (d) Geneva
174. Recently, RBI release the 'Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019 - 2021', with its core theme of:  
(a) Empowering Exempt E-payment Experience  
(b) Enhance Exceptional E-payment Expertise  
(c) Empowering Exceptional E-payment Experience  
(d) E-Learning Exceptional E-payment Entity
175. Recently, The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has revealed that 35 per cent the country's Graphite deposits of the country is found in:  
(a) Manipur (b) Arunachal Pradesh (c) Mizoram (d) Nagaland
176. Which of the following football teams becomes the first side in a decade to retain the Premier League title?  
(a) Manchester City (b) Newcastle United  
(c) Wolverhampton Wanderers (d) Crystal Palace
177. Name the Nepalese Sherpa climber, who has scaled Mount Everest for a 23rd time, breaking his own record for the most successful ascents of the world's highest peak.  
(a) Kami Rita (b) Deti Riga (c) Babu Moshai (d) Merile Digar
178. Thrissur Pooram festival is a cultural celebration held annually in:  
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Kerala (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Karnataka
179. Recently, who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA)?  
(a) Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel (b) Justice Anil R. Dave  
(c) Justice A. K. Sikri (d) Justice R.K. Agrawal
180. Name the Indian, who has topped the first edition of the Hurun India Art List recently.  
(a) Anish Kapoor (b) Akbar Padamsee (c) Krishen Khanna (d) Dibakar Ghosh
181. Recently, who launched the website of the Lokpal?  
(a) Shri Ramnath Kovind (b) Justice Ranjan Gogoi  
(c) Shri Narendra Modi (d) Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose
182. Recently, the 11th Joint Consular Committee meeting between India and Iran took place on:  
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Kolkata (d) Ranchi
183. Who is inaugurated as president of South Africa on May 25?  
(a) Mangosuthu Buthelezi (b) Bantubonke Holomisa  
(c) Cyril Ramaphosa (d) Constand Viljoen

184. Recently, Zoologists have discovered a new vine snake species from Indian state of:  
(a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Sikkim (c) West Bengal (d) Odisha
185. India for the first time will host and participate in a major army competition involving eight countries, including China and Russia, in:  
(a) Guwahati (b) Panaji (c) Jaisalmer (d) Vizag
186. Which of the following countries is to host 2023 Asian Cup after Korea withdraw bid recently?  
(a) Japan (b) China (c) Nepal (d) India
187. International Day of Living Together in Peace is celebrated every year on:  
(a) 8th May (b) 10th May (c) 13th May (d) 16th May
188. Name the Bollywood actor, who will be felicitated by the Council of European Chambers of Commerce (CEUCC) for his decade-long support to promoting the cause of children's rights.  
(a) Anil Kapoor (b) Amitabh Bachchan (c) Shatrughan Sinha (d) Anupam Kher
189. Recently, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) conferred Sasakawa Award 2019 for Disaster Risk Reduction to:  
(a) Dr.Pramod Kumar Mishra (b) Nripendra Mishra  
(c) Ajit Doval (d) Asim Khurana
190. The people of Sikkim celebrate their statehood day every year on:  
(a) 12th May (b) 14th May (c) 16th May (d) 18th May
191. In a landmark first for Asia, name the Parliament who has passed a bill legalising same-sex marriage recently?  
(a) Thailand (b) Laos (c) Taiwan (d) Vietnam
192. Name the panel, who has recently submitted its suggestions on promoting digital payments to Governor Shaktikanta Das.  
(a) Ratan Watal Panel (b) Nandan Nilekani Panel  
(c) H.R. Khan Panel (d) SS Mundra Panel
193. Name the gulf country, whose government has recently approved for the first time a scheme that gives permanent residency to certain expatriates, allowing them to own real estate in the kingdom and reside with their families.  
(a) United Arab Emirates (b) States of Bahrain  
(c) Sultanate of Oman (d) Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
194. Name the small finance bank, which has appointed Nitin Chugh as next Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from December 1, 2019?  
(a) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited (b) Equitas Holdings Pvt Ltd  
(c) Janalakshmi Financial Services Pvt Ltd (d) Capital Local Area Bank Ltd
195. Recently, Fall Armyworm, a pest which can cause extensive damage to standing crops within a very short time has been detected in:  
(a) Mizoram (b) Arunachal Pradesh (c) Assam (d) Nagaland
196. Referee Yoshimi Yamashita and assistants Makoto Bozono and Naomi Teshirogi are set to make AFC Football Cup history by becoming the first all-female trio to officiate a match at the tournament. These three belong to:  
(a) China (b) South Korea (c) North Korea (d) Japan

197. In ICC World Cup 2019, the winning team will get the award prize of:  
(a) 1 Billion US dollars (b) 3 Million US dollars  
(c) 4 Million US dollars (d) 40 Million US dollars
198. Recently, First NCC Girls Expedition Team Flagged off to Mt Tenchenkhang. Mt Tenchenkhang is located in:  
(a) Sikkim (b) Arunachal Pradesh  
(c) Uttarakhand (d) Himachal Pradesh
199. Pingyao International Film Festival is held in:  
(a) Japan (b) South Korea (c) China (d) Taiwan
200. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is celebrated every year on:  
(a) 17 May (b) 18 May (c) 19 May (d) 20 May
201. Which of the following is the first Indian state to tap into the market for masala bonds?  
(a) Bihar (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Kerala (d) Tamil Nadu
202. For the first of its kind, In which of the following states in India women will handle the entire work of counting votes?  
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Kerala (d) Tamil Nadu
203. For Indians in \_\_\_\_\_, River Clyde has been designated as the new Ganga.  
(a) Denmark (b) Scotland (c) Norway (d) Finland
204. Saudi Arabia has called the leaders of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) member states as well as the heads of state of Arab League to convene two emergency summits in:  
(a) Doha (b) Riyadh (c) Makkah (d) Abu Dhabi
205. Who has been named by Time magazine in its list of top 10 'Next Generation Leaders' 2019?  
(a) Ajey Nagar (b) Vikram Pandey (c) Ravi Sanker (d) Vijay Sheker
206. State-run telecom major BSNL has partnered with \_\_\_\_\_ to increase access to its WiFi footprint in the country.  
(a) Reliance (b) Microsoft (c) Google (d) Airtel
207. Karolina Pliskova won the WTA Italian Open in Rome. She clinched her \_\_\_\_\_ career title.  
(a) 10th (b) 11th (c) 13th (d) 15th
208. National Dengue Day is observed on:  
(a) May 16 (b) May 17 (c) May 18 (d) May 19
209. Who has bagged the Best Child Actor award for Chippa at the 19th New York Indian Film Festival?  
(a) Bhavesh Balchandani (b) Sunny Pawar  
(c) Nami Shah (d) Sparsh Shrivastav
210. Which of the following films won the third prize in the international section of Nespresso Talents 2019 in Cannes?  
(a) That Day After Everyday (b) Shame  
(c) Ahalya (d) Seed Mother
211. Who is the first Sikh woman cabinet member appointed by UK council?  
(a) Kulvinder Kaur (b) Parneet Singh (c) Jasvinder Narula (d) Jasbir Jaspal

212. Recently, The government plans to introduce artificial intelligence system in the \_\_\_\_\_ portal as it seeks to make the compliance process easier as well as ensure routine enforcement activities are done round-the-clock on autopilot basis.  
(a) MCA 17 (b) MCA 21 (c) MCA 24 (d) MCA 27
213. Who had received the 'Award of Honour' from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India for the unprecedented work they have been doing to help people change the trajectory of their lives?  
(a) Legabo and Variti (b) Antano and Harini (c) Susabo and Legalie (d) Meriter and Desterel
214. Which of the following countries achieved the Guinness World Records certificate for the largest laundry lesson?  
(a) South Africa (b) USA (c) India (d) Netherlands
215. In Australia, who won the federal elections in 2019?  
(a) Chris Bowen (b) Anthony Albanese (c) Scott Morrison (d) Tanya Plibersek
216. The UAE celebrated World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development to highlight its efforts in promoting tolerance and cultural diversity on:  
(a) 20th May (b) 21st May (c) 22nd May (d) 25th May
217. NASA has found evidence for a unique mixture of methanol, water ice, and organic molecules on \_\_\_\_\_ surface the farthest world ever explored by mankind.  
(a) Ultima Thule (b) COROT-7b (c) 51 Pegasi b (d) Kepler-186f
218. The Second India Open International Boxing Tournament begins in:  
(a) New Delhi (b) Hyderabad (c) Guwahati (d) Itanagar
219. Who won the Italian Open 2019 title?  
(a) Roger Federer (b) Rafael Nadal (c) Novak Djokovic (d) Andy Murray
220. The theme of International Museum Day 2019 is:  
(a) Hyper connected museum: New approaches, new publics  
(b) Museums and Contested Histories: Saying the unspeakable in museums  
(c) Museums as Cultural Hubs: The Future of Tradition  
(d) Museums in a changing world. New challenges, new inspirations
221. The meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of Shanghai Cooperation Organization is held in:  
(a) Nur-Sultan (b) Ashgabat (c) Bishkek (d) Tashkent
222. Recently, Volodymyr Zelenskiy took oath as the new President of:  
(a) Ukraine (b) Siberia (c) Iceland (d) Spain
223. Who has been recently re-elected as president of Indonesia?  
(a) Maruf Amin (b) Joko Widodo (c) Prabowo Subianto (d) Sandiaga Uno
224. Name the company, which registered the trademark "Libra" with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, reportedly as a part of its secretive in-house crypto project.  
(a) Microsoft (b) Facebook (c) Google (d) Apple
225. Recently, ISRO plans to conduct \_\_\_\_\_ mega missions over next 10 years.  
(a) Four (b) Five (c) Seven (d) Ten



226. Recently, Air badminton was globally launched at \_\_\_\_\_ by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) with new dimensions of the court and an innovative shuttlecock called Air shuttle.  
(a) Guangzhou (b) Pune (c) Bristol (d) Melbourne
227. Recently, A charity run by an Indian in the \_\_\_\_\_ has entered the Guinness Book of World Records for its hunger relief efforts during the holy month of Ramzan.  
(a) UAE (b) Dubai (c) UK (d) Germany
228. World Metrology Day, commemorating the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875 is celebrated every year on:  
(a) 10 May (b) 13 May (c) 15 May (d) 20 May
229. To raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development, the UN designated \_\_\_\_\_ as World Bee Day.  
(a) 16 May (b) 18 May (c) 20 May (d) 22 May
230. Name the Indian comedian-actor, who has been acknowledged as the most viewed stand-up comedian in India and abroad by the World Book of Records London recently.  
(a) Johny Lever (b) Raju Srivastava (c) Kapil Sharma (d) Krushna Abhishek
231. Recently, Jokha Alharthi became the first Arabic-language writer to win Booker International Prize. Jokha Alharthi belongs to:  
(a) Saudi Arabia (b) United Arab Emirates (c) Oman (d) Kuwait
232. Name the Indian, who is to be honoured posthumously with the Dag Hammarskjold Medal by the United Nations.  
(a) Ashok Chawla (b) Sachin Sachan (c) Ram Pratap singh (d) Jitender Kumar
233. Recently, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) has included \_\_\_\_\_ in its tentative list of world heritage sites.  
(a) Chilika Lake (b) Kailash Mansarovar (c) Mount Siniolchu (d) Corbett National Park
234. Who is the First Black African Woman to Conquer Mount Everest recently?  
(a) Saray Khumalo (b) Bustrie Bhurten (c) Nazare Ahitsuni (d) Tazaki Sumalo
235. Which of the following countries banned popular Chinese digital wallets Alipay and WeChat to prevent the loss of foreign currency earnings from tens of thousands of Chinese tourists?  
(a) Bhutan (b) India (c) Nepal (d) Sri Lanka
236. Recently, The NITI Aayog has circulated a cabinet note to provide Rs 7,500 crore in funding for creation of cloud computing platform called \_\_\_\_\_ and research institutes.  
(a) BAGH (b) SWAN (c) GARUDA (d) AIRAWAT
237. Recently, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) with assets of more than \_\_\_\_\_ crore must appoint a chief risk officer (CRO).  
(a) Rs.2,000 (b) Rs.5,000 (c) Rs.7,500 (d) Rs.10,000
238. Recently, ISRO has successfully launched its earth observation satellite \_\_\_\_\_ from Sriharikota.  
(a) RISAT-1AHJ (b) RISAT-2B (c) RISAT-3DR (d) RISAT-5GF

239. For the first time in history, cricket will be brought to fans in:  
(a) Afghanistan (b) Canada (c) Nepal (d) Bhutan
240. World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is observed every year on:  
(a) 17th May (b) 19th May (c) 21st May (d) 26th May
241. What is the rank of India in the Kids Right Index, the annual global index which ranks how countries adhere to and are equipped to improve child rights?  
(a) 74th (b) 87th (c) 107th (d) 117th
242. Recently, The Centre has cleared four names recommended by the Collegium for elevation as Supreme Court judges. Who among the following is not among the four?  
(a) Aniruddha Bose (b) Surendra Nagar (c) A.S. Bopanna (d) B.R. Gavai
243. Who has been honored with the 2019 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award?  
(a) Nancy Pelosi (b) Tulsi Gabbard (c) Sarah Palin (d) Jacinda Narter
244. Name the country, which unveiled the "Golden Card" programme to investors and "exceptional talents" such as doctors, engineers, scientists, students and artists.  
(a) UAE (b) Saudi Arabia (c) Kuwait (d) Oman
245. Who has been recently re-elected as South African President?  
(a) Jacob Zuma (b) Ace Magashule (c) Cyril Ramaphosa (d) Julius Malema
246. Name the company, which recently became the country's biggest company by revenue.  
(a) Reliance Industries (b) Indian Oil Corp (c) ONGC (d) HDFC Bank Ltd.
247. Which is the first Air Force in the world to have successfully fired an air launched 2.8 Mach surface attack missile on a sea target in Past?  
(a) Indian (b) American (c) German (d) Chinese
248. Name the Indian, who has been conferred recently with 'the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star' by Japan.  
(a) Shyam Benegal (b) Shyam Saran (c) Amit Chabey (d) Sanket Narayan
249. How many Indian filmmakers have been selected for the International Film Festival of Rotterdam's prestigious Huber Bals Fund for script and project development for Spring 2019?  
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 5 (d) 11
250. Recently, U.S. writer Siri Hustvedt has been awarded \_\_\_\_\_ prestigious Princess of Asturias prize for literature for her work.  
(a) Spain's (b) Japan's (c) England's (d) Netherland's
251. Who among the following recently became the first woman pilot of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to qualify to undertake combat missions on a fighter jet?  
(a) Avani Chaturvedi (b) Jyoti Rana (c) Anita Tandon (d) Bhawana Kanth
252. Name the Bengaluru-based medical doctor, who was honoured with the 'Global Asian of the Year 2018-19' award in Dubai for her yeomen services and contributions to the women's healthcare ecosystem, in India.  
(a) Shivangi Reddy (b) Tejaswini Kakodkar (c) Hema Divakar (d) Roopa Geete

253. Who has been sworn in as the new chief minister of Andhra Pradesh on 30th May?  
(a) Nara Lokesh (b) Jagan Mohan Reddy (c) Chandra Babu Naidu (d) Nandamuri Balakrishna
254. Recently, World Health Organization (WHO) has officially declared which of the following two countries as malaria free?  
(a) Algeria and Argentina (b) Gabon and Brazil  
(c) The Gambia and Mexico (d) Eritrea and Colombia
255. Recently, US Navy ships have conducted joint drills with warships from Japan, Australia and South Korea in their first combined exercise in the Western:  
(a) Pacific (b) Atlantic (c) Indian (d) Arctic
256. According to a recent report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), India's GDP growth will hover near \_\_\_\_\_ by 2020.  
(a) 5.5% (b) 6.25% (c) 7.5% (d) 8.25%
257. Recently, Multilateral funding agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed an agreement to provide \_\_\_\_\_ equivalent in Indian rupee long-term financing to electrify railway tracks in India.  
(a) USD 250 million (b) USD 500 million (c) USD 750 million (d) USD 1200 million
258. Name the Indian, who won German chemistry prize, Elsevier Foundation-ISC3 Green and Sustainable Chemistry Challenge recently.  
(a) Atul Ranade (b) Deepak Bhogaonkar (c) Ankur Patwardhan (d) Abhishek Deshmukh
259. Name the Former PepsiCo chairman and CEO, who was presented with an honorary degree by the prestigious Yale University recently?  
(a) Meenakshi Natrajan (b) Indra Nooyi (c) Shikha Sharma (d) Deepika Bharadwaj
260. Since 2013, International Day to End Obstetric Fistula is observed on:  
(a) 18th May (b) 19th May (c) 21st May (d) 23rd May
261. Who among the following is set to enter the Lok Sabha as the youngest member in the Lower House's history?  
(a) Sanghamitra Patnaik (b) Deepshikha Panda (c) Chandrani Murmu (d) Ajita Misra
262. Recently, The 5th Smart Cities India 2019 expo, including Transport India, Solar India, Buildings India and Water India expos, was inaugurated in:  
(a) Navi Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Kolkata (d) Hyderabad
263. Who has been sworn in as the fifth term Chief Minister of Odisha?  
(a) Draupadi Murmu (b) Naveen Patnaik (c) Sambit Patra (d) Pyari Mohan Mohapatra
264. Recently, Theresa May has announced to resign as prime minister of:  
(a) Netherland (b) France (c) Britain (d) New Zealand
265. Which of the following countries is hosted the second U20 Mayors Summit in May 2019?  
(a) Paris (b) London (c) Tokyo (d) Beijing
266. Recently, ISRO Chairman K Sivan flagged off the shipment of India's largest liquid hydrogen storage tank in:  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Odisha (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Nagaland

267. Recently, "Shaheen-II Missile is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads upto a range of 1,500 km has been launched by:  
(a) Pakistan (b) Afghanistan (c) Iran (d) Bangladesh
268. Recently, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired an indigenously-developed 500 kg class guided bomb from a Sukhoi combat jet in:  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Telangana (c) Odisha (d) Rajasthan
269. At India Open International boxing tournament in Guwahati, how many medals have been bagged by India?  
(a) 32 (b) 39 (c) 44 (d) 57
270. World Turtle Day is celebrated every year on:  
(a) 21st May (b) 22nd May (c) 23rd May (d) 25th May
271. Who is the newly appointed Chief Justice of Delhi High Court?  
(a) Justice Shantanu Deshmukh (b) Justice DN Patel  
(c) Justice Awadesh Upadhyay (d) Justice Somesh Bannerjee
272. Who is the newly appointed first Indigenous Minister for Indigenous Affairs in Australia?  
(a) John Key (b) Ken Wyatt (c) Scott Morrison (d) Alex Tudarman
273. Recently, Public sector banks recover \_\_\_\_\_ cr from bad loans in 2018-19.  
(a) Rs 1.2 lakh (b) Rs 1.4 lakh (c) Rs 1.7 lakh (d) Rs 1.9 lakh
274. Recently, In a significant move, the fleet of \_\_\_\_\_ transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force was certified to fly on blended aviation fuel containing up to 10 per cent bio-jet fuel.  
(a) AN-32 (b) SE-46 (c) KF-99 (d) Tejas
275. Recently, New Space India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), was officially inaugurated in:  
(a) Hyderabad (b) Mumbai (c) Bengaluru (d) Chennai
276. Which country won the badminton world mixed-team championship, Sudirman Cup 2019?  
(a) Switzerland (b) China (c) Japan (d) Australia
277. Name the Indian, who triumph for the second time in the Sekisui Squash Open in Kriens, Switerzland.  
(a) Atul Badade (b) Rishabh Gandhi (c) Mahesh Mangaonkar (d) Deepak Shah
278. Recently, Indian men's compound team of Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan and Aman Saini won the bronze after defeating \_\_\_\_\_ in the playoffs at Archery World Cup Stage 3 in Antalya, Turkey.  
(a) Japan (b) Russia (c) China (d) USA
279. Recently, International Missing Children's Day was celebrated on:  
(a) 21st May (b) 23rd May (c) 24th May (d) 25th May
280. Name the Indian contemporary artist, who has won the Joan Miro Prize for 2019.  
(a) Nalini Malani (b) Malini Awasthi (c) Pooja Gehlot (d) Amita Nangia



## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. a A mini-marathon titled 'run to vote' was held in Leh district of Jammu and Kashmir's Ladakh region which is going to polls in the last phase of the Lok Sabha elections on May 6.
4. b Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek.
3. d India's decision to skip the Belt and Road Forum (BRF) may have led to the exclusion of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) economic corridor from the list of projects covered by the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) umbrella.
4. b Indian economy will grow below its potential in 2019-20, said a report from the Hong Kong-based The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) while warning it is set to lower its own current estimate of 7.2 per cent for the country's GDP growth rate in its next forecast round.
5. a Public sector lender Canara Bank and its life insurance partner Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance announced the launch of 'Webassurance'.
6. c Scientists have developed a process to 3D-print transparent and flexible electronic circuits, paving the way for improved wearable devices in the future. The electronics consists of a mesh of silver nanowires that can be printed in suspension and embedded in various flexible and transparent plastics, according to the researchers from the University of Hamburg and Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron in Germany.
7. a Former South Africa all-rounder Jacques Kallis has been honoured with an Order of Ikhamanga from the Presidency for his contribution to cricket and placing the team on the world sporting map.
8. c Lionel Messi clinched an eighth La Liga title for Barcelona in 11 seasons as he scored the only goal in a 1-0 win at home to Levante.
9. b World number one Kento Momota retained his Badminton Asia Championships title in Shanghai.
10. c The World Day for Safety and Health at Work is an annual international campaign to promote safe, healthy and decent work. It is held on 28 April and has been observed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) since 2003.
11. a Bombay Stock Exchange appoints first independent woman Director M Jayshree Vyas to board.
12. d India was the world's fourth biggest military spender last year behind the United States, China, and Saudi Arabia, according to new data think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
13. b Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' conclave at Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan.
14. c IIT Madras team develops easy OCR system for nine Indian languages.
15. a An international team led by the Hyderabad-based International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has identified in chickpea four important genes for heat tolerance and three important genes for drought tolerance.

16. d Valtteri Bottas wins Azerbaijan Grand Prix with Lewis Hamilton second
17. a Bajrang Punia is set to become the first wrestler from India to fight at the iconic Madison Square Garden in New York.
18. b In 1982 the Dance Committee of ITI founded International Dance Day to be celebrated every year on the 29th April, the birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727-1810), creator of modern ballet.
19. b A Liberian lawyer, who stopped the destruction of over half a million acres of the country's tropical forests, has been awarded the prestigious Goldman Environment Prize. Alfred Brownell, was forced to flee Liberia and remains exiled in the United States after he mounted a campaign against Singapore-controlled Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL), one of the world's biggest palm oil producing companies.
20. c Lebanon's capital Beirut has set a Guinness World Record for the number of national flags raised in a city for 24 hours.
21. c Justice P.R. Ramachandra Menon, Kerala High Court Judge, has been appointed Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court.
22. a Senior Navy officer Rear Admiral Mohit Gupta will be the first head of this agency -- DCA.
23. b The Indian PM and five Central Asian leaders will meet on the side lines of the SCO Summit on June 14-15 in Kyrgyzstan as part of Delhi's reinvigorated Central Asia policy.
24. d Emperor Akihito of Japan formally stepped down, the first abdication for 200 years in the world's oldest monarchy, as his son Naruhito prepared to take the Chrysanthemum Throne and usher in a new imperial era.
25. a Paytm has launched recurring payment (auto pay) service for merchants that are working on a digital subscription model. The move will allow the subscription-based businesses to collect payments from their subscribers effortlessly.
26. b Economic growth is reducing faecal pollution in groundwater in North India, which a key factor is causing water-borne diseases in the densely populated Indo-Ganges-Brahmaputra river basin, a study by researchers at IIT Kharagpur has found.
27. c India's G Sathiyam scaled new heights in his rapidly rising career by becoming the first Indian to break into the top-25 of world rankings.
28. d Raheem Sterling has been named the 2019 footballer of the year by the Football Writers' Association (FWA).
29. c International Workers' Day, also known as Workers' Day, Labour Day in some countries and often referred to as May Day is a celebration of labourers and the working classes that is promoted by the international labour movement which occurs every year on May Day (1 May), an ancient European spring festival.
30. b Former union minister and writer Jairam Ramesh is penning the biography of celebrated Indian nationalist, diplomat, and politician V K Krishna Menon.
31. a The committee will be chaired by the Secretary, Union Environment Ministry and has among its members the Joint Secretary (Thermal), Ministry of Power; Director-General, The Energy Resources Institute (TERI), the Delhi-based think-tank; and Professor Sachidananda Tripathi, Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur (IIT-K).

- 32. b The first part of the Indo-French joint naval exercise, Varuna 19.1, began off the Goa coast and will continue till May 10.
- 33. c Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar was listed as a designated terrorist by the UN Security Council 1267 Committee
- 34. a India's largest bank State Bank of India (SBI) has moved to a new interest rate regime on large savings account deposits as well as short-term loans.
- 35. c The stalagmite in the Mawmluh cave has been tagged a Global Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) which is the first formally ratified marker of a geological time period in India.
- 36. b Australian researchers believe they have found an antidote to a sting from the world's most venomous creature, the much-feared box jellyfish.
- 37. d Former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara has been appointed as the first non-British president of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
- 38. c The Goldman Environmental Foundation recognized six environmental activists.
- 39. a Indian shooting ace Apurvi Chandela attained the World No.1 position in the women's 10m air rifle event while compatriot Anjum Moudgil rose to No.2 after consistent performances in recent years.
- 40. a The 60th Foundation Day of Gujarat is celebrated on 1st May.
- 41. c The UK parliament has become the first in the world to pass a motion declaring an "environment and climate emergency", as pressure on the government to adopt a net zero emission target as soon as possible continued to intensify.
- 42. b Justice Abhay Oka was notified by the Centre as the next Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court.
- 43. b The rankings, collated annually by 'Times Higher Education', found that the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) held on to its 29th rank as a total of 49 Indian institutions made the cut to be included in the list.
- 44. d The Central Public Sector undertaking Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned two motor - pump set units for the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (LIS) in Telangana.
- 45. a State-owned telecom firm BSNL has become the first operator to start optical fibre-based high-speed broadband service in Pulwama with the launch of 'Bharat Fibre'.
- 45. a India was the biggest recipient of funds from Asian Development Bank last year and would continue to get sovereign loans in excess of USD 3 billion in 2019 as well.
- 47. a Archaeologists in Telangana have unearthed a rare treasure in the form of a life-size stucco sculpture from a Buddhist site in Phanigiri in Suryapet. So far, it is the largest stucco sculpture found in the country.
- 48. a To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India and Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) have come together to bring the best of science and technology to implement waste management in India.

49. d World number one Bajrang Punia won the gold medal as he defeated Viktor Rassadin in the finals of men's 65kg freestyle in the Ali Aliyev wrestling tournament in Kaspiisk, Russia.
50. d World Password Day is observed on May 2 every year to raise awareness on the criticality of using strong passwords.
51. c The second edition of "Huddle Kerala," one of Asia's largest startup ecosystem congregations, will be held at Kovalam from September 27.
52. a Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) is the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Allied Command Operations (ACO). Since 1967 it has been located at Casteau, north of the Belgian city of Mons, but it had previously been located, from 1953, at Rocquencourt, next to Versailles, France.
53. c London emerged as the top choice for Indian investors ahead of other cities such as Dubai and Singapore, with investments by Indian companies in the British capital reaching an all-time high last year.
54. d The Asia-Pacific region is expected to power ahead growing at 5.7% this year but escalating trade tensions are a source of worry, according to Takehiko Nakao, President and Chairperson, Asian Development Bank.
55. d Scientists, including one of Indian origin, have found water in the samples from the surface of asteroid Itokawa that were collected by the Japanese space probe Hayabusa.
56. a In what could be a first of its kind landing of a rover on the Moon's south pole, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is seeking to create history by attempting to launch India's second lunar mission - Chandrayaan-2.
57. b Jaipur will host the 8th Asian Youth Women Handball Championship in which 10 teams, including defending champions South Korea, will be participating.
58. b In chess, the TePe Sigeman & Co International tournament, begins in Malmo, Sweden.
59. b Former ISRO chairman A S Kiran Kumar was conferred with France's highest civilian award - Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Lgion d'Honneur - for his contribution to India-France space cooperation.
60. c World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference. Since then, 3 May, the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek is celebrated worldwide as World Press Freedom Day.
61. a In the aftermath of the devastation caused by Extremely Severe Cyclone 'Fani', the Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy has launched a massive rescue and rehabilitation effort in Odisha.
62. b PicIndia and Australia have agreed to further deepen counter-terrorism co-operation through regular exchange of information and sharing of best practices on countering extremism and radicalization.
63. a To the boom of cannons, pipes and chants, King Maha Vajiralongkorn was crowned in a ceremony governed by centuries-old rituals, vowing a righteous reign and calling for "national security" and "happiness" in a remarkable display of royal power. King Vajiralongkorn is the 10th monarch of the Chakri dynasty, which has reigned over the kingdom since 1782.
64. b SIPRI has set up a new initiative aiming to establish the annual number of violent deaths worldwide.



65. b India's largest telecom operator Vodafone Idea Ltd announced a five-year multi-million-dollar IT outsourcing deal with tech giant IBM.
66. c Chief Economic Advisor Krishnamurthy Subramanian has been included in the Advisory Council of the 15th Finance Commission as its member.
67. a The Defence Ministry approved Indian Navy's proposal to acquire 10 Kamov-31 choppers from Russia at a cost of around Rs. 3,600 crore to strengthen its capability against aerial threats to its aircraft carriers and large warships.
68. a Seventeen-year-old Riyan Parag struck two maximums and four fours to reach 50 off 49 before holing out to Sherfane Rutherford off the last ball of Rajasthan's innings. Before Parag, Rajasthan team-mate Sanju Samson held the record for the youngest batsman to maiden an IPL 50. Samson achieved the feat when he was 18 years old.
69. d International Firefighters' Day (IFFD) is observed on May 4. It was instituted after a proposal was emailed out across the world on January 4, 1999 due to the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia.
70. a The article titled 'Coalgate 2.0' authored by Nileena M S and published in The Caravan magazine in March last year has won the ACJ Award for Investigative Journalism, 2018.
71. c Gaurav Solanki and Manish Kaushik bagged a gold each as Indian boxers finished with six medals at the 36th Feliks Stamm International boxing tournament in Warsaw.
72. a Common Service Centre's (CSC) e-Governance Services India Limited, a special purpose vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics & IT has tied up with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur to upscale 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'.
73. a Reza Baqir, an economist working for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been appointed as the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), as the cash-strapped country seeks to finalise a multi-billion dollar bailout package from the global lender.
74. b Flipkart-owned fashion e-commerce platform Myntra announced that it had appointed celebrity couple Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma as its first brand ambassadors.
75. b The Asian Development Bank (ADB) launched the Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies for the Asia and Pacific region at the 52nd Annual Meeting of ADB's Board of Governors in Fiji.
76. a Momo-3 is Japan's first private rocket to reach space.
77. b Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa emerged champions in the Asian squash championship.
78. a The Generalized System of Preference (GSP) is the largest and oldest U.S. trade preference programme designed to promote economic development by allowing duty-free entry for thousands of products from designated beneficiary countries.
79. c Popular singer Madonna was among the many artistes who were honoured at GLAAD Media Awards New York.
80. a World Laughter Day takes place on the first Sunday of May of every year.
81. c Stevo Pendarovski, supported by the ruling Social Democrats (SDSM), has won the North Macedonian presidency in a run-off vote.

82. c SBI Card raised Rs.700 crore from several financial institutions including its parent State Bank of India (SBI) in the second half of FY19 as it aims to grow above the industry average.
83. a The submarine has been named 'Vela' after an earlier submarine, which was the lead submarine, of the erstwhile Vela class, the second batch of the Foxtrot class submarines acquired from erstwhile USSR.
84. a In Mali, the president has named a new government after its predecessor resigned last month.
85. d INS Ranjit, a Rajput class destroyer was decommissioned at a solemn grand ceremony at Naval Dockyard at Visakhapatnam.
86. b Environment ministers of the G7 nations met in France a day ahead of the release of what is expected to be another alarming report on the state of the planet.
87. d The government's FAME-II plan for electric mobility stands to reduce 64% of the anticipated road-based energy demand by 2030 and 37% of carbon emissions by then, according to CII.
88. a G D 'Robert' Govender, an Indian-origin journalist in South Africa, has been honoured in the UK with 2019 V K Krishna Menon award for his outstanding contribution as a pioneer of decolonised journalism.
89. c A Nepali teenager danced continuously for 126 hours to set a Guinness World Records on "Longest Dancing Marathon by an Individual", a feat previously hold by an Indian.
90. c International No Diet Day is observed on May 6, and its symbol is a light blue ribbon.
91. c The first stage, covering a distance of 158 km, is starting from Bikaner in Rajasthan.
92. c India scored another victory at the United Nations when Jagjit Pavadia was re-elected to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for another term, posting the highest tally of 44.
93. b Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehrekk-i-Insaf party,( PTI) is Pakistan's richest political entity with assets worth over 375 million rupees.
94. d Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed banks to enhance the housing loan limits for eligibility under priority sector lending (PSL) to Rs 35 lakh in metropolitan centres (with population of ten lakh and above) and Rs 25 lakh in other centres.
95. b Joining the Blockchain bandwagon, Microsoft has unveiled fully-managed Azure Blockchain Service that would simplify the formation, management and governance so that businesses can focus on workflow logic and application development.
96. a The asteroid, called Didymoon or Didymos B, is a moon asteroid around 150 meters tall orbiting a larger body Didymos A, the most accessible asteroid of its size from the Earth.
97. c Asthma Day 2019: STOP for asthma is the theme this year. STOP means Symptom evaluation, Test response, Observe and assesses, Proceed to adjust treatment. Here's everything you need to know about World Asthma Day and tips for asthma prevention.
98. b Windies openers John Campbell & Shai Hope shattered the record for the highest first-wicket partnership in one-day internationals (ODIs) with a stand of 365 against Ireland in Dublin.

99. a An Indian police officer Jitender Kumar deployed to the UN mission in Congo and a consultant Shikha Garg with the UN development programme, killed in the Ethiopian Airlines plane crash, are among 115 UN peacekeepers and staff honoured by the global organisation for their sacrifice.
100. d The World Athletics Day is commemorated annually on the 7th of May in order to give importance to sports among the youth.
101. a Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) is organised a meeting of the Regional Heads of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) in Kochi from 08th to 10th May, 2019.
102. c Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has announced that it will partially withdraw from some of the commitments made under the 2015 International Nuclear Deal.
103. a Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has distributed more than one lakh bee-boxes among farmers and unemployed youths across the country in less than two years under its 'Honey Mission' initiative.
104. a Students of Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-Bombay), have developed 'AJIT', a microprocessor conceptualized, designed, developed and manufactured in India.
105. c India now has a fifth brown pit viper but with a reddish tinge. A team of herpetologists led by Ashok Captain have described a new species of reddish-brown pit viper - a venomous snake with a unique heat-sensing system - from a forest in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.
106. a Trump awards highest U.S. civilian honor to Tiger Woods.
107. a Amit Mishra became second player given out for obstructing the field in IPL history.
108. a Genetic studies done on the people of the archipelago by a team, led by K. Thangaraj at CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), for the first time have shown that a majority of human ancestry in Lakshadweep is largely derived from South Asia with minor influences from East and West Eurasia. And, there was no evidence of early human migration through the Lakshadweep islands.
109. c World Thalassaemia Day is observed on May 8.
110. b Noted writer Sanjib Chattopadhyay, Classical dancer Sonal Mansingh and Tabla Maestro Pt. Swapan Chowdhury were conferred with honorary D.Litt degrees by the Rabindra Bharati University (RBU) in Kolkata.
111. a K S Radhakrishnan, former Supreme Court Judge, has been appointed as a member of the Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal, London.
112. a Indian Army to commemorate 2019 as 'Year of next of kin'.
113. b Sanofi Pasteur's controversial vaccine dengvaxia has been approved by the US Food & Drug Administration, the first dengue vaccine to get the regulatory nod in the US.
114. c For the first time, researchers have sighted nests of the grizzled giant squirrel, an endangered species listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 at Pakkamalai Reserve Forests near Gingee in the Eastern Ghats.

115. c Morgan Stanley has downgraded Reliance Industries Limited's (RIL) stock to 'equal weight' (EW), leading to a 3.41% fall in the company's shares to Rs. 1,255.15.
116. c Qantas have made history as the world's first zero waste commercial flight.
117. c If the four judges are elevated without delay, the Gogoi Court would reach the full sanctioned judicial strength of 31 judges by the time it re-opens in July after the summer vacations.
118. d Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the second most followed politician in the world on social media after former US President Barack Obama.
119. b Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi international airport is among top 10 airports in the world.
120. c In a bid to help countries ensure secure and verifiable voting, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella has announced "ElectionGuard" -- a free open-source software development kit (SDK)
121. d A WTO Ministerial meeting of developing countries is hosted by India in New Delhi.
122. b India and China top a list of countries where illegal sand mining has become a major environmental problem, according to a report released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
123. c United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) decided to hold its 2020 high-level conference in Portugal's Lisbon to support the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources.
124. c The trade war between the U.S. and China took a turn for the worse as the Trump administration increased tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods. Tariffs on 5,700 categories of goods increased from 10% to 25%.
125. c The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has developed world's first complete parent-wise genome assembly called "NDDB\_ABRO\_Murrah" of riverine buffaloes. This comes on the back of successful launch of INDUSCHIP, a customized genotyping chip for indigenous cattle and their crosses.
126. b Singapore has reported its first ever case of monkey pox, brought in by a Nigerian man thought to have contracted the rare virus by eating bush meat at a wedding.
127. c Chandrayaan-2, the lunar lander mission planned to be launched, will have 14 Indian payloads or study devices, a mission update of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
128. a Noted industry leader and ITC Chairman YC Deveshwar, who transformed the cigarette major into a diversified player with interests in FMCG, hospitality, IT and other sectors, passed away after a brief illness
129. c This year's World Migratory Bird Day on 11th May is dedicated to highlighting the problem of pollution with the theme, 'Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution.'
130. d National Technology Day is being observed across India on 11th May every year to mark India's technological advancements and to promote the development of technology in various fields.
131. d Around 180 governments agreed on a new UN accord to regulate the export of plastic waste, some eight million tonnes of which ends up in the oceans each year.
132. a Supernovas became the champion in the final of the Women's T20 Challenge, winning by four wickets, off the last ball of the match, just as Harmanpreet Kaur's girls did last year.



133. c The first AH-64E Apache attack helicopter built for India was formally handed over to the Indian Air Force (IAF) at the Boeing production facility in Mesa, Arizona in the U.S.
134. a Facebook has selected London as the center to develop WhatsApp's drive into the mobile payments industry.
135. b This workforce statistic has put the country into the "critical shortage of healthcare providers" category. Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan are the worst hit while Delhi, Kerala, Punjab and Gujarat compare favourably.
136. b The inaugural issue of world's first exclusive women's cricket magazine 'Criczone' was released with Indian team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana featuring as the cover story.
137. a Simon Armitage has been named the U.K.'s new Poet Laureate, succeeding Carol Ann Duffy in the 10-year post. Queen Elizabeth II has approved the appointment, Britain's highest literary honour.
138. d International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world every May 12, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. ICN commemorates this important day each year with the production and distribution of the International Nurses' Day (IND) resources and evidence.
139. b Indian actress Dia Mirza and Alibaba chief Jack Ma are among the 17 global public figures appointed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as the new advocates to drive action and solidify global political will for the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
140. d IPS officer Chhaya Sharma, who led the investigation team of the infamous Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case, has been awarded the 2019 McCain Institute Award for Courage and Leadership.
141. b In an unprecedented development, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi will be part of the Supreme Court's vacation bench from May 25 to May 30, mainly to take care of any dispute that may arise in government formation after the Lok Sabha election results are declared on May 23.
142. b India saw the third highest outflow of wealthy individuals last year. Nearly 5,000 millionaires, or high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs), left the country, which is 2 per cent of the total number of HNWIs in India, says the Global Wealth Migration Review (GWMR) 2019 by AfrAsia Bank and research firm New World Wealth.
143. d Pakistan reached an agreement with the IMF on a bailout package under which the cash-strapped country will receive \$6 billion over three years, according to a top official. Pakistan would receive USD 6 billion worth of assistance under the IMF programme over a period of three years.
144. a The 2020s are set to be the Asian decade, with the continent dominating an exclusive list of economies expected to sustain growth rates of around 7 per cent.
145. c Indian-origin brothers dominate the annual rich list of Britain's wealthiest, with the Hinduja brothers ranked at No. 1 with a fortune of 22 billion pounds followed by Mumbai-born Reuben brothers in second place with 18.66 billion pounds.
146. c The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said the PSLV-C46, on its 48th mission, would launch RISAT, radar imaging earth observation satellite, on May 22. The launch, subject to weather condition, would take place from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, a press release from the space agency said. The PSLV-C46 is the 14th flight of PSLV in 'core-alone' configuration, the statement said.

147. d Jeff Bezos, who heads both Amazon and space company Blue Origin, unveiled a lunar lander that would be used to transport equipment, and possibly human beings, to the south pole of the Moon by 2024.
148. a Rohit Sharma became the most successful player in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL) when he led Mumbai Indians to their record fourth championship as they beat defending champions Chennai Super Kings by one run in Hyderabad in the IPL 2019 final.
149. b Top seed Novak Djokovic of Serbia beat Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece 6-3, 6-4 to win his third Madrid Open title.
150. b Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi in a last minute decision has pulled out from the May 14-18 St Petersburg International Legal Forum (SPBILF). India was represented at the meet by senior Supreme Court judge Sharad Arvind Bodbe.
151. a The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the names of four High Court Judges for their appointment as Chief Justices of the High Courts of Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Telangana.
152. a The African National Congress retained control of South Africa's parliament but its share of the vote fell, a rebuke from voters fed up with corruption scandals and racial inequalities that remain entrenched a generation after the party took power.
153. b China, which is developing its navy at a feverish pace, has commissioned two more guided missile destroyers taking the total of such warships to 20 with more in the pipeline. Two Type 052D guided missile destroyers were launched in Dalian, a coastal city.
154. a The fund has been launched by Nabventures, a subsidiary of NABARD, and has a proposed corpus of Rs 500 crore with an option to retain over-subscriptions of Rs 200 crore, called as the greenshoe option.
155. d The board of directors of ITC Ltd., appointed Sanjiv Puri, managing director, as also the chairman of with effect from May 13, 2019.
156. d Herpetologists took 12 years to document *Smithophis atemporalis*, a predominantly aquatic species. It's literally raining reptiles in the Northeast, and the latest to be discovered has a Mizo name that means rain-loving.
157. a For the first time, Indian scientists will be mapping every single tissue of the human body to have deeper understanding of the roles of tissues and cells linked to various diseases. Department of Biotechnology (DBT) launched MANAV: Human Atlas Initiative on May 10, towards improving knowledge on human physiology.
158. a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted successful flight test of ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) from Interim Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha.
159. b David Warner had held on to his position in the Orange Cap standings.
160. c The International Day of Families is observed on the 15th of May every year. Activities include workshops and conferences, radio and television programmes, newspaper articles and cultural programmes highlighting relevant themes.
161. a India is unanimously chosen as co-chair of the Consultative Group (CG) of Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for the fiscal year 2020.
162. c Retired Supreme Court judge Justice Madan Lokur has been appointed to the Supreme Court of Fiji's non-resident panel for three years.

163. d Seventeen developing countries have stressed on working collectively to strengthen the World Trade Organisation-WTO to promote development and inclusivity for the benefits of all members.
164. c Merchant service and UPI payments app BharatPe has roped in Bollywood actor Salman Khan as its brand ambassador.
165. a Paytm has tied up with Citi to launch a credit card, called the Paytm First Card. The new credit card is touted to offer one percent "universal unlimited cashback" to customers along with no restrictions on earning categories.
166. The Reserve Bank of India has appointed its former Deputy Governor R. Gandhi as an, additional director on the board of private sector lender Yes Bank with immediate effect.
167. c Pakistan's Sana Mir became the most successful spinner in women's one-day international.
168. c India captain Virat Kohli bagged the International Cricketer and Batsman of the Year award during the CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) International awards 2019.
169. a India's G.S. Lakshmi has become the first woman to be appointed to ICC's international panel of match referees and will be eligible to officiate in international games with immediate effect.
170. d The International Day of Light is celebrated on 16 May each year, the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, Theodore Maiman.
171. a Captain Aarohi Pandit, a 23-year-old pilot from Mumbai became the world's first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean solo in a Light Sports Aircraft (LSA).
172. b Ace Special Forces operative and Sri Lanka war veteran Major General AK Dhingra has been appointed as the first head of country's first tri-services Special Operations Division comprising commandos from all three services.
173. d The sixth session took place in Geneva, Switzerland from 13 to 17 May, 2019 under the theme Resilience Dividend: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive
174. c According to RBI release the 'Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019 - 2021', with its core theme of 'Empowering Exceptional E-payment Experience', envisages to achieve "a highly digital and cash-lite society" through the goal posts of competition, cost-effectiveness, convenience and confidence (4Cs).
175. b The Geological Survey of India, GSI, has revealed that 35 per cent the country's Graphite deposits of the country is found in Arunachal Pradesh.
176. a Manchester City held off a titanic challenge from Liverpool to become the first side in a decade to retain the Premier League title by coming from behind to beat Brighton 4-1.
177. a A Nepalese Sherpa climber Kami Rita has scaled Mount Everest for a 23rd time, breaking his own record for the most successful ascents of the world's highest peak.
178. b Thrissur Pooram festival is a cultural celebration held annually at the Vadakkunnathan Temple, Kerala.
179. Former Supreme Court Judge Justice A. K. Sikri has been appointed as the Chairperson of the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA).

180. a With sales estimated at Rs. 168.25 crore, contemporary sculptor Anish Kapoor has topped the first edition of the Hurun India Art List.
181. d The website, [www.lokpal.gov.in](http://www.lokpal.gov.in), was inaugurated by Chairperson Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose in presence of all the Members of Lokpal in New Delhi.
182. b The 11th Joint Consular Committee meeting between India and Iran took place on 14th of this month in New Delhi.
183. c Cyril Ramaphosa is inaugurated as president of South Africa on 25 May.
184. d Zoologists have discovered a new vine snake species from the eastern State of Odisha. A new taxon of vine snake is being found after a gap of over a century. The last time a vine snake species was described was in 1906.
185. c India for the first time will host and participate in a major army competition involving eight countries, including China and Russia, in Jaisalmer.
186. b Football: China to host 2023 Asian Cup after Korea withdraw bid.
187. d The UN General-Assembly declared 16 May the International Day of Living Together in Peace, as a means of regularly mobilizing the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity.
188. a "Anil Kapoor will be felicitated for his decade-long support to promoting the cause of children's rights and his collaboration with the EU and Plan India in their girls' rights endeavours,".
189. a United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) conferred Sasakawa Award 2019 for Disaster Risk Reduction to Dr. Pramod Kumar Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister of India.
190. c President Ram Nath Kovind has greeted the people of Sikkim on their statehood day on 16th May.
191. c In a landmark first for Asia, Taiwan's Parliament passed a bill legalising same-sex marriage.
192. b A Reserve Bank of India-appointed committee headed by Aadhaar architect Nandan Nilekani has submitted its suggestions on promoting digital payments to Governor Shaktikanta Das.
193. d The Saudi government has approved for the first time a scheme that gives permanent residency to certain expatriates, allowing them to own real estate in the kingdom and reside with their families without a Saudi sponsor.
194. a Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited has appointed Nitin Chugh as its next Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from December 1, 2019.
195. b In Arunachal Pradesh, Fall Armyworm, a pest which can cause extensive damage to standing crops within a very short time has been detected.
196. d The three Japanese women will take charge of Yangon United's final Group F match against Cambodia's Naga World after passing a fitness test similar to the one required for male officials.



197. c Besides a trophy, the World Cup winner will earn a cash award of 4 million US dollars or about 28 crore rupees which is the highest prize money on offer in the history of the tournament. The runners-up take home 2 million US Dollars or about 14 crore rupees.
198. a The National Cadet Corps (NCC) Girls' Mountaineering Expedition to Mt. Tenchenkhang in Sikkim was 'Flagged Off'.
199. c The Pingyao International Film Festival, abbreviated as PYIFF, is a film festival held in Pingyao, Shanxi, China.
200. a 17 May marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
201. c Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan opened trading on the London Stock Exchange by ringing the iconic bell after the state-owned Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) debuted its 'masala bond' issue of Rs 2,150 crore on the bourse. While Kerala is the first Indian state to tap into the market for masala bonds - debt papers sold overseas by an Indian entity that are denominated in rupees - to raise development funds, the move is rarer still for a communist government.
202. a In Madhya Pradesh, women will handle the entire work of counting votes in Harda district of the state. The initiative is probably the first of its kind.
203. b A quiet spot on River Clyde in the town of Port Glasgow has been designated as the first official spot in Scotland where, instead of travelling to towns along the Ganga, Sikhs and Hindus can scatter ashes as part of rituals after funerals.
204. c Saudi Arabia has called the leaders of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) member states as well as the heads of state of Arab League to convene two emergency summits in Makkah on the 30th of this month.
205. a Indian YouTuber Ajey Nagar has been named by Time magazine in its list of top 10 'Next Generation Leaders' 2019.
206. c State-run telecom major BSNL has partnered with Google to increase access to its WiFi footprint in the country. With the launch of this service, people across the country will be able to enjoy BSNL's free WiFi services.
207. c Czech fourth seed Karolina Pliskova swept past Britain's Johanna Konta 6-3, 6-4 to win the WTA Italian Open in Rome. She clinched her 13th career title, in the final major warm-up tournament on clay.
208. a May 16 is observed as National Dengue Day. An attempt of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, National Dengue Day is meant to raise awareness about dengue and its preventive measures.
209. b Actor Sunny Pawar has bagged the Best Child Actor award for Chippa at the 19th New York Indian Film Festival. The 11-year-old, who hails from a slum in Kunchi Kurve Nagar in Mumbai, shot to fame with Australian director Garth Davis' acclaimed 2016 film Lion.
210. d An Indian filmmaker, Achyutanand Dwivedi, made amends for his nation's disappointing no-show in the 72nd Cannes Film Festival. His three-minute film, Seed Mother, won the third prize in the international section of Nespresso Talents 2019 in Cannes.
211. d Jasbir Jaspal, who was elected from Heath Town in Wolverhampton has been appointed to the council's cabinet by the new leader, Ian Brookfield (Labour), making her the first Sikh woman to hold the post.

212. b The government plans to introduce artificial intelligence system in the MCA 21 portal as it seeks to make the compliance process easier as well as ensure routine enforcement activities are done round-the-clock on autopilot basis.
213. b Antano and Harini - Legacy Accelerators received the 'Award of Honour' from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India for the unprecedented work they have been doing to help people change the trajectory of their lives and help people create a personal legacy in compressed time.
214. c With 400 young Indian men participating across the country to learn laundry lessons to share the responsibility of cleaning clothes along with the female members of their homes, India achieved the Guinness World Records certificate for the largest laundry lesson.
215. c In Australia, Prime Minister Scott Morrison's Liberal-National Coalition won the federal elections.
216. b On 21st May, the UAE celebrated World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development to highlight its efforts in promoting tolerance and cultural diversity.
217. a NASA has found evidence for a unique mixture of methanol, water ice, and organic molecules on Ultima Thule's surface - the farthest world ever explored by mankind.
218. c The Second India Open International Boxing Tournament begins at Sarusajai stadium in Guwahati.
219. b In Tennis, defending champion Rafael Nadal of Spain has clinched the Italian Open 2019 title after beating Novak Djokovic in the final in Rome.
220. c The theme of International Museum Day 2019 is- "Museums as Cultural Hubs: The future of tradition".
221. c External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj left for Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan to represent India in the meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of Shanghai Cooperation Organization.
222. a In Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskiy took oath as country's new President, announcing snap parliamentary elections at the same ceremony.
223. b Indonesia's Joko Widodo has been re-elected as president of the country, beating rival Prabowo Subianto, a retired general.
224. b Facebook registered the trademark "Libra" with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, reportedly as a part of its secretive in-house crypto project.
225. c ISRO plans to conduct seven mega missions over next 10 years.
226. a Air badminton was globally launched at Guangzhou by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) with new dimensions of the court and an innovative shuttlecock called Airshuttle.
227. a A charity run by an Indian in the UAE has entered the Guinness Book of World Records for its hunger relief efforts during the holy month of Ramzan in Abu Dhabi.
228. d May 20 is World Metrology Day, commemorating the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875.

229. c To raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development, the UN designated 20 May as World Bee Day.
230. c Comedian-actor Kapil Sharma has been acknowledged as the most viewed stand-up comedian in India and abroad by the World Book of Records London
231. c An author from Oman has won the prestigious Man Booker International Prize for "Celestial Bodies", the story of three sisters of a desert country confronting its slave-owning past and a complex modern world.
232. d Police Officer Jitender Kumar made the supreme sacrifice while serving in the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Central African country of Congo. He will be honoured posthumously with the Dag Hammarskjold Medal as the world organisation observes the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.
233. b The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) has included Kailash Mansarovar in its tentative list of world heritage sites.
234. a Saray Khumalo Becomes the First Black African Woman To Conquer Everest.
235. c Nepal banned popular Chinese digital wallets Alipay and WeChat to prevent the loss of foreign currency earnings from tens of thousands of Chinese tourists.
236. d The NITI Aayog has drawn up a plan for creating an institutional framework for artificial intelligence (AI) in the country. It has circulated a cabinet note to provide Rs 7,500 crore in funding for creation of cloud computing platform called AIRAWAT and research institutes.
237. b The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) with assets of more than Rs.5,000 crore must appoint a chief risk officer (CRO).
238. b Indian Space Research Organisation has successfully launched its earth observation satellite RISAT-2B from Sriharikota.
239. a For the first time in history, cricket will be brought to fans in Afghanistan via state broadcaster Radio Television Afghanistan (RTA), who are participating in their first ever World Cup.
240. c In 2001, UNESCO adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and in December 2002, the UN General Assembly, declared May 21 to be the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.
241. d India stands in a lowly 117th position out of 181 countries in the KidsRight Index, the annual global index which ranks how countries adhere to and are equipped to improve child rights. Countries are judged on five indicators: right to life, right to education, right to health, right to protection and enabling environment for child rights.
242. b The government has cleared the names of Jharkhand High Court and Gauhati High Court Chief Justices Aniruddha Bose and A.S. Bopanna. The government also gave its nod to the Collegium's May 8 recommendation for elevation of Justice B.R. Gavai, a judge of the Bombay High Court, and Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court Surya Kant.
243. a House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has been honored with the 2019 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.
244. a The "Golden Card" programme unveiled by UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum is open to investors and "exceptional talents" such as doctors, engineers, scientists, students and artists

245. c South African lawmakers re-elected Cyril Ramaphosa as the nation's President, two weeks after the ruling ANC party returned to power in legislative elections. Mr. Ramaphosa was "duly elected President of the Republic of South Africa,".
246. a Richest Indian Mukesh Ambani's oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries has toppled state-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC) to become the country's biggest company by revenue.
247. a The air launched BrahMos missile is a 2.5 ton supersonic air to surface cruise missile with ranges of close to 300 km, designed and developed by BAPL. The IAF became the first Air Force in the world to have successfully fired an air launched 2.8 Mach surface attack missile of this category on a sea target.
248. b The Government of Japan announced that in its 2019 Spring Imperial Decorations, it will confer 72-year-old Saran, 'the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star'.
249. b Two independent Indian filmmakers - Mumbai-based Payal Kapadia and Dominic Sangma from Meghalaya - have been selected for the International Film Festival of Rotterdam's prestigious Huber Bals Fund for script and project development for Spring 2019.
250. a U.S. writer Siri Hustvedt has been awarded Spain's prestigious Princess of Asturias prize for literature for her work. Ms. Hustvedt is the author of bestsellers What I Loved and The Summer without Men.
251. d Scripting history, Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth became the first woman pilot of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to qualify to undertake combat missions on a fighter jet.
252. c Bengaluru-based medical doctor Hema Divakar was honoured with the 'Global Asian of the Year 2018-19' award in Dubai for her yeomen services and contributions to the women's healthcare ecosystem, in India.
253. b In Andhra Pradesh, YSR Congress Chief Jagan Mohan Reddy will be sworn in as chief minister of Andhra Pradesh on 30th of this month at Vijayawada.
254. a Malaria has been eliminated from Algeria and Argentina, the World Health Organization (WHO) said, an important milestone in fighting the mosquito-borne disease.
255. a US Navy ships have conducted joint drills with warships from Japan, Australia and South Korea in their first combined exercise in the Western Pacific.
256. c Even as the Chinese economy cools due to global trade tensions, India's GDP growth will hover near 7.5% by 2020, compared with 7.25% in 2019, says a recent report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
257. c Multilateral funding agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed an agreement to provide USD 750 million equivalent in Indian rupee long-term financing to electrify railway tracks in India.
258. c In a international competition 'Elsevier Foundation-ISC3 Green and Sustainable Chemistry Challenge', a project idea by Ankur Patwardhan from Pune has bagged the second prize of €25,000.
259. b Former PepsiCo chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi was presented with an honorary degree by the prestigious Yale University, her alma mater, in recognition of her achievements in business and for being a global role model who encouraged women and girls to see themselves as top corporate executives.
260. d International Day to End Obstetric Fistula is observed on 23 May.



261. c Chandrani Murmu, 25 years 11 months and eight days old, who won the Keonjhar Lok Sabha seat (reserved for STs ) on a BJD ticket by a margin of 66,203 votes, will enter the Lok Sabha as the youngest member in the Lower House's history.
262. b The 5th Smart Cities India 2019 expo, including Transport India, Solar India, Buildings India and Water India expos, was inaugurated by Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, at the Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
263. b Odisha Governor Prof. Ganeshi Lal has accepted the resignation of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and his council of Ministers to pave the way for the formation of the new government in the State.
264. c British Prime Minister has announced that she would resign as the UK's Conservative leader on June 7 "in the best interests of the country", paving the way for a contest to decide the new Prime Minister after she failed to win over her ministers with a revised strategy to withdraw Britain from the European Union.
265. c In 2019, as Japan will host the G20 Summit, Tokyo hosted the second U20 Mayors Summit. Mayors of participating cities are invited to the U20 Mayors Summit to discuss and approve a communiqué, which will be formally presented to the G20.
266. a ISRO Chairman K Sivan flagged off the shipment of India's largest liquid hydrogen storage tank at the VRV Asia Pacific's manufacturing plant at Sri City in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh.
267. a "Shaheen-II Missile is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads upto a range of 1,500 km. Shaheen-II is a highly capable missile which fully meets Pakistan's strategic needs towards maintenance of desired deterrence stability in the region,".
268. d Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired an indigenously-developed 500 kg class guided bomb from a Sukhoi combat jet at Pokhran in Rajasthan.
269. d India bags a total of 57 medals including 12 Gold, 18 Silver and 27 Bronze at India Open International Boxing tournament in Guwahati.
270. c The purpose of World Turtle Day, May 23, sponsored yearly since 2000 by American Tortoise Rescue, is to bring attention to, and increase knowledge of and respect for, turtles and tortoises, and encourage human action to help them survive and thrive.
271. b The Central Government has cleared the appointment of Justice DN Patel as the next Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.
272. b Ken Wyatt has been appointed as the Minister for Indigenous Affairs. Mr Wyatt is himself an Indigenous Australian - a Noongar man from Western Australia. He becomes the first Indigenous Australian to hold the role and to sit in Cabinet.
273. a Public sector banks (PSBs) have recovered close to Rs 1.2 lakh crore from stressed assets during the financial ended March, primarily helped by resolution under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
274. a In a significant move, the fleet of AN-32 transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force was certified to fly on blended aviation fuel containing up to 10 per cent bio-jet fuel.

275. c New Space India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), was officially inaugurated in Bengaluru.
276. b China won the badminton world mixed-team championship, Sudirman Cup 2019 in Nanning.
277. c In squash, India's Mahesh Mangaonkar triumphed for the second time in the Sekisui Open in Kriens, Switzerland. Three years back he had won it the first time.
278. b Indian men's compound team of Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan and Aman Saini won the bronze after defeating Russia in the playoffs at Archery World Cup Stage 3 in Antalya, Turkey.
279. d International Missing Children's Day is celebrated on May 25, the same day as the United States' National Missing Children's Day designated by Ronald Reagan in 1983.
280. a Indian contemporary artist Nalini Malani has won the Joan Miro Prize for 2019, the Barcelona-based Fundacio Joan Miro has announced.

