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Current Affairs FILE

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MAY – CURRENT AFFAIRS

- **International Affairs**

1. Malaysia PM Re-elected

The former Prime Minister of Malaysia from 1981 to 2003 who has been re-elected to be its seventh Prime Minister (thus becoming the oldest Prime Minister in the world): **Mahathir Mohammad**

2. No Nobel Prize in Literature This Year

The Swedish Academy has decided to postpone the 2018 Nobel Prize in Literature, with the intention of awarding it in 2019. The decision has been taken in the wake of a sexual and financial scandal that has engulfed the Swedish Academy, the cultural institution responsible for awarding the prestigious prize. According to the Swedish Foundations Act, the Nobel Foundation is ultimately responsible for fulfilling the intentions in the will of Alfred Nobel. For the first time since 1949, the secretive jury will not unveil a winner this autumn. **Kazuo Ishiguro was the winner of Nobel Prize 2017.**

3. USA Withdraws From Iran Nuclear Deal

President Donald Trump announced US withdrawal from the 2015 landmark nuclear deal with Iran. Mr Trump signed a fresh set of sanctions against Iran and warned countries against any cooperation with Tehran on its controversial nuclear weapons programme. According to the President, the deal gave Iran millions in cash and did not prevent it from acquiring nuclear weapons. The historic nuclear deal was reached in Vienna in July 2015 between Iran and the P5 (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council) along with Germany and the European Union.

4. Colombia joins NATO as global partner

Colombia has formally joined **North Atlantic Treaty Organization as global partner**. It makes it **first Latin American** to join NATO. The announcement came after Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) approved Colombia as a new member.

5. Germany to host first edition of Global Wind Summit

The first edition of Global Wind Summit will be held in **Hamburg, Germany from September 25 to 28, 2018**. It will be largest and most important meeting of the wind industry worldwide. The summit will see participation of speakers from about 100 countries, including India, China, the US, Spain and Denmark.

6. Wimbledon Champions' Prize Money Hiked by £50,000

According to the Wimbledon officials, the 2018 men's and women's singles champions will receive £2.25 million, an increase of £50,000 on last year.

Wimbledon Open is an annual British tennis tournament **created in 1877** and is played in **London, UK**.

7. SpaceX Launches Most Powerful Falcon 9

Rocket The California-based aerospace company, SpaceX has blasted off its most powerful **Falcon 9 rocket**, which is certified to carry humans to space later this year.

8. Russia Unveils World's 1st Floating Nuclear Power Station

Russia unveiled the world's first floating nuclear power station at a ceremony in the port of the far northern city of Murmansk, where it will be loaded with nuclear fuel before heading to eastern Siberia. Built in Saint Petersburg, the Akademik Lomonosov arrived in Murmansk where it was moored in the port and presented to the media.

9. WhatsApp CEO Jan Koum Quits Facebook

WhatsApp Co-founder and CEO Jan Koum has announced his resignation from the parent company Facebook. This comes shortly after a report claimed Koum would leave due to disagreements over data privacy and weakening encryption. Koum will also step down from Facebook's Board of Directors, a position he took up when WhatsApp was bought for \$19 billion by Facebook in 2014.

10. REPLACE action package by WHO

- Launched by: World Health Organization
- Aim: to eliminate industrially-produced trans-fatty acids from global food supply.
- Risk of Transfats: WHO estimates that every year, trans fat intake leads to more than 500,000 deaths of people from cardiovascular disease. Industrially-produced trans fats are contained in hardened

vegetable fats, such as margarine and ghee, and are often present in snack food, baked foods, and fried foods. Manufacturers often use them as they have a longer shelf life than other fats.

- REPLACE provides six strategic actions to ensure the prompt, complete, and sustained elimination of industrially-produced trans fats from the food supply:
- Review dietary sources of industrially-produced trans fats and the landscape for required policy change.
- Promote the replacement of industrially-produced trans fats with healthier fats and oils.
- Legislate or enact regulatory actions to eliminate industrially-produced trans fats.
- Assess and monitor trans fats content in the food supply and changes in trans fat consumption in the population.
- Create awareness of the negative health impact of trans fats among policy makers, producers, suppliers, and the public.
- Enforce compliance of policies and regulations.

11. Nepal, 1st Country in South-East Asia to Eliminate Trachoma

WHO The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Nepal as free from Trachoma, the world's leading infectious cause of blindness. With this, Nepal becomes the first country in WHO's South-East Asia Region to eliminate Trachoma. Trachoma was the second leading cause of preventable blindness in Nepal in the 1980s.

12. BIMSTEC Meeting 2018 will be held by Nepal.

Nepal's PM, KP Oli has announced to host the 2018 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical & Economic Cooperation summit. BIMSTEC is an international organisation of 7 nations of South & South East Asia, including Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan & Nepal. BIMSTEC aims to enhance technological & economic cooperation among South & South East Asian countries.

- **National Affairs**

13. Swadeshi Samridhhi SIM cards

Baba Ramdev's Patanjali ties up with BSNL Baba Ramdev's Patanjali has tied up with state owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) to launch Swadeshi Samridhhi SIM cards. Initially only Patanjali employees and office bearers will get benefits of SIM card. After complete rollout of SIM cards, customers will get a 10% discount on Patanjali products.

14. First Railway station to run on solar power

The railway station in Assam which has become the first in the country to run on solar power: Guwahati

The State in which the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for NTPC's Patratu Super Thermal Power Project: Jharkhand

15. UNEP recognises Cochin International Airport as world's first fully solar energy-powered airport

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has recognised Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) in Kerala as the world's first fully solar energy-powered airport. CIAL is India's first airport to be constructed in public-private-partnership (PPP) model in 1999.

14. UJALA SCHEME

State run Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) has distributed over 30 crore light emitting diode (LED) bulbs across country under zero-subsidy Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) scheme. Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) Scheme: It is zero-subsidy scheme that aims promote efficient lighting, enhance awareness on using efficient equipment which reduce electricity bills and preserve environment. It is LED based Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP).

15. Eastern Peripheral Expressway

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates India's first smart and green highway Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first smart and green highway-135 km long Kundli-Ghaziabad-Palwal (KGP) Expressway also known as Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE). The expressway was completed in record time of about 500 days against target of 910 days at a cost of nearly Rs 11,000 crore.

16. Patratu Super Thermal Power Project

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation stone for first phase (2400MW) of NTPC's coal based Patratu Super Thermal Power Project in Jharkhand. The project is 74: 26 Joint Venture between Government of Jharkhand (GoJ) and Patratu Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (PVUN), a subsidiary company of NTPC.

17. Joint Military exercise between India and Malaysia

The first ever joint military exercise by the armies of India and Malaysia conducted at Wardieburn Camp in Setapak, Malaysia is named: Harimau Shakti 2018

18. NITI Aayog

NITI Aayog has signed Statement of Intent (Sol) with noted media personality and entrepreneur Sushant Singh Rajput to collaborate and support its flagship Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) initiative. In his new role, actor turned entrepreneur will support NITI's initiative for women entrepreneurs, to fund women-led startups to establish a vibrant, enabling entrepreneurial ecosystem for women of the country. He will also promote Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) digital payments app for cashless economy by appearing in various video, print and social media campaigns of NITI Aayog.

19. 14 Indian Cities Figure in World's 20 Most Polluted Cities List: WHO

As per the data released by the World Health Organisation (WHO), 14 Indian cities figure in a list of world's 20 most polluted cities in terms of particulate matter PM2.5 levels in 2016. The particulate matter PM2.5 includes pollutants like sulfate, nitrate and black carbon, which pose the greatest risk to human health. The WHO Global Urban Ambient Air Pollution Database ranked Kanpur as the most polluted city among 4300 world cities which were monitored for their air pollution levels in the year 2016. The other Indian cities that registered very high levels of PM2.5 pollutants were Faridabad, Varanasi, Gaya, Patna, Delhi, Lucknow, Agra, Muzaffarpur, Srinagar, Gurgaon, Jaipur, Patiala and Jodhpur.

20. Swachh Bharat Mission Launches GOBAR-DHAN Scheme

Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation, Uma Bharti, launched the GOBAR (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources) - DHAN scheme at the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) Auditorium, Karnal, Haryana.

*The scheme aims to positively impact village cleanliness and generate wealth and energy from cattle and

organic waste*. The scheme also aims at creating new rural livelihood opportunities and enhancing income for farmers and other rural people.

21. Forbes Most Powerful People In The World: PM Modi 9th, Xi Jinping Tops

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been ranked ninth on Forbes' 2018 list of 'the world's most powerful people'. Chinese President Xi Jinping ranked first, followed by Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump at the second and third rank, respectively. Indore, India's Cleanest City In Swachh Survekshan-2018 As per the Swachh Survekshan-2018 results, Indore has once again emerged as the cleanliest city in India. Bhopal has been ranked 2nd and Chandigarh 3rd in the survey at the national level. The announcement was made in New Delhi by Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

22. Ruthenium (Ru): Fourth element showing magnetism at room temperature discovered

Scientists from University of Minnesota, US have discovered that chemical element ruthenium (Ru) is fourth element to have unique magnetic properties (ferromagnetism) at room temperature. So far only three periodic table elements Iron (Fe), Cobalt (Co), and Nickel (Ni) have been found to be ferromagnetic at room temperature.

23. India in top 3 – Solar market

As per a report by Mercom Communications India, India emerged as the third largest solar market in the world in 2017 behind China and the US. In 2017, India set a new record with 9.6 GW of solar installations, which was more than double the 4.3 GW installed in 2016. On account of this stellar growth, India's total solar installed capacity reached 19.6 GW as of December 2017. Out of the 19.6 GW installation, 92% is on account of large-scale project development.

24. Shivangi Pathak Becomes Youngest Indian Woman to Scale Mount

Everest India's Shivangi Pathak has become youngest women of the country to scale Mt Everest from Nepal side. According to the Managing Director of Seven Summit Treks, Mingma Sherpa, 16-year-old Shivangi successfully stood atop world's highest mountain.

25. PM Modi Laid Foundation Stone of India's Longest Road Tunnel in J&K

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a day-long visit to Jammu and Kashmir. During his visit, Prime Minister laid down the foundation stone of 'Zojila Tunnel' on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway in Leh. The 14.2-kilometre long Zojila tunnel will be India's longest road tunnel and Asia's longest bidirectional tunnel.

26. Sikkim's Pawan Chamling

Sikkim's Pawan Chamling created history by becoming longest-serving Chief Minister in India. He has completed 23 years, four months and 17 days of uninterrupted service in office. He surpassed earlier record held by Jyoti Basu, 5-term West Bengal CM who held office for 23 years. Basu was in office from June 21, 1977 to November 6, 2000

27. ASEAN India Film Festival was held in New Delhi from May 25 to 30, 2018.

The film festival provided platform for people from film industries of respective member countries to explore areas of cooperation in domain of cinema and cultural cooperation.

28. Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN-13 Begins in Uttarakhand

The joint military exercise SURYA KIRAN-13 between India and Nepal began at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand. The military exercise is a biannual event which is conducted alternatively in Nepal and India every six months.

29. Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project in Bandipora District

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 300 MW Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project in Bandipora District of Jammu & Kashmir. He also laid foundation stone of 1000 MW capacity Pakal Dul Power Project. 📈 India Stands 44th In Competitive Rankings, USA Tops: Report India rose one place to 44th this year in the global competitive rankings out of 63 countries that were ranked by the IMD World Competitiveness Center

30. Statehood Day of Goa: 30 May

Goa celebrates its Statehood Day as 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

The Union Cabinet has approved an ordinance to set up the country's first national sports university in Imphal (west), Manipur.

According to report by World Health Organization (WHO), human-triggered factors like habitat loss due to deforestation and climate change set off infectious outbreaks such as recent Nipah cases in Kerala. Due to habitat destruction by human activity, flying fox (fruit bat), a natural host of Nipah virus get stressed and hungry, which weakens its immune system, increasing virus load. It results in lot of virus spilling from urine and saliva of bats.

31. Chhattisgarh will get specialised anti-Naxal combat force

Chhattisgarh will get specialised anti-Naxal combat force called Black Panther on the lines of the Greyhounds unit of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. It was announced by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh after chairing meeting on Left-Wing Extremism (LWE). Currently, training is being imparted for personnel who will be part of Black Panther elite force.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched full-fledged Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP). It aims to train over 5.5 lakh workers in environment and forest sectors in the country through 30 courses by 2021 for sustainable conservation and management of natural resources. GSDP-ENVIS mobile application was also launched to provide more information and applying to courses under GSDP programme.

32. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana: Cabinet approves setting up of 20 AIIMS

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved plan to set up 20 All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) across the country and upgrade 73 medical colleges. The decisions are part of the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), which has been extended by two years till 2020 with financial outlay of Rs.14,832 crore.

- **Business Affairs**

33. China's Alibaba Buys Pakistan e-Commerce Firm

China's Alibaba Buys Pakistan e-Commerce Firm Daraz Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba had purchased leading Pakistani online retailer 'Daraz', continuing its overseas expansion by gaining a foothold in the growing South Asian consumer market.

34. Walmart Buys Flipkart

Walmart Buys Flipkart in World's Largest e-Commerce Deal US-based retail giant Walmart has confirmed that it will buy 77% stake in India's largest e-commerce startup Flipkart for \$16 billion. Walmart bought the stake in Flipkart for 16 billion dollars

35. Bharti Airtel completes acquisition of Telenor India

The government has approved the merger of the local unit of Norway's Telenor with Bharti Airtel, clearing the last hurdle for the deal to go through. The Department of Telecom (DoT) had transferred all licences and liabilities of Telenor India to Bharti Airtel

36. Yahoo has launched its own new group chat app named Squirrel.

Squirrel Group Chat App is still in testing. It is available on Google Play and the App Store. If you need to start using the app, you need a friend who already uses the app to invite you into a group. Squirrel focuses on group chats. It has features that enables you to organise conversations with several people.

37. Tata Steel to Acquire Bhushan Steel Through its Step-Down Subsidiary Bamnipal Steel

Tata Steel, whose bid for debt-ridden Bhushan Steel was approved by NCLT, would implement the resolution plan through its step-down subsidiary Bamnipal Steel Ltd. Bamnipal Steel would invest in the debt-ridden company and acquire control on the closing date.

38. Airtel Payments Bank Appoints Anubrata Biswas As MD and CEO

Airtel Payments Bank has appointed Anubrata Biswas as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. Biswas fills the position, which was lying vacant since end-December, after Shashi Arora quit the post. Airtel Payments Bank was the first payments bank to start operations in India

39. Indian Oil Most Profitable PSU For 2nd Straight Year

Indian Oil Corporation has emerged as India's most profitable state-owned company for the second consecutive year. Indian Oil posted a record profit of Rs21,346 crore in 2017-18, followed by ONGC, whose profit stood at Rs19,945 crore. Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries is the most profitable company for the third straight year, posting highest ever profit of Rs36,075 crore.

40. Patanjali Launches New Messaging App 'Kimbho'

Yoga guru Baba Ramdev's Patanjali launched a new swadeshi messaging application called 'Kimbho' to compete with WhatsApp. Kimbho caters to private and group chats with free phone and video calling. The tagline of Kimbho is "Ab Bharat Bolega". Patanjali has recently tied up with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) to enter the telecom sector by launching Swadeshi Samriddhi SIM cards.

41. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), the country's most valued and largest IT outsourcing company

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), the country's most valued and largest IT outsourcing company created history by becoming the first Indian company to reach Rs. 7 lakh crore market capitalisation (m-cap) milestone. M-cap is value of company that is traded on stock market, calculated by multiplying total number of shares by present share price.

42. BSE Ltd (earlier known as Bombay Stock Exchange) became first Indian exchange to be designated as Designated Offshore Securities Market (DOSM) by United States Securities and Exchange Commission (US-SEC)

43. India was ranked 11th position in the FDI Confidence Index 2018 released by global consultancy firm A T Kearney. It has slipped by three notches in 2018 as it was ranked 8th in 2017 and 9th in 2016. This is first time India fell out of the top 10 since 2015. The index is annual analysis of how political, economic, and regulatory changes will likely affect FDI inflows into countries in coming years. US has topped spot for the sixth year in a row mainly due to continued confidence result of its large market, strong and sustained economic growth and recent corporate tax cuts.

- **Appointments**

44. RBI appoints Sudha Balakrishnan as its first Chief Financial Officer

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Sudha Balakrishnan as the first Chief Financial Officer (CFO). She will be the 12th executive director of the RBI and will have tenure of three years.

45. NYSE Names 1st Woman Chief in Exchange's 226-year History

The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) has promoted Stacey Cunningham to President, making her the first sole woman head of the 226-year-old exchange.

46. Venezuela's President Maduro Wins Re-election

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro was reelected for a second six-year term in presidential elections, according to the National Electoral Council (CNE).

47. Government has appointed former Supreme Court Judge CK Prasad as Chairman of Press Council of India (PCI) for second term

48. FB Appoints Product Exec Chris Daniels to Take Over WhatsApp

Facebook has announced that the company's Vice President of Product Chris Daniels will be taking over Whatsapp after Co-founder Jan Koum announced his departure, recently.

49. Government appoints Subhash Chandra Khuntia as new chairman of IRDAI

IRDA is an apex statutory body that regulates and develops insurance industry in India

50. Shashank Manohar to serve 2nd term as ICC chairman Former BCCI President

Shashank Manohar will serve a second two-year term as the independent chairman of the International Cricket Council after he was elected unopposed by the governing body's Board.

51. HD Kumaraswamy Took Oath as New Karnataka CM

The JD(S)-Congress coalition government head HD Kumaraswamy was sworn-in as the New Chief Minister of Karnataka. Governor Vajubhai Vala administered the oath of office and secrecy to Kumaraswamy.

ELITES GRID

- **Awards**

Cannes Film Festival 2018 - Awards

Palm d'Or: Shoplifters directed by **Hirokazu Kore-Eda**

Best Actor: **Marcello Fonte for Dogman**

Best Director: **Pawel Pawlikowski for Cold War**

Best Actress: **Samal Yeslyamova for My Little Onek**

1. The Nobel laureate from Bangladesh who has been awarded the 11th Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences Humanitarian Award 2018: **Muhammad Yunus**
2. **Polish author Olga Tokarczuk awarded Man Booker International Prize 2018.** It makes her first writer from Poland to win this prestigious English- language literary award. She won prize with English translation of her novel Flights, which charts multiple journeys in time, space and human anatomy. It was first published in Polish language in 2007 and was translated into English in 2017 by Jennifer Croft.
3. **Yuvraj Singh Awarded 'Most Inspiring Icon Of The Year For Social Welfare'** Indian star cricketer Yuvraj Singh has been awarded the 'most inspiring icon of the year for Social Welfare' award by the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) for his exemplary contribution in the field of social welfare.
4. **Kamaljit Bawa 1st Indian to Receive Linnean Medal** Indian botanist Kamaljit S. Bawa (president of Bengaluru-based non-profit Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment) received the prestigious Linnean Medal in Botany from the Linnean Society of London. Dr. Bawa is the first Indian to win the award ever since it was first constituted in 1888
5. **The founder of Sulabh International, Dr Bindeshwar Pathak was honoured with the Nikkei Asia Prize in Japan for his contribution to Asia's development.** Dr Pathak was described as Indian social reformer tackling two of his country's biggest challenges — poor hygiene and discrimination. He was among three who were conferred with this award.

Important days in May:

1. World Press Freedom Day: 03 May 2018

Theme: Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and the Rule of Law

2. International Day for Biological Diversity: 22 May 2018

Theme: Celebrating 25 years of action for biodiversity

3. World No Tobacco Day: 31 May 2018

Theme: Tobacco and heart disease

Books & Authors:

General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army the Staff released the book 'Across the Bench - Insight into the Indian Military Judicial System' by Lt Gen Gyan Bhushan, former Army Commander and Member 'A', Armed Forces Tribunal, Lucknow Bench.